

# CURES WITHIN REACH RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT: REDEFINING CANCER CARE IN NIGERIA

In 2022, Cures Within Reach funded **Dr. Atara Ntekim** at **University of Ibadan / University College Hospital - Ibadan in Nigeria** to support a Phase I clinical trial combining clofazimine, a common antibiotic, to chemotherapy regimens for patients with triple negative breast cancer in Nigeria. Widely available and well tolerated, clofazimine has been shown to destroy triple negative breast cancer cells in the lab. The goal of this trial is to establish dose safety prior to follow-on trials examining effectiveness and potential diagnostic biomarkers.

Dr. Ntekim is an experienced radiation oncologist and clinical researcher, working towards better management of cancer care for patients across Nigeria. Dr. Ntekim's research philosophy matches the ongoing science of cancer treatment with real-world public health measures, identifying gaps in care and deploying improved measures to better his patients. His research work includes identifying new patterns of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment response, integrating cost-effective radiotherapy in low-resource countries, and understanding the relationship between HIV infection and cancer.

Dr. Ntekim's groundbreaking research work has been recognized and funded by major organizations across the globe: an NIH Emerging Global Leader in breast cancer and an awardee of the Africa Research Excellence Fund in prostate cancer biomarkers.

Dr. Ntekim has made it his mission to "work toward effective cancer control in Nigeria" by redefining how cancer care is approached. His hope is that public leadership supported by private organizations can create the framework for affordable facilities.



## PROFILE

- Dr. Atara Ntekim is redefining the way cancer is cared for in Nigeria, leading multiple trials on cost-effective diagnosis and treatment tools.

## CWR FUNDING

- This \$50,000 **Phase I clinical trial** is testing the addition of an antibiotic to chemotherapy treatments in patients with triple negative breast cancer.
- Dr. Ntekim and this trial represent 3 of Cures Within Reach's communities:
  - **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**
  - **Developing World / LMICs**
  - **Oncology**