



**Omonike Arike Olaleye, PhD., MPH.**

Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation, and Professor of Pharmacology

**Texas Southern University**

American Council on Education Fellow  
Office of the Chancellor

**The University of Texas System**

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 biomedical research and public health spanning over a combined 21 years, working on research programs focused on diseases that disproportionately affect underrepresented minorities and/or underserved populations. Presently, Omonike is a 2023-2024 American Council on Education (**ACE**) Fellow, working with the Chancellor of The University of Texas System.

Recently, Omonike received the Health Resources and Services Administration Award, to support and establish “The Gulf Coast Collaborative Center for Maternal Health Research, Education, Advanced Training, Community Engagement, Health Equity and Justice at TSU (**MH-REACH**<sup>TSU</sup>).” Omonike’s Infectious Diseases Drug Discovery laboratory at TSU 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 \$8.63 million NIH-funded Center for Biomedical and Minority Health Research (**CBMHR**)<https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/news-events/features/training-workforce-dev/olaleye.html>; and she serves as the Co-Director for Educational, Training and Outreach Programs for the Gulf Coast Consortium Center for Comprehensive Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic and Formulation <https://www.gcc-ccpf.com/about/>, a 5-year \$5.1 million funding from Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas; and Co-Founding Director of the TSU Institute for Drug Discovery and Development (**iD3**), a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Chemical Biology Consortium (CBC) for Experimental Therapeutics (NEXt) designated institute through contracts from Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc.

By the grace of God, under her leadership, TSU maintained and was reaffirmed High Research Activity “R2” status by the Carnegie Classification on January 26, 2022. Under her supervision, TSU’s drug discovery research experienced tremendous growth including the development of several advanced research infrastructure and core facilities, state-of the art instrumentation/equipment, increased grant and contracts funding/expenditures, synergy of community engagement infrastructure and resources and strengthened strategic partnerships.

Omonike is passionate about mentoring the next generation of scientists. During her 16 academic years at TSU, she led the successful implementation and sustainability of: 1) structured and collaborative faculty-peer mentoring program entitled: The Collaborative TSU Experience and Academic Mentoring in RCMI (TEAM-RCMI). This novel program impacted TSU's faculty and research scientists as evidenced by increased grant applications, funded grants, peer-reviewed publications, and enhancement of research projects; and 2) Omonike established TSU Leadership, Education, Advancement in Undergraduate Transdisciplinary Research Pathways (TSU-LEAP - for collaborative research engagement of undergraduate and graduate students, research staff, community, and faculty members). To date, Omonike has trained up to 220 trainees/interns/doctoral graduates/fellows and published several papers/abstracts. Previously as Interim/Assistant Dean of Student Services at TSU, Omonike had 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. Omonike is married to Kolawole Olaleye, and they are blessed with two children. Together as a family, they love serving God, traveling and dancing!