

## **FIRST WINNER OF THE NSN EMERGING NUTRITION SCIENTIST AWARD (2024)**

### **OLADOSU, GBENGA SAMUEL**

OLADOSU, Gbenga Samuel is a Graduate Assistant in the Food and Nutrition Unit at Delta State University, Abraka. He is currently pursuing postgraduate studies at the University of Ibadan. With a First-Class Honors degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (2021), and a National Diploma from the Federal Polytechnic, Ede (2017), Gbenga's academic journey is marked by excellence.

Gbenga has made remarkable progress in nutrition research, exemplified by his innovative and active participation in community and clinical nutrition. His ability to translate research into practice was further showcased when he presented at the 52nd Nutrition Society of Nigeria (NSN) Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference where he earned the prestigious Young Scientist Award in 2022. This recognition is a testament to his ability to communicate complex scientific ideas with clarity and impact. He has earned other awards such as the 2024 Opportunity Fund Award by the United States Government Department of Education, the First-Class Honour Annual Prize by the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, and an Outstanding Student Award by the College of Food Science and Human Ecology Students' Association, Abeokuta. Ogun State in 2021.

His research interests and leadership extend beyond the classrooms and laboratories; he has participated in and led many rural and community outreaches aimed at improving the nutritional status of vulnerable groups, especially female adolescents, and has participated in and presented at many seminars, workshops, and conferences in the fields of Nutrition and Public health.

He is a full member of many Nutrition Associations including the Nutrition Society of Nigeria, The Nutrition Society (UK), the American Society of Nutrition (ASN), the World Public Health Nutrition Association, and the Nigerian Red Cross Society among others.

Since his induction into the Nutrition Society of Nigeria in 2022, Gbenga has taken an active role in Oyo State Chapter of the NSN mobilising many other young nutritionists to join the society, guiding them through the registration process and collaborating with them to enhance research outputs. In 2023, Gbenga further distinguished himself in leadership and service to the nutrition community by volunteering as a rapporteur at the 53rd Annual Scientific Conference in Abuja. Gbenga's involvement underscores his potential as an emerging scientist in the field of nutrition and highlights his readiness to take on greater challenges.

Gbenga has had the privilege of learning from distinguished scholars in the field of Nutrition, these mentorship experiences have played a pivotal role in shaping his research and career plans. Working with these mentors, he has 14 published research articles and 4 conference proceedings to his credit, with 8 published in Scopus-indexed Journals, both nationally and internationally.

## **SECOND WINNER OF THE NSN EMERGING NUTRITION SCIENTIST AWARD (2024)**

### **AMINA SHEHU**

Amina Shehu, from Jigawa state but born and raised in Kano state. She obtained BSc Biochemistry at Bayero University Kano and MSc in Biochemistry with specialization in Public Health Nutrition from the same University. In April 2021, she was among the successful seven (7) grantees that won the “Implementation Science in Nutrition Postgraduate Research Students Grant” through the Nutrition Society of Nigeria (NSN) under Engage Nutrition Academia in Nigeria (ENAN) project which was sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). NSN later conducted a workshop on implementation science and research expectations; in addition to the supervisor a mentor was assigned. Under the supervision of Prof Salisu Maiwada Abubakar and mentorship of Dr Francis Aminu, she worked on a topic titled “Effect of Behaviour Change Communication and Reminder Strategies on Coverage and Adherence to Iron-Folic Acid Supplementation among Pregnant Women in Kano: A Hybrid Effectiveness Design Study”. The research work commenced and lasted for a period of one year. NSN sponsored the grantees for the NSN 2022 conference at Abeokuta and a plenary session was dedicated at which grantees presented their key findings which were all success stories and much appreciated. The findings were also published in Nigerian Journal of Nutritional Sciences (NJNS) which is the journal of NSN. With the success achieved with Project ENAN, she got a one-year contract to work with Nutrition, Agriculture and Health Initiative (NAHI) as a Nutrition Implementation Science Fellow on a research titled “Micronutrient Powder (MNP) and Multiple Micronutrient Supplement (MMS) Implementation Science in Nigeria”.

She currently started her academic journey as an assistant lecturer at Federal University Dutsin-Ma, Katsina. She is also working with Light House Foundation as a Nutrition Policy Expert Officer, and she is a policy reviewer working with Nutrition, Agriculture and Health Initiative DataDent.

As of now, she has a total of ten (10) journal publications and has attended and presented papers at three (3) conferences all of which were organized by NSN (NSN Enugu 2021, NSN Abeokuta 2022 and NSN Abuja 2023). She is a committed member of the Kano State Chapter where she has diligently contributed to its activities.

She has immense gratitude to NSN for mentorship, training, support and guidance as these have played a pivotal role in shaping her professional journey. In her own words “NSN turned her from a mere student to a grantee which opened many doors that made her the researcher, community engager and sensitizer, data analyst, policy reviewer, intervention implementer and leader that she is today. She is excited to continue growing and making meaningful contributions to the field of nutrition in Nigeria and globally.