

# OGECHE VINAPRISCA IKHUORIA, GradAPH, MSc

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Maryland, USA

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Girls' Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

Family Planning and Contraceptives

Sub-Saharan Africa

Intervention Research

Health Policy Analysis & Advocacy

## EDUCATION

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**PhD**      **Behavioral and Community Health (BCH)**      *In progress* (August 2025- May 2030)

School of Public Health, University of Maryland (UMD) College Park, USA

**MSc**      **Population & Reproductive Health**      May 2024- August 2025

School of Public Health, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

**Thesis:** Sexual Activity and Associated Health Problems of Female Senior Secondary School Students in Port Harcourt.

**Supervisor:** Dr. Vivian Ifeoma Ogbonna

**BSc**      **Biochemistry**      February 2020

University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria,

## RESEARCH/ RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCES

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- **Graduate Teaching Assistant-** *Department of BCH, UMD, USA* August 2025- Present
  - Assist in delivering tutorials and review sessions to reinforce lecture materials.
  - Support students through consultations and feedback on assignments and projects.
  - Help update teaching materials, slides, and course resources.
  - Grade assignments and maintained accurate class records.
- **Student Research Affiliate-** *Maryland Population Research Center, MD, USA.* September 2025- Present
  - Participate in research seminars, workshops, and collaborative discussions with faculty affiliates and fellow students.
  - Contribute to knowledge-sharing activities within the center.
- **Community Health Services Intern** February- April 2025  
*Rivers State Primary Healthcare Management Board, Nigeria*
  - Contributed to the development, coordination, and implementation of integrated primary healthcare strategies, policies, and guidelines across units; maternal and child health, vaccines and cold chain storage, immunization, adolescents and school health, family planning, home-based healthcare, advocacy, communications, and social mobilization, in all 23 local government areas (LGAs) in the state.
  - Engaged with local government health units to strengthen primary healthcare delivery (especially sexual and reproductive health) for adolescent girls and young women.
- **Head, Center for Reproductive Health Research-** *Youths in Research, Nigeria.* June 2024- Present
  - Lead the design and implementation of sexual and reproductive health research in the organization.
  - Collaborate with other center heads across other research areas.

- Contribute to the preparation of research findings for dissemination at health forums, as well as drafting manuscripts for submission to academic journals.
- **Health Communications Officer- *Knit Together Initiative, Nigeria.*** August 2018-June 2023
  - Collaborated with state partners to design and implement social and behavioral change communication strategies to enhance the uptake and use of modern contraceptive methods in Rivers State and trained family planning service providers and media in the state to effectively deliver and disseminate youth-friendly services and messages.
  - Co-led the Tear Down Barriers, which influenced the expansion of the Family Life and HIV/AIDS Education (E-FLHE) curriculum to provide comprehensive sexuality education for adolescents in junior secondary schools in Rivers
  - Supported the development of communication materials (web articles, social media copies, email newsletters) that addressed topics related to sexual and reproductive health rights and gender equality.
  - Led health communication campaigns on social media, radio, and television channels in the state and managed the organization’s digital communication channels, including social media.
- **Community Secondary School, Rumuodumaya Port Harcourt.** May 2021-April 2022  
*The National Youth Corps Program*
  - Taught the subject BIOLOGY to over 300 senior secondary school students.
- **Clinical Laboratory Assistant (Intern)- *Health Fountains Hospital, Nigeria-*** May- Dec. 2018
  - Carried out routine tests and analyses on disease areas such as HVS/MCS, HIV, hepatitis, malaria, etc.
  - Coordinated in-service training for medical personnel and weekly antenatal classes for pregnant women.
  - Carried out administrative work on hospital management.

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## **FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS, AND NOMINATIONS (14 of 18)**

- **Youth Global Health Academy Champion.** 2025  
One Young World and the Gates Foundation

- **Doctoral Student Fully funded Graduate Teaching Assistantship** 2025  
School of Public Health, University of Maryland, College Park, USA
- **Fellow, Data Science to Advance Women’s Health (DSAWH) Fellowship Program** 2025  
Data Science Africa, Kenya
- **Fully funded MPH-HE KIT Fund Scholarship (*declined*)** 2025  
The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Amsterdam
- **75% Tuition Scholarship (*declined*)** 2025  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA
- **Inaugural spotlighted member of the month (November)** 2024  
The Commonwealth Youth Gender Equality Network (CYGEN) and  
The Royal Commonwealth Society, London
- **Fellow, Leaders of Leaders Africa Fellowship** 2024  
Bluward Education Initiative, Nigeria
- **Fully funded Graduate Research Assistantship (*declined*)** 2023  
University of Iowa, Scanlan Center for School Mental Health, USA
- **Fully funded Graduate Teaching Assistantship (*declined*)** 2023  
School of Public Health, University of Nevada, Reno, USA
- **Youth Trailblazer Award Top Finalist** 2022  
International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP), Thailand
- **Fellow, Margaret Ekpo Youth Fellowship Program for Women’s Rights** 2020  
YouthHub Africa, Nigeria
- **Global Youth Voice Against Gender-Based Violence Ambassador** 2020  
Center for Peace & Sustainable Development, Nigeria
- **Nominee, 120under40 New Generation of Family Planning Leaders Award** 2019  
The Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health, JHU, USA
- **Activist of the Year Award** 2019  
National Society of Biochemistry Students, University of Port Harcourt Chapter

## FEATURED RECENT RESEARCH/ PROJECTS

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- **Youth Consultation on Reproductive Justice for Women (CSW70):**  
I conducted a youth-focused qualitative consultation focused on reproductive justice, examining barriers to sexual and reproductive health among young women in sub-Saharan Africa. I carried out a virtual focus group discussion and an in-depth interview and applied rapid qualitative analysis to synthesize cross-group findings. I also led the development of evidence-informed recommendations addressing laws and policies, health system performance, and youth participation, for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women Global Youth and Adolescent Recommendations process.
- **Workshop on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Policy Advocacy- Project Lead**  
I hosted a 3-day virtual workshop that brought together over 200 youth leaders and facilitators from 14 countries to discuss components of favorable SRH policies, strategies for engaging policymakers, and how to design and execute a policy advocacy campaign. I carried out an impact analysis post-workshop that showed that the workshop was successful in equipping participants with skills, knowledge, and resources to advocate for favorable SRH policies in their countries.

## JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS (5 of 15)

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- **Ikhuoria O**, and Eneh S. ‘Exploring the Landscape of Sexual and Reproductive Health Policies in sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunities for Improvement.’- Manuscript submitted to Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters Journal. In review.
- ‘Regulating Algorithmic Tools in Reproductive Health: Ethical and Legal Challenges’- Manuscript submitted to Frontiers in Reproductive Health. In review.
- Eneh S, Onukansi F, Anokwuru C, **Ikhuoria O**, Edeh G, Obiekwe S, Dauda Z., Praise-God A, and Okpara C. (2024) Cholera outbreak trends in Nigeria: policy recommendations and innovative approaches to prevention and treatment. *Front. Public Health* 12:1464361. [doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2024.1464361](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2024.1464361)
- Eneh, S, Onukansi, F, **Ikhuoria, O**. and Temitope Ojo. Designing and deploying caller tunes on mobile phones to promote malaria vaccine uptake in Africa: can the technology

acceptance model (TAM) help?. *Malar J* 23, 325 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12936-024-05134-3>

- Nwalieji, C.A., Onukansi, F.O., **Ikhuoria OV**. *et al.* Mentorship in African health and clinical research: addressing barriers and building research capacity. *Hum Resour Health* 23, 55 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12960-025-01024-0>

## FEATURED COURSES, TRAINING, AND CERTIFICATIONS

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- **Global Health Development Course**. One Young World Academy & Gates Foundation. 2025
- **Research Made Easy Plus 2.0**. Medical Women's Association of Nigeria. 2024
- **Advocacy for Reproductive Justice in Africa**. Afya na Haki Institute,, Uganda. 2023
- **Graduate internship training in International Development**. Dataville Research LLC, Nigeria. 2021
- **Adolescents & Youths Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights Advocacy Training**. 2018  
Knit Together Initiative, Nigeria

## CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS (6 of 12)

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- One Young World Summit. *Munich, Germany*. 2025
- Data Science Africa Summer School and Conference (13<sup>th</sup> edition). *University of Ibadan, Nigeria*. 2025
- West African Institute of Public Health Workshop and Induction Ceremony into the Academy Of Public Health, *November 2024*
- 2024 Faculty Day Lecture of the Faculty of Public Health and Community Medicine, National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria. *September 2024*.
- International Conference on Family Planning, Pattaya City, Thailand. *Virtual participation*. 2022.
- Nigerian Society of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology 4<sup>th</sup> Annual South-South Zonal Conference. *University of Calabar, Nigeria*. 2019.

## MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

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- One Young World Ambassador 2025- date

- Member, Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Collaborator Network 2025- date  
The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington
- Graduate Member, West African Institute of Public Health 2024- date
- Member, Commonwealth Youth Gender Equality Network (CYGEN). 2024-date
- Member, Global Youth Consortium Against Female Genital Mutilation. 2024-date
- Member, Public Health Interest Group Africa (PHIGA) 2023-date
- Member, Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC) Youth Caucus 2019-date
- Member, Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) network 2019-date
- Member, National Society of Biochemistry Students 2015-2019

## PROFESSIONAL/ ACADEMIC/ COMMUNITY SERVICE

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- **Abstract (Super) Reviewer-** *International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) 2025, Bogotá, Colombia, April 2025*  
I served as an abstract reviewer (and super reviewer) for the world's largest scientific conference on family planning and reproductive health. I evaluated and provided feedback on submitted abstracts across key tracks to support the development of a high-quality, evidence-informed conference program focused on advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights globally.
- **Founder & Coordinator-** *Girl Power Afrique (GPA). September 2023-date*  
GPA is a non-profit organization and online forum committed to promoting gender equality and the sexual and reproductive health of adolescent girls and women in Africa through program implementation, advocacy, and community activities. Membership currently spans 18 countries. I initiate and lead project implementation and manage partnerships.
- **Contributor for the Toolkit on Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH)-** *Commonwealth Youth Gender Equality Network (CYGEN) & the Royal Commonwealth Society. August-December 2024.*  
I was part of a 6-member committee selected to develop an educational and advocacy toolkit on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) for youth advocates across the 52 commonwealth countries.
- **Host-** *#FPwithVina Series (@Vinaprisca\_ik). October 2024, to date*  
I host a weekly series on X (formerly Twitter) to educate readers on reproductive health, family planning, and contraception, using a fun and engaging approach.

- Judge for the Queen’s Commonwealth Essay Competition-** *The Royal Commonwealth Society. June 2024 & July 2025*

I judged a total of 230+ essay entries for the world’s oldest and most prestigious international writing competition for young people across the Commonwealth.

**Youth Social Media Advocate for the #YouthEndFGM Project-** *YouthHub Africa and the African Youth Commission. June- October 2022*

Collaborated with 8 National Consortia in 8 African countries to raise awareness and educate the public on issues like harmful practices, female genital mutilation, sexual and reproductive health rights, gender-based violence, and girls' education, resulting in over 350,000 impressions and engagements on social media.
- Librarian-** *Department of Biochemistry, University of Port Harcourt*      *May- December 2018*

I managed the departmental library and held tutorial classes for fellow undergraduate students on Introductory Biochemistry and Introduction to Genetics and Molecular Biology.

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## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Research Methods
- Rapid Analysis
- Data Management
- Research writing
- R Programming (Basic Proficiency)
- Health Communication Strategy Design

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## LANGUAGES

- **English:** Native language, distinguished levels in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- **Igbo:** Intermediate levels in listening and speaking.