



Olihe OKORO

Home Country
Nigeria

Degree
PhD in Pharmaceutical
Outcomes and Policy

Expertise
Health Outcomes Research

Research Focus
Adherence to HIV/AIDS
Antiretroviral Medication

Host University
University of Florida, United States

Fellowship Awarded
2012

Olihe is a pharmacist with a Master's degree in Clinical Pharmacy/Pharmacology from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State. She recently obtained a Doctorate degree in Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy in addition to a Masters in Public Health (MPH) at the University of Florida, United States. She has worked in Nigeria as a pharmacist in different practice settings – pharmaceutical marketing, hospital, academia and community pharmacy. Through her work in Nigeria, she has seen first-hand the toll HIV takes on infected women as they battle the disease while struggling to maintain their role caring for their families. The World Health Organization estimates that HIV/AIDS is the leading worldwide cause of morbidity and mortality for women in their reproductive years, defined as 15–44. Within this population, Black women are the most disproportionately affected by the disease.

Her dissertation compared perceptions of patients and healthcare providers on linkage to care and medication adherence among Black women living with HIV/AIDS. This study generated critical information for the development of effective healthcare delivery programs for this special population. The long-term goal of Olihe's PhD research program is to develop a culturally responsive and targeted intervention program that will improve retention rates in HIV treatment programs and enhance medication adherence among Black women living with HIV/AIDS.

Olihe plans to return to her home country where she expects to join the academic workforce to mentor pharmacy students at the University of Nigeria. Her long-term career goal is to become a professor and leader in patient safety and medication management issues.