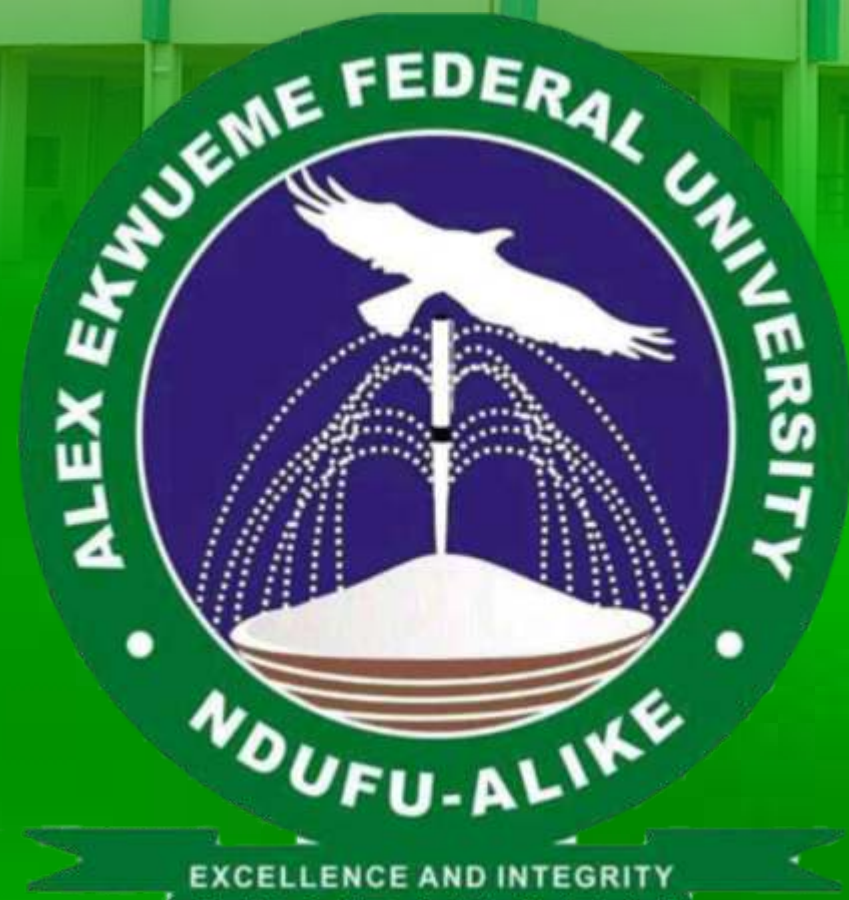




**ORGANIZATION FOR
WOMEN IN SCIENCE FOR THE
DEVELOPING WORLD**
SOUTH EAST ZONE

5th SOUTH EAST OWSD BIENNIAL **CONFERENCE**

ALEX EKWUEME FEDERAL
UNIVERSITY NDUFU-ALIKE
EBONYI STATE

THEME:
**WOMEN IN SCIENCE:
TRANSLATING
RESEARCH INTO REAL
IMPACT FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 3rd–7th May, 2026

Venue:
Senate Chamber, Alex Ekwueme
Federal University Ndufu Alike,
Ebonyi State



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About XANDERDIRECT LIMITED

XanderDirect Limited is an impact investor in a portfolio of businesses that supports economic livelihood of african communities, fosters trade & wealth creation.

XanderDirect is a Licensed Private Lender registered in February 2021 and commenced business in July 2022.

We offer microfinance services to micro, small and medium enterprises in 2 cities (Owerri and Onitsha) in the South-East Nigeria with a vision to expand to 5 more locations in the South-East & South-South Nigeria. Since inception, we have disbursed about 2.0 Billion Naira (NGN2.0Bn) loans to over 200 small businesses as well as offering ancillary financial services to over 2,000 customers.

Contact Info:
First Floor, Apartment 1B
45 Etiwema Crescent (Same Building as Remys Foods),
Ikeregbu Layout, Owerri, Imo State

Onitsha Office: 0903-706-0807
Owerri Office: 0814-180-4156



HANDS

HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORT PROGRAMME

TRANSFORMING LIVES...



Content

HIS EXCELLENCY
RT. HON. FRANCIS OGBONNA NWIFURU — (03)
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, EBONYI STATE

HER EXCELLENCY
CHIEF MRS. UZOAMAKA
MARY-MAUDLINE OGBONNA NWIFURU — (04)
WIFE OF THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR,
EBONYI STATE

PROFESSOR
PROF. DANIEL NWACHUKWU, — (05)
VICE-CHANCELLOR

FUNAI GOVERNING COUNCIL — (06)

DR. CHIOMA OGOCHUKWU ANORUE — (07)
South East Zonal Coordinator
OWSD Nigeria

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5th SOUTH EAST
OWSD BIENNIAL
CONFERENCE



NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nigeria, we hail thee,
Our own dear native land,
Though tribe and tongue may differ,
In brotherhood we stand
Nigerians all,
Are proud to serve our sovereign
Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign,
In peace or battle honoured,
And this we count as gain,
To hand on to our children
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation,
Grant this our one request:
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed,
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria may be blessed.



UNIVERSITY ANTHEM



1. AE-FUNAI, the light of humanity;
The citadel on the plains of rich fertility;
The land of minerals, abode of wealth;
Talented minds we groom to perfection;
AE-FUNAI holds that sweet from sweat
endures.

CHORUS 1

AE-FUNAI,
The pride of our nation;
Striving, evermore forever blessed.

2. AE-FUNAI the fount of profound knowledge,
The centre of excellence and integrity;
Arise and rise to serve mankind;
Our sights we set on enlightened horizon;
And by this take our place among the stars.

CHORUS 2

AE-FUNAI,
The pride of our nation,
O God bless our aspirations.

OWSD Song

1. All across the Nation All around the World Women are longing to be free No longer in the
Shadows Forced to stay behind But side by side in true Equality
So sing a song for Women everywhere Let it ring around the World and never cease So sing
a song for Women everywhere Equality, Development and Peace.

2. Women can't be silent When around the World People hurt and hungry children cry We'll
sing out now for Justice and all Development And hold the Rights of all the People high

3. Women now are walking to better Where the World and Peace can rest on every shore
Where men lay down their weapons and learn to love and share And people work to bring
an end to war



HIS EXCELLENCY
RT. HON. FRANCIS OGBONNA NWIFURU
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, EBONYI STATE



HER EXCELLENCY
**CHIEF MRS. UZOAMAKA
MARY-MAUDLINE OGBONNA NWIFURU**
WIFE OF THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR,
EBONYI STATE



PROFESSOR
PROF. DANIEL NWACHUKWU,
VICE-CHANCELLOR



PROFESSOR
ROMANUS CHIDI EJIAGA
DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR
(ACADEMIC)



PROFESSOR
CELESTINE A. AFUKWA
DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR
(ADMINISTRATION)



T. IFEANYI IGWE (Esq) KSJI
REGISTRAR/SECRETARY TO COUNCIL



DR. KINGSLEY SUNDAY OYEKEZIE
BURSAR



DR. (MRS.) JULIANA O. AKIDI
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



DR. CHIOMA OGOCHUKWU ANORUE
South East Zonal Coordinator
OWSD Nigeria



OWSD EXECUTIVES



Prof. Inima
OWSD Vice President



Dr. Luisa F. Echeverria-King.
OWSD President



Prof. Evelyn Umemezia
OWSD Vice President



Prof. Folasade Olajugbe
National Chairperson
OWSD Nigeria



Dr. Chioma Ogochukwu Anorue
Coordinator OWSD Nigeria
South East Zone



Sr. Prof.
Bernadette A. Ezeliara fsta
Pioneer South East Zone
OWSD Coordinator



Prof. Adanma Emejulu
1st Elected
Zonal Coordinator



Prof. Nkeiruka M. Orji
2nd Elected
Past Zonal Coordinator



Dr. Mediatrix Idigo
Deputy Coordinator
South East Zone OWSD



Dr. Chinwe Nwogu
Secretary
South East Zone OWSD



Dr. Munachimso
Victor-Ekwebelem
Treasurer
South East Zone OWSD



Dr. Pearl Amadi
Financial Secretary
South East Zone OWSD



Dr. Nkiru Kamalu
Assistant Secretary
South East Zone



Dr. Ujunwa Nwachukwu
PRO
South East Zone OWSD

OWSD BRANCH COORDINATOR



Prof. Cynthia N. Ibeto
Branch Coordinator
OWSD UNN



Dr. Roseline, N. Nwambe
Branch Coordinator
Ebonyi State College of
Education, Ikwo.



Dr. Flora Ogoke
OWSD Godfrey Okoye
University



Dr. Umerah
ESUT OWSD
Branch Coordinator



Engr Aballa Agatha Nkechi.
Branch coordinator, OWSD
Federal University of Allied Health
Sciences Enugu (FUHSE)



Dr. Ngozi Ezike
Branch Coordinator
OWSD IMSU



Dr. Ada Chukwu Ikeyi
Branch Coordinator
OWSD IMT ENUGU



Dr. Modesta Egwu-Ikechukwu
Branch Coordinator
OWSD AEFUNAI



Dr. Chinwe Nwachukwu
Branch Coordinator
OWSD UAES



Dr. Ivy Awurum
Branch Coordinator
OWSD AIFUE



LOC COMMITTEE



Dr. Chioma Ogochukwu Anorue
Coordinator OWSD Nigeria
South East Zone



Dr Ezenwa C.M.(Ph D)
OWSD 2026



Prof Laura Chioma Okpala
Local Organizing
Chairperson



Amarachi Uwandu
Subcommittee chairperson on
Young scientist and innovation



Dr. Nancy Nnedinma Nnodim
Subcommittee
chairperson on Technical
Section



Dr. Chika Ugwurishi
Subcommittee
chairperson on ICT



Dr. Loveth Nomeh
Subcommittee
chairperson on Medicals



Dr. Munachimso
Victor-Ekwebelem
Subcommittee
chairperson on security/logistics



Prof. Lilian Ebenyi
Subcommittee
chairperson on Transportation
and Accommodation



Dr. Vivian Njemanze
Subcommittee
chairperson on Entertainment



Dr. Nkiru Kamalu
Subcommittee
chairperson on Registration



Dr. Chidinma Olunkwa
Subcommittee chairperson on
Publicity and Protocol

MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEE

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATION SUBCOMMITTEE

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Prof. Lilian N. Ebenyi | - Chairman |
| 2. ULOAKU UWAGA-AGBA | - Member |
| 3. Rachel Chioma Otu | - Member |
| 4. Dr. Nkiruka. C. Ani | - Member |
| 5. Dr. Roseline Nwambe | - Member |
| 6. Ikechukwu Doris Chikaodili | - Member |

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Dr Nkiru Kamalu | - Chairperson |
| 2. Dr Blessing U. Ejike | - Secretary |
| 3. Dr. Pearl Amadi | - Member |
| 4. Dr. Munachimso O. Victor E. | - Member |
| 5. Victoria O. Amaechi-Nnaji | - Member |

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- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Dr. Chidinma OLUNKWA | - Chairman |
| 2. Dr. Mrs Anonaba N. Kate | - Secretary |
| 3. Dr. Chima A. Ekeleme | - Member |
| 4. Dr. Umeh Ngozi Ekunyi. | - Member |
| 5. Dr. Doris Olachi Alilonu | - Member |

SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. DR Nnedinma Nancy Nnodim | - Chairperson |
| 2. Dr Chima Agatha Ekeleme | - Secretary |
| 3. Prof. Mrs. Nnenna E. O. | - Member |
| 4. Prof Ijeoma Iheukwumere | - Member |
| 5. Prof. Mabel Ifeoma Onwuka | - Member |
| 6. Prof. Uchenna Estella Odoh | - Member |
| 7. Prof. Nkeiru .O. Orji | - Member |

YOUNG SCIENTIST SUBCOMMITTEE

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Amarachi Uwandu | - Chairman |
|-----------------|------------|

ICT COMMITTEE OWSDSE 2026 CONFERENCE

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Dr. Chikodili ugwuishiwu | - Chairman |
| 2. Nneoma Wendy Uwadoka | - Secretary |
| 3. Dr. Udoaku Egbe | - Member |

NAME OF MEDICAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Dr Onyinye Lovette Nomeh | - Chairman |
| 2. Dr.Rebecca Chinenye Ogba | - Secretary |
| 3. Dr. Nkiruka Chidiebere Ani | - Member |
| 4. Dr Nwaigwe Chidera | - Member |

ENTERTAINMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Dr Vivian Njemanze | - Chairman |
| 2. Mrs Onyinyechi Njoku | - Secretary |
| 3. Mrs Uloaku Uwaga-Agba | - Member |
| 4. Dr Victoria Ojiako | - Member |
| 5. Mrs Amarachi Nwokoro | - Member |
| 6. Mrs Ohalete C N. | - Member |
| 7. Doris O. Alilonu | - Member |

SECURITY AND LOGISTICS

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Dr. Muna Victor Ekwebelem | - Chairman |
| 2. Dr. Rebecca Ogba | - Secretary: |
| 3. Dr. Obianuju | - Member |
| 4. Dr. Doris Ndubueze | - Member |

TECHNICAL SECTION PRESENTATION VENUES

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Virtual presentation | - Conference hall |
| 2. Sub theme 1, 2 and 3 | - Conference hall |
| 3. Sub theme 4 | - BTG LAB |
| 4. Sub theme 5 4 | - BTG Lecture Hall |
| 5. Sub theme 6 | - BCH Lab |
| 6. Sub theme 7 | - BTG Lecture Hall |
| 7. Poster presentation | - Main Hall Entrance. |



Address by the National Chairperson, Prof. Folasade M. Olajuyigbe, at the 5th South-East Zonal Biennial Conference of OWSD Nigeria, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike (AE-FUNAI), Ebonyi State, 3rd - 7th May, 2026



The Vice Chancellor, Professor Daniel C. Nwachukwu; Principal Officers of the University; Deans and Directors; Heads of Departments; Esteemed Professors; Distinguished Keynote and Plenary Speakers; Special Guests; Executive Committees of OWSD Nigeria at National, Zonal, and Local Levels, especially our dynamic South-East Zonal Coordinator, Dr. Chioma Anorue and all our dedicated Branch Coordinators; Esteemed Members; Honored Guests and Colleagues:

It is with profound honor and great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 5th South-East Zonal Biennial Conference of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) Nigeria. Hosting this prestigious event at the distinguished Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike (AE-FUNAI), Ebonyi State, is indeed most fitting, as we gather to celebrate the remarkable contributions of women scientists and researchers who are transforming our society.

The OWSD Nigeria Chapter is a vibrant and expansive network of women scientists, with branches spanning all six geopolitical zones of our nation. Since its inception, OWSD Nigeria has been unwavering in its commitment to empower women in science through mentorship, research promotion, capacity-building initiatives, advocacy, and

fostering meaningful networks. Our efforts continue to amplify the voice and influence of women scientists, enabling them to make impactful contributions to Nigeria's development.

It is truly commendable that the South-East Zone has sustained this tradition of scientific excellence and engagement. This year marks the 5th Biennial Conference, a milestone representing a decade of knowledge exchange, collaboration, and empowerment within the region. This conference stands as a vital platform for women scientists, innovators, educators, students, development partners, and stakeholders to deliberate on how scientific research can be effectively translated into practical solutions that address societal challenges and propel the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The theme of this year's conference, "Women in Science: Translating Research into Real Impact for Sustainable Development," is both timely and inspiring. Throughout the conference, participants will engage in keynote speeches, technical paper presentations, panel discussions, workshops, and networking sessions. We will explore critical sub-themes including climate action and food security, applied research and ethics, science communication, biotechnology innovation, artificial intelligence for sustainability, entrepreneurship, inclusion, and social impact.

As the National Chairperson of OWSD Nigeria, I take immense pride in the extraordinary achievements of our members across diverse scientific disciplines. This conference is not only a celebration of these accomplishments but also a clarion call to translate scientific knowledge into tangible actions that improve lives and advance sustainable development across our communities.

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to the organizing committee, the leadership of AE-FUNAI, and all our partners whose dedication and hard work have made this event possible. Your commitment ensures that OWSD Nigeria remains a dynamic platform for nurturing talent, fostering collaboration, and championing the cause of women in science.

In conclusion, I urge all participants to maximize this opportunity: engage actively, network purposefully, and collaborate broadly. Let us leave this conference not just inspired, but empowered to transform scientific research into real, lasting impact for sustainable development. I wish us all a highly successful and memorable 5th South-East Zonal Biennial Conference.

Thank you.

Signed
Professor Folasade M. Olajuyigbe
National Chairperson, OWSD Nigeria



WELCOME ADDRESS FOR THE 5TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCESOUTH EAST OWSD NIGERIA PRESENTED BY DR. CHIOMA OGOCHUKWU ANORUE, SOUTH EAST ZONE COORDINATOR OWSD

Protocols

Your Excellency, the Executive Governor of Ebonyi State – Rt. Hon. Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru

Your Excellency, the First Lady of Ebonyi State – Chief (Mrs.) Mary-Maudline Uzoamaka Nwifuru

The Vice-Chancellor, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike – Prof. Daniel C. Nwachukwu

The International President, OWSD

The National Chairperson, OWSD Nigeria – Prof. Folasade M. Olajuyigbe

Distinguished Speakers:

- Prof. Florence Nduka (Keynote Speaker)
- Prof. Olayinka Nwachukwu
- Prof. Eucharika Oluchi Nwaichi
- Prof. Sammy Olufemi Sam-Wobo
- Prof. Chinyere Ukaga
- Prof. Robert Onyeneke
- Ekwutosi Cynthia Okeh (Digital Witch)

All our Awardees

Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Chairman and Members – for your dedication, teamwork, and tireless service

All Past and Present OWSD Executives

Branch Coordinators

Deans, Directors, and Heads of Departments

Emeritus Professors, Professors, and Senior Academics

Researchers, Scholars, and Students

Our Dear STEM Girls present with us today

Invited Guests, Partners, and Friends of OWSD

Gentlemen of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with profound joy, deep gratitude, and a strong sense of purpose that I warmly welcome you all to the 5th South East Biennial Conference of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), proudly hosted at Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State. Today, we gather not just as participants, but as visionaries, change-makers, and drivers of sustainable development. This conference is a powerful testament to the resilience, brilliance, and impact of women in science across our region and beyond. We are especially honored to host this landmark event in Ebonyi State, a state that continues to distinguish itself through strategic investments in education, innovation, and human capital development.

At this point, I wish to express our deepest appreciation to His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru, the Executive Governor of Ebonyi State, for his visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to advancing education and research. Our sincere gratitude also goes to Her Excellency, Chief (Mrs.) Mary-Maudline Uzoamaka Nwifuru, the First Lady of Ebonyi State, whose passion for women empowerment continues to inspire transformation.





I would like to specially and most respectfully acknowledge the Chief Host of this conference, the Vice-Chancellor of Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Professor Daniel C. Nwachukwu, a visionary leader, a man of great intellect, and a distinguished scientist whose leadership is defined by positivity, purpose, and decisive action.

Sir, your unwavering commitment to academic excellence, research advancement, and institutional growth continues to position this university as a center of innovation and impact. More importantly, your deep understanding of the value and potential of women in science, and your consistent support for initiatives that promote inclusion and empowerment, make you a true champion of this cause.

We are deeply grateful for your leadership, your encouragement, and your strong support in making this conference a reality.

With deep appreciation, we recognize the International President of OWSD Dr. Luisa F. Echeverria-King for global leadership, and our National Chairperson, Professor Folasade M. Olajuyigbe, for her outstanding coordination and dedication in Nigeria.

At this juncture, it is important to briefly highlight that the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) is an international body established under UNESCO. It is dedicated to promoting the participation, recognition, and advancement of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), particularly in developing countries.

OWSD provides a global platform that supports women scientists through training, mentorship, fellowships, research opportunities, and international collaborations. It empowers women to break barriers in science, build strong professional networks, and translate research into practical solutions that address societal challenges such as health, climate change, food security, and sustainable development.

In essence, OWSD is not just an organization, it is a movement that empowers women scientists to lead, innovate, and create meaningful impact across the world.

I sincerely celebrate the Local Organizing Committee, whose unity, sacrifice, and strong team spirit have made this conference a remarkable success.

We are immensely grateful to our distinguished speakers Professor Florence Nduka, Professor Olayinka Nwachukwu, Professor Eucharia Oluchi Nwaichi, Professor Sammy Olufemi Sam-Wobo, Professor Chinyere N. Ukaga, and Ekwutosi Cynthia Okeh (Digital Witch) for willingly sharing their knowledge and expertise with us. Importantly, we warmly appreciate our STEM girls who are here with us today young, bright minds eager to learn, grow, and share knowledge. You are the future of science, and we are proud of you.

I am proud to state that the OWSD South East Zone has made tremendous impact across our schools. Through our commitment to mentorship and academic excellence, we have successfully recognized and awarded outstanding STEM students in both our secondary schools and universities. These efforts are shaping the next generation of scientists, innovators, and leaders.

This year's theme:

"Women in Science: Translating Research into Real Impact for Sustainable Development" calls us to action, to ensure that our research moves beyond theory into real-life solutions that transform our communities. As we engage, let us collaborate intentionally, mentor passionately, and build lasting networks. This conference is not just an event, it is a movement.

A movement for inclusion.

A movement for excellence.

A movement for sustainable transformation.

Once again, I warmly welcome you all and wish you a highly engaging and impactful conference.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

Dr. Chioma Ogochukwu Anorue
Zonal Coordinator, OWSD South East Nigeria



ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON, LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of honour that I warmly welcome you to the 5th Biennial South East OWSD Conference, hosted by Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State.



The theme of this year's conference, "Women in Science: Translating Research into Real Impact for Sustainable Development," is both timely and compelling. It underscores the urgent need to move beyond knowledge generation to the practical application of research in addressing the complex challenges facing our societies. In this regard, the role of women in science remains indispensable—driving innovation, fostering inclusivity, and shaping sustainable solutions for the future.

As Chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee, I am proud of the collective effort that has gone into planning this conference. Our goal has been to provide a vibrant platform for intellectual exchange, collaboration, and the sharing of cutting-edge research that can inform policy and practice. The programme has been carefully designed to feature keynote lectures, scientific sessions, and interactive engagements that will enrich participants' knowledge and foster meaningful partnerships.

I wish to sincerely appreciate the members of the Local Organizing Committee for their dedication and commitment to the success of this conference. I would like to specially acknowledge the South East Zonal Coordinator, Dr. Chioma Anorue, whose untiring selflessness, resilience, and unwavering commitment were instrumental in bringing this conference to fruition.

I also express my profound gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor of Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, and the University Management for their steadfast

support, cooperation, and for providing the enabling environment that made the hosting of this conference possible. I further acknowledge and appreciate our sponsors and partners for their generous support and shared commitment to advancing the frontiers of women in science.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our keynote speakers, invited guests, and all participants whose presence and contributions have enriched this conference.

I encourage all delegates to engage actively, exchange knowledge freely, and cultivate collaborations that will extend far beyond this gathering. It is my expectation that the deliberations and insights from this conference will translate into meaningful actions that drive sustainable development and societal impact.

I wish you all a rewarding, impactful, and memorable conference experience.

Prof. Laura C. Okpala

Chairperson, Local Organizing Committee



ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN IN
SCIENCE FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD SOUTH EAST ZONE
5th SOUTH EAST OWSD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
ALEX EKWUEME FEDERAL UNIVERSITY/NDUFU-ALIKE EBONYI STATE

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
Day 1		
3 rd May, 2026		Arrival and registration of participants
Day 2		Preconference workshop
4 th May, 2026	9.35 am - 9.45 am	Health walk/check
	9.35 am - 9.45 am	Health Talk
	9.45 am—10:45am	Lecture Series
	10.45 am---11.45am	Tea Break
	11.45am – 12.45 pm	Lecture series
	12.45 pm—1.45pm	Lunch Break
	1.45 am - 2.45 pm	Networking
Day 3		Opening Ceremony
5 th May 2026	9:00 am - 9.30 am	Courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor by the Keynote Speaker, Confirmed speakers and special guests in company of the ZC, LOC Chairman and LOC Secretary
	9.35 am - 9.45 am	Introduction of guests and invitation to the high table
	9.45 am - 9.50 am	The National Anthem/AE-FUNAI anthem/OWSD ANTHEM
	9.50 am - 9.55 am	Opening prayer/Breaking of kola
	9.55 am - 10.00 am	Welcome address by the LOC Chairman, Prof. Laura Okpala
	10.00 am - 10.05 am	Welcome address by the Zonal Coordinator Dr. Chioma Ogochukwu Anorue
	10.05 am—10.10am	Speech by National Chairperson OWSD Nigeria Prof. Folasade M. Olajuyigbe
	10.10 am - 10.20 am	Opening Remarks/Declaration of the Conference Open by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel C. Nwachukwu
	10.20 am - 10.25 am	Citation of the keynote Speaker
	10.25 am - 10.45 am	Presentation of the Keynote lecture by Prof. Florence Nduka by Dr. Chinwe Nwogu
	10.45am—10.55am	Comments, Questions and Answers



	10.55am---11.15am	Light Entertainment/Tea Break
		Citation of Prof. Eucharía O. Nwaichi by Dr. Mediatrix Idigo
	11.15am—11.30am	Lecture by Prof. Eucharía O. Nwaichi
		Citation Prof. Olanyinka I.
		Nwachukwu by Dr. Uju Nwachukwu
	11.30am—11.45am	Lecture by Prof. Olanyinka I. Nwachukwu
		Citation of Ms Ekwutosi Cynthia Okeh by Mrs Onyinyechi Njoku
	11.45am—12.00pm	Lecture by Ms Ekwutosi Cynthia Okeh
	12.00pm- 12.25pm	Science Innovation from Schools
		Citation of Prof. Ukaga Chinyere N. by Dr. Munachimso Victor-Ekwebelem
	12.25pm – 12.40pm	Lecture by Prof. Ukaga Chinyere N.
		Citation of Prof. Olufemi Sam-Wobo by Dr. Chinwe Nwachukwu
	12.40pm-- 12.55pm	Lecture by Prof. Olufemi Sam-Wobo
	1.00pm-1.30pm	Lunch Break/Entertainment
	1:30pm--1:50pm	Goodwill Messages
	1:50pm--2:20pm	Awards Presentation & Recognition of Service
	2:20pm—2.25pm	Vote of Thanks by LOC Chairman, Prof. Laura Chioma Okpala
	2:25pm—2:30pm	Closing prayer
	2:30pm—2:35pm	Group photograph
	2:35pm—2:40pm	Technical Session (Virtual and Physical oral presentation)
Day 4		
6 th May, 2026	Technical Sessions/AGM/Cocktail	
	9:00am-11am	Morning Technical Session
	11:00am-11:30am	Tea Break
	11:30am-12:00pm	Poster Viewing
	12:00pm- 2:00pm	Afternoon Technical Session
	2:00pm- 2:30pm	Lunch
	2:30pm—3:30pm	AGM
	6:00pm—10:00pm	Cocktail
Day 5		
7 th May, 2026	Communique Presentation/ Departure	



BIOGRAPHY OF PROFESSOR DANIEL C. NWACHUKWU

Daniel C. Nwachukwu is a renowned Professor of Cardiovascular Physiology, and currently the Vice-Chancellor of Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike (AE-FUNAI), Ebonyi State.

Born in Okposi, Ohaozara Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, Professor Nwachukwu holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Physiology from the University of Lagos (1995), a Master's degree from the University of Benin (1997), and a PhD from the same institution (2012).

He has over 26 years of academic and high level administrative experience in the Nigerian University System. He joined the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) in 1999 and became a Professor of Cardiovascular Physiology in 2016. Before his current role, he served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UNEC (2023). He also served as Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus (2018- 2020) and Head, Department of Physiology, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus (2015-2018).

Professor Nwachukwu is a seasoned academic with over 70 academic papers in top-tier and impact-factor journals. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Policy and Management Development (FNIPMD), and a Member of the Physiological Society of Nigeria (MPSN) and American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (MASPET). He has successfully supervised 13 Ph.D students and 48 M.Sc. students respectively.

He was a member of University of Nigeria, Nsukka Governing Council (2023-2025), member Peaceland University, Enugu Governing Council (2024-Till Date), chairman, Board of Governors, University Staff Primary School, Enugu Campus (2023-2025), among others. He has also served as a member of many important university committees including Admission Committee, Faculty of Medical Sciences (2014-2016), Faculty Ceremonial Committee, Faculty of Medical Sciences (2014- 2016) etc.

Professor Nwachukwu is also an innovator, and has used his scientific innovations to contribute to the body of knowledge and the betterment of humanity. He discovered the ability of Hibiscus Sabdariffa (Zobo) to prevent diabetes in normal human beings. In fact, he is the first to conduct and report clinical trial on Zobo in Nigeria and Africa.

Professor Nwachukwu delivered the 201st Inaugural Lecture of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka with the topic: "The Marriage between Cardiovascular System and Hibiscus Sabdariffa: Let No One Put Asunder."

He is a recipient of numerous awards including induction into Thomas Sankara Hall of Fame by Youth Partnership for African Development (2023), Noble Prize for Excellence by Youth Coalition for Education in Nigeria (2023), Presidential Award of Recognition/Excellence by University of Nigeria Medical Students Association (2024), among many others.

Professor Daniel C. Nwachukwu is married to a Consultant Ophthalmologist, Dr. Nkiru Nwachukwu, and the marriage is blessed with children.



Brief Profile Professor Florence O. Nduka

Professor Florence O. Nduka hails from Imo State is a Professor of Public Health Parasitology at the University of Port Harcourt where she is engaged in teaching, research and community service.

She transferred her services from Abia State University in 2012 after over twenty years of impactful imprints on the sands of raising the next generation of academics and leaders at different facets of societal growth.

She is a full Lioness holding a B.Sc. (Hons) Second Class Upper Division in Zoology and PhD Parasitology from the prestigious University of Nigeria Nsukka. She has held different administrative positions in the University systems including Head of Department, Director of Academic Planning, Students' Industrial Work

Experience (SIWES), Research and Publications, celebrated University Orator Chair and member of numerous committees and was a member of the Governing Council representing Senate.

She is currently the Chair of the Academic Board of the School of Public Health, University of Port Harcourt. She is a fellow of the Parasitology and Public Health Society of Nigeria and Zoological Society of Nigeria and current President of the Zoological Society of Nigeria.

She is a member of the Organization of Women Scientists of the Developing World (OWSD) and in fact was present at the World Assembly held in China in 2010 where the name was changed from Third World Women In Science (TWOWS).

She is a Consultant to the Federal Ministry of Health and member of the National Steering Committee on Neglected Tropical Diseases charged with driving the policy towards possible elimination of these diseases.

She is also the Chairman of the Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) on Malaria and Phytomedicine research, University of Port Harcourt. She is a community leader and Chief, Nneoha.

Her research focuses on the epidemiology of major parasitic infections found in the tropics such as malaria, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, and filariasis. Her research outputs have provided baseline data, validated diagnostics, and shown community perception and practices that enhance risks, the role of environmental degradation in transmission, and advocacy and public health education in the reduction of infections.

Her research has also investigated the compliance levels with WHO-prescribed malaria preventive therapy in pregnant women in different sections of the country. She was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2005 and has reproduced herself through quality supervision and mentorship.

She is married to Professor Ethelbert Nduka, Professor of Statistics and a former Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration of the University of Port Harcourt and the union is blessed with children and grandchildren..



PROFESSIONAL PROFILE



Prof. Eucharia Oluchi Nwaichi is a Professor of Biochemistry and Environmental Biochemistry at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, and a leading authority in environmental sustainability, bioremediation, and science-driven innovation in Africa. She is an internationally recognized scholar whose work bridges science, sustainability, policy, and innovation for environmental restoration and development.

She is the recipient of the 2022 John Maddox Prize (UK) in recognition of her outstanding commitment to public engagement in science and advocacy for evidence-based environmental decision-making, and notably the first and only African to receive this award. She is also a member of the Governing Council of Hillside University, Okemesi.

Her research focuses on environmental pollution remediation, phytoremediation and bioremediation technologies, hydrocarbon-contaminated soil recovery, and sustainable environmental management systems, with strong relevance to oil-impacted ecosystems.

Prof. Nwaichi has secured and implemented competitive research grants from leading global organizations including the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Programme, Royal Society of Chemistry, Hewlett Foundation, American Chemical Society, and AFIDEP, among others. Her work contributes significantly to

advancing practical, low-cost, and scalable solutions for environmental restoration in developing regions.

She is deeply engaged in science diplomacy, research-to-policy translation, and capacity building, mentoring early-career researchers across Africa and beyond. She actively contributes to international capacity-building initiatives, including the Association of Commonwealth Universities Ocean Country Partnership Programme, supporting marine science development across multiple countries in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.

Prof. Nwaichi holds key leadership positions at the University of Port Harcourt, serving as Director of Academic Planning, Research & Control and former Director of Exchange & Linkages, demonstrating her commitment to institutional development, academic excellence, and global partnerships.

She is a strong advocate for gender inclusion in STEM, research commercialization, and innovation ecosystems, having served as Central Planning Committee Chair for the Triple Helix Nigeria SciBiz Conference in 2024 and 2025, and is also a Board Member of Triple Helix Nigeria, promoting university–industry–government collaboration for sustainable development.

In addition to her academic and research leadership, she has contributed significantly to the global mission of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD). She is the Founding President of the OWSD University of Port Harcourt Branch and the immediate past National Vice President of the OWSD Nigeria Chapter, reflecting her commitment to strengthening women's leadership and participation in science at all levels.



PROFILE OF Ms. EKWUTOSI CYNTHIAH OKEH (Digital Witch)

She is also a dedicated educator and mentor, committed to shaping the next generation of scientists, innovators, and policy leaders capable of addressing Africa's environmental and energy challenges.

Her interdisciplinary expertise positions her at the intersection of environmental science, innovation systems, and sustainable development policy, making her a sought-after speaker on environmental restoration, climate resilience, green skills development, and the role of science in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Recognized by Vanguard, The Tribune, and The Sight News, Cynthia is a leading voice for tech inclusion, remote empowerment, and gender equity.

She is also part of the The Tony Elumelu Mentorship programme and also a recipient of the Sara Gives to Empower Her Award presented by Wema Bank.

Her long-term vision is to establish a talent placement agency that connects Africa's rising digital workforce to global opportunities.

PROFILE OF PROFESSOR CHINYERE NNEKA UKAGA WIGWE UNIVERSITY ISIOKPO

Professor Chinyere Nneka Ukaga joined Wigwe University Isiokpo Rivers State Nigeria in December 2023 as the pioneer Director of Academic Planning unit as well as pioneer Director of Quality Assurance. She is a pioneer member of the 1st Governing Council of Wigwe University Isiokpo representing Senate. Chinyere Nneka Ukaga is a Professor of Public Health Parasitology with research interests in Preventive chemotherapy Neglected Tropical Diseases (PcNTDs), Skin related NTDs, HIV and Parasitic co-infections, Malaria control and co-infections.

Chinyere was from Imo State University Owerri where she served in various capacities including Head, Department of Animal & Environmental Biology (Zoology); Deputy Director, Consultancy Services Unit; the Director, Consultancy Services Unit; the Chairman Consultancy Board, the Pioneer Director, Quality Assurance Unit; Member of the Imo State University Governing Council; the first female Director Academic Planning Unit and the first female Dean Student Affairs Directorate.

Chinyere is the immediate past National President of the Parasitology and Public Health Society of Nigeria. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Parasitology and Public Health Society of Nigeria. She is a Fellow of the following Societies: Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; Parasitology and Public Health Society of Nigeria and Zoological Society of Nigeria.

She is an International Council member (representing Africa) at the International Society of Infectious Diseases (ISID) based in Brookline MA USA and here, she is involved in the mentorship program with 2 mentees from different parts of Africa. She is also a National Executive Council member of the World Federation of Parasitologists (the first African living and working in Africa to be on this board).

Chinyere is the 1999 best graduating Ph.D student of the University of Nigeria Nsukka winning both the Vice Chancellor's Prize and the Faculty of Science Prize. She was a Federal Government scholar at both the secondary school level (Fed. Govt. Girls College Onitsha) and Master's degree level (University of Nigeria Nsukka). Her Ph.D. program was supported by the Tropical Diseases Research (TDR)/ World Health Organization (WHO) training grant with Dr. Hartwig Schulz-Key (University of Tübingen Germany) as co-supervisor.

Chinyere has more than 28 years post graduate research and teaching experience. She has to her credit more than 163 publications in reputable journals, produced 55 PhD graduates of whom 6 are presently professors in different universities, as well as numerous MSc graduates.

She has consulted for the African Program on Onchocerciasis Control (APOC) now ESPEN, a subsidiary of World Health Organization; as well as AFRO (another subsidiary of WHO) and has consulted for the Federal Government of Nigeria on the Niger Delta Federal Amnesty Program. She led the WHOAFRO team that mapped Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis and schistosomiasis in The Gambia.



Prof. Sammy O. Sam-Wobo is the Director, FUNAAB Zoo Park, former Head, Department of Pure and Applied Zoology from 2017-2020, Principal Investigator/Team Leader from 2007-2012 for World Health Organization/African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control, and supervised successfully 23 PhDs and 34 MSc research studies in areas of vectors, drug delivery, diagnostics, and elimination status of human parasites. AWHO Consultant and Temporary Advisor to Nigeria, Republic of Liberia, Gambia, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, South Africa, Malawi etc. on Neglected Tropical Diseases. Member, Technical Working Group of LF Elimination in Nigeria; Chair, Ogun State Advisory Committee on NTDs. Current President of Parasitology and Public Health Society of Nigeria (PPSN), was 6th Editor-in-Chief of Nigerian Journal of Parasitology from 2014-2021; Fellow of Zoological Society of Nigeria (FZSN) and Fellow Parasitology and Public Health Society of Nigeria (FPPSN) with over 164 research papers, 14 technical reports, with over Fifty-four (54) prizes, honours, scholarships national and international recognition for his research outputs.



BRIEF PROFILE OF PROFESSOR OLAYINKA IBIWUMI NWACHUKWU

Professor Olayinka Ibiwumi NWACHUKWU is a Professor of Soil Science at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Nigeria. She obtained B. Agric.; MSc Soil Science from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile – Ife and Ph.D Soil Chemistry from the University of Glasgow, U.K. Prof Nwachukwu has worked in various capacities within the University system at different times as Head of Department, Faculty Dean and Editor –in- Chief of her University's Journals. She was also a Visiting Scientist to the Scottish Universities Environment Research Centre, East Kilbride, U. K.

Prof Nwachukwu is a recipient of notable grants and scholarships such as the Commonwealth Scholarships UK (2004-2007); TETFUND Overseas Short Training Grant (2012); TETFUND IBR grants (2012, 2019 and 2025) and most recently, she won the MasterCard Foundation and University of Cambridge Climate Resilience and Sustainability Research Fund (2025 cohort) as Project Lead Africa. Professor Olayinka Nwachukwu's research interest majors on heavy metal contaminants in soil-plant systems, on which she has more than sixty (60) scholarly journal publications. She has also featured on national and international podcasts on soil health, including the BBC World Service where she was interviewed on 'The Food Chain - How safe is the soil in our gardens? Managing the risks of growing food in contaminated soil'.

In addition to core science, Professor Nwachukwu engages in science advocacy, science careers for Women and Girls and mentoring of early career women. She was the National Chairperson, Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) Nigeria Chapter from 2021-2025 and the South East Regional Coordinator, Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Association of Nigeria (COSFAN) from 2023 till date. Professor Olayinka Ibiwumi Nwachukwu is a Registered Soil Scientist (RSS) and a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of Nigeria(FSSN). She is an avid home gardener and micro- scale fish farmer.



PROFILE OF PROFESSOR ROBERT UGOCHUKWU ONYENEKE

Robert Ugochukwu Onyeneke is a Professor of Agricultural Resource and Environmental Economics at the Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike (AE-FUNAI) in Ebonyi State, Nigeria, where he also holds the position of Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. He earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Imo State University in Owerri. Professor Onyeneke has a rich academic and administrative background.

Professor Onyeneke has an extensive academic and administrative career. Before he was appointed Dean, he served as Director of the Centre for Climate Change and Development, Deputy Director of Research and Development, and Acting Director of Internationalization, Linkages, Advancement and Global Ranking, among other leadership positions at AE-FUNAI. Earlier in his career, he lectured at Imo State University.

Professor Onyeneke has published widely in high-impact international journals indexed in Scopus and Clarivate Analytics (formerly Thomson Reuters). His work addresses the intersections of climate change, agricultural production systems, food security, environmental sustainability, and green transition pathways. He has also contributed to several policy briefs and collaborative research projects with institutions such as the World Resources Institute, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Michigan State University, and the Embassy of France in Nigeria.

He has secured considerable national and international funding, including projects supported by the European Union, TETFund, World Resources Institute, the Embassy of France in Nigeria, the Climate and Sustainable Development Network of Nigeria, the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, and Loughborough University in the UK.

He has worked as a consultant for various organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme, the U.S. Agency for International Development's Feed the Future Nigeria Agribusiness Investment Activity, and the Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Activity. His expertise has also benefited Lift Humanity Foundation, Oxfam, J.E. Austin Associates, Action Aid, GIZ, and the International Water Management Institute, where he has played a key role in shaping climate change policies, agricultural development strategies, and renewable energy governance in Nigeria.

Outside of academia, he has represented Nigeria on several prestigious international stages, such as the 24th and 25th UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties (COP24 in Katowice, Poland, in 2018, and COP25 in Madrid, Spain, in 2019). Additionally, he has contributed as an Expert Reviewer for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Climate Change and Land, as well as the seventh edition of the Global Environmental Outlook for the United Nations Environment Programme.





Profile of Professor Chinedum Uzoma Nwajiuba.



Professor Chinedum Uzoma Nwajiuba is a distinguished Nigerian academic, agricultural economist, and climate change expert. As of early 2026, he continues to be a prominent voice in Nigerian higher education and environmental policy.

He represents Nigeria and chairs the board of the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), a position he holds through 2026.

He was appointed in June 2022, he serves as the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council for this institution in Kebbi State.

He is a Senior Fellow at the CCCD at Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike (AE-FUNAI), focusing on environmental sustainability and green development.

He currently serves as a Visiting Professor at the National Universities Commission (NUC) in Abuja.

Professor Nwajiuba's academic foundation is rooted in agricultural and development economics:

PhD in Agricultural Economics: University of Hohenheim, Germany (1994).

MSc in Development Economics: Imo State University, Owerri (2007).

Msc in Agricultural Economics: University of Nigeria, Nsukka (1989).

B.Agric: University of Nigeria, Nsukka (1986).

Key Career Milestones

He served a five-year tenure as the Vice-Chancellor of Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike, where he is credited with significant infrastructural transformation and academic growth.

He has been a long-standing member of the Federal Government Team of Negotiators for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and previously served as the Executive Director of the Nigerian Environmental Study Action Team (NEST).

He attained the rank of Professor in October 2004. His previous administrative roles include Dean of the School of Postgraduate Studies and Director of Academic Planning at Imo State University.

In 2026, Professor Nwajiuba remains active in public discourse regarding the Nigerian university system and environmental issues:

He recently advocated for universities to remain neutral in national politics, specifically calling on academic unions to reject roles in election assignments to preserve the integrity of the "universal" university system.

He continues to publish and speak on the impact of climate variability in West Africa, recently analyzing the changing patterns of the Harmattan season and its implications for Nigerian agriculture.

He is married to Professor Chinyere Augusta Nwajiuba, a fellow academic and member of the National Institute (mni). They have five children and one grandchild. He is known to enjoy table tennis and social commentary in his leisure time.



Prof. Uchenna Estella Odoh is a distinguished Professor of Pharmacognosy and Environmental Medicine at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), internationally recognized for her contributions to Natural Products Chemistry, Phytochemistry, Drug Evaluation, and Quality Control of Herbal Medicines. Born into the family of the late Sir Johnson Chibuzo and Lady Josephine Ezeora of Amelugwu Obimo, Nsukka, she holds a B.Sc. in Pure & Industrial Chemistry, M.Sc. degrees in Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, and a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Chemistry, all from UNN.

A scholar committed to lifelong learning, she has earned a Harvard University Verified Certificate in Prescription Drug Regulation, Cost, and Access (2020), certificates in Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity from VICBHE, and a TWAS Post-Doctoral Fellowship. With over 15 years of active research leadership, Prof. Odoh has secured multiple competitive grants from TETFund, TWAS, and CSIR, and has presented her works across five continents.

Her academic output is exceptional, comprising over 130 peer-reviewed publications, 52 conference abstracts, 12 authored or co-authored books, and 30 book chapters. She serves on the editorial boards of five journals and reviews for 17 scientific journals, underscoring her status as a leading voice in pharmaceutical research. Prof. Odoh has held major leadership and governance roles in Nigerian higher education, including:

- Director, Directorate of Endowment, UNN (2022 – Date)
- National Vice President, Nigerian Society of Pharmacognosy (2023 – Date)
- Director, Institute of Drug–Herbal Medicine–Excipient Research & Development, UNN (2024 -2025)
- Member, UNN Governing Council (2021 – 2024)
- Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, ESUT (2018 – 2019)
- Three-term Head, Department of Pharmacognosy & Environmental Medicine, UNN (2002, 2010, 2013)
- South-East Zonal Coordinator, OWSD (2023 – 2025)
- Member, NUC Accreditation Team (2020 –Date)
- Member of Senate, UNN (2011–date) & ESUT (2018–2020)

Her global exposure includes research and training visits to world-renowned institutions such as the University of Mississippi and University of Colorado (USA), John Innes Centre and University of Warwick (UK), PSL Research University (France), Universities of Wurzburg and Munster (Germany), CSIR (South Africa), and the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine.

Prof. Odoh is a Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), a Fellow of the African Academy Network (FAAN), and an active member of prestigious bodies including the Chemical Society of Nigeria, Nigerian Society of Pharmacognosy, Royal Society of Chemistry, American Chemical Society, American Society of Pharmacognosy, OWSD, Women in Chemistry, and WANNPRES.

Her distinguished career has earned numerous honors, including the Distinguished Lifelong Academic Excellence Award (AAN), UNN Alumni Award of Excellence (2021), Best Lecturer Award (2012), and Top 10 Most Friendly Female Lecturer Award (2016). A dedicated mentor, she has supervised numerous Ph.D. and Master's students, shaping the next generation of natural product scientists.

Beyond academia, Prof. Odoh is a respected community and church leader. She is a Life Member of the Catholic Women Organization, Enugu Diocese and has received several honors, such as Ezinne, Gold Lady, and Nne Di Ora Mma across multiple parishes. She previously served as President of the St. Anthony Zone, UNN, and of the Iheakpu-Awka Women Association Home & Abroad. She is also a multiple Lolo and is married to Hon. Dr. Fidelis Odoh of Edem, Iheakpu-Awka, an esteemed entrepreneur specializing in oil and gas, real estate, and finance, and a former Chairman of Igbo-Eze Local Government Area, Enugu State. Their marriage is blessed with wonderful children.



**PROFESSIONAL PROFILE -
PROFESSOR CHIMDIA EZIOMA
OGBONNAYA**

Professor of Ophthalmology |
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon |
Researcher | Academic Leader

Professor Chimdia Ogbonnaya is a distinguished Nigerian ophthalmologist, accomplished academic, and trailblazing female scientist with over three decades of experience in clinical practice, teaching, research, and health system leadership. She currently serves as Professor of Ophthalmology in the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Medicine, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State, and is a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Alex Ekwueme Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki.

Her career reflects a sustained commitment to advancing eye care, medical education, and

research in Nigeria and across sub-Saharan Africa, with particular expertise in Cataract and glaucoma management and ophthalmic public health.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Professor Chimdia Ezima Ogbonnaya obtained her MB.BS degree from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 1986. She subsequently pursued specialist training in ophthalmology, earning dual prestigious fellowships in 2002:

Fellow, West African College of Surgeons (FWACS)

Fellow, National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (FMCOPhth)

She further strengthened her global expertise through advanced subspecialty training, including:

Fellowship in Glaucoma Services at Aravind Eye Hospital, India (2018)

Fellow, International College of Surgeons (FICS) (2018)

Her training spans Nigeria and internationally recognized centers in India, reflecting a strong commitment to excellence and continuous professional development.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

As a leading female scientist in ophthalmology, Professor Mrs Chimdia Ogbonnaya has made significant contributions in research, education, and clinical innovation:

Several peer-reviewed publications in reputable national and international journals

Contributor to textbooks and clinical training manuals in ophthalmology

Active researcher in major international collaborations, including:

o Eyes of Africa (H3Africa Project)

o Genetic studies on glaucoma in Africa

Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator in multiple funded research projects on glaucoma, ocular infections, and public eye health

Her research has contributed to improved understanding of glaucoma, ocular diseases, and eye care delivery systems in Africa.

LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXCELLENCE

Professor Chimdia has held numerous high-impact leadership roles, demonstrating excellence in academic and health system administration:

Chief Medical Director, David Nweze Umahi University Teaching Hospital (2022)

Head of Department of Ophthalmology, Ebonyi State University (multiple tenures)

Head of Glaucoma Services, Alex Ekwueme Federal Teaching Hospital

Chairman, NUC Accreditation Panel to University of Jos (Medicine & Surgery Programme) in 2023

She has also served on key national and regional bodies, including:

Board Member, Faculty of Ophthalmology (WACS and NPMCN)

Examiner for postgraduate medical colleges in West Africa and Nigeria

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEDICAL EDUCATION AND MENTORSHIP

A passionate educator, Professor Mrs Chimdia Ezima Ogbonnaya has trained and mentored generations of medical students, resident doctors, and ophthalmologists. She has:

Served as Examiner for both the West African College of Surgeons and National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria

Developed training manuals and surgical guidelines for ophthalmology residents

Delivered numerous invited lectures at national and international conferences

She has also served as a reviewer for reputable medical journals, contributing to the advancement of scientific knowledge.

Her dedication to mentorship has significantly strengthened ophthalmology training in Nigeria.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Professor Chimdia is widely recognized within the global ophthalmology community. She is a member of several professional bodies, including:

Nigerian Medical Association (NMA)

Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria

Women Ophthalmologists of Nigeria (WON)

Glaucoma Society of Nigeria (where she is currently the secretary-General)

World Glaucoma Association

Medical Women's Association of Nigeria

American Academy of Ophthalmology (International Member)

She actively participates in international conferences and collaborative research initiatives.

INSTITUTION BUILDING AND CLINICAL IMPACT

Professor Ogbonnaya has been instrumental in establishing and developing ophthalmic services across multiple institutions, including:

Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital

Ebonyi State University Teaching Hospital (EBSSUTH) Abakaliki

Presbyterian Joint Hospital, Uburu

Sudan Interior Mission Hospital, Onuenyim

St. Vincent's Hospital, Ndubia

Chijioko—Osogho Memorial Methodist Hospital, Abia State

She has served as pioneer Head of Department in several of these institutions, helping to build sustainable eye care systems.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

A passionate advocate for accessible eye care, Professor Ogbonnaya has:

Led numerous cataract and glaucoma surgical outreaches

Provided services to underserved rural communities in Ebonyi, Abia, and beyond

Promoted community awareness on eye diseases and prevention

Strengthened community-based, patient-centered eye care programs

Her outreach work has restored sight to many and improved quality of life across communities.

IMPACT AS A FEMALE SCIENTIST

As a leading female figure in a highly specialized medical field, Professor Chimdia exemplifies excellence, resilience, and leadership. Her career has:

Advanced women's representation in academic medicine and surgery

Contributed to improved eye care delivery in underserved populations

Inspired young female doctors and scientists to pursue careers in medicine and research

SUMMARY

Professor Chimdia Ezima Ogbonnaya is an accomplished ophthalmic surgeon, researcher, and academic leader whose work continues to shape the future of eye care in Nigeria and beyond. Her contributions to clinical practice, research, training, and health system leadership position her as a respected authority and role model in global ophthalmology. Her legacy spans clinical excellence, impactful research, institutional development, and unwavering commitment to improving vision and lives.



**PROFILE OF
HIGH CHIEF
MICHAEL
ASAWALAM Jr.
(AHAMBA)**

High Chief Michael Asawalam is a distinguished philanthropist, visionary leader, and community development advocate who hails from Umuaro, Ehime Mbano LGA, Imo State, Nigeria. He is an accomplished business executive with national and international influence given his success in establishing healthcare outfits internationally. He is the Founder of the Michael Asawalam Foundation, a humanitarian organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for underserved communities through education, healthcare, and social empowerment initiatives.

Through his Foundation, High Chief Asawalam has sponsored numerous students on scholarships up to university level, giving many young people the opportunity to achieve their academic dreams. In the area of healthcare, he has led impactful medical outreaches, including a notable intervention in Ehime Mbano where over 2000 individuals received free medical care, demonstrating his deep commitment to accessible healthcare for all.

Beyond his philanthropic work, he is widely respected for his passion for human capital development and community advancement. His initiatives continue to create lasting impact, particularly among vulnerable populations.

High Chief Asawalam is currently seeking to represent the good people of Okigwe South Federal Constituency. His aspiration is driven by a desire to expand his impact through responsive leadership, people-centered policies, and sustainable development.

He remains a strong advocate for education, health equity, youth empowerment, and inclusive growth; values that define both his personal and public life.



PROFILE OF ASSOC. PROF. NNENNAYAA. AJAYI

Dr. Nnennaya A. Ajayi is an Assoc. Prof. of Medicine (Sub-specialty, Gastroenterology) with special interest in Infectious Diseases.

She is a lecturer in Internal Medicine at the Ebonyi State University, and also an honorary consultant physician at the Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital, both in Abakaliki.

Her Residency Training in Internal Medicine was at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, Maiduguri, a Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases. She obtained the Fellowship of the West African College of Physicians (FWACP) in 2006. Her Dissertation for her Fellowship was on Enteric Protozoal Pathogens in HIV-related Diarrhoeas – a topic that straddled over both gastroenterology and infectious diseases.

Dr NA Ajayi is a graduate of the prestigious University of Nigeria, Nsukka where she got her MBBS degree in 1986. She earlier attended the Holy Child Secondary School, Sharon, Abakaliki and obtained the West African School Certificate (WASC) with Grade I Distinction in 1980. Her subject combination cut across both core Science subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Biology and core art subjects like Literature in English and History.

She is the 3rd of 7 offsprings and first daughter of Mr Bernard Okoroafor and Mrs Grace Ugbana Odi (both of blessed memory) of Amenu, Uburu in Ohaozara LGA of Ebonyi State. Her father was a community Health worker (Dispenser) who worked in many rural communities of Ebonyi State. The young Nnennaya saw the health needs peculiarities of rural communities first hand as a member of these rural communities and as she watched her father attend to patients.

This helped shape her decision to study Medicine.

Dr NAAjayi's grand father late Chief Odi Nsiri of Amenu, Uburu was nick named 'Ókwoeka' (the hand washer) because he always washed his hands after having a hand shake with anyone or touching new objects to avoid contamination. This understanding and practice of infectious diseases prevention was rare among men of his generation but was the normal everyday practices in his home. These practices were passed on to his children and grandchildren. This family background greatly helped Dr NAAjayi in her practice and care of patients with infectious diseases.

Dr Nnennaya Ajayi has held many positions in Ebonyi State University including Coordinator of the 5th MBBS programme, Sub-Dean, Faculty of Clinical Medicine and is currently the HOD, Internal Medicine. She has also served in many University committees such as the University Ebola virus Disease prevention Committee, and the Faculty of Clinical Medicine and University Research Ethics committees.

She was the Head of Clinical Services at the Virology Centre (a section of the Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital where patients who have Lassa fever are managed) until recently. She has been the case management team Lead for Lassa fever and Covid-19 for Ebonyi State for years and received A Special Commendation from The Ebonyi State Government for the Care of Patients with Lassa Fever in 2016. She was also honoured with a Merit Award for Excellence in the Care of Patients with Infectious Diseases by the Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), Ebonyi State branch in 2019.

Assoc. Prof. NA. Ajayi has published widely in many local and International high impact journals. Her research interests include Viral hepatitis, Lassa fever, COVID-19, Malaria, peptic disorders, and diet-related non communicable diseases.

She is blessed with lovely children and caring and supportive siblings. She loves singing God's praise, dancing and non-vigorous exercises



Profile of Dr. Kelechi Ononujuaku Okereke

Kelechi O. Okereke, DDS, MA, is a board-certified pediatric dentist and Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry with extensive clinical, academic, and leadership experience in pediatric oral healthcare. He is currently engaged in clinical practice across North Carolina and Virginia, where he provides comprehensive pediatric dental services with a strong focus on patient-centered care, safety, prevention, and improving long-term oral health outcomes for children.

Dr. Okereke's academic journey reflects a sustained commitment to excellence in the biomedical and health sciences. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture in Nigeria, followed by a Master of Arts in Biology from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He later completed a Bachelor of Science in Biology at the University of the District of Columbia before obtaining his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He subsequently pursued advanced specialty training in pediatric dentistry at Howard University College of Dentistry. He is currently completing a Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Management and Entrepreneurship at Fayetteville State University, with an expected graduation in 2026.

In addition to his formal education, Dr. Okereke has completed specialized training in computer-based statistical analysis, molecular biology techniques, and bioinformatics through international institutions, strengthening his analytical and research-oriented approach to clinical dentistry and healthcare systems.

Clinically, Dr. Okereke has developed broad and diverse experience across private practices, community health centers, and hospital-based settings. He currently serves as a pediatric dentist at Piedmont Access to Health Services in Danville, Virginia, and Friendly Dental Group in Charlotte, North Carolina. He previously practiced at Kintegra Pediatric Dentistry in Gastonia and began his professional career in general dentistry with Perry Jeffries DDS and Associates in Greensboro. Across these roles, he has consistently demonstrated clinical excellence, adaptability, and a commitment to delivering high-quality pediatric dental care in both routine and complex cases.



He also holds hospital privileges at SOVAH Health and previously at CaroMont Regional Medical Center, further extending his clinical reach into hospital-based pediatric dentistry. Additionally, he is affiliated with Vallegate Dental Surgery Center of Charlotte, LLC. Dr. Okereke maintains active dental licensure in both North Carolina and Virginia.

His professional certifications include Diplomate status with the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, Pediatric Advanced Life Support certification through the American Heart Association and American Academy of Pediatrics, and CPR/AED certification for professional rescuers. These credentials underscore his preparedness to manage both preventive and emergency pediatric dental care.

Beyond his clinical and academic accomplishments, Dr. Okereke is deeply committed to humanitarian service and community development. He is the founder of the Dr. Kelechi Ononauju Okereke Foundation, an organization dedicated to addressing critical social and health-related challenges. The foundation's mission includes fighting hunger, malnutrition, and poverty while reducing food loss and waste in pursuit of a zero-hunger society; empowering and uplifting young people in Nigeria, across Africa, and globally; promoting healthy living through medical outreaches and public health sensitization; supporting education

by providing scholarships and academic opportunities to underprivileged students; delivering free medical and dental outreach services to underserved communities; and organizing athletic and community-based events that promote discipline, self-control, responsibility, and life skills development.

Dr. Okereke is also an active member of several professional organizations, including the American Dental Association, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Virginia Dental Association, Virginia Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Piedmont Dental Society, and the Southeastern Society of Pediatric Dentistry. Through these affiliations, he remains engaged with ongoing professional development and advancements in pediatric dentistry.

Overall, Dr. Okereke's profile reflects a highly trained pediatric dental specialist whose career integrates clinical excellence, academic achievement, community leadership, and humanitarian service, with a strong commitment to improving the health and well-being of children and underserved populations.



A BRIEF RESUME OF PROFESSOR ONYINYE MKPOLA UKPAI

Prof. Onyinye Mkpola Ukpai was born into the humble home of Late Mr and Mrs Onwuka Okereke of Ovim, Isuikwuato LGA of Abia State. She is married to Engr Pastor Nnoko Ukpai, a fine gentleman and God-fearing husband. Their marriage is blessed with four lovely biological and numerous Spiritual children.

Prof Ukpai started her early education at 'Mma Eluwa's Harriet Paterson Kindergarten, Enugu; had her primary school at WTC Primary School Enugu and secondary education at the prestigious Federal Government College Ilorin, Kwara State. Her tertiary education was at Abia State University (formerly Imo State University), Uturu for her B.Sc (Hons) in Zoology. After the one year compulsory service to the nation (NYSC) with NIFES in Jos Zone, she proceeded to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka where she obtained her M.Sc in Parasitology. Her Ph.D in Parasitology and Entomology was from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. She has a certification in Implementation Research having completed the MOOC: Incorporating an Intersectional Gender Perspective in Implementation Research, developed and organised by TDR, the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, in collaboration with the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health. She also has to her credit certificates on Data Analysis SQL from University of Michigan; Harnessing the power of Data with Power BI from Microsoft and Advanced Epidemiological Study Design, Implementation and Analysis.

Prof Ukpai is a seasoned scientist and a Professor of Public Health Parasitology and Entomology, in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUUAU). She has been a two-time first female Deputy-Dean of College of Natural Sciences; two-time HOD and led the Department of Zoology and Environmental Biology to achieve FULL Status in Accreditation. She received a letter of commendation from the Vice Chancellor and the Management team for judiciously utilizing the funds given her for this purpose.

Prof Ukpai is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (FRSTMH), Fellow of Parasitology and Public

Health Society of Nigeria (FPPSN), a Commonwealth Fellow of the University of Bristol, UK. a member of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Association of Nigeria (COSFAN). She belongs to Professional bodies such as Zoological Society of Nigeria (ZSN) and is a FZSN, ASTMH, BSN, ESN, Organization of Women in Science in the Developing World (OWSD), BSP and NNN.

She is widely travelled and has presented scientific papers or was part of scientific meetings relating to NTDs and Public Health issues. In her contribution to Knowledge and capacity building, she has mentored, taught, supervised and graduated many Undergraduate and Graduate students (M.Sc and PhD) some of whom are Professors and others very successful in their different vocations. She still mentors, teaches and supervises.

Prof Ukpai has been a recipient of Wellcome Trust Bursary award, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funds through RSTMH, Wellcome Trust funds through RSTMH, Mitosath travel grant, GRC funds, and TETFUND as (PI). She has received an Award of Legacy from PPSN S.E and recently an Award of Exemplary Mentorship from the Biotechnology Society of Nigeria. She has been and is still an External Examiner to some Universities, an External Assessor to Professorial cadre and a Reviewer to some Journals including the Nigerian Journal of Parasitology and the Zoologist among others.

She has to her credit over 70 publications in peer-reviewed, highly reputable National and International journals with high impact factors. Prof Ukpai has contributed immensely to the growth of OWSD.

She attends conferences and pays her annual dues. She has done NTD advocacy visits with her team, directed and led NTD days celebration in which she was a resource person to enlighten pupils, especially the girl-child, teachers and community members on NTDs.

Prof Ukpai is a person of integrity, a goal getter, a mother with empathy and a large heart of gold, always willing and given to helping the needy. This stems from her love for God and a life fully and totally surrendered to Jesus. She has received an Award of Excellence from the National Association of Biological Sciences Students, MOUUAU.. She is a quiet, unassuming lady but hates injustice and corruption. She is a Preacher and Teacher of the Word of God.

Behold Prof Onyinye Mkpola Ukpai, an erudite scholar, a woman with passion to see the younger colleagues and OWSD grow.



Dr. Tessy Madu is a social scientist and gender specialist at the National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Umudike, Nigeria, where she leads Gender Studies and serves as Director of the Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation (PME) Department. In this role, she designs and implements systems for measuring, monitoring, and evaluating program performance; improves access to key datasets for evidence-based programmatic and operational decisions; and oversees the development, maintenance, and review of departmental work programmes.

With over 30 years of experience in national and international development, her work centres on gender-responsive research and rural development. Core competencies include citizen science research, evidence-based policy advice on integrating gender into root and tuber crop breeding, climate change, food security, and women's empowerment in Africa. Her research maintains a strong focus on gender and development and has included leadership of collaborative, multi-partner projects.

Dr. Madu holds a PhD in Rural Development. She has consulted widely for organisations including the International Potato Center (CIP), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Alliance Bioversity and CIAT, the EU Micro-Projects Programme in the Niger Delta Region, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. She also served as a member of the African Think Tank under the African Capacity Building Foundation.

She is the founder of Women and Children Development Initiative (WACDI), an NGO that has implemented numerous women- and children-centred programmes across health, livelihoods, and education.

An accomplished development practitioner and distinguished scholar, Dr. Madu has authored over 60 publications, including books and peer-reviewed articles in reputable journals.



ORGANIZATION FOR
WOMEN IN SCIENCE FOR THE
DEVELOPING WORLD
SOUTH EAST ZONE

FELICITATION MESSAGE

OWSD Imo State University Chapter
The Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), Imo State University Chapter, under the leadership of Dr. Ngozika Okechukwu-Ezike, warmly congratulates the organizers and participants of the 5th Biennial South East 2026 OWSD Conference.

This conference represents a vital platform for promoting collaboration, mentorship, and excellence among women in science, while advancing innovation and sustainable development in the region.

We commend the organizers for their dedication to fostering inclusivity and empowering women scientists.

As a chapter, we remain committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen research capacity, inspire emerging scholars, and enhance the visibility of women in science.

We are confident that this gathering will yield meaningful discussions and lasting collaborations.

We wish all participants a successful and enriching conference.

Long live OWSD!
Long live women in science!

Signed:
Entire members of OWSD Imo State University Chapter.



Congratulatory/ Goodwill Message

OWSD-University of Nigeria, Nsukka, congratulates the Zonal Coordinator, Dr. Chioma Anorue, the LOC, and the entire OWSD South East Zonal members as they hold the 5th Biennial Conference and General Meeting. We extend our goodwill to this remarkable gathering of brilliant minds and change-makers here in South-East Nigeria. This conference is more than an academic event, it is actually a celebration of resilience, knowledge, and the transformative power of women in shaping the future through science, technology, and innovation.

To the early-career women and girls present, let this gathering ignite your curiosity and strengthen your resolve to break new grounds. Science really belongs to you. To the established professionals and mentors, your leadership and guidance are paving the way for a more equitable and vibrant scientific community. We commend the LOC for their dedication to the conference. May your efforts continue to inspire excellence and foster inclusion in science.

Once again, accept our best wishes for a very successful and impactful conference.

Thank you.



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GOODWILL MESSAGES

Warmest greetings from OWSD IMT Enugu chapter*

The Members of OWSD, The Rector, Staff & Students of IMT Enugu heartily felicitate with OWSD Southeast zone on the occasion of the 2026, 5th Biennial Conference.

The OWSD IMT Enugu chapter congratulates Dr. Chioma Anorue and the organizing committee (LOC) led by Prof Laura Okpala on this milestone event. We celebrate the theme and the empowering discussions that will shape the future of Nigeria and women in science.

We wish all participants enriching experiences, networking opportunities, and inspiration for impactful contributions.

From Dr Adachukwu Ikeyi.
Coordinator



GOODWILL MESSAGE

FROM OWSD, ENUGU STATE UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

We the entire members of OESD, ESUT, Chapter Branch extend our greetings to OWSD South East Zonal Coordinator, the LOC and all participants of the 5th Biennial South East Zone OWSD Conference holding at AEFUNAI. May this gathering of minds foster innovation, collaboration and meaningful dialogue. Wishing us a fruitful deliberation and successful conference.

DR. NKEMJIKA NNEDINSO UMERAH
CHAPTER CORDINATOR.



GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM OWSD UAES

The Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), Umuagwo Chapter, warmly extends its heartfelt goodwill and best wishes to the organizers, distinguished speakers, participants, and all stakeholders of the forthcoming 5th South East OWSD Biennial Conference scheduled to hold at Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State.

We commend the South East Zone for its commitment to advancing women in science and promoting impactful research. The theme, "Women in Science: Translating Research into Real Impact for Sustainable Development," is timely and highlights on the need to bridge research and real-world solutions.

As a We recognize this conference as a valuable platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and empowerment, and we are confident it will inspire innovation and strengthen progress toward sustainable development.

We wish all participants a successful, impactful, and memorable conference.
Long live OWSD!
Long live Women in Science!



GOODWILL MESSAGE

On behalf of the Michael Asawalam Foundation, we extend our warm goodwill to the organizers and participants of the 5th Biennial Conference of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World South East Zone, Nigeria.

We are honored by the recognition given to our Founder, High Chief Michael Asawalam. (Ahamba) This award reflects a shared commitment to advancing knowledge, empowering communities, and promoting inclusive development.

We commend OWSD for its dedication to strengthening scientific excellence and advancing the role of women in STEM. Your efforts continue to inspire innovation and create meaningful opportunities for emerging scientists.

The Foundation aligns strongly with this vision and remains open to collaboration through advocacy, mentorship, and partnerships that will further empower women in science.

We wish you a successful and impactful conference.

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ORGANIZATION FOR
WOMEN IN SCIENCE FOR THE
DEVELOPING WORLD
SOUTH EAST ZONE



Congratulations!

The Executive and members of Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), Umudiike Branch heartily felicitates with OWSD, South-East Zone, Nigeria Chapter on her forthcoming biennial Conference with the theme "Women in Science: Translating Research into Real Impact for Sustainable Development" holding from 3rd – 7th May, 2026 @ Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State.

Congratulations to OWSD, South-east Zone Executive and the LOC!!

Wishing the Zone a very successful outing.





ORGANIZATION FOR
WOMEN IN SCIENCE FOR THE
DEVELOPING WORLD
SOUTH EAST ZONE

Goodwill Message

From: Dr. Kelechi Ononujuaku Okereke Foundation
To: Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World, South East Chapter
Occasion: 5th Biennial Conference, 2026

Distinguished Executives and Members of OWSD South East, Esteemed Scientists, Partners, and Guests,

The Dr. Kelechi Ononujuaku Okereke Foundation extends its heartfelt congratulations to OWSD South East on the occasion of your 5th Biennial Conference.

We salute this dynamic gathering of women who are reshaping science, innovation, and leadership across Nigeria and beyond. Your theme and deliberations could not be more timely. When women rise in science, families thrive, communities advance, and nations heal.

At the Dr. Kelechi Ononujuaku Okereke Foundation, our work in health, education, and youth empowerment has shown us one truth repeatedly: progress is fastest when women lead. Whether in a dental clinic in North Carolina, a rural outreach in Abia State, or a research lab in Enugu, the future of human development is tied to the opportunities we create for girls and women in STEM.

Therefore, we stand with OWSD South East as you:

1. Mentor the next generation of female scientists who will cure diseases, secure food systems, and build resilient communities;
2. Advocate for policies that remove barriers to girls' education and women's research leadership;
3. Collaborate across borders to ensure that African solutions are designed by African women scientists.

As you convene, deliberate, and network, know that the Dr. Kelechi Ononujuaku Okereke Foundation celebrates your excellence and remains committed to supporting initiatives that promote healthy living, quality education, and youth empowerment. We look forward to exploring partnerships that link healthcare, nutrition, and STEM education for underserved children and young women.

May this 5th Biennial Conference ignite new ideas, strengthen networks, and birth projects that outlive us all.

Keep breaking boundaries. Keep building bridges. Science needs you. The world needs you.

Congratulations, OWSD South East. The future is brighter because you are in it.

Signed,
Dr. Kelechi O. Okereke, DDS, MA
Founder, Dr. Kelechi Ononujuaku Okereke Foundation
Diplomate, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry

ORGANIZATION FOR
WOMEN IN SCIENCE FOR THE
DEVELOPING WORLD
SOUTH EAST ZONE



GOODWILL MESSAGE

The Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike (OWSD AE-FUNAI) Chapter, warmly extends goodwill to the organizers and participants of the 5th Southeast OWSD Biennial Conference themed "Women in Science: Translating Research into Real Impact for Sustainable Development."

This conference highlights the critical role of women in advancing science, innovation, and sustainable development. It provides a valuable platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and inspiration among emerging and established scientists.

We commend the organizers for their dedication to promoting excellence, empowering women in STEM, and strengthening networks within developing regions. Their efforts continue to foster inclusivity and drive meaningful progress.

We wish all participants a successful and impactful conference.

OWSD AE-FUNAI Chapter



Goodwill Message

On behalf of the Women in Science, Abia State University Chapter, we send our warmest goodwill and congratulations to the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) south east zone as you host your upcoming conference.

We applaud OWSD south east zone for consistent drive to create platforms where women in science can share knowledge, showcase innovation, and build networks that transform our communities and nations. This conference is yet another testament to your commitment to advancing gender equity in STEM and empowering women to lead solutions for sustainable development.

We are proud to identify with your this great vision. As a Chapter, we remain committed to supporting this great mission through mentorship, research, and active participation in initiatives that uplift women and girls in science.

We wish you a successful, impactful, and inspiring conference. May the deliberations spark new collaborations, breakthroughs, and renewed hope for women scientists across the developing world.

With solidarity and best wishes,
Women in Science
Abia State University Chapter
ABSU







ORGANIZATION FOR
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