



1st August 2023

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 DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

It is with great pleasure that I share the significant impacts that the CApIC-ACE has had on the Department of Biochemistry since the inception of this World Bank-funded project. These impacts are categorized thus:

### 1. Teaching and Research Infrastructure

The provision of a state-of-the-art cancer genomics and *in vitro* laboratory, as well as an insectary facility, which are equipped with advanced equipment, such as the MiSeq Sequencer sequencer, Qiagen Thermal Cycler, Covaris M220 Focused-ultrasonicator, Azure 200 Gel Documentation System, tissue culture and other sundry molecular biology instruments, have revolutionized our research and teaching capabilities. Additionally, installing two smart boards in our lecture halls and teaching laboratories has enhanced the quality and interactivity of our instructional methods, thereby facilitating a modern learning environment.

### 2. Development of New Laboratories/Upgrading of Existing Labs

As stated in 1 above, the establishment of new laboratories, viz: cancer genomics *in vitro*, and insectary, has not only expanded our research horizons but also provided an upgraded space for high-impact studies in cancer genomics and malaria research, particularly focusing on African populations. This facility has enabled us to conduct cutting-edge research and attract external collaborations and funding, resulting in increased publication in high-impact journals.

### 3. Data Gathering and Analysis

With the advanced data analysis tools provided, including bioinformatics software and equipment for sequencing and electrophoresis, our department has significantly improved its capacity for data gathering and analysis. This has resulted in more robust research outputs and publications.

### 4. National and International Programme Accreditations

The enhanced infrastructure and academic environment have significantly contributed to our recent accreditations. In June 2022, our MSc, MPhil/PhD, and PhD Biochemistry programs received international accreditation from the Royal Society of Biology (RSB). This was preceded by the National Universities Commission (NUC) accreditation of our MSc and PhD Biochemistry programs in April 2022. These accreditations reflect our commitment to

maintaining high academic standards and validation of the improvement of the quality of our programs as a result of the CapIC ACE.

### **5. Regionality and Internationalisation**

The Department of Biochemistry has become a hub for regional and international collaborations facilitated by the capabilities provided by CapIC-ACE. We have hosted visiting scholars and research fellows from across Africa and beyond. Specifically, we now have students from other African countries, including Cameroon and the Republic of Benin.

### **6. Increased Postgraduate Students' Enrolment**

There has been a notable increase in postgraduate student enrolment, which is a direct result of the CapIC ACE scholarship provided to the students, the improved research facilities, and the availability of advanced training programs. The lab's resources have also attracted high-quality applicants from diverse backgrounds.

### **7. Community Impact Initiatives**

We have extended our research and findings to the community through various outreach programs, particularly focusing on cancer awareness and malaria. This engagement has been instrumental in raising awareness and providing educational resources to the local population.

### **8. Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

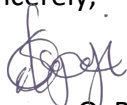
The state-of-the-art equipment and facilities have fostered an environment conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship. Several student-led projects have emerged, some of which have potential commercial applications, enhancing our department's reputation as a center of innovation. These projects enjoy special additional funding from CapIC ACE

### **9. Quality of Graduates**

The quality of our graduates has improved significantly, reflected in their performance in both academic and professional arenas. All our students are gainfully employed in industry or in PhD programs locally and abroad. This is a direct impact of the practical experience gained through hands-on training in advanced research techniques that they gain during their training.

In conclusion, the CapIC-ACE initiative has profoundly impacted the Department of Biochemistry, enhancing our teaching, research, and community engagement capabilities. We look forward to continued collaboration and further achievements as we build on this strong foundation.

Yours sincerely,



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Head of Department  
Department of Biochemistry  
Covenant University