



**SMITH Stella Ifeanyi (Ph. D)** **DEPUTY DIRECTOR / HOD**  
**MOLECULAR BIOLOGY & BIOTECHNOLOGY DIVISION**

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Dr S.I. Smith (nee Ebigwei) joined NIMR in August 1988 as a Junior Research Fellow. She holds a PhD in Medical Microbiology from the College of Medicine; University of Lagos in 1996. She did her pre- and post-doctoral training at Manchester and Germany/France respectively. She trained on Molecular epidemiology of *Campylobacter jejuni/coli* and *Helicobacter pylori*. Her skills are in the area of PFGE Ribotyping, PCR, RFLP, W/Blot, FISH and RAPD.

She became the HOD, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology in July, 2004. She was the recipient of Fellowships and grants from EEC, Alexander von Humboldt (AvH), Germany, INSERM, France, TWAS, Italy and Currently IFS (Sweden) and ICGEB grant. She has trained and supervised PhD, Msc students in various PCR techniques. Her Department is in collaboration with other colleagues at both National and International levels. She has over 70 publications to her credit.

#### **Personal profile:**

A very hard working, committed Researcher with an impressive record in the area of Laboratory diagnosis and molecular epidemiology of infectious diseases such as *Campylobacter*, *Helicobacter pylori*, *Salmonella Typhi* and STIs. She believes that Challenges are always opportunities to bring out the best.

#### **Education/Qualification:**

University of Ilorin, Kwara State. B. Sc. (Hons) Microbiology 1986  
(2nd Class Upper Division)

College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Idi- Araba. M. Sc. Medical 1988  
Microbiology & Parasitology (Distinction)

College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Idi-Araba. Ph.D. Medical Microbiology 1996

Diploma in word perfect and MS DOS (BenchMark Computer solutions). 1995

Goethe Institut, Berlin (2 months)

#### **Pre-doctoral Training**

Public Health Laboratory, Withington, Hospital, Manchester. 1992-1993  
(Molecular epidemiology of local strains of *Campylobacter jejuni/coli*)

#### **Postdoctoral Training**

Technical University Hospital, Dresden, Germany 1999- 2000

Laboratoire de Bacteriologie, Universite  
Victor Segalen, Bordeaux II, Bordeaux, France

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May-July 2001

Max von Pettenkoffer Institut, München

April-September 2003

### General Training

1. Workshop on Ethical Issues in Health Research, Rockview Hotel, Abuja Nigeria  
(Organized and sponsored by Harvard School of Public Health) Dec 3 7 2001
2. Good clinical Practice, NIMR, Yaba, Lagos 5-7 May 2004
3. FHI, Training of the Trainers, Ibadan, Nigeria 0-14May 2004
4. Lagos TOT with SAVVY staff
5. FHI, Training of the Trainers, Ikeja, Lagos August 2004
6. Training of the outreach workers, clinicians, counselors and nurses by Lab Staff 2004
7. Training on project planning, monitoring and evaluation, NIMR, Lagos 2006
8. Training on Ethics, NIMR, Yaba 2007
9. Training on Health Research Ethics, Ethiopia 2007

### Consultancy

1. Syndromic management of STIs for nurses, doctors (FHI local) 2004
2. Laboratory supervisor, SAVVY ( a microbicide) 2004-7
3. Laboratory facilitator, Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme 2007
4. Annual molecular biology and biotechnology workshop series 2009 till date

### Languages spoken

English, (German and French little)

### Work Experience:

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|--|-------------------|
| National Youth Service Corp, Gbagada General Hospital.   | 1986 - 1987       |
| Jnr. Research Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Med. Research, Yaba.   | 1988 -1992        |
| Research Fellow II “   | 1993 -1996        |
| Research Fellow I “  | 1997 - 1999       |
| Senior Research Fellow “   | 2000 - 2002       |
| Chief Research Fellow  | 2003 - 2007       |
| Head of Department, Molecular Biology<br>and Biotechnology Division  | Jul. 2004 to date |
| Lab Supervisor for Laboratory staff on Phase III Randomized SAVVY (C31G,<br>a Microbicide) clinical trial in collaboration with FHI North Carolina USA | 2004 -2007        |
| Deputy Director (Research)   | 2008 - date       |

### Key Skills

- Use of PCR, Plasmid profiles, PCR-RFLP, Southern blotting, PFGE, REA, FISH techniques for diagnosis of infectious diseases, especially the fastidious organisms using FISH (fluorescent in situ hybridization) technique.
- Laboratory diagnosis of STIs such as Chlamydia, syphilis (using RPR and TPHA), N. gonorrhoea, T. vaginalis and B. vaginalis.
- Laboratory diagnosis of HIV using ELISA and western blot techniques.
- Lab SOP for general laboratory methods.

Training of outreach workers (Microbicide study) on Good Laboratory Practices and laboratory diagnosis of STIs including HIV/AIDS

## Other Research Activities

Supervision of student's project.

B.Sc students: 20+

M.Sc students: 15+

Ph.D students:

1. Dr. K. S. Oyedeji, A study of Helicobacter pylori infection in patients with upper gastrointestinal pathology in Western Nigeria (2005), CMUL, University of Lagos, completed.
2. Mr. T. Arimah: Prevalence of H. pylori from Ibadan (ongoing), UCH, Ibadan.
3. Dr. A. O. Oluyemi, Prevalence of markers of H. pylori infection in type 2 diabetes mellitus patients in Lagos, FWACP (2009). completed
4. Mrs. Abimbola Ezeh, Phenotypic and genomic characterization of Cronobacter sakasakii isolated from powdered infant formula milk in Nigeria. (March 2008, and ongoing).
5. Mr. F. Alao, Molecular epidemiology of Staphylococcus saprophyticus virulence genes isolated from patients presenting with urinary tract infections in Lagos, State (December 2010).

## Other positions held in the Establishment

- Management staff and HOD as well as coordinate and supervise all the Research activities in the Division and the Division till date has been able to get over 70 publications in works done in the Department or as collaboration 2004 - date.
- Member of the NIMR Resident Due Process 2004 - date.
- Member, Project Evaluation and Monitoring Committee, NIMR 2004 2007.
- Chairperson, Housing loan committee 2004 - date.
- Member 2004 2005 draft of NIMR Annual Report
- Member Management Tender's Board 2000 2003.
- Member Editorial Board of Nigerian Journal of Clinical and Biomedical Research 2005 - date.
- Chairperson D-G advisory committee on staff matters 2002 - 2006.
- Member, Formulators of Service Charter for NIMR 2004
- Assessment of manuscripts sent for publications both within and outside the Institute.
- Member NIMR IRB Board and have been involved in Peer reviewing proposals sent for IRB approval 2004 - date.
- Organizing training workshops on Biotechnology 2004 - date.
- Member, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) 2009 date
- Leader, Annual Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Workshop 2009 till date.
- Acting Director-General (NIMR, Yaba) May 27th 28th 2010

## Part-time academic appointment

- Member West African Helicobacter pylori study group 2002
- Reviewer Journal of Public Health, Germany 2007
- Reviewer, Journal of Health and Epidemiology 2009
- Reviewer, Current Microbiology 2010
- Reviewer, Journal of Microbiology and Antimicrobials 2010

## Grants / Awards/scholarship

1. Letter of commendation from NYSC August 1988
2. European Union Scholarship award for PhD thesis on "Molecular Epidemiology of Campylobacter jejuni/coli" (Manchester, U.K.) November 1993
3. Roche Foundation Research Grant for Helicobacter pylori August, 1999
4. Recipient of Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship Sept.1999 Dec. 2000
5. Recipient of INSERM Fellowship May July 2001
6. Recipient of Alexander von Humboldt book and equipment award May 2002
7. Recipient of TWAS equipment grant April, 2003
8. Recipient of Alexander von Humboldt book award October 2003
9. Recipient of International Foundation for Science (IFS) grant April, 2006
10. Recipient of International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) grant Sept. 2007
11. Recipient of International Foundation for Science (IFS) grant June 2009

### **Travel Grants**

1. International Congress of Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology Division Prague, Czech. Republic. July 3 - 6, 1994, sponsored by EU.
2. 15th International Workshop on Gastrointestinal Pathology and Helicobacter, Athens, Greece. 11th - 14th September 2002.
3. 16th International Workshop on Gastrointestinal Pathology and Helicobacter, Stockholm, Sweden, 3rd - 6th September 2003.
4. 17th International Workshop on Gastrointestinal Pathology and Helicobacter, Vienna Austria, 21st to 23rd September 2004.
5. Microbicides conference, 23- 26 April, 2006, Cape Town, South Africa.
6. Food Microbiology Conference, Bologna, Italy. August 28th to 3rd September 2006.
7. Health Research Ethics workshop, Ethiopia. 23rd to 29th September 2007.
8. ICGEB sponsored collaboration between Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Division and Dr. M. Contreras, IVIC Venezuela. Sept. 2008.
9. ICGEB sponsored Gastro conference, London, November 2009.
10. DFG sponsored conference on Partners of German-African grant June 20th - 22nd 2010.
11. DFG sponsored 23rd International Workshop on European Helicobacter study group 2010.

Over 39 contributions to scientific conferences and over 70 publications

### **Membership in Professional Bodies**

1. Nigerian Society for Immunology, Nigeria.
2. FADIB, Nigeria.
3. American Society for Microbiology
4. Recipient of 19th Edition of Who is Who in the world 2001
5. Member, African Microbicide Advocacy Group (AMAG)
6. Member, Nigerian HIV Vaccine and Microbicides Advocacy group (NHVMAG)
7. Member, Third World Academy of Science (TWAS)
8. Member, Third World Organization for Women in Science (TWOWS)
9. Member, World Academy of Young Scientists (WAYS)
10. Member, List of Productive Scientists, ISI Web of Science, www.isiknowledge.com 2007

### **On-going projects**

1. Molecular methods of diagnosis of H. pylori and helicobacter infections.
2. Molecular epidemiology of EHEC 0157:H7 in Nigeria
3. Prevalence, antibiotic resistance and molecular typing of Salmonella spp isolated from foods sold by food handlers.
4. Survey and mapping: Leading causes of childhood mortality in Nigeria
5. Emergency response survey to outbreak with respect to cholera and meningitis.
6. "Correlation of Helicobacter pylori infection with gastroduodenal diseases in Nigeria improvement of diagnosis and treatment"