

The Global Health Network Nigeria

Milestone Achievement for the year 2024

Official Launch of the TGHN Nigeria Country Centre (January 24, 2024)

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of Oxford, UK and Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife Nigeria, the Nigeria Country Centre of The Global Health Network was officially launched virtually under the theme "["Strengthening Nigeria's Research Capacity Development."](#)" This landmark event brought together global health experts from 51 countries and introduced the Centre's objectives, mission, and activities for the year. Distinguished mentors, including Prof. Morenike Oluwatoyin Folayan, Prof. Godwin N. Aja, Prof. Adewale Adisa, Dr. Kome Otokunefor, Dr. Tochi Joy Okwor and Dr. Antor Odu Ndep, were introduced to support capacity building for researchers across Nigeria. Subsequently, the center formed a multi-disciplinary Steering Committee led by Dr. Olarewaju Ibigbami. The Centre's first task was to develop a research proposal to assess the research capacity needs and gaps among health researchers at Obafemi Awolowo University as a pilot study to guide on-going engagement with health researchers across Nigeria. Ethical approval has been obtained for the research protocol and data collection is in progress.

Quarterly Webinars: Building Knowledge and Capacity

TGHN Nigeria hosted three impactful webinars:

- **July 2024:** "["Advancing Health Research for Indigenous Problem Solving in Africa: A Quest for the Missing Link"](#)" featured Prof. Joseph Osuji (Canada) and Dr. Solomon Obiri Yeboah (Ghana), who shared diverse perspectives on addressing local health challenges through innovative research.
- **October 2024:** "["Health Research Funding in Africa: Navigating the Shallow Waters"](#)" brought insights into overcoming funding barriers, with speakers such as Otuto Amarauche Chukwu (Canada) and Dr. Antor Odu Ndep (Nigeria).
- **November 18, 2024 (WAAW):** "["Holistic Approaches to Combating Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\)"](#)" included clinical experts such as Prof. Ibinabo Oboro, Dr. Mary Alex-Wele, and Prof. Folayan, who presented interdisciplinary strategies to address AMR challenges effectively.

Launch of Global Snakebite Research Hub.

The Snakebite Treatment and Research Hospital in Kaltungo, Nigeria, was represented by Dr. Nicholas Amani Hamman and Nuhu Mohammed at the launch, where they presented on the hospital's extensive research data, including over 16,000 snakebite cases treated in the last five years. Other key speakers included Aashna Uppal, Professor David Warrell, and Dr. Frank Tianyi, who discussed various initiatives and research efforts to combat snakebite. The meeting marked a significant step in advancing research and collaboration in the fight against snakebite, with a focus on global knowledge exchange and research partnerships. The [webinar](#) fostered partnerships and set plans for a "Snakebite Hub Working Group" for 2025.

Collaboration with Gombe Snakebite Research Institute

The Gombe Snakebite Research Institute, boasting data on over 16,000 snakebite cases, became a focus for joint initiatives. Presentations at the inaugural meeting of the Global Snakebite Research Hub included updates on trials and a vision for collaboration. The webinar fostered partnerships and set plans for a "*Snakebite Hub Working Group*" for 2025.

Research Visits and Multidisciplinary Partnerships

A visit by TGHN Oxford team to Obafemi Awolowo University in July 2024 facilitated discussions on fostering cultural and collaborative health research. These engagements paved the way for continued interactions between TGHN Nigeria and institutions such as the Gombe Snakebite Research Institute. Ethical approval for a research study on capacity needs at Obafemi Awolowo University was also obtained, with data collection underway.

End-of-Year Strategic Planning for 2025

During its December 2024 review, the TGHN Nigeria Steering Committee identified key priorities for 2025, including strengthening collaborative research, sustaining quarterly webinars, developing funding proposals, and potentially organizing a high-impact scientific conference to attract international and local researchers.

Conclusion

Through its diverse 2024 activities, TGHN Nigeria demonstrated a robust commitment to strengthening research capacity, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and addressing critical health challenges like AMR and snakebite treatment. The Centre remains a beacon for connecting global health researchers with local needs, advancing sustainable solutions for pressing issues.