TDR Clinical Research and Development Fellowships Ambassadors

Do you have questions about the TDR Fellowship?

Would you like some pre-application advice from someone who has been awarded the fellowship?

Three former fellows have kindly agreed to serve as Fellowship Ambassadors. This means that they are willing to answer your questions about professional and personal aspects of the fellowship. Brief biographies and contact emails are listed below. Emails will generally be answered within 48 hours of receipt.

**Dr Atinuke Olaleye** from Nigeria
Email: tinukeolaleye@gmail.com

Dr. Atinuke Olaleye is a board-certified Obstetrician Gynecologist and Senior Lecturer at Babcock University and Teaching Hospital, Ilishan, Ogun State, Nigeria. She is also the Director of the institution’s Centre for Advanced Medical Research and Biotechnology (CAMRAB). She completed her TDR Clinical Research and Development Fellowship at GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines Belgium, in 2018. She is an EDCTP Career Development Fellow, conducting research on parasite resistance to malaria chemoprophylaxis in pregnancy. She is also building capacity for clinical research, and for the establishment of a pregnancy registry in her institution, with the aid of a TDR re-integration grant. She holds a Masters in Public Health degree, and is undergoing doctoral studies at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. Her research interests include the perinatal transmission of infectious diseases and drug/vaccine safety in pregnancy.

Dr. Olaleye says about her experience: “The TDR Fellowship experience was a great avenue for developing both technical and soft skills that are of immense benefit in my current research work. The networking opportunities provided by the program has also blossomed into partnerships for research and capacity-building of younger researchers in my institution.”

You can ask Dr. Olaleye about: family/visa related questions, networking opportunities, grant-writing skills, and re-integration.

**Dr. Clara Agutu** from Kenya
Email: claraagutu@gmail.com

Dr. Clara Agutu is a medical doctor with a Master’s Degree in Public Health and in Infectious Diseases. She has a keen interest in infectious diseases particularly HIV, TB, malaria and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). She is enrolled as a PhD student under the Sub-Saharan African Network for TB/HIV research
Excellence (SANTHE) fellowship award housed at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)-Wellcome Trust Research Programme in Kilifi, Kenya. Her PhD work is on improving facility-based HIV testing and understanding barriers to its implementation and scale-up. She worked with GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals in Belgium as a TDR clinical research and development fellow. There she contributed to phase 2 and 3 trials aimed at improving malaria vaccines efficacy and subsequent implementation in sub-Saharan Africa. She was able to embed skills gained from the fellowship into her current PhD studies. Dr. Agutu was also able to apply for and receive a TDR re-integration grant to support her studies and to implement research in Kenya.

You can ask Dr. Agutu about: family/visa related things, professional related or re-integration questions.

Dr. Maame Anima Attobrah Sarfo from Ghana
Email: animasarfo@gmail.com

Maame Anima A. Sarfo is a medical doctor specializing in paediatric nephrology at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Ghana. She completed her TDR fellowship with GlaxoSmithKline Diseases of the Developing World Division at Stockley Park, UK. Dr. Sarfo was initially skeptical on embarking on this fellowship. She did not want to leave her little 3-year-old boy with a nanny in her home country. However, her passion for research, coupled with wanting to know more about the pharmaceutical industry propelled her to work out a manageable plan. This, she said, was the best decision she ever made and she has not regretted.

She has a Postgraduate Certificate in International Management from the University of Liverpool and is currently pursuing a Masters in Clinical Trials with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

She has been involved in Paediatric HIV and TB clinical studies. Most of her clinical trial involvement has been with the GSK Biologicals malaria vaccine study, which she is currently a part of at the Malaria Research Centre at Agogo in Ghana.

You can ask Dr. Sarfo about: balancing family and work, family/visa related things, or other topics. You can email her or reach her on WhatsApp +233 268125366

For any other questions, please contact: crdfellowship@gmail.com