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Victor O. Owino, BSc (Nairobi), MSc (Ghent), PhD (London). International Specialist in Nutrition, Food Security, Post Harvest Handling & Storage. P.O. Box 20375-00200. NAIROBI KENYA. Cell: +254725625720.

PROFILE

A Postdoctoral Scholar/Resident Principal Investigator in The Program in International and Community Nutrition at the University of California, Davis based in Western Kenya (Kakamega and Bungoma Counties) overseeing the nutritional (main task), environmental enteropathy and parasitic components of a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Benefits Project. The WASH Benefits Project is a collaboration between the University of California at Berkeley and Davis, Emory University, Harvard University, and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) in Kenya and ICDDR,B in Bangladesh. It is a five-year study designed to provide rigorous evidence on the health benefits of low cost technologies to improve water quality, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition. This project will target children under 2 years of age with a goal of improving child growth and development.

I am a Co-Principal Investigator in the Winfoods Project, a collaboration of the University of Nairobi and the Life Institute University of Copenhagen, Denmark aiming to utilize traditional foodstuffs such as small fish, edible termites, grain amaranth and others to formulate nutritious complementary foods for preventing moderate acute malnutrition among infants 6-24 months of age in Western Kenya (Mumias District). Wide expertise in breast milk intake and body composition measurement among infants using stable isotope (deuterium oxide) technique.

Previously, a Senior Research & Development Manager with Valid Nutrition with a wide range of experience in the food product development, design and implementation of food and nutrition research projects including large randomized efficacy trials focusing on benefit of multi-micronutrient fortified complementary foods, including lipid-based nutrition supplements (LNS) on infant and young child growth in resource poor settings. Leading research collaboration with international institutions such as MRC-London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Dartmouth University, ETH-Zurich, Cornell University, and Wellcome Trust-Kenya Medical Research Institute-Kilifi. Experienced in teaching at post-graduate university level and supervision of both masters and PhD students in the area of foods and nutrition and; community health & development. Able to work on own initiative and as part of a team. Proven leadership skills involving managing, developing and motivating others to become leaders themselves. Exceptional expertise in organizing conferences and expert consultative forums in the area of foods and nutrition.

CAREER OBJECTIVE

To be an effective leader in foods and nutrition field through mentoring of other food scientists and nutritionists to be leaders themselves.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Established effective Nutrition Team in the WASH Benefits Project, operationalized nutrition component of the project and facilitated government approval of the entire project.
- Supervision of two PhD students from the University of Nairobi and one from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology on a Winfood Project designed to assess the bioavailability of micronutrients from; and efficacy of complementary foods based on traditional food stuffs on nutrition of infants and young children in Western Kenya.
- Supervised more than 10 masters students from the Great Lakes University of Kisumu in the field of Community Health and Development since 2006.
- Appointed internal and examiner, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology on a MSc thesis assessing the quality of honey in Kenya.
- Excellently managed the scientific and social programs as master of ceremony during the 4th Africa Nutrition & Epidemiology Conference (ANEC) held at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi Kenya, 3rd-10th October 2010
- Successfully coordinated the initiation and implementation of FOUR large randomized trials on new ready to use food formulations in THREE countries (Kenya, Zambia, and Democratic republic of Congo)
- Expanded the network of institutional collaborators and potential funders for my company thereby increasing research opportunities.
- Published eleven (11) peer reviewed papers in peer reviewed journals.
- Initiated and actively participated in the development of standards for ready to use foods by the Kenya Bureau of Standards; no standard existed before and this hampered marketing of such products
- Developed a complementary food infants in Zambia based on private-public-research institutions partnership model; the production of this food is set to be up-scaled by a private company in Lusaka.
- Among the first scientists to measure breast milk intake in infants based on stable isotope techniques and to show that improved complementary food do not displace breast milk
- Established Valid Nutrition company operations in Kenya from ground zero
- Pioneered a course in Community Nutrition at the Great Lakes University of Kisumu in 2007
- Presentation of a Distinguished Poster on infant feeding at the International Congress of Nutrition, Bangkok, October 2009

SKILLS PROFILE

- **Effective leadership** – established effectively and independently working teams to daily implement research activities in Kenya, DR Congo, and Zambia with only occasional supervisory visits
- **Team player** – successfully worked within multicultural teams and multidisciplinary teams to set up and implement large randomized trials

- **Self motivated and ability to work with least supervision** – achieved much with only on-line contact and occasional personal contact with supervisors who are based abroad.
- **Goal oriented** – achievement of role targets have surpassed expectations since most of the projects are nearing successful completion
- **Ability to multi-task** – with a role requiring travelling 40% of the time, I have been able to successfully deliver on administrative and technical roles satisfactorily, but at the same time create time for family activities.
- **Analytical and attention to detail** – have designed trial proposals, published papers and successfully supervised colleagues, MSc and PhD students, and reviewed scientific papers for journals
- **Excellent communication (writing and oral presentation)** – published scientific papers, represented my organization at meetings, presented both orally and by poster at large international meetings/conferences.

WORK EXPERIENCE

November 2011-Current: - Postdoctoral Scholar/Resident Principal Investigator. WASH Benefits Project, The Program in International and Community Nutrition at the University of California, Davis based in Western Kenya (Kakamega and Bungoma Counties).

- assist with project design and implementation specifically related to the delivery of lipid-based nutrient supplements (LNS) to children 6-24 months of age.
- communicating and coordinating with co-investigators and principal investigators, implementing LNS acceptability trials, developing survey instruments, conducting focus group interviews, supervising data collection with an emphasis on anthropometric outcomes,
- liaising with the Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) logistician to ensure timely ordering and delivery of supplies, and monitoring data quality control
- provide leadership, facilitate teamwork, develop collaborative relationships with colleagues and perform effectively as a member of a large research team.

February 2008 – October 2011: - Research & Development Manager, Valid Nutrition

- Research & Development Manager, Valid Nutrition, managing a EURO 1.4 million grant budget for the formulation, development and testing of the effectiveness of cheap and acceptable ready to use foods (RUFs) for use in addressing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in vulnerable groups including infants, young children and, HIV-infected individuals.
- Managing 4 research projects in Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo Zambia designed to assess the acceptability and effectiveness of the new RUFs (therapeutic, supplementary, and complementary).

- Creating new research partnerships in Ethiopia, and India, and expanding collaborator network such as working with the Medical Research Council (UK) in The Gambia.
- Role also involves human resource management and operation of company accounts, and supervision of food processing team.
- Representing Valid Nutrition at local and international meetings and conferences
- Writing of proposals and coordination of publications

April 2009 –date: - Co-Principal Investigator, Winfoods Project, a collaboration of the University of Nairobi Institute of Tropical & Infectious Disease (UNITID), University of Copenhagen, and Jomo Kenya University of Agriculture & Technology.

The Winfood Project aims to determine efficacy and bioavailability of micronutrients from complementary foods designed from traditional foods such as termites, small fish, amaranth, etc. Apart from being Co-principal investigator, I supervise two PhD students based at the University of Nairobi and one at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology.

June 2006 – January 2008: - Senior Lecturer, Nutrition & Biochemistry, Great Lakes University of Kisumu

- Teaching nutrition to nursing and community nutrition students
- Nutrition curriculum development
- Supervision of MSc & PhD students
- Day to day running of the Faculty of Agriculture as the Head
- Writing of grant proposals
- Member of the university senate
- Participation in community partnerships

February 2003 – June 2006: - PhD studies at Institute of Child Health, University College London with 18 months field work in Lusaka, Zambia

- Designed a novel complementary food for infants based on local Zambian cereals and legumes using private-public-research institution partnership model
- Assessed acceptability and efficacy of the complementary food on infant growth and breast milk intake
- Acquired skills in breast milk intake measurement using a stable isotope (deuterium oxide) and analysis using mass spectrometry
- Thesis writing

- Grant proposal writing – obtained funding from Ellison Medical Foundation/International Nutrition Foundation, Third World Nutrition, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Attending international conferences

January 2002: – September 2002:- Technical Representative (Foods), Corn Products Kenya Limited

- Part of sales team for modified starch, glucose syrups, dextrans, dextrose
- Customer support, for example jam stabilization with glucose syrup such as at Kenya Orchards Limited, and optimization of mashing process at Kenya Breweries Ltd where starch is used as an adjunct, confectionery processing such as support for Kakira Sugar Company Limited where glucose syrup is used to process sweets.

1996 – 1998:- Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Food Technology & Nutrition, University of Nairobi

- Assisting Principal investigator in day to day running of research project focusing on training of women groups to utilize foods they grow to process nutritionally improved complementary foods for infants and young children in two administrative districts in Kenya, namely Bomet and Muranga
- Financial administration
- Supervision of field project coordinators
- Reporting to donors
- Assisting with publications

EDUCATION

- 2003-2006:- PhD in Nutrition, Institute of Child Health, University of London, United Kingdom
- 1998-2000:- MSc in Food Science & Technology (Great Distinction), Ghent University , Belgium
- 1992-1996:- BSc in Food Science & Technology (First Class Honors), University of Nairobi, Kenya
- March 2009:- African Nutrition Leadership Programme, Elgro River Lodge, Potchesfrom, South Africa

- October 2009:- Global Nutrition Leadership Programme (Conflict Resolution), Bangkok, Thailand
- 2005: Managing uncertainty and complexity in the Work Place, Institute of Child Health London, United Kingdom

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

1. Ghislain Bisimwa, **Victor O. Owino**, Paluku Bahwere, Michèle Dramaix, Philippe Donnen, Filippo Dibari, Steve Collins (2012). Randomized controlled trial of the effectiveness of a soybean-maize-sorghum based ready to use complementary food (RUCF) paste on infant growth in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. *Am J Clin Nutr.* 95 (5): 1157-64.
2. **Victor O. Owino**, Abel H. Irena, Filippo Dibari, Steve Collins. Development and acceptability of a novel milk-free soybean-maize-sorghum ready to use therapeutic food (SMS-RUTF) based on industrial extrusion cooking process. In Press: *Matern Child Nutr.* 2012.
3. John N. Kinyuru, Silvenus O. Konyole, Glaston M. Kenji, Christine A. Onyango, **Victor O. Owino**, Bethwell O. Owuor, Benson B. Estambale, Henrik Friis, Nanna Roos (2012). Identification of Traditional Foods with Public Health Potential for Complementary Feeding in Western Kenya. *J Food Res.* 1 (2): 148-158.
4. **Owino VO**, Bahwere P, Bisimwa G, Mwangi CM, Collins S (2011). Breast milk intake of 9-10 month old rural infants given a ready to use complementary food (RUCF) in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. *Am J Clin Nutr;* 93(6): 1300-1304.
5. Sande JH, Kaseje D, Nyapada L, **Owino VO** (2010) Fear of being tested for HIV at ANC clinics associated with low uptake of intermittent preventive treatment (IPT) of malaria among pregnant women attending Bondo District Hospital, Western Kenya. *East Afr J Public Health.* 7(1):92-6.
6. **Victor O. Owino** (2010) Why lipid-based ready to use foods (RUF) must be key components of strategies to manage acute malnutrition in resource poor settings. *AJFAND* 10 (3): Available at: <http://www.ajfand.net/Issue33/Issue33commentary.html>
7. **Victor O. Owino** (2009) Adaptation of glass columns for clean-up in RP-HPLC determination of aflatoxins with post-column derivatisation with bromine and fluorescence detection. *AJFAND* 9 (3): Available at: <http://www.bioline.org.br/request?nd09025>
8. **Victor O. Owino**, Beatrice Amadi, Moses Sinkala, Suzanne Filteau, Andrew Tomkins (2008). Complementary feeding practices and nutrient intake from habitual complementary foods of infants 6-18 months old in Lusaka, Zambia. *AJFAND* 8 (1): Available at: www.ajfand.net/Issue18/PDFs/Victor-2590.pdf

9. **Owino VO**, Kasonka LM, Sinkala MM, Wells JK, Eaton S, Darch T, Coward A, Tomkins AM, Filteau SM (2007). Fortified complementary foods with or without α -amylase treatment increase hemoglobin but do not reduce breast milk intake of 9-mo-old Zambian infants. *Am J Clin Nutr* ; 86 (4): 1094-1103.
10. **Victor O. Owino**, Moses Sinkala, Beatrice Amadi, Andrew M. Tomkins, Suzanne M. Filteau (2007). Acceptability, storage stability and costing of α -amylase-treated maize-beans-groundnuts-bambaranuts complementary blend. *J Sci Food Agric* 87 (6): 1022-1029.
11. **Victor Ochieng Owino** (2005). Modification of complementary foods in Zambia. *ENN Issue 25: Page 11*. Available at: <http://fex.ennonline.net/25/modification.aspx>
12. **Owino VO** and Muroki NM (1999). Effect of Tempe and sodium metabisulphite on the microbiological quality, development of rancidity, and sensory quality of Nile perch (*Lates niloticus*) sausages. *Food Nutr Bull.* 20 (2): 221-227.

PhD Student Supervision

1. Silvenus Ochieng Konyole: 2009 - date. Effect of improved complementary foods processed using traditional foodstuffs on growth, iron and zinc status of infants in Western Kenya . University of Nairobi. Status: main randomized trial underway in Mumias District since January 2012 and expected to end January 2013
2. Sellina Ayoma Onyango: 2011-date. Effect of improved complementary foods processed using traditional foodstuffs on body composition and psychomotor development of infants in Western Kenya. University of Nairobi. Status: main randomized trial underway in Mumias District since January 2012 and expected to end January 2013 .
3. John Ndungu Kinyuru: 2009-date. Development, iron and zinc bioavailability of improved complementary foods processed using traditional foodstuffs. Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. Status: First draft of thesis submitted for supervisor review.

Masters Student Supervision

1. John Sande. Uptake of Intermittent Preemptive Treatment of Malaria among pregnant women attending Bondo District Hospital. 2007-2008. Great Lakes University of Kisumu. Thesis successfully defended. Work published in 2010: *East Afr J Public Health.* 7(1):92-6.
2. Albert Obuyi. Factors influencing on set of sexual activity among school-going teenagers in Nairobi East District. Great Lakes University of Kisumu. Status: Thesis successfully defended in 2011.
3. Peter Ochieng Akomo. Shelf stability and contamination of lipid-based ready to use foods. 2010-date. University of Nairobi. Status: Field work complete write up underway.

ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

- Member of local organizing committee and international scientific committee for the 4th Africa Nutrition Epidemiological Conference to be held in Nairobi, 4-8th October 2010

- In 2008 and 2009, organized two successful fundraising drives to church development activities in rural and urban local churches
- Enjoy travelling, watching football, and walking

REFEREES

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