

**VANDERBILT-NIGERIA BUILDING  
RESEARCH CAPACITY IN HIV AND  
NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES  
(NCDS) (V-BRCH)**



**Grant Writing  
Workshop**

**DATE:** 25th – 29th of April 2022  
**TIME:** 9:00AM – 5:00PM  
**VENUE:** Meenat Restaurant, AKTH Kano.

Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health, (VIGH) Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC), Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH), Kano Nigeria.

Vanderbilt-Nigeria Building Research Capacity in HIV and Non-communicable Diseases Project (V-BRCH)

## **GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP**

**Date:** 25th – 29th April, 2022.

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#### WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- To provide participants with general overview of the elements of grant proposal
- To review potential funding source and identify the different type of career development, research, and programmatic grants relevant to participant personal or professional goals
- To provide participant with experience designing a research question and developing specific aims and hypotheses for potential grant application
- To provide participants the opportunities to create a professional, competitive grant specific aims page and experience the grant aims studio review process
- To familiarize participants with metrics for grant review and key components of the grant review process
- To understand and apply principles of effective scientific communication for grant writing application and communicate effectively with grant funding agencies and foundations

#### Faculty (Alphabetical order)

Muktar Aliyu, MBB, DrPH, Professor of Health Policy & Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, USA. V-BRCH Multiple Principal Investigator.

Aima Ahonkhai-Nottidge, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Centre, Nashville, USA, V-BRCH Investigator

Kevin M. Gibas, MD, Clinical Infectious Diseases Fellow, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, USA.

Kamilu Karaye, MB BCh, PhD, Professor of Cardiology, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Nigeria.

Abubakar Kundiri, PhD, Professor of Soil and Water Resources, Chair, National Research Fund, Tertiary Educational Research Fund (Tetfund), Nigeria

Baba Musa, MBBS, MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine & Consultant Physician, Aminu kano Teaching Hospital Nigeria, V-BRCH Investigator

Umar Sabo, MBBS, MPH, Professor of Pediatrics, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Nigeria

Mahmound Sani, MBBS, PhD, Professor of medicine & consultant cardiologist, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Nigeria. V-BRCH Multiple Principal Investigator.

Fatima Tsiga-Ahmed, MBBS, MPH, Assistant Professor of Community Medicine, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Nigeria. V-BRCH Investigator

C. William Wester, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, USA. V-BRCH Multiple Principal Investigator.

Aminu Z. Muhammad, MBBS, Professor of Pathology and Consultant Pathologist, Bayero University & Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital Kano.

## Topics/Lectures (all times Nigeria)

### Pre-Workshop Activities

#### Participant perspectives: Pre-workshop survey

Time	Topic	Instructor
9:00am – 9:30am	Welcome Address & Introductions	Program Faculty/ Facilitators
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Program Introduction: Brief Introduction to the Workshop Format and Agenda/ Faculty/ Participants/ Why you?	Mahmoud Sani, MBBS, PhD
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Putting Together a Strong Proposal: Components of a grant, strategies to prepare to apply, & what makes a strong grant	Muktar Aliyu, MBBS, DrPH
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Break	N/A
11:00 am – 12:00pm	Fundamentals of Research Methodology I: Session focused on generating a research question and developing specific aims & hypotheses for the proposed research question	Aima Ahonkhai, MD, MPH
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break	N/A
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Fundamentals of Research Methodology II: Session focused on the anatomy of a specific aims page & developing the specific aims page for a grant proposal	Kevin Gibas, MD & C. William Wester, MD, MPH
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Break	N/A
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Identifying Funding Sources, Institutional Awards, & Award Types: Session focused on what potential funding sources exist, what the leading funding agencies are, and what the different types of career development, research, and programmatic grants are.	Muktar Aliyu, MBBS, Dr PH
3:30 pm- 4:30 pm	Sources of Local Funding: TET Funds Guest Speaker: Abubakar Kundiri, PhD, Visiting Professor, National Universities Commission of Nigeria and Chair of the TETFUND National Research Fund Screening & Monitoring Committee	Aminu Muhammad, MBBS

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm **Small Group:** Meet with small groups (with mentors) to identify a research question and begin developing hypotheses/aims. Gibas/Aliyu/Wester/Ahonkhai/Musa/Tsiga-Ahmed

5:00 pm **Adjourn** N/A

Day 2

9:00 am - 9:30 am **Recap of Day 1** Participants

9:30 am - 10:30 am **Grant Review Process:** Session focused on the presentation of sample grant and walking participants through the grant review process. NIH video to be assigned before workshop. Aima Ahonkhai, MD, MPH

10:30 am - 12:00pm **Small Groups (vs. large session with whole group):** Walking through examples of successful and unsuccessful grant applications with a focus on aims/hypotheses Gibas/Aliyu/Wester/Ahonkhai/Musa Confirm small group facilitators

12:00pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch Break** N/A

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **Basics of Scientific Communication & Writing:** Session focused on scientific writing and grant writing techniques Muktar Aliyu, MBBS, DrPH

2:00 pm- 3:00 pm **Small Groups:** Participants work on drafting the research question and developing hypotheses in their small group. Gibas/Aliyu/Wester/Ahonkhai/Musa/Tsiga-Ahmed

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Break** N/A

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm **Small Groups:** Participants continue working on drafting the research question and developing hypotheses in their small group. Focus on aims in this small group session Gibas/Aliyu/Wester/Ahonkhai/Musa/Tsiga-Ahmed

5:00 pm **Adjourn** N/A

Day 3

9:00 am - 9:30 am **Recap of Day 2** Participants

9:30 am - 10:30 am **Fundamentals of Research Methodology III:** Session focused on developing research questions/ aims and appropriate research/study designs for the proposed research question C. William Wester, MD, MPH

10:30 am - 12:00pm **Small Groups Session:** Mentors work with participants and given them feedback on their initial rough drafts of their aims page. Gibas/Aliyu/Wester/Ahonkhai/Musa/Tsiga-Ahmed

12:00pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch Break** N/A

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **Fundamentals of Research Methodology IV:** Session focused on generating a simple data analytical plan for the study design/type selected. Baba Musa, MBBS, MPH

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm **Break** N/A

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm **Interactions with Funders:** Session focused on budgetary considerations, interacting and communication with funders including Just in Time requests **Panel:** Shehu Abdullahi, KamiluKaraye, Umar Sabo

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm **Small Group Session:** Participants work on compiling their groups final project including the research question, hypotheses, and aims. Receive feedback from group facilitator. Participant assignment: revisions based on moderator feedback and designating presenters for day 4. Gibas/Aliyu/Wester/Ahonkhai/Musa/Tsiga-Ahmed

5:00 pm **Adjourn** N/A

Day 4

9:00 am - 9:30 am **Recap of Day 3** Participants

9:30 am - 10:30 am **Small Group Session:** Feedback on final grant project, peer reviews, thoughts, suggestions for improvement and discussions for presenting to the group. Gibas/Aliyu/Wester/Ahonkhai/Musa/Tsiga-Ahmed

10:30 am - 11:30 am **Presentations:** Small groups 1 & 2 present their final project to the whole group at large Feedback and suggestions provided by facilitators and other groups Participants

12:00pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch Break** N/A

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **Presentations:** Small groups 3 & 4 present their final project to the whole group at large Feedback and suggestions provided by facilitators and other groups Participants

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm **Break** N/A

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Presentations:** Small groups 5 & 6 present their final project to the whole group at large Feedback and suggestions provided by facilitators and other groups Participants

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm *Closing comments and feedback* N/A

#### Day 5

9:00 am - 9:30 am Recap of Day 4 Participants

9:30 am - 10:30 am Group Pictures Participants

10:30 am - 12:30 pm Certificate Ceremony & Adjourn Participants

## Faculty Profiles



**M**uktar Aliyu MBBS, DrPH, MPH is a Professor of Health Policy and Medicine with the Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Associate Director for Research with the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health, USA. He attended medical school at the Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria, and holds a master of public health degree (Epidemiology and Biostatistics) from the George Washington University, USA and a doctorate degree in public health (Epidemiology and International Health) from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He

trained in Community Medicine at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital and Jos University Teaching Hospital before leaving for the United States for further studies. He completed his residency training in occupational medicine at Meharry Medical College, USA in 2008, and a fellowship in general preventive medicine at the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, USA in 2009. He is a recipient of several awards, including the UAB Outstanding Doctoral Student Award, the American College of Preventive Medicine Rising Star Award, the UAB International Student Award for Academic Excellence, and the Mayo Foundation's Summer skill Award for achievement in research, among others. Dr. Aliyu is a Principal investigator on the Vanderbilt-Nigeria Building Research Capacity in HIV/NCDs program (V-BRCH) and co-PI on other NIH-funded studies in Kano.



**A**ina Abonkhai-Nottidge is an Infectious Diseases clinician with focused training in HIV medicine, epidemiology, and outcomes research. Dr. Abonkhai (Nottidge) is on faculty at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) where she has joint appointments in the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Institute for Global Health. She is committed to optimizing clinical outcomes for marginalized patients living with HIV, especially adolescents and young adults, and has focused her efforts on mHealth-supported and community-based strategies in sub-Saharan Africa, in the Southern US. Dr. Abonkhai (Nottidge) has successfully established collaborations with NGOs in South Africa, Nigeria, and Mozambique to assess barriers to care linkage, retention, and viral suppression. She has collaborated extensively with the AIDS Prevention Initiative in Nigeria to launch the Care4Life

program, to study individual and health-system level predictors unplanned interruptions from HIV care in Nigeria. This research has informed the development of mHealth-based interventions to improve retention and engagement in care among Nigerian youth (PeerNaija) and to improve mental health outcomes for youth living with HIV (Change My Story). Domestically, Dr. Abonkhai (Nottidge) has collaborated with the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH), and the Shelby County Health Department (SCHD), to: 1) highlight disparities among racial, sexual, and gender minorities especially among youth living with HIV, 2) explore individual and community-level drivers of linkage to HIV care, 3) characterize the association between mobility among PLWH and HIV care outcomes, and 4) work with SCHD and other key partners to develop a linkage to care intervention for one of the highest-burdened counties in the United States.



**D**r. Gibas is Clinical Infectious Diseases Fellow and a Research Scholar in the Center for Clinical Quality and Implementation Research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, USA. He received his BA and MD from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Dr. Gibas went on to complete his internship and residency in Internal Medicine, as well as a Global Health training program, at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Gibas's research focuses on health disparities in HIV diagnoses and late HIV diagnoses.



**K**amilu Karaye is a Professor of Medicine at Bayero University (BUK), and Consultant Cardiologist at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH), Kano, Nigeria.

He is also affiliated to the Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine of Umea University, and the Hatter Institute of Cardiovascular Research in Africa of University of Cape Town. Professor Karaye attended University of Jos (Nigeria) for his basic medical degree (BMBCh), Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine (London) for MSc Cardiology, and Umea University

(Sweden) for PhD. He is a Fellow of West African College of Physicians (FWACP), Nigerian Cardiac Society (FNCS), Royal College of Physicians of London (FRCP, London), European Society of Cardiology (FESC) and American College of Cardiology (FACC). He is a member of the first cohort of Emerging Leaders Program of the World Heart Federation. He is the Principal Investigator of the Peripartum Cardiomyopathy in Nigeria (PEACE) Registry. He is also the national coordinator for Nigeria for the G-CHF registry, IVVE trial, INTER-CHF registry, EORP on peripartum cardiomyopathy and the African Ancestry Initiative, among others. He is a former Sub-Dean (Clinical section) of Faculty of Medicine, BUK, and a former Head of Department of Medicine at BUK and AKTH. He is the Assistant Secretary General of AFHRA and the Chairman of its Research and Grants Working Group. He is the Chairman of Research Grants Committee of AKTH and represents Faculty of Internal Medicine of WACP in its Research Grants Committee.

He has published many papers in peer-reviewed journals on varying aspects of Cardiology and has received several honors. He is the Deputy Editor in Chief of Nigerian Journal of Cardiology. Nigerian Journal of Cardiology.



**P**rofessor Abubakar Musa Kundiri was appointed the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University Wukari, Taraba State in February 2016. Prior to this, he was the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University Dutse, Jigawa State. He is Professor of Soil & Water Resources. He earned his PhD from Cranfield University, United Kingdom

He has published many articles peer-reviewed publications. He has actively participated in the national and international efforts aimed at addressing the challenges of desertification in Nigeria. These include carrying out special assignments and related technical studies

involving diverse national and international organizations. Professor Kundiri was a pioneer staff of the Federal University, Dutse where he was the Dean of Agriculture as well as Dean of Students. He was also the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, acting for the Vice-Chancellor on various occasions and taking on special assignments to help in the growth of the young University. He is a member of a number of Scientific Societies including the Professional Soil Scientists, West African Farming Systems Research Network, International Union of Soil Sciences and Fellow of Soil Science Society of Nigeria. He is also on the Editorial Board of a number of Journals. Professor Kundiri has been a recipient of Scholarship and Fellowship Awards including, the European Union for Doctoral Degree, African Education Trust, Sir Earnest Carsell Trust, Federal Government of Nigeria, Borno State Government and the University of Maiduguri. Professor Kundiri has also been called to perform a number of other public service assignments. He served Member of the National Research Committee of TETFund. In 2021, he was appointed the Chairman of the TETFund National Research Fund Screening & Monitoring Committee (NRFS & MC) which oversee the analyses, disbursement and monitoring of research grants under the National Research Fund (NRF). Professor Kundiri is a keen sportsman, enjoys reading, travelling and married with children.



**B**aba Maiyaki Musa MBBS, MPH is an associate professor of medicine with Bayero University Kano a consultant Pulmonologist with Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, and a pro bono tutor on masters of public health program with Peoples Open University.

A graduate of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria with an MBBS degree and also a graduate of Manchester Metropolitan University where he received a master of Public Health (MPH) with Distinction. He is the head of monitoring and evaluation of Africa Centre of Excellence in Population health and policy (ACEPHP), as well as the site principal investigator of the NIH funded renal risk reduction trial. He also

known an investigator on the NIH Sickle Gen Africa study, and V-BRCH D43 grant. He is a mentor to a number of fellows on the Forgy VECD fellowship program.



**D**r Umar Sabo is a child neurologist and a lecturer at the department of Paediatrics, at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH) and Bayero University Kano (BUK). He graduated from BUK and did his paediatric residency at AKTH. He obtained an MPH from Manchester Metropolitan University. He went to University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg for his MSc Medicine in Paediatrics. While in Johannesburg he did his fellowship in Paediatric neurology at Charlotte Maxeke and Chris Hanu Baragwanath academic hospitals. He completed his Fogarty mentored Research fellowship in 2019. He is a VIRDE alumnus. His research interests are childhood epilepsy, child neurology and global health.



**P**rofessor Mahmoud U. Sani MBBS, PhD, FWACP, received his medical degree in 1993 from the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria. He completed his Internal Medicine and Cardiology Residency in 2002 and won the SF Kuku price for the best graduating Fellow of the West African College of Physicians for the year. He obtained PhD in Medicine from the University of Cape town, South Africa in 2016. Professor Sani was Head of Department of Medicine, BUK/AKTH (2012 – 2014), Deputy Provost College of Health Sciences, BUK (2016-2018),

Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, BUK (2018 -2020) and Council Member, Nigerian Cardiac Society (2006-2012), Chair Pan African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR) task force on Heart Failure (2017-2021), Assistant Secretary General (West) PASCAR (2017-2021). He is currently Deputy Vice Chancellor (Management Services), Bayero University Kano, Vice President Nigerian Cardiac Society, and has been an Examiner to the West African College of Physicians since 2008. He is a World Heart Federation (WHF) emerging leader from 2015. His areas of interest include Heart Failure, Echocardiography, Cardiovascular epidemiology and cardiovascular disease in HIV. He has published several peer-reviewed scientific papers. He is a Multi-PI on the Vanderbilt-Nigeria Building Research Capacity in HIV/NCDs program (V-BRCH) and site-PI on other research projects at AKTH.



**D**r Fatima Tsiga is a public health physician and an Assistant Professor with the Department of Community Medicine, Bayero University, Kano. Dr. Tsiga-Ahmed completed her MBBS degree at Bayero University, MSc at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and residency training at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano. She is a fellow of the West African College of Physicians and a member of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria. Her research interests are in non-communicable diseases, disability prevention and HIV in vulnerable populations. She has collaborated on research

projects focused on adult and infant HIV and on non-communicable diseases in resource-limited settings.

Dr. Tsiga-Ahmed is currently the departmental postgraduate coordinator for the Masters in Public Health programme at Bayero University, Kano and an investigator on the V-BRCH training programme.



**C**. William ("Bill") Wester, M.D., M.P.H. is a Professor of Medicine in the Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, and the Associate Director for Faculty Development in Global Health. He is also a core faculty member of the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health (VIGH). Dr. Wester earned his MD degree from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and his MPH degree from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The goal of his research includes long-term HIV complications with a focus on HIV-associated kidney disease and implementation science in resource-constrained settings of the world. As an expert in global

health, Dr. Wester has been integrally involved in the scale-up of comprehensive HIV services within sub-Saharan Africa for the past 20+ years. He lived and worked in Botswana (2000-2008) for the Harvard School of Public Health (Botswana-Harvard School of Public Health AIDS Initiative) and was integral to the establishment of its national public antiretroviral treatment program. Since returning to the U.S. in 2008, he has remained actively involved in HIV scale-up, now leading/directing large programs in (i) Mozambique, where he serves as Principal Investigator/Project Director of the large (CDC/PEPFAR-funded) Vanderbilt University Medical Center/Friends in Global Health (2012-present) HIV technical assistance project ("Avante: Towards Epidemic Control") initiative supporting HIV care and treatment in 144 health facilities where more than 250,000 persons are receiving potentially life-saving combination antiretroviral therapy (ART) in Zambézia Province, Mozambique; and (ii) Nigeria, where he and collaborators are conducting an NIH (NIDDK-funded) clinical trial evaluating the optimal means to reduce the risk for long-term kidney complications among HIV-positive adults and are actively involved in building clinical trials capacity in HIV and NCDs as part of the recently initiated 5-year NIH / Fogarty International Centre-funded Vanderbilt-Nigeria Building Research Capacity in HIV and Non-Communicable Diseases (V-BRCH) D43 training program.



**P**rofessor Aminu Zakari Mohammed is a Professor of Pathology with Bayero University Kano, and Consultant Pathologist at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Nigeria (AKTH) since 2001. He obtained his MBBS degree in Medicine and Surgery at the University of Jos, Nigeria in 1992. He obtained the Fellowship of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (NPMCN) in 2001. He was also awarded the prestigious Smithkline-Beecham and James Heggie prizes for the best candidate in Anatomic Pathology and the part II FMCpath examinations respectively by the National postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria. He also has an MD degree from the NPMCN. Between 2002 through 2007, he

served as the Head of Department of various departments in Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital and Bayero University, Kano (Hematology, Pathology, and Chemical Pathology). He has been actively involved with the training of undergraduate medical and Allied Health science students in General, Systemic and Forensic Pathology and resident doctors in Pathology since 2001. He has also served as external examiner to several universities since 2005, and as an examiner in the Faculty of Pathology, National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria since 2007. He has continued to mentor and supervise several MSc students in human anatomy, human reproduction and MSc /PhD students in Medical Laboratory Science. His research interests can be broadly summarized as exploring the epidemiology and pathologic presentations of tumours with focus on Genitourinary tumours in Africans, and examining the utility of low-cost diagnostic techniques in resource-limited settings (over 100 peer-reviewed publications, 2 book chapters). He has collaborated with colleagues in the USA in establishing NIH-funded research projects at AKTH, and currently serving as Training Advisory Committee member on a D43 study aimed at building clinical trial research capacity in HIV-associated Non-Communicable Diseases in Nigeria. Prof Aminu has broad administrative experience in the Nigerian public health sector having served as Chairman Medical Advisory committee for 4 years and subsequently as Chief Medical Director for two terms (8 years) at the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano. Several international research grants were also secured and effectively managed during the period. During a one-year Sabbatical leave in the Department of Pathology, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University / Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital, Bauchi he served as Acting Provost of the College of Medical Sciences, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi. He has received over 50 merit awards from various academic, professional, non-governmental and private organizations in Nigeria and Internationally.

## PARTICIPANTS' PROFILES



**A**demola Babatunde is a Consultant Physician/Nephrologist working with the Aminu kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH) in Kano, Nigeria. He graduated from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife and finished his Residency in Internal Medicine in 2016 from AKTH with a Fellowship of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria. He has been involved in haemodialysis and transplant care for patients with kidney disease, training Medical and Nursing students rotating through the unit and also involved in several ongoing studies and trials. His current areas of Interest are Health related quality of Life

among patients on haemodialysis and diabetic nephropathy. He is also a V-BRCH scholar having received training and mentorship from the Vanderbilt and AKTH programmes.



**ABDULAKEEM ADEBAYO ALUKO MBBS, MSc ORL, FWACS, FMCORL, FICS**

Abdulakeem Aluko obtained his basic medical degree (MB.BS), from University of Ilorin, Kwara state in 1992 and proceeded with his residency training in Otorhinolaryngology which he completed in 2005, with Department of E.N.T, Unilorin Teaching Hospital, Ilorin; Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Lagos and University College Hospital, Ibadan. In addition he further his trainings in Otorhinolaryngology with Fellowship in Micro-Ear surgery; MCV Trust Hospital, India. He is presently an Associate Professor, Department of E.N.T, Bayero University Kano and an

honorary Consultant, Special Grade I in Department of E.N.T, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano He is interested in developing a career as a public health Otorhinolaryngology with research interest in Deafness / Hearing loss.



**A**bdulgafar Lekan Olawumi is a consultant Family Physician at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital with special interest in health economics and geriatrics. He specialised in offering continuous and comprehensive care in the primary care, and also coordinates care between other specialist to improve patient's care. He has written articles on elderly nutrition, morbidity profiles and anaemia. Also, recently wrote an article on facemask use to prevent COVID-19 infection. He is a Nigerian who loves playing football and is happily married with children.





**A**bdullahi Kabir Suleiman is a Family Physician working with the Department of Family Medicine at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano, Nigeria. He holds an MBBS and a Masters degree in Health Economics from Bayero University, Kano. He is a Fellow of the National Postgraduate College of Nigeria in Family Medicine. He hopes to become a foremost physician and researcher in his field. He was a Kano site investigator for the Comparison of Dual Therapies for Lowering Blood Pressure in Black Africans Study.



**A**isha Amal Galadanci Akilu. Aisha Galadanci is a board-certified hematologist working with Aminu Kano Teaching hospital and a senior lecturer in Bayero university Kano. VIRDE alumni as well as a recipient of the ASH Visitor training Program. She was the medical monitor in Nigeria for several NIH- and Thrasher-funded primary and secondary stroke prevention trials in children with SCD. My research focuses on Newborn screening and pre-marital genetic counseling for Sickle Cell disease.



**A**ishatu Nalado is a consultant physician and the first trained female nephrologist in Kano, Nigeria. Her areas of research interest are in prevalent disease conditions associated with end stage renal disease and developing effective options of managing renal disease in the tropics, including kidney transplant and dialysis. She provides clinical care at the renal disease clinic at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, where she teaches medical residents and provides clinical leadership and technical guidance in the management of patients with renal disease.



**A**liyu Aminu is a Lecturer and Consultant Pathologist (Medical Microbiologist) at Bayero University Kano and Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano, Nigeria. He has experience and research interest in infectious disease and microbiology (antimicrobial resistance). He also has passion and experience in diagnosis and management of infectious diseases, as well as knowledge and experience in laboratory strengthening and quality management systems and in hospital infection prevention and control.



**A**nas Ismail graduated from Bayero University Kano (BUK) in 2004, completed residency training in Radiology and a fellowship of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (FMCR) in 2011, and completed additional training in vascular radiology and image-guided interventions at Medical University of Graz, Austria in 2012. He joined the BUK department of Radiology in 2012 and is currently an Associate Professor. Since joining BUK, and as an honorary consultant at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, he has been active in teaching undergraduate and post-graduate students in the aspects of vascular and image-guided interventions. He has passion for research in vascular ultrasound and non-communicable diseases (especially sickle cell disease, diabetes, arterial disease and cancers) and has published a number of collaborative scientific papers.



**A**uwal Salihu MBBS, MSc (Health Econ), FMPsych Dr Salihu is a consultant Psychiatrist with Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital and Senior Lecturer with Bayero University, Kano. He worked with patients suffering from different kind primary psychiatric conditions and those with medical conditions coexisting with psychiatric disorders. He trained undergraduate, postgraduate students and resident doctors. His research works cover conditions like Depression, Epilepsy, Substance Use Disorders, ADHD and Cognitive Disorders. There are many evidence-based interventions that could solve many mental health problems in Nigeria and other low- and medium-income countries (LMICs) if we can understand how we can effectively implement them and scale up services. He has attended a workshop on implementation science in the past. He is currently involved work with Bridge Project (Bridging the Childhood Epilepsy Treatment Gap in Africa) Team (Vanderbilt/AKTH) where he is having a first-hand experience in implementation Science/Implementation research.



**D**r Faisal Dankishiya is a medical doctor with special interest in health-related research. Since his graduation from medical school eight years ago, Faisal has participated in numerous studies in several capacities ranging from project design, implementation and analysis. His research experience covers both quantitative and qualitative studies using different study designs. Currently, he is managing an NIH-funded randomised controlled clinical trial that seeks to identify the effectiveness of Lisinopril to retard or reverse progression of kidney disease among HIV positive adults in Nigeria. The study is collaboration between faculty at the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health and Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital.



**F**atima Damagum is a Consultant Family Physician working in Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital. Her special interests are in Lifestyle medicine and sexual health. She has served in various capacities in various medical associations and has been appointed to several professional committees involved in improving healthcare systems in Nigeria. She is a recipient of the prestigious Mandela Washington Fellowship where she studied Public Administration at the University of Illinois. She is passionate about Literature and has since established herself as a newspaper columnist in one of the Nigerian Newspaper.



**F**atime Kyari is a Paediatrician working with Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano, Nigeria, she has been working with the Paediatric neurology unit of the hospital for the past two years and committed to pursuing a career in neurology. She also has interest in childhood adversities and have worked on post-traumatic stress disorder among internally displaced children and adolescents in the northeastern part of Nigeria affected by insurgency. She was born and raised in Maiduguri and obtained a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from University of Maiduguri in 2010. She underwent residency training in paediatrics in Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital and became a fellow of faculty of Paediatrics of National Postgraduate College of Nigeria in 2021.



**H**afsat Ibrahim is a young paediatrician with a strong background in general paediatrics and infectious diseases, practicing in the most populous country in sub-Saharan Africa, where communicable and non-communicable diseases abound. Infectious diseases account for up to 80% of all admissions, driving her zeal and enthusiasm for knowledge and research in these areas to build and strengthen her passion for improving care and increasing the knowledge base. She is also currently involved in research in these areas, with multiple publications.



**H**alima Adamu Dr Halima is a paediatrician born and raised in Kano state northern Nigeria. she began her academic career in Kano from primary school through to tertiary education and obtained MBBS from BUK in the year 2006. She joined the postgraduate training in AKTH and became a fellow with NPMCN in Paediatrics (FMCPaed) in 2018, with special interest in paediatric neurology. She is currently developing her career in this field under the mentorship of a certified neurologists. Her training has exposed her to many courses that enabled her learnt and appreciate leadership and management, research, training and capacity building in addition to clinical expertise. She participated in many researches with both local and international collaborators notably the long-standing robust and escalating VUMC - AKTH collaboration. She have but few publications and presented in conferences. She held posts and positions in medical and non-medical associations where I learnt to have excellent interpersonal relationship.



**H**alima Bello-Manga Dr Halima is a board-certified Hematologist and Senior Lecturer working at Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital/Kaduna State University, Nigeria. She has devoted her clinical and research career to the care of children and adults with hematologic conditions, with emphasis on sickle cell disease (SCD). She is an alumnus of the Vanderbilt Institute of Research Development and Ethics (2017 and 2019) and the American Society of Hematology's Clinical Research Training Institute (2019). She is currently working on her NIH/FIC/NINDS-funded K43 award on scaling up stroke prevention in children with sickle cell anemia in a community hospital in Kaduna State using implementation science.



**H**alima Kabir MBBS Dr Halima graduated from Ahmadu Bello University (MBBS, 2002) and completed a fellowship in paediatrics by The National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria. She currently teaches undergraduates, postgraduates and Paediatric residents. Her research interests include emergency and critical paediatrics and paediatric nutrition, including reducing morbidity and mortality among critically ill children presenting to emergency units in resource-poor settings and improving knowledge and skills of health care providers in these units, particularly in triage and airway management. Over the last five years, she has helped lead a successful training workshop in collaboration with Paediatric Universal Life Saving Effort (PULSE), New York, USA to train health care workers from resource-poor settings on the immediate management of critically ill children, particularly those with sepsis and septic shock. She is currently a co-investigator for the Sepsis Incidence, Determinants and Outcome in Kano (SIDOK) study. In addition to her academic and research responsibilities, she heads the AKTH Emergency Paediatric Unit, a position she has held since 2014



**H**asiya Tijjani Ismail Dr Hasiya received her MBBS in 2006 from Bayero University Kano and completed a fellowship in Internal Medicine and Neurology (FWACP) and a Masters in Health Economics in 2019. She is the first student from the Bayero University MPH program to be selected as a V-BRCH trainee. She has completed multiple training workshops and courses in Nigeria and in international settings.



**Ibrahim Idris** Dr Ibrahim is a board-certified hematologist working with Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, as well as an alumnus of VECD-Fogarty Global Health program and American Society of Hematology Clinical Research Training Institute. He has a Master of Public Health (Epidemiology). His research interests cover some of the most devastating complications of sickle cell disease (SCD), such as reproductive and sexual health challenges of male patients, neurological injuries, and SCD as an accelerated aging syndrome. Dr Idris is focused on understanding the clinical epidemiology and treatment strategies for silent infarcts and recurrent ischemic

priapism in men with SCD.



**Jameel Ismail Ahmad** Dr Jameel obtained his basic medical degree in 2004 and did a residency in cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery in Nigeria, Ghana and India, which he completed in 2014. Since then, he has been practicing as cardiovascular & thoracic surgeon and a lecturer in surgery in Nigeria. He is involved in teaching, training and conducting research in cardiovascular and thoracic diseases and working towards establishing a regional Heart center. He also obtained a Masters in Business Administration. His career aspiration is to involve more into cardiovascular and thoracic diseases research, clinico-economic studies and health workers brain drains.



**Jamila Sani Ibrahim MBBS, MSc, FMCPaed** Dr Jamila Is a paediatrician currently with the Department of Paediatrics Muhammadu Abdullahi Wase Teaching Hospital Kano. She holds an MBBS and Msc from Bayero University Kano. Also a fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria in Paediatrics.

She aspires to become a foremost researcher in her field with penchant for epilepsy, stroke in children with sickle cell anaemia and global health.

Provides clinical care, mentors medical students and junior colleagues.

Participates in research studies both with local and international collaborators and also a member of some professional bodies.



**Mansur Ramalan** Dr Mansur is a Consultant Physician/Endocrinologist at the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano, Nigeria. He is a fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria in Internal Medicine with subspecialty in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism.

He is currently undertaking a VECD fellowship focusing integration of care for adrenal insufficiency in patients with HIV infection under the mentorship of Muktar Aliyu, MBBS, DrPH, Zubairu Iiyasu, MBBS, MPH, PhD and Ibrahim Gezawa MD. Dr. Ramalan's research work has been on the epidemiology of diabetes mellitus and

endocrine disorders in resource poor settings.



**Misbahu Ahmad** Dr Misbahu Obtained his basic medical degree from Bayero University Kano in 2006 and proceeded with his residency training in neurosurgery with Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital Kano, Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital Sokoto, Memfys Hospital for neurosurgery Enugu, Medanta Hospital Gurgaon, India, NSCB Medical College Jabalpur, India; which he finished in 2015. In addition he further trainings in Neurosurgery with Southmead Hospital Bristol and Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham in the United Kingdom as well as AO spine fellowship in Istanbul, Turkey. He is presently a senior Lecturer with Bayero University Kano and a honorary Consultant Special Grade in

Neurosurgery with Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital. I am interested in developing a career as a public health neurosurgeon with research interest in neural tube defects and novel techniques in minimally invasive neurosurgery.



**Mustapha Ahmed Yusuf** is a lecturer and trained medical entomologist with expertise in biotherapy in the Department of Medical Microbiology and

Parasitology, College of Health Sciences, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Bayero University, Kano and a Honourary Consultant overseeing the Maggot Debridement Therapy Unit in the Department of Microbiology Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano. He is a young researcher with a medical background (MBBS, MSc, PhD), and have a cumulative experience in the academics, laboratory, and

biotherapy. He Have been teaching students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and also supervise these students in the handling and analysis of data.



**S**afiya Gambo Dr Safiya obtained her MBBS degree from Bayero University in 2004 and subsequently obtained her fellowship in Paediatrics with the National postgraduate medical college of Nigeria in 2015. She has been involved in mentoring and teaching of both undergraduate and postgraduate students. She has also served as site principal investigator in a number of researches notably the SPRING study (stroke prevention in Nigeria) and the ongoing SAMS study (Severe acute malnutrition in sickle cell disease). These experiences have made her develop keen interest in clinical research in paediatrics, and is a career path

she hopes to develop. She also has passion for paediatric cardiology and hope to bridge the gap resulting into the morbidity and mortality of our young patients with chronic heart conditions due to inaccessibility of surgery. Her hobbies are reading novels and travelling



**S**hehu Abubakar Kana Dr Shehu is currently a consultant cardiologist at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano, Nigeria. His goals and aspirations are to be a world-class research fellow, be a good leader worthy of emulation by younger colleagues, and to impact positively on the lives of my patients, around whom my world revolves. His most relevant achievements are the award of fellowship of the West African College of Physicians and having participated in some international trials and registries. He has special interest in conducting clinical research and training younger colleagues.



**S**herifah Sheriff MBBS, FMCPATH. Dr Sherifah obtained her MBBS degree from the University of Maiduguri and trained to become a Chemical Pathologist in Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, with detailed understanding of the biochemical and metabolic processes and changes that occur in human disease. Her training has exposed her to many courses in leadership and management, research, teaching, and capacity building, in addition to practical laboratory and clinical skills. Her areas of special interest are Reproductive Endocrinology, Metabolic and Endocrine derangements in HIV/AIDS individuals, and have conducted a research on the prevalence of Thyroid disorders among HIV/AIDS

patients. She has passion in the diagnosis and management of metabolic disorders, as well as strengthening the laboratory quality management system.



**T**aiwo Amole is a Community Health Physician with special interest in adolescent health. She has a fellowship of the West African College of Physicians and a Master degree in Public Health. Currently, she is the Deputy Director for research at the Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy at BUK, which affords her the unique opportunity of mentoring both under and postgraduate students, as well as junior colleagues. Taiwo is presently working on adolescent health projects and aims to support the development and implementation of culturally acceptable strategies that improve their sexual and reproductive health service utilization.



**U**mma Abdulsalam Ibrahim MBBS, FMCPaed, MScPH Dr Umma is a Consultant Paediatric Haematologist and a Senior lecturer with the Department of Paediatrics, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital/Bayero University Kano. She is a fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria and holds a Master of Science degree in Public Health from Bayero University Kano. Her area of research interest is sickle cell disease with particular attention to implementing the newborn screening program and comprehensive care for children with sickle cell disease in Kano. She is the site PI for under 7 sickle cell Disease clinic supported by St Jude Children's Research Hospital/Dave and Philips Grant. She is involved in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students.



**U**sman Bashir is An MBBSgraduate of Bayero University Kano in October 2004, currently serving as a Lecturer I /Honorary Consultant to Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital and Bayero University Kano concurrently. He had his primary School Education in Kano and High School at Federal Government College Ilorin, Kwara State Nigeria. In his university days, he serves as the Class-Captain (1996-2004) throughout his medical School years and was the immediate Past Director General of Kano State Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS. A Fellow of Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, Faculty of Public Health.

He has participated in several studies across various states in the country especially in Maternal and Child Health care, Operation Research in HIV care, support, management and leadership level at state and National level.

He is Happily married with 2 children.



**Y**asir Nuhu Jibril MB.BS, MSc, FMCORL-HNS, FWACS

Dr. Yasir is a fellow of the West African college of surgeons and National postgraduate medical college of Nigeria in Otorhinolaryngology – Head & Neck surgery, and also holds a Master of Science degree in Otolaryngology. He works in the department of Ear, Nose and throat of Aminu Kano Teaching hospital where he did his residency training. He did his medical training in Bayero University, Kano where he obtained his MB.BS degree and

later an MSc Otolaryngology degree from same institution. Yasir has special interest in Otolaryngology and Head & Neck surgery. His research interest is in the fields of diagnosis and treatment of newborn and Childhood hearing loss, Head & Neck Cancers, as well as general Otolaryngology. He is quite motivated, hardworking, focused and dedicated to achieving set goals.



**Z**ainab Abdulazeez Umar Dr Zainab is a consultant Family physician working in Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, kano, Nigeria. She has over 14 years of successful experience in patient care and research. She is a fellow of the West African College of Physicians and an associate fellow of the National Post Graduate Medical College, Nigeria. She has special interest in Geriatrics and lifestyle medicine backed by her training in Family medicine. She has served in various capacities in various medical associations and has been appointed to several professional committees involved in improving healthcare systems in Nigeria. She was one of the World Health Organization experts in Healthy Ageing for impact in the 21st

century. She has been recognized consistently for performance excellence and contributions to success in medical field through research and humanitarian aid. She has ample leadership skills, always enthusiastic, eager to contribute to team success through hard work, attention to detail and excellent organizational skills. She is motivated to learn, grow, and excel in medicine and research. She currently lives in Kano, Nigeria with her family.

**SECRETARIAT'S PROFILES**



**B**ilya Sani is a Chief Admin Officer with Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH) and Trials Manager for AKTH/Vanderbilt University Medical Centre and St Jude Children Research Hospital collaborative researches as well as NIH funded clinical trials and Researches such as Stroke Prevention in Children with Sickle Cell Disease (SPIN), Primary Prevention of Stroke in Children with Sickle Cell Disease in Sub Saharan Africa (SPRING), Secondary Stroke Prevention in Children with Sickle Cell Disease (SPRINT) and Optimal Management of HIV-Infected Adults at Risk for Kidney Disease in Nigeria (R3 study). He holds a

first degree in Geography from Bayero University, Kano, and Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration (MPPA) as well as in Health Economics (MHE) from the same University. He is a Certified Clinical Research Professional (CCRP) by SOCRA USA. Bilya will serve in the secretariat of V-BRCH training.



**A**ishat Hussain Umar is a project Manager with Vanderbilt-Nigeria Building Capacity in HIV and Non-communicable Diseases Project (V-BRCH). She had her First degree in Business Administration at Mahatma Ghandi University, Meghalaya, and Masters degree in Health Economics (MHE) at Bayero University Kano. She served at National agency for the control of AIDS during her youth service. She participated in the largest HIV survey in the world titled Nigerian Aids Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIS) as a Team Lead.