



**Sub-Saharan Africa
University Rankings 2023**

Ranked 1st in Nigeria, 1st in West Africa and 7th Best in Africa

August 7, 2024.

The Center Leader,

Covenant Applied Informatics and Communication-Africa Centre of Excellence (CApIC-ACE),

Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State.

Dear Sir,

IMPACT OF CAPIC-ACE ON THE COVENANT UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY

The Covenant University Center for Research, Innovation and Discovery (CUCRID), would like to use this medium to express the impacts the world bank funded CApIC-ACE projects have had on the research outputs, activities, facilities and innovations at CUCRID from inception till date. The referred impacts include:

1. Research Infrastructure, Facilities and Software

The CApIC-ACE is one center at Covenant with top-notch equipment for research on cancer genomics, gene sequencing, tissue culturing and malaria research; all of which have resulted in improvements in the quality of research conducted at CUCRID as well as increased her research productivity on a monthly basis. The integration of the Generalized Federated Learning of Sequential Data (FEDGEN) labs 1 and 2, provides a viable database for data storage where students/researchers can source for data to ease their research activities. CApIC-ACE occupies a section of the 3rd floor of CUCRID, and has added to the list of world class facilities and laboratories at CUCRID ranging from the Cancer Genomics lab to the molecular, in vitro and two insectary lab facilities (i.e., labs 1 and 2) in which the MiSeq Sequencer, Qiagen Thermal Cycler, a Covaris M220 Focused-ultrasonicator and an Azure 200 Gel Documentation System are installed.

CUCRID is also aware of CApIC-ACE's recent purchase of the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) equipment which is intended to upgrade the latter's research activities which will in turn have a positive impact on Covenant Universities research outputs.

Other useful research equipment at the center which help to foster research activities at CUCRID include an autoclave, a pH meter, Olympus microscope, microcentrifuge, Bhrom refrigerator, Surgifield water bath, micro-hematocrit centrifuge, colony counter, Testa biosafety cabinet, laminar flow kit equipment, a liquid nitrogen tank, OHAUS weighing balance and microplate reader. All of the aforementioned equipment have given a face-lift to the outlook of CUCRID in entirety.

2. Increased Collaborations and Field Weighted Citation Impact in Scopus

Considering the recent spate of events at CApIC-ACE which also includes the development and upgrade of equipment such as the cancer genomics, in vitro and insectary facilities, CUCRID has recorded an increase in the number of high profile research collaborators in correspondence with high impact publications in Q1/Q2 and Clarivate Analytics member-Journals; these have also helped to raise the Field Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) of Covenant University in Scopus as judged by the turn out of the number of publications contributed by CApIC-ACE researchers in the top 1% journal category. These are evident in publications doled out by the center's researchers from 2018-present.

3. Grantsmanship and Grant Funding

CApIC-ACE has consistently supported the research activities at CUCRID by allowing her members to help facilitate sessions in the recently concluded 10-week research clinic series organized by CUCRID, which was aimed at fostering research activities in the university. A total of three facilitators were called upon to take on crucial topics bothering on “Foundational Research Skills by Prof. Emeka Iweala (May 29, 2024)”, “Strategies for Securing External Grants for Quality Research by Prof. Solomon Rotimi (June 4, 2024)” and “Professional Development by Prof. Olubanke Ogunlana (June 19, 2024)”.

Within the first quarter of the year-2024, CApIC-ACE made a call for grant application to support research activities of Postgraduate students at Covenant University in which the CUCRID Research Coordinator/Deputy Director Research was a member of the team that helped to monitor and evaluate the entire process. A total of \$15,000 dollar worth of grants was doled out by the CApIC-ACE to support research activities at CUCRID/Covenant University.

4. Data Gathering and Analysis

As a result of the quality of equipment available in the laboratories at CApIC-ACE, data gathering, storage and analyses have become somewhat easier. Researchers are constantly leveraging on the network-base and expertise of professionals and postgraduate researchers at CApIC-ACE via CUCRID, in the areas of data collation, analysis and security for current and future research. In the realm of Science, qualitative research publications span from quality analyses, which are true reflections of quality publications in top-rated journal outlets as portrayed in the majority of publications that are affiliated to CApIC-ACE and Covenant University.

5. Regionality and Internationalisation: Scholarly Output and Rankings

Since 2018 to date, CApIC-ACE has contributed a total of 623 publications in journals indexed in Clarivate Analytics and Scopus. These publications have significantly had a huge impact on the ranking results of Times Higher Education (World University and Impact Rankings), Young University and Sub-Saharan rankings where in 2023, Covenant University ranked No. 1 in Nigeria, No. 1 in West Africa and No. 7 in Africa. Therefore, the center has made Covenant University a dominant force in the research space of top ranked Universities in the world as well as Sub-Saharan Africa. These results have aided in attracting foreign students at postgraduate level and researchers to Covenant University, which has also entrenched in an unprecedented rise in research activities and sponsorship/partnership-

requests by international organizations including World Bank and the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC).

6. Community Impact Initiatives

CApIC-ACE has added a crown to her research efforts by interfacing with a host of communities within Ota which is aimed at communicating cancer and malaria prevention routines via outreach programmes, awareness campaigns and provision of educational resources as informed by the findings of the center's research activities. Despite being in alignment with the Covenant University Community Development Initiative Programme, which is usually handled by the Women Development and Human Security Initiatives Research Cluster- an arm of CUCRID, the supportive efforts rendered by CApIC-ACE have helped to speed up the level of cancer and malaria awareness of persons residing in the target-communities.

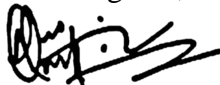
7. Innovation and Entrepreneurship

A couple of the CApIC-ACE research projects have been recently identified by CUCRID as product-based initiatives that may eventually end up as patented products. Therefore, it is believed that the former will contribute her quota to the number of filed patents at CUCRID upon completion of the projects for which the CApIC-ACE grants were awarded as already mentioned in section 3.

In the early quarter of 2024,CApIC-ACE in collaboration with CUCRID, organized an event to spur innovation and entrepreneurship within Covenant University. In this event, calls were made to prospective innovators and entrepreneurs whose projects were scrutinized for their commercial viability and entrepreneurial prospects by a host of seasoned panelists in order to assess their viability for start-ups or funding support by the center. The programme helped to identify a number of prospective entrepreneurs that were penned down for support by CApIC-ACE.

In conclusion, the activities of CApIC-ACE since her existence, has unveiled the commitments of world bank and the outstanding benefits that are inherent in the organization's projections in subsequent years. Therefore, CUCRID is so blessed to be associated with CApIC-ACE and highly anticipates the furtherance of her activities at Covenant University beyond the 5-year commitment of world bank.

Kind Regards,



Prof. Conrad Omonhinmin

Director, CUCRID