

UZEZI OKINEDO

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EDUCATION

Doctoral Student, Molecular, Cellular, and Organismal Biology *September 2020-Present*
University of Massachusetts Boston

Master of Science, Cell, and Molecular Biology *November 2018-November 2019*
University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

Bachelor of Science, Cell Biology and Genetics *September 2011-November 2015*
University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) *May 2024 – Present*

Doctoral Researcher, Rice Breeding and Innovation

- AI-based trait mapping for iron deficiency tolerance under DSR conditions

University of Massachusetts Boston *September 2021-Present*

Teaching Assistant, Department of Biology

- Genetics (BIOL 252) and General Biology (BIOL 111) teaching assistant.

University of Massachusetts Boston *January 2021-Present*

Research Assistant, Department of Biology

- Investigating pleiotropy and adaptation in *Helianthus argophyllus* or Silverleaf sunflowers.
- Investigating the Genetic and Environmental Basis of Seed Trait Variation in *Oryza sativa*.
- Genome-wide association Studies and seed phenotyping of USDA rice diversity panel.

University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria *November 2020-Present*

Assistant Lecturer, Department of Cell Biology and Genetics

- Cell Biology and Cell Physiology Tutor.

University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria *April 2018-November 2020*

Graduate Assistant, Department of Cell Biology and Genetics

- Teaching day and evening classes
- Research
- Setting and conducting examinations
- Marking of examination scripts

Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Nigeria *July 2017-December 2017*

Teaching and Research Assistant, Department of Biology

- Characterizing morphological variations in Fonio millets.
- Preparation of Laboratory Specimens
- Preparation of course materials
- Grading of assignments, laboratory sessions, and exams
- Proctoring exams

RESEARCH

Publications:

- Oyenike A. Adeyemo, Omodolapo O. Ayodele, Micheal O. Ajisafe, **Uzezi Elizabeth Okinedo**, Daniel O. Adeoye, Abraham.B. Afanou, Faridh A. Akinsemoyin, Oreoluwa O. Ogunjobi, Olamilekan J. Kasali, Ekene E. Chukwudiri. (2021). Evaluation of dark jute SSR markers and morphological traits in genetic diversity assessment of jute mallow (*Corchorus olitorius* L.) cultivars, South African Journal of Botany **137**: 290-297, ISSN 0254-6299, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sajb.2020.10.027>.
- Titilola Salisu, Oyenike A., Adeyemo, **Uzezi E. Okinedo**, Elizabeth Osibote, Bodunrin O. Ottu and Abiodun M. Odukoya. (2020). "Promoting Home Garden Vegetables and Herb Species to Enhance the Immune System in The Covid-19 Pandemic". *Book of Readings on Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), BSN North Central Zone, 2020 (43)*.
- Onyeka S. Chukwudozie, Rebecca C. Chukwuanukwu, Onyekachi O. Iroanya, Daniel M. Eze, Vincent C. Duru, Temiloluwa O. Dele-Alimi, Busuyi D. Kehinde, Taiwo T. Bankole, Perpetua C. Obi, **Elizabeth U. Okinedo**, "Attenuated Subcomponent Vaccine Design Targeting the SARS-CoV-2 Nucleocapsid Phosphoprotein RNA Binding Domain: *In Silico* Analysis", *Journal of Immunology Research*, vol. 2020, Article ID 2837670, 17 pages, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2020/2837670>
- Oyenike Adeyemo, Olatunde Bhadmus, Olumide Adebessin and **Uzezi Okinedo**. (2018). Assessment of genetic diversity among selected maize landraces and hybrids using SSR linked to QTLs for drought and nitrogen tolerance. *Nigerian Journal of Genetics* **32**: 182-190.

Conferences attended:

- **Okinedo, U.**, Moyers, B., Sharma, S., Balaraju E., Bura, R., Pahi, B., Singh, A., Adeyemo, O., Kumar V., and Sinha, P. (2024). AI-Based Trait Mapping of Iron Deficiency Tolerance in Direct Seeded Rice (DSR). *ASA, CSSA, SSSA International Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX*. <https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2024am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/161992>.
- **Okinedo, U.**, Marrano, A., Moyers, B. (2023). Discovering the Genetic Basis of Rice Grain Shape. *Plant Biology 2023 – Corteva Student Showcase, 2023, Savannah, GA*. (Invited Speaker).
- **Okinedo, U.**, Marrano, A., Moyers, B. (2023). Discovering the Genetic Basis of Rice Grain Shape. *Plant Biology 2023 – Corteva Student Showcase, 2023, Savannah, GA*. (Invited Speaker).
- **Okinedo, U.**, Marrano, A., Moyers, B. (2023). Discovering the Genetic Basis of Rice Grain Shape. *Botany 2023, Boise, ID*. (Poster).
- **Okinedo, U.**, Moyers, B., and Marrano, A. (2023). Pleiotropy and Adaptation in Silverleaf Sunflower, *Helianthus argophyllus*. *Botany 2023, Boise, ID*. (Talk).
- **Okinedo, U.**, Moyers, B., and Marrano, A. (2023). Pleiotropy and Adaptation in Silverleaf Sunflower, *Helianthus argophyllus*. *Evolution 2023 conference, Albuquerque, NM*.
- **Okinedo, U.**, Moyers, B., and Marrano, A. (2023). Discovering the Genetic Basis of Rice Grain Shape". *UMass Boston College of Science and Mathematics Student Showcase*. [Program Booklet Seventh Annual CSM Student Success Showcase May 12, 2023.pdf - Google Drive](#)

- **Okinedo, U.**, Moyers, B., and Marrano, A. (2022). Phenotypic Variation and Genome-Wide Association Study of Seed Traits in the USDA Rice Mini-Core. *ASA, CSSA, SSSA International Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD*. <https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2022am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/145504>
- Bankole, I.O., Adeyemo, O.A., Ottu, B.O., **Okinedo, U.E.** and Ajiboye, G. (2019). “Quality and Quantity of DNA from Blood Samples Recovered from Metal Surfaces”. *1st annual conference of the Society of Forensic and Analytical Scientists in Nigeria*.
- Adeyemo, O.A., Oyewale, T.O., Adeyemi, O.K., Ottu, B.O., Adebesin, O.A., Ajiboye, G. and **Okinedo, U.E.** (2019). “DNA Paternity Testing: Awareness, Attitudes, and DNA Profiling Training among Nigerian Medical Personnel”. *1st annual conference of the Society of Forensic and Analytical Scientists in Nigeria*.
- Ottu, B.O., Ajiboye, G., Adeyemo, O.A., Olojede, O.A.O., **Okinedo, U.E.** and Obioha, A.N. (2019). “Knowledge and Practice in the Management of Rape Cases in Hospitals in Lagos and Ogun States”. *1st annual conference of the Society of Forensic and Analytical Scientists in Nigeria*.
- Olatunde Bhadmus, **Uzezi Okinedo**, Oyenike Adeyemo and Blessing Ebong. (2019). Genetic diversity and relationships among *A. cepa* L., *A. cepa* L. var *Aggregatum*, *A. fistulosum*, and *A. sativum* accessions assessed by RAPD Analysis. *Proceedings of 43rd Genetics Society of Nigeria Annual conference 2019*: 202- 210.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Global Rice Research Foundation (GRRF) Leadership Award (\$7,150) (2024).
- International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) MSI Scholarship by USAID (~ \$45,000) (2023).
- UMass Boston Nancy Goranson Endowment Fund (\$735) (2023).
- Best Poster Presentation Economic Botany Section - Botany 2023, Boise, Idaho.
- Association for Women in Science (AWIS) Distinguished Dissertation Research Scholarship (\$10,000) (2023).
- Corteva Showcase Award (2023).
- Botanical Society of America (BSA) Genetics Section Student Travel Award (\$500) (2023).
- American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) Recognition Travel Award (2023).
- Herbert Lipke Memorial Endowment Fund (\$1,000) (2023).
- Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) Financial Award for course attendance (\$3,000) (2023).
- Honorable Mention by Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) National Fellowship (2022).
- Genetics Society of America (GSA) DeLill Nasser Award for Professional Development in Genetics (\$1,000) (2022).
- American Association of University Women (AAUW) International Doctoral Fellowship (\$20,000) (2022).
- Summer Institute of Statistical Genetics (SISG) Scholarship Recipient (2021)
- EducationUSA Opportunity Fund Scholar (2019).
- Dr. D.K Olukoya Academic Award of Excellence (2019).
- First Class Honors (2016).
- University of Lagos Endowment Award for Academic Excellence (2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015).
- Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries Acknowledgement of Academic Excellence (2013/2014).
- Science Student Fellowship (SSF) Award for Academic Excellence (2012/2013).

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING ATTENDED

- Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) Frontiers and Techniques in Plant Science: An intensive overview of topics in genomics, genetics, physiology, biochemistry, development, and evolution and hands-on

experiences in molecular, imaging, computational and high throughput approaches to understanding plant biology. (June 29th – July 20th, 2023).

- Rice Research to Production Course (RR2P) by IRRI Education: This course covered the basics of rice production, an overview of the changes and challenges in the rice industry from production to market, advancements in rice breeding, and new innovations in rice science. (July 16th – August 5th, 2022).

- Research Coordinated Network (RCN) for Evolution in Changing Seas: In this program, the RCN seeks to provide training to students at the undergraduate or graduate level (“mentees”) by participating in lab meetings of a research group that shares their interests. (October 2021 – May 2022).

- University of Washington Summer Institute of Statistical Genetics: A training to strengthen the statistical and genetic proficiency of scholars from all backgrounds. (6th – 17th July 2021).

- Train the trainers' program: A 3-day workshop on Global Teaching Practices organized by the Association of Massachusetts Institute of Technology Trained African University Lecturers (AMTAUL), University of Lagos Chapter. (28th – 30th January 2020).

- DNA Basics Workshop organized by the Department of Cell Biology and Genetics, University of Lagos. (9th -13th September 2019).

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Massachusetts Science and Engineering Fair

- Judge

- Judged Massachusetts Region IV high school science fair.

March 2023 – Present

Strong Women Strong Girls (SWSG) Boston

November 2021 – Present

- College Mentor

- Mentor female undergraduates at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

I Can Persist STEM Initiative (ICP-STEM)

August 2021 – May 2022

- Scholar

- Organized programs to help support female students of color in STEM fields

EducationUSA Lagos

October 2019 – Present

- Scholar

- Reviewed applications for the Opportunity Funds Program (OFF) for the 2020/2021 cohort.

- Mentor and guide students on graduate school applications.

- Gave a talk on “Landing External Funding” during the 2022 graduate boot camp.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

- Dr. Brook T. Moyers – Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of Massachusetts Boston

Contact: Brook.Moyers@umb.edu; (707) 235-1237

- Dr. Oyenike Adeyemo – Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Lagos, Nigeria

Contact: aoadeyemo@unilag.edu.ng; +234 805 507 3665