



Okikiola Morenike Olajide

Postdoctoral Scholar, Biology

Bio

BIO

Okikiola M. Olajide, PhD is a molecular virologist and emerging structural biologist specializing in HIV-1 vaccine research. Currently a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Barnes Lab at Stanford University, Dr. Olajide focuses on designing HIV-1 immunogens that elicit silent face-targeting broadly neutralizing antibodies (bNAbs) and developing innovative HIV infection models using human spleen organoids. Her research aims to bridge the gap between promising preclinical immunogens and their effectiveness in human clinical trials, advancing the path toward more effective HIV vaccines. Dr. Olajide earned her PhD in Biology from Albert Ludwigs University, Freiburg, where she investigated protein-protein interactions crucial for viral entry in bat influenza A viruses, pioneering approaches such as photo-affinity protein crosslinking and genetic code expansion. She also holds an MSc in Medical Virology from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, where she studied the role of cockroaches in the dissemination and sustained transmission of live-attenuated oral polio vaccine virus. During her BSc in Microbiology at Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria, she uncovered an ongoing rubella outbreak among at-risk, unvaccinated pregnant women. A strong advocate for advancing research in developing regions, Dr. Olajide actively supports training initiatives for scientists in Sub-Saharan Africa. Her commitment to mentorship, shaped by her experiences as an international scholar, drives her to guide the next generation of researchers in making meaningful scientific contributions.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Stanford Igniter, Stanford University Graduate School of Business (2024)
- German Research Foundation (DFG) Doctoral Fellow, Spemann Graduate School of Biology and Medicine (SGBM) (2018-2023)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Global Health Postdoctoral Affiliate, Center for Innovation in Global Health (2024 - present)
- Member, African Virologists Network (2024 - present)
- Member, German Society for Virology (DfG) (2018 - present)
- Member, Nigerian Society for Microbiology (2012 - present)
- Member, American Society for Virology (2012 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Postdoctoral training, Stanford University, Biology and Immunology
- Stanford Ignite, Stanford University, Graduate School of Business, Entrepreneurship (2024)
- PhD, Albert Ludwigs University, Freiburg, Germany, Biology (2023)
- MSc, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria, Medical Virology (2017)
- BSc, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Nigeria, Microbiology (2012)

STANFORD ADVISORS

- Christopher Barnes, Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Evolutionarily conserved amino acids in MHC-II mediate bat influenza A virus entry into human cells.** *PLoS biology*
Olajide, O. M., Osman, M. K., Robert, J., Kessler, S., Toews, L. K., Thamamongood, T., Neefjes, J., Wrobel, A. G., Schwemmler, M., Ciminski, K., Reuther, P.
2023; 21 (7): e3002182
- **Seroprevalence of rubella-specific IgM and IgG antibodies among pregnant women seen in a tertiary hospital in Nigeria.** *International journal of women's health*
Olajide, O. M., Aminu, M., Randawa, A. J., Adejo, D. S.
2015; 7: 75-83