

The love and ability to improvise, repair, and craft devices have remained my favourite pastime since childhood. In High School, my teachers noted this trait alongside my unparalleled performance in Chemistry and appointed me as the Laboratory Prefect. Since then, I have continued to develop this technical proclivity as an extra-curricular activity, and it has enhanced my problem-solving skills and innovative thinking.

My interest in Translational Medicine stems from a desire to combine my training in biomedical sciences and penchant for innovation to improve healthcare delivery. In particular, I am enthusiastic about developing point-of-care analytical diagnostics that are functional in both clinical and non-clinical settings. This interest is consequent to my exposure as a Research Assistant at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, where I got an insight into the growing need for low-cost point-of-care diagnostics to aid the detection of disease biomarkers with as little technical and laboratory facility requirements as possible.

I choose the International Master in Innovative Medicine (IMIM) due to the unique circular Bench to Beside and Back (BBB) translation model that it has adopted. Also, another aspect of the master that drew my interest was the ability to have two individual internships in partner companies within the frame of the programme, as my aim is to obtain more industrial experience.

I consider myself as an appropriate candidate for this programme for the following reasons. Foremost, my previous education in Biochemistry and Public Health Biotechnology has given me the foundational knowledge which will be required for my subsequent training at Uppsala University . In addition, while teaching genetics to undergraduate interns at the Foresight Institute of Research and translation, I have been up-to-date with knowledge in the field. Moreover, I also have a strong commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship. During my prior master programme, I realised that the pressure on the genomic analysis equipment at the central laboratory was too much, which often makes them unavailable for training purposes. Lack of research funding is a significant issue in Nigeria, and the high cost of many of these equipment makes them unfordable for young scientists. I took the initiative and formed a small research group that made low-cost gel electrophoresis, open PCR, and complete-immersion plant tissue culture. To accomplish my goals, I enrolled in several extra-curricular training, among which was the 'Advanced Manufacturing training for Hardware Entrepreneurs' organised by General Electric (GE), and networked with other professionals. We recorded laudable success, and I presented the findings as a keynote speaker at the 6th

UNIBADAN Conference of Biomedical Research and afterwards made more efforts, including registering a company name (Impact Biotech Nig. Ltd.). The company now produces and markets gel electrophoresis boxes and ergonomic laptop stand. This experience has taught me effective strategies in entrepreneurship, patience, and networking, and I hope to build on this knowledge through the entrepreneurship courses and opportunities the IMIM program offers.

Although I have a strong entrepreneurial mindset and love for translational science, there is a need for me to acquire cognate translation research experience needed to proceed to Ph.D. in Translational Medicine. Participating in IMIM will equip me with the skills necessary to undertake an industrial-based Ph.D. programme in this field. One of my career objectives is to own an internationally recognised biotech company and help individuals from less privileged backgrounds in starting up companies.

IMIM being an international class, bringing together diverse cultures and languages, will also allow me to participate in cultural exchange. I will not find it difficult to cope in such class because my participation in a year National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Scheme, mandatory for all Nigerian graduates to co-exist with about 250 ethnic groups and tribes, has given me firsthand experience of working and living among people of different cultures and beliefs. With this, I have learned to respect others' views while pursuing a common agenda.

Immediately after my master's program, I will apply to an industrial-based Ph.D. programme in Translational Medicine. Along my career journey, I will continue to grow my company, and I look forward to increasing our products and expanding services to other Africa countries. Joining IMIM will be a springboard for the realisation of my dreams and change lives in the process, and I look forward to being part of the next cohort.