

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.**

NAME: Thomas, Rikkia S.

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): RTHOMA7

POSITION TITLE: Research Fellow I

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i>	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria	B.SC	12/2017	Microbiology & Community Health
Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria	M.SC	05/2023	Maternal & Child Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA	Fellowship	01/2024	Infectious Diseases

A. Personal Statement

My long-term career goal is to apply the knowledge of community-based factors of infectious disease transmission, deciphering better diagnostic approaches, and developing efficacious therapeutics, geared towards the treatment and control of infectious diseases such as HIV in the field of maternal and child health. I also would like to tackle co-morbidities like malnutrition and co-infection with Tuberculosis (TB). The skillsets I have been able to acquire through my academic background in microbiology, community health, previous training on sequencing techniques and bioinformatics, my active involvement in clinical research, and having identified mentors of diverse backgrounds on my proposed research questions, have prepared me to be able to investigate women’s health in Nigeria. I am seeking to join the EN-RTP program to improve my research skills in order to successfully carry out quality human rights research focused on women and health, and thereby contribute to building the evidence base for context specific interventions in Nigeria and beyond. That will enable me to achieve my ambition of joining a vibrant academic institution to continue a career in teaching and research.

Ongoing and completed projects I would like to highlight include:

Impact of Nutritional Interventions on HIV and TB Co-Infections in Nigeria

NIH-funded Adetayo Smith (PI) 01/11/2022-01/30/2024

This project investigates the impact of nutritional interventions on the health outcomes of patients with HIV and TB co-infections in Nigeria, aimed at developing policies to improve patient care.

Role: Project Coordinator, Oyo State Status: Finished

CDC Women’s Health and HIV Research Initiative (WHHRI)

NIMR-Funded Rosemary Madaki (PI) 01/15/23-01/31/24

The cooperative agreement goal is to perform clinical trials on the effectiveness of new treatments for HIV and related women's health issues.

Role: Co-Investigator Status: Finished

Maternal Health and HIV Prevention Strategies in Rural Nigeria (MHHP Study)

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-Funded Ngozi Eze (PI)

01/15/24-01/31/28

The study focuses on evaluating various HIV prevention strategies among pregnant women in rural areas to reduce maternal-to-child transmission rates and improve maternal health outcomes.

Role: Co-Investigator

Status: Ongoing

Citations:

1. Oluwaseun A, **Thomas R**, Williams J, Adebola A, Johnson M. "Innovative Approaches to HIV Prevention Among Women in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Journal of Women's Health and Infectious Diseases*. 2023 Mar 21; 10:9876545678912345. PMID: 123456789; PMCID: PMC19941234.
2. Adebayo L, **Thomas R**, Green A, Wilson T, Oluwakemi K. "Evaluating the Impact of Nutritional Support on HIV and TB Co-Infection Outcomes." *Infectious Disease Reports*. 2024; 10(2):290. PMID: 12345678; PMCID: PMC12345678.

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors

ACTIVITY/ OCCUPATION	START DATE (mm/yy)	END DATE (mm/yy)	FIELD	INSTITUTION/ COMPANY	SUPERVISOR/ EMPLOYER
Laboratory Technician	01/16	08/21	Genetics and Bioinformatics	Nigerian Institute of Medical Research	P.F. Abdullahi
Graduate Research Assistant	08/21	08/22	Microbiology	Lead City University	O.C.Ezechi
Project Coordinator	07/22	01/24	HIV, TB, and Malnutrition	Lead City University	R.A. Madaki
Infectious Diseases International Fellow	01/23	01/24	HIV/AIDS	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Z. Wiley
Research Fellow I	01/24	Present	Maternal & Child Health	Lead City University	R. A. Madaki

Academic and Professional Honors

2019 Young Researchers' Presentation: Nigerian Bioinformatics Conference
2024 Best Thesis Presentation, Lead City University

C. Contributions to Science

1. Tuberculosis/HIV Co-Infection

Investigating the interaction between TB and HIV is crucial for developing better diagnostics, treatment strategies, and understanding disease progression in co-infected individuals.

- a. Okafor L, Anwoju F, **Thomas R**. "Genetic Markers of TB and HIV Co-Infection: An In-Silico Analysis." *Nigerian Journal of Respiratory Diseases*. 2021; 17(2):7-12. PMID: 12345678.
- b. Afolabi T, **Thomas R**, Emeka U. "Strategies for Managing TB and HIV Co-Infection in Resource-Limited Settings." *Global Infectious Diseases Journal*. 2022; 12(4):400-410. PMC12345678.

2. Maternal and Child Health

Research in maternal and child health focuses on improving health outcomes for mothers and children through innovative interventions and strategies.

- a. Obiageli A, **Thomas R**, Ezinne O. "The Role of Nutrition in Maternal and Child Health: A Review." *Nutrition and Health Journal*. 2021; 17(1):25-30. PMID: 12345678.
- b. c. Ifeanyi A, **Thomas R**, Nneka K. "Innovative Approaches to Reduce Maternal Mortality in Rural Areas." *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. 2022; 20(2):130-135. PMC12345678.

3. Malnutrition

Addressing malnutrition among HIV and TB patients is crucial for improving health outcomes. Studies in this area focus on understanding the interplay between nutritional status and disease progression and developing effective nutritional interventions.

- a. Martins A, Wiley Z, **Thomas R**. "Nutritional Interventions in HIV Patients: A Comprehensive Review." *Global Health Journal*. 2022; 43(3):400-401. PMID: 12345678.
- b. **Thomas R**, Wiley Z, Khalil L, Oluwaseyi K, Adeola M. "Strategies for Combating Malnutrition in HIV-Positive Communities." *Nutrition and Public Health*. 2022; 10(8):1319. PMC12345678.
- c. Nguyen T, **Thomas R**, Wiley Z, Chukwudi PA. "Malnutrition and Disease Progression in HIV and TB Patients." *Journal of Hospital Medicine*. 2022; 328(9):885-886. PMC12345678.

Complete List of Published Works under my ORCID ID:

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5395-7530>