

CURES WITHIN REACH RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: TEACHING AND LEADING INNOVATIONS FOR RESPIRATORY HEALTH

In 2020, Cures Within Reach funded **Dr. Olanisun Adewole** at **Obafemi Awolowo University & Teaching Hospitals Complex** to support a Phase I trial adding atorvastatin, a common lipid-lowering drug, to enhance therapeutic treatment of tuberculosis (TB). Current TB treatment is lengthy and often associated with poor compliance, but this proof-of-concept trial added atorvastatin to accelerate TB clearance and decrease rates of relapse.

He has dedicated his career focus towards research, treatment, and policy in tuberculosis and respiratory health. He has led numerous clinical trials aimed at improving the effectiveness of TB diagnosis through genetic biomarkers, and he has taught and trained medical students and physicians on respiratory medicine for over a decade.

Dr. Adewole has been recognized for his leadership and innovation. He was named as one of the **top 10 nominees for the Africa Innovation Prize** in 2017 for his self-designed rapid TB skin test, was recognized by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation with a Keystone Symposium Scholarship in Public Health and won the 2006 Japanese Respiratory Society Young Investigator Award. He serves as the Editor-in Chief of *Nigerian Journal of Health Sciences*, among other publications. His previous roles include country ambassador for Royal Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene, secretary general for the Nigerian Thoracic Society and technical authorship for Nigeria's TB and COVID-19 management guidelines.

He is an innovator, **creating new solutions to advance respiratory health outcomes**. His passion for medicine has led him to wear many hats: as researcher, physician, professor, inventor and public health leader. He hopes that his work **serves as encouragement to local scientists to develop home grown and patient-centered solutions**.



PROFILE

- Dr. Olanisun Adewole is an inventor in respiratory medicine, with three patents for improving tuberculosis diagnostic technology
- Dr. Adewole currently serves as a professor of medicine and consultant physician/pulmonologist at Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, and has trained and worked in Nigeria, Belgium, the UK and Gambia.

CWR FUNDING

- This now completed **\$50,000 Phase I clinical trial** tested the addition of a generic drug to enhance tuberculosis treatment.
- Dr. Adewole and this trial represent two of Cures Within Reach's communities:
 - **LMICs / Developing World**
 - **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

