

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Momah, Rita

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE: Ending the HIV Epidemic Ryan White Coordinator, Mississippi State Department of Health

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Nigeria	BMLS	02/2001	Medical Lab Sciences
Louisiana State University, Shreveport	MPH	12/2012	Public Health
Jackson State University, Jackson, MS	DrPH	02/2019	Public Health (Health Policy and Management)

A. Personal Statement

I am the state level coordinator of a national HIV program (Ending the HIV Epidemic) focused on the expansion of access to care for persons living with HIV in the state. My grant management skills are broad with extensive public health training and experiential background from working on grants focused on youth development and empowerment in Africa. Working closely with the Project Investigators in current and previous grants, enabled me to acquire the necessary skills required to implement a successful research project or program. My research interest is in health program management and ensuring the evaluation processes of a project is intrinsic, effectively aligned with the purpose of the project and ultimately satisfactory for the grantor. I have both a Master of and Doctorate in public health with a concentration in health policy and management. My specific training is focused on advocacy and program evaluation. Hence I am familiar with the various aspects of program management from initiation to closing. From 2010 to 2014, and 2017 to 2018 I transitioned to full time education. Within those periods I was focused on achieving my masters and doctoral degrees. Since then I have been fully involved in program implementation and management. Hence, I have the training and experience required to successfully execute a project.

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors**Positions, Scientific Appointments**

2022 - Present Adjunct Professor, Louisiana State University, Shreveport, LA
 2021 - Present Coordinator, Ending the HIV Epidemic Ryan White Part B, Mississippi State Dept of Health
 2020 - Present Certified in Public Health
 2020 - Present Fellow, Region IV Public Health Training Institute, Atlanta, GA
 2019 - 2021 STD/HIV Education Coordinator, Mississippi State Department of Health
 2017 - Present Fellow, American College of Medical Practice Executives
 2017 - Present Member, American College of Healthcare Executives
 2016 - Present Certified Health Education Specialist
 2015 - 2017 Health Promotion Specialist, Serenity Home Health, West Monroe, LA

2014 - 2015 Administrator of Marketing, Mid-Delta Home Health and Hospice, Bastrop, LA
2009 - 2010 Administrative Director, Afam Comprehensive Healthcare Group, Brooklyn, NY

Honors

2013 Member, Golden Key International Honor Society
2015 Member, Alpha Chi Honor Society
2015 Member, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
2019 Member, Alpha Epsilon Lambda Graduate Honor Society

C. Contributions to Science

1. My dissertation was focused on the comparative assessment of the implementation of the Mississippi House Bill 999 in two different counties with different rates of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. This research demonstrated the value of the sex-related education instructors (SREIs) as important stakeholders in the policy, whose perspectives and role in the successful implementation of this policy were of significance. The research presented findings suggesting the need to revisit the implementation of the policy in the school districts in the state. It also suggested specific barriers such as poor parental participation, and facilitators such as commitment of the teachers, which are affecting the implementation of the programs as required by the policy. These in turn, influence the rates of adverse outcomes of teenage sexual activities in the state. Consequently, addressing these barriers and facilitators will likely provide further insight for effectively reducing the rates of teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections in the state of Mississippi.
 - a. **Momah, R.** (2019). Mississippi Talks Sex: Assessing House Bill 999 among sex related education instructors in two Counties in Mississippi (A PILOT STUDY).[Unpublished Dissertation]. Jackson State University.
 - b. Carr, J. B., & Packham, A. (2017). The effects of state-mandated abstinence-based sex education on teen health outcomes. *Health Economics*, 26(4), 403-420. doi:10.1002/hec.3315
 - c. Aniebue, P. N. (2007). Knowledge and attitude of secondary school teachers in Enugu to school-based sex education. *Nigerian journal of clinical practice*, 10(4), 304-308.
2. Another example of my contribution to science is in my work along with other authors in the study below. The study emphasized the benefits in creating an enabling environment for medical students to develop clinical skills through volunteering in free clinics. The study demonstrated a relationship between the fourth-year medical students' frequency of volunteering at Jackson Free Clinic and their choice of primary care in residency
 - a. Momah, T., **Momah, R.**, Replogle, W., McClain, E., Merritt, M. (2019). Training the Next Generation of Primary-Care Physicians: Are Student-Run Free Clinics (SRFCs) the Way to Go? *Journal of Public Health in the Deep South* 1 (1).
 - b. Weinreich, M., Kafer, I., Tahara, D., & Frishman, W. (2005). Participants in a medical student run free clinic and career choice. *Journal of Contemporary Medical Education*, 3(1).
 - c. Campos-Outcalt, D., & Senf, J. (1999). A longitudinal, national study of the effect of implementing a required third-year family practice clerkship or a department of family medicine on the selection of family medicine by medical students. *Academic Medicine*, 74(9), 1016–1020. doi: 10.1097/00001888-199909000-00016
3. Colorectal cancers rates have been consistently high in the Louisiana-Mississippi area. So along with some colleagues, I collected data in the area to determine the level of awareness of the senior citizens who were eligible for colon cancer screening. The findings suggested that there were racial and socioeconomic disparities in the level of awareness of colorectal cancer within the area, It also indicated the need for increased health promotion programs and services that will provide information and encourage these seniors, their caregivers and healthcare providers to utilize the screening services. It was developed as a poster presentation for the Mississippi State Public Health Association Conference.
 - a. Health Disparities of Colorectal Cancer Awareness in the Deep South MPHA, 2015
Sarah Buxbaum, **Rita Momah**, Christopher Lane, Veronica De Los Angeles Hernandez Morales, Kendrick Walker, Christopher Cox, D'Angelique Lister, Rasaki Aranmolate, Marty Fortenberry, Clifton Addison.