

FIRST WINNER OF THE NSN EMERGING NUTRITION SCIENTIST AWARD (2025)

CHINELO UZOAMAKA EZE

CHINELO UZOAMAKA EZE (NÉE OKOYE) is a young nutrition researcher and public health professional committed to improving nutrition security among vulnerable populations. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. She is also a graduate student at the University of Port-Harcourt School of Public Health where she is studying for her Master's in Public Health Nutrition.

Her research focuses on sustainable food systems, food security, maternal and child nutrition, nutrition education and food banking. She has contributed to nutrition programmes and research projects implemented through the No Hunger Food Bank, FCT Primary Health Care Board, Slow Food Youth Network and the Nigeria Sodium Study. Her work has included nutrition assessment, community nutrition education, dietary data analysis and maternal and child nutrition interventions.

Chinelo has authored and co-authored several peer-reviewed publications on climate-resilient food systems, fortified blended foods, food recovery and redistribution, home gardening, child malnutrition and public health nutrition. She has also presented her research at national and international conferences, including the Nutrition Society of Nigeria Scientific Conference, Africa Nutrition Conference and Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy Week.

In recognition of her scholarly contributions and growing leadership in nutrition research, Chinelo received the 2025 Emerging Nutrition Scientist Award from the Nutrition Society of Nigeria, in collaboration with the Nutrition Drive for Health Diet Initiative. Her work reflects a strong commitment to using research, community engagement and practical nutrition solutions to advance food and nutrition security in Nigeria and across Africa.

LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chinelookoye>

SECOND WINNER OF THE NSN EMERGING NUTRITION SCIENTIST AWARD (2025)

ADEMILUYI DARE DAMILOLA

ADEMILUYI DARE DAMILOLA, Registered Dietitian-Nutritionist (RDN), is honoured with the 2025 Emerging Nutrition Scientist Award in recognition of exceptional early-career achievement in nutrition research, clinical practice, and professional leadership in Nigeria. Mr Dare graduated with First Class Honours in Nutrition and Dietetics from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, and later earned a Distinction (PhD grade) MSc in Human Nutrition (Public Health Nutrition) from the University of Ibadan.

Mr Dare is a Lecturer at the the Department of Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Federal University of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Abeokuta, Ogun State. Mr Dare's research productivity is substantial: more than fifteen peer-reviewed publications, several Scopus-indexed and appearing in journals including BMC Public Health, BMC Nutrition, Discover Public Health, World Nutrition, and the Egyptian Journal of Nutrition, alongside conference presentations at successive NSN Annual Scientific Conferences. Mr Dare's work spans adolescent diet quality and nutrition knowledge, health-belief-model-based dietary behaviour, nutrigenomics awareness among undergraduates, and clinical nutrition topics including lipid profiles and dietary management in cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes a breadth that bridges community nutrition research with direct clinical application. That clinical grounding is matched by hands-on practice: as a Registered Clinical Dietitian.

During his Dietetics Internship at the Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta, he delivered medical nutrition Therapy, nutritional screening, and individualised care planning for patients with diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, and cancer, and was recognised there as Most Understanding Dietetic Intern following the National Test of Professional Competency.

Mr Dare's leadership within the profession has been equally distinguished. At the NSN's 52nd Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference, he served as Secretary to the Innovation Subcommittee, where he spearheaded and executed the Ogun State Inter-School Nutrition Competition designing the competition protocol and training guide, training participating teachers, and overseeing grading and prize distribution and served concurrently on the Abstract Reviewing Team, coordinating correspondence among reviewers, authors, and team leads to help produce the conference's Book of Extended Abstracts.

He is also the Founding and Pioneer Chairman of Young Researchers in Nutrition (YRN), a platform through which he has mentored peers and supported the professional development of Emerging Nutrition Scientists in Nigeria. Mr Dare's community engagement extends this commitment beyond the academy: coordinating nutrition education programmes in rural and semi-urban communities, contributing to surveys on severe acute malnutrition, and participating in the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme to assess micronutrient intake among schoolchildren. His standing has been affirmed through a succession of scholarships

and Honours, including the Otunba NG Research Scholarship (2024), the Ekiti State Master Scholarship Award (2025), the University of Calabria International Master Scholarship, Italy (2025), and the Think Big Scholarship, UK (2023), in addition to earlier distinctions as Best Graduating Student in Nutrition and Dietetics at FUNAAB (2018/2019) and recipient of the FUNAAB Senate Award (2021).

In recognition of his academic distinction, sustained research productivity, clinical dedication, and demonstrated leadership in strengthening the next generation of nutrition professionals, the Nutrition Society of Nigeria proudly confers upon **ADEMILUYI DARE DAMILOLA** the 2025 Emerging Nutrition Scientist Award, a recognition that affirms his standing as one of Nigeria's most promising young voices in public health nutrition.

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