



RIIC VISION

A research focused department, building capacity in excellent innovative research and development.

RIIC MISSION

To serve as a catalyst for cutting edge ethical re-search, through interdisciplinary collaboration and joint ventures that impact national and global needs.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'Science is the knowledge of consequences, and dependence of one fact upon another'

—Thomas Hobbes

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GRANTS FOR RESEARCH AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS (GRASP) INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Babcock University (Nigeria) and Loma Linda University (USA) teams of researchers jointly applied and won the Loma Linda University GRASP International Award for 2021. The grant award which is in thousands of dollars will be used to carry out a randomized clinical trial on an indigenous nut in Nigeria. The team members include;



Principal Investigator: Dr. Nwachukwu, Ifeanyi, Centre for Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles, School of Public Health, Loma Linda University, USA.

Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Godswill N. Anyasor, Department of Biochemistry, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Benjamin S. Carson (Snr.) College of Health and Medical Sciences, Babcock University, Nigeria.

Investigator: Dr. Olutayo S. Shokunbi, Department of Biochemistry, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Benjamin S. Carson (Snr.) College of Health and Medical Sciences, Babcock University, Nigeria.

STARS TRAINING GRADUATION

In line with the mandate of the Office of Research, Innovation and International Cooperation in building capacity of researchers at Babcock University, the Office organized a virtual capacity training for Clinicians at the College of Health and Medical Sciences, Babcock University. This training focused on the nine Modules designed by the Association of Commonwealth Universities for Structured Training for African Researchers (STARS). The STARS project aimed at providing support to early career academics in the areas of research. It also helps to develop and refine professional development for academic staff early in their careers. The 9 modules include:

1. Identifying your research niche and getting started with research plans
2. Finding funding, developing proposals, and your first grant application
3. How do you manage a research project?
4. Researcher, Teacher, Administrator, Parent, Managing your time
5. Building effective collaboration and establishing partnerships
6. Getting your work in print: Writing and publishing for academic audiences
7. Beyond the University: Communicating and presenting research to non-academic audiences
8. Ethics in academic life
9. Supervision.

The virtual training started on the 10th of March, 2021 and the graduation was held on the 2nd of June, 2021. A total of 20 members of faculty from the College of Health and Medical Sciences participated in the training. In attendance at the graduation ceremony were;

- President/Vice Chancellor, Babcock University- Professor Ademola S. Tayo
- Senior Vice President Academics- Professor Philemon Amanze
- Provost, College of Health and Medical Sciences- Professor Barnabas Mandong
- Dean, School of Clinical Sciences- Professor James Renner
- Facilitators; Director, Research, Innovation and International Cooperation- Professor Grace Tayo, Dr Seun Ebiesuwa, Mr Samuel Dada, Dr Ayodele Kolawole and,
- Graduands.



OVER VIEW OF THE AFRICA HEALTH AGENDA INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

Amref Health Africa, arguably the largest and oldest Non for profit organization in Africa with over 60years of existence, established an independent commission to review the continent's progress towards achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) targets by 2030.

The **Africa Health Agenda International Commission (AHAIC)** on the State of UHC in Africa will in addition to reviewing the continent's progress, provide recommendations on leadership, accountability, technology/innovation and health security, to help guide the continent towards achieving UHC targets. The independent body will deliver its mandate through 11 commissioners and 3 technical advisors, selected from a range of disciplines and sectors across Africa. The commissioners are expected to spotlight pressing challenges faced by different countries and work closely with governments, policy makers and implementation teams to navigate them effectively for the delivery of health services to all. One of the AHAIC Commission's mandate in focus will be the production of a **State of UHC in Africa Report**. The report will provide a detailed account of steps taken by African governments to achieve UHC in their countries, reflecting on successes, barriers and lessons learned on the journey towards providing equitable access, quality health care and financial protection as envisioned within an African context.



Dr. Dangana Jonathan Musa (**Babcock University**), serves as one of the three Technical Advisors alongside 11 Commissioners drawn from the other African Countries. The Team includes: Dr. Solange Hakiba **Co-Chair, Rwanda**, Prof Edwine Barasa **Co-Chair, Kenya** Dr Ama Pokuaa Fenny **Ghana**, Dr. Karim Bendhaou **Tunisia**, Dr. Shakira Choonara **South Africa**, Foyeth Kamdem Eugène Lebrun **Cameroon**, Dr. Onisoa Rindra Ralidera **Madagascar**, Gerald Manthalu **Malawi**, Dr. Oluwafunmilola 'Lola' Dare **Nigeria**, Prof. Francis Omaswa **Uganda**, Prof. Shabir Moosa **South Africa and Technical Advisors**, Dr Elizabeth Wala, and Dr. Waruguru Wanjau. The report of the continental framework was officially unveiled at the just concluded Amref-sponsored AHAIC Conference, held virtually between 8th and 10th March 2021. In attendance was His Excellency the President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta who applauded the event and its leadership but clearly stated his anticipation of receiving the UHC report and desire to work in achieving the UHC Agenda. Other Speakers at the conference include but not limited to WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Executive Director UNFPA Dr. Natalia Kanem, Chief Scientist WHO Soumya Swaminathan and a host of others.

Call for Applications: The AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Science

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development ([AWARD](#)) is announcing the Call for the **AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Science**, targeting African women under 35 years of age. The call targets emerging women leaders in science from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia. The two-month virtual program is designed to equip participants with the skills and confidence to lead and innovate in the scientific world. The AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Science will offer customized learning experiences that will equip participants with skills and knowledge to develop their leadership capacity, leverage networks to advance their careers, enhance their personal brands, and navigate the challenges in leadership space. Participants will also get one-on-one coaching sessions.

The AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Science is offered under the umbrella of the Global Forum on Women in Scientific Research ([GoFoWiSeR](#)) initiative. GoFoWiSeR is an initiative of AWARD which focuses on contributing toward bridging the gender gap in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by spotlighting the strategies and approaches that improve the numbers and experiences of women in STEM. The Call for applications **closes on June 23, 2021, at 23:59 East Africa Time (GMT+3). Applications will NOT be accepted after this date.**

Applicants should carefully read the application **guidelines** for more information on eligibility criteria and the application process.

Check for guideline: <https://awardfellowships.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/The-AWARD-Leadership-Program-for-Emerging-African-Women-in-Science.pdf> and Apply here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-3_CMSV6-0C4nPz2OLqXkmm-zNWuzqeTOF_2g7dqFnr5wUQ/viewform

TWAS-CUI Postdoctoral Fellowship 2021

Applications are welcome from young scientists from developing countries (other than Pakistan) who wish to pursue postdoctoral research in natural or social sciences with the TWAS-CUI Fellowship Programme. TWAS-CUI Fellowships will provide a monthly stipend which should cover living costs such as accommodation, food and health insurance and will last for a minimum duration of six months to a maximum of 12 months.

Fellowship Sponsor (s): UNESCO, TWAS

Host Institution (s): COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI)

Number of Awards: Several

Study Level: Postdoctoral

Duration: 6 – 12 months

Nationality: Developing Countries

The Fellowships are tenable in the departments and laboratories of the campuses of the COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) for a minimum period of 6 months to a maximum of 12 months. TWAS-CUI Fellowships are offered in Mathematics, Biosciences, Metrology, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Environmental Sciences, Physics, Chemical Engineering and Management Sciences. Also offered are Development studies, Economics, Economics and International Relations.

<https://twas.org/opportunity/twas-cui-postdoctoral-fellowship-programme> for details

Deadline: August 31, 2021



NIH Research funding for Chronic, Non-Communicable Diseases and Disorders Across the Lifespan: Fogarty International Research Training Award (NCD-LIFESPAN)

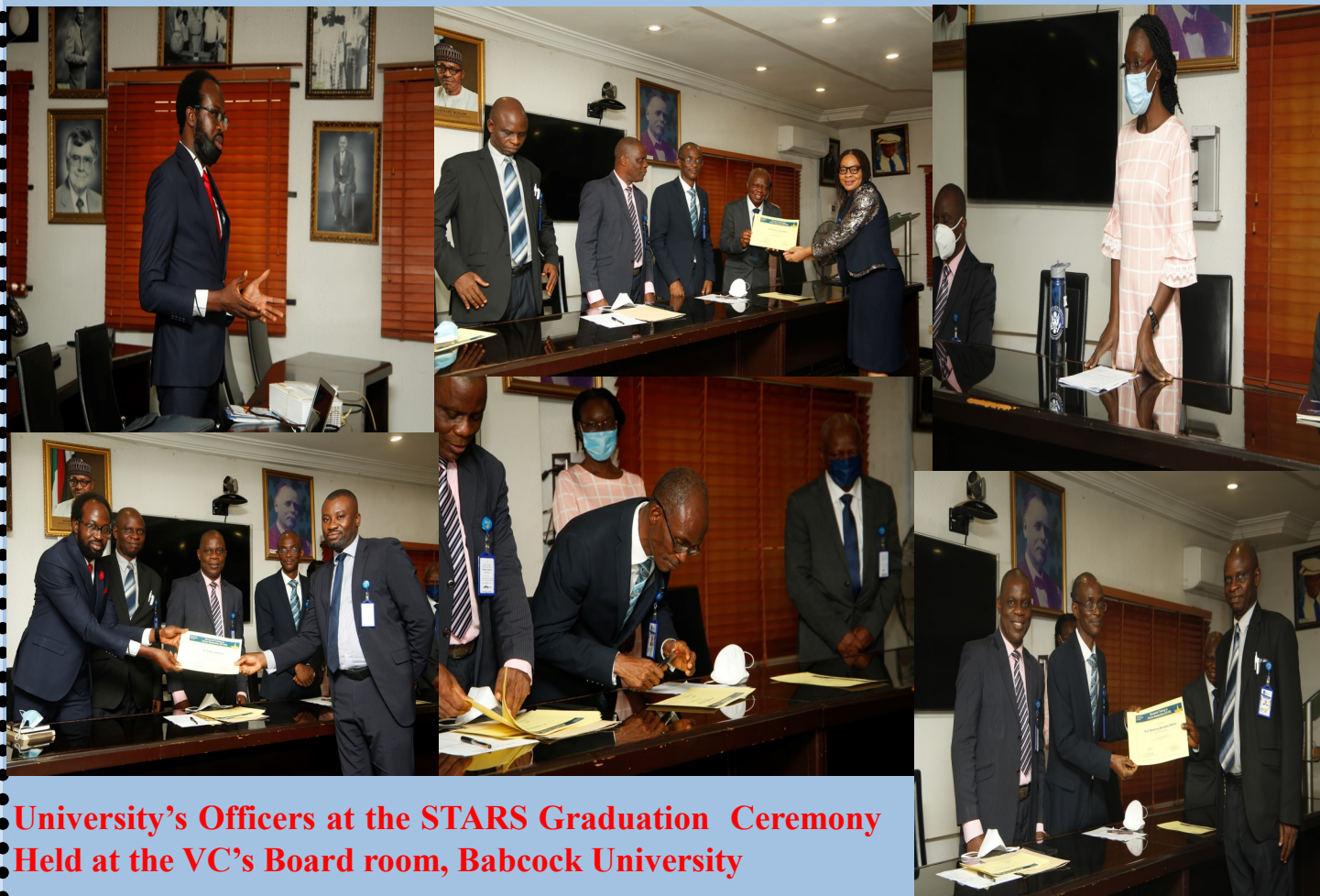
This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) encourages applications for the Chronic, Non-Communicable Diseases and Disorders Across the Lifespan: Fogarty International Research Training Award (NCD-LIFESPAN) D43 program for institutional research training programs in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs, as defined by the World Bank classification system). Applications may be for collaborations between institutions in the U.S and an eligible LMIC or may involve just LMIC institutions if there is a previous track record of externally funded research and/or research training programs by the lead LMIC institution. The proposed institutional research training program is expected to sustainably strengthen the NCD research capacity of the LMIC institutions, and to train in-country experts to develop and conduct research on NCDs across the lifespan, with the long-range goal of developing and implementing evidence-based interventions relevant to their countries. Interdisciplinary research training that cuts across NCDs is encouraged. However, for more topical applications, the main focus of research training covered in the application must be relevant to the mission and/or interests of at least one of the participating NIH ICs, other than FIC, as stated by each in this FOA. Other NCD topics and types of training may be included as secondary and complementary focus areas.

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) allows appointment of Trainees (D43) proposing to serve as the lead investigator of an independent clinical trial; or proposing a separate ancillary clinical trial; or proposing to gain research experience in a clinical trial led by another investigator, as part of their research and career development.

Application budgets are limited to \$230,000 per year for new awards and \$250,000 per year for renewal awards (total direct costs) up to 5 years

Check for details: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-230.html>

PHOTOS AT THE STARS TRAINING GRADUATION



University's Officers at the STARS Graduation Ceremony Held at the VC's Board room, Babcock University



Cross-section of participants at the graduation receiving their Certificates

Africa Health Agenda International Commissioners at the UHC framework meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.



Pictures from the Rear roll from left

Edwin Barasa (Co-Chair), Geral Manthalu, Onisoa Ralindra, Githinji Gitahi (CEO Amref), Dangana Jonathan (BABCOCK University, Waraguru Wanjau, Denis, Foyeth Eugene, Lizah Nyawira, Rispha Walumbe

