



GODSWILL CHIKWENDU OKARA

- *Currently serving as IFBLS Board of Director 2022-2024*
- *Nominated for the position of IFBLS Board Director 2024-2026*

ASSOCIATION MEMBER

NIGERIA - Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (AMLSN)

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS:

- Educational Advancement of BLS
- BLS practice at the consultant and specialist levels
- [Link to video](#) at a recent ECOWAS Regional Council for Health Professionals Education (ERCHPE)

SUGGESTION(S) FOR FUTURE IFBLS ACTIVITIES AND HOW YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP EACH:

- As a member of the Membership Committee of the 2022-2024 Board of Directors, I have realized that the strength of the IFBLS as a global organisation of our profession lies in the number of countries and biomedical medical laboratory scientists it represents. The need to expand and increase the stature and strength of IFBLS is a core mandate of the Board of Directors.

I played a very active role in sensitizing and mobilizing BLS Associations in over twenty African countries in the past two years, which has resulted in the following countries joining the IFBLS as full members in the past two years, Togolese Association of Medical Biologists (ABM-Togo); Medical Laboratory Scientists Association of Tanzania (MeLSAT); the National Association of Biomedical Technologists in Burundi (ANTEBBU); others in the process of joining the IFBLS are Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Egypt, Cote d'Ivoire, Rwanda and Benin Republic.

With the recent inauguration of the Federation of Associations of Laboratory Professionals in Africa, many more countries would be joining our global family of IFBLS in the very near future. I am committed to the accomplishment of this objective if re-elected.

- As a member of the IFBLS Development Committee in the 2022-2024 Board of Directors, I have contributed to the enrichment of the discourse on IFBLS engagement with the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) to ensure that the BLS profession is properly and deservedly classified as a full-fledged profession by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in the next ISCO classification exercise. The need to sustain and deepen the engagement with the Technical Working Group (TWG) and the ILO Statistics Department by updating these vital organs of the ILO with the current educational, practice and functional structure of the BLS profession globally is imperative. I will pursue this imperative if re-elected.

I contributed to improving the International Directory of Biomedical Laboratory Science Education (IDBLSE) database as an important source of information on the BLS profession and the need to make it reflective of the growth the profession has undergone in different parts of the world, such as the 5-year Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science (BMLS) degree, the 6-year Medical Laboratory Science Doctorate (MLSD) degree, the Doctor of Clinical Laboratory Science (DCLS) degree programs; the 4-year Specialist Postgraduate Fellowship training in several member countries of IFBLS. I contributed to fashioning out the policy guideline for the Britta Karlsson Advancement Program.

I contributed to increasing the IFBLS collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) by keying into the 76th World Health Assembly Resolution 2023: Strengthening Diagnostics Capacity.

- It is my firm conviction that the IFBLS needs to systematically leverage on the global spotlight the COVID-19 Pandemic brought to our profession and its practitioners, to reposition the profession for increased social reckoning and professional relevance. I intend to actively contribute to the achievement of this laudable objective.