

Edifofon Akpan

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Academic qualifications

- Master of Public Health, University of Melbourne, Australia** awarded Nov 2021
- 89.3% average mark; specialization in health economics / economic evaluation. [Course content](#)
 - Thesis: Cost-effectiveness of iron supplementation in young children in Bangladesh. [Publication](#)
- Bachelor of Pharmacy, University of Uyo, Nigeria** awarded Oct 2014
- 4.3/5.0 GPA; courses in biomedical sciences, clinical pharmacology, pharmaceuticals, public health.

Employment history

- Research Associate & Strategy Advisor** Jan 2023 – Now
Helpman Development Institute, Nigeria. 40% FTE
- responsible for institutional growth strategies as well as contributing to internal coordination of ~ 25 staff.
 - developed a 'first of its kind', eight-module population health sciences certificate program.
 - Leading and contributing to preparation of conference presentations, technical reports, and manuscripts.
- Research Assistant/Fellow** Jun 2022 – Now
University of Melbourne, Australia. 40% FTE
- conducting systematic searches and eliciting expert opinion to obtain input parameters for models.
 - contributing to preparation of grant applications and health economic analysis plans for clinical trials.
 - developing decision models for economic evaluation of infectious disease interventions and policies.
 - contributing to preparation of tutorials and other teaching materials for health economics seminars.
- Programs Director** Jan – Sep 2022
Centre for Health Economics and Development, Nigeria. 80% FTE
- producing technical reports from completed projects for ministry of health, donors, and other clients.
 - managing projects implemented by about 20 staff, and the onboarding and mentoring of new staff.
 - conducting quality assurance of analysis and reporting on all health financing and planning projects.
- Research Assistant** Jun '20 – Jan '22
University of Melbourne, Australia. Casual
- conducting systematic literature and data searches, and other research support for research projects.
 - contributing to preparation of conference presentations, technical reports, and manuscripts.
- Programs Assistant, Healthcare Financing** Jan '18 – Dec '19
Centre for Health Economics and Development, Nigeria. 80% FTE
- carrying out data analysis and technical reporting for household health use and expenditure surveys.
 - contributing to development of fiscal space and investment cases models for health insurance schemes.
 - carrying out data collection and analysis, and technical reporting, for national and state health accounts.

Skills and competencies

Languages and tools: *programming/ markup:* R, Stata, Quarto, Markdown, Excel VBA, LaTeX
collaboration tools: Git/GitHub, OneDrive, Google Drive, Trello, Slack

Specialist knowledge: Costing and statistical methods for analyzing healthcare resource use.
Cost-effectiveness analysis alongside randomized-controlled trials.
Decision modelling using outputs from infectious disease models.
Systematic reviews of healthcare interventions and evaluations.

Awards and scholarships

Wellcome Trust PhD Studentships in Science	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">tuition, living costs, and research support for PhD studies over four years	
Australia Awards Africa master's degree scholarship	2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">approx. \$ 120,000 (tuition, living costs, and research support) over two years	
Award of Excellence for Outstanding Service, Young Pharmacists Group, Nigeria	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">recognition for developing website, membership database, and for services to the profession.	
Agbami/Chevron medical and engineering undergraduate scholarships	2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none">approx. \$ 7,500 (tuition, living costs) over four years.	

Non-degree courses

Decision modelling for health economic evaluation	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">By LSHTM and University of York over 12 weeksModules on decision trees, Markov models, probabilistic sensitivity analysis, value of information analysis, Excel VBA, and R programming. Course content	
Analysis of cost data	2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">By Statistical Horizons LLC over 4 daysUnivariate and multivariate analysis of cost data, generalized linear models, handling missing or censored cost data, Stata. Course content	
Health financing policy for universal health coverage	2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">By World Health Organization, self-pacedRevenue raising, pooling revenues, strategic purchasing, benefit package design. Course content	

Professional memberships

ISPOR—The Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research	2023
IHEA—International Health Economics Association	2026

Teaching contributions

- PHS513 Economic Evaluation for Helpman Institute's Certificate Course in Population Health
- PHS512 Statistical Computing with R for Helpman Institute's Certificate Course in Population Health
- Tutorial on cost-effectiveness modelling for MPH infectious diseases modelling course. [Course link](#)
- Seminars on uncertainty in economic evaluation for Malaysia Ministry of Health. [Project details](#)

Research and publications

Peer-reviewed publications

- Mishra, S, Wilson T, Andrabi, H, et al. (2023). The total health gains and cost savings of eradicating cold housing in Australia. *Social Science & Medicine*, 115954.
- Akpan E**, Hossain S, Devine A, et al. (2022). Cost-effectiveness of universal iron supplementation and iron-containing micronutrient powders for anemia among young children in rural Bangladesh. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. 116(5):1303–1313. [Article](#)
- Blakely T, Thompson J, Bablani L, et al (2021). Association of Simulated COVID-19 Policy Responses for Social Restrictions and Lockdowns With Health-Adjusted Life-Years and Costs in Victoria, Australia. *JAMA Health Forum*. 2(7):e211749. [Article](#)
- Okhale SE, **Akpan E**, Fatokun O, et al. (2016). *Annona senegalensis* Persoon: a review of its ethnomedicinal uses, biological activities and phytochemicals. *Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry*, 5(2):211-219. [Article](#)

Current research projects

- **Akpan E**, Devine A, STRIVE PNG Collaborators. Costs of molecular epidemiology techniques for malaria and arboviruses in Papua New Guinea (analysis stage)
- Carvalho N, **Akpan E**, Watts E, et al. What do newer cost-effectiveness threshold estimates imply for infant pneumococcal conjugate vaccine programs in Asia Pacific region? (analysis stage).
- **Akpan E**, Carvalho N, Nurhasni K, et al. The economic and health burden of COVID-19 in Malaysia: a cost-of-illness and burden of disease study (writing stage).
- Carvalho N, Nurhasni K, **Akpan E**, et al. Economic evaluation of COVID-19 public health interventions in Malaysia (writing stage)
- **Akpan E**, Oli C, Taiwo O, et al. Biological and Behavioural Determinants of Fertility in Nigeria: An Application of the Revised Bongaarts Model. (writing stage). [Preprint](#)
- Oli C, Nwogu B, **Akpan E**, et al. Use of Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs) in Nigeria: A Scoping Review (writing stage) [Preprint](#)

Other projects participation

- 2022 Healthcare expenditure and utilization survey for Kano state, Nigeria
Role: report writing (first draft), survey data cleaning, data analysis/visualization
- Healthcare expenditure and utilization survey for Bayelsa and Enugu states Nigeria
Role: report writing (first draft), survey data cleaning, data analysis/visualization
- National health accounts 2020 and 2021 for Nigeria
Role: report writing (critical revision), data analysis, technical assistance, quality assurance
- Health economics analysis plan for EDIVA trial (intravenous iron for anemia in pregnancy)
Role: report writing (first draft)
- Development and costing of strategic plan for state health insurance schemes in Nigeria.
Role: report writing (critical revision), data visualization, quality assurance
- 2021 Economic burden of COVID-19 on healthcare services in Malaysia
Role: report writing, literature review, data visualization
- Development of cost-effectiveness tutorial for infectious diseases modelling course
Role: drafting tutorial questions (first draft), building Excel tutorial (first version)
- 2019 Investment case for health for Imo, Anambra, and Sokoto states of Nigeria
Role: report writing, Model building (first version), data analysis/visualization
- Fiscal space for health for Imo, Anambra, and Sokoto states of Nigeria
Role: report writing, Model building (first version), data analysis/visualization
- 2018 National health accounts 2017 and 2018 for Nigeria
Role: report writing (first draft for 2017) [Report](#), data analysis, technical assistance, quality assurance
- Sub-national health accounts estimation for Imo, Anambra, and Sokoto states of Nigeria
Role: report writing (first draft), data visualization, technical assistance, quality assurance
- Healthcare expenditure and utilization survey for Imo, Anambra, and Sokoto states of Nigeria
Role: report writing (first draft), survey data cleaning, data analysis/visualization