



**Omonike Arike Olaleye, PhD, MPH**  
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Omonike Arike Olaleye, Ph.D. MPH. is the Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation, and a Professor of Pharmacology at Texas Southern University (TSU). Her formal training in pharmacology and epidemiology, were at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Harvard University respectively. Omonike has a strong background and expertise in pharmacology and epidemiology research spanning over 20 years, working on research programs focused on diseases that disproportionately affect underrepresented minorities and/or underserved populations. Recently, Omonike's Infectious Diseases Drug Discovery laboratory at TSU recently discovered and characterized potent clinically approved drugs that are being repurposed for prophylactic and treatment purposes in the fight against COVID-19. Rapid optimization and clinical advancement of these drugs are underway to potentially accelerate antiviral therapy against COVID-19. Presently, she leads the \$8.63M NIH-funded Center for Biomedical and Minority Health Research (CBMHR) <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/news-events/features/training-workforce-dev/olaleye.html>

By the grace of God, through her leadership, TSU maintained and was reaffirmed High Research Activity “R2” status by the Carnegie Classification on January 26, 2022. In addition, under her supervision, TSU’s research and development experienced tremendous growth including the development of several advanced core research & development facilities, state-of the art instrumentation and equipment, increased grant and contracts funding, strengthened collaborations/partnerships between TSU faculty, staff, students and investigators at the TMC, community, industry and other research-intensive institutions. Omonike is passionate about mentoring the next generation of scientists. She led the successful implementation of a structured and collaborative faculty-peer mentoring program entitled: The Collaborative TSU Experience and Academic Mentoring in RCMI (TEAMRCMI). This novel collaborative program majorly targets URMAs and has already begun to impact our faculty and research scientists as evidenced by increased grant applications, funded grants, peer-reviewed publications, and enhancement of research projects focused on health disparities and minority health. Omonike has published papers/abstracts with up to 125 MCH trainees/interns/fellows. Some of these students have received admission to schools of medicine, pharmacy, public health, residencies and internships at national laboratories,

National Institute of Health-UTEP BUILDing Scholars, and the Federal Title V MCH programs. In addition, two of her MCH students served as Federal Ambassadors for the MCH Pipeline program in the US. Furthermore, Omonike serves on the advisory council of the Baylor College of Medicine Center of Excellence-Health Equity, Training and Research. Previously as Interim/Assistant Dean of Student Services at TSU, Omonike had administrative oversight of the Office for Student Services in COPHS serving over 1,490 racially, ethnically and culturally diverse students. Altogether, she has several years of experience working with promising diverse students/professionals; having mentored over 100 individuals, who have progressed successfully in their academics and/or professional career.