

April 7, 2025

Ogun State Health Research Ethics Committee (OGHREC)
Office of the Permanent Secretary
Ogun State Ministry of Health

Dear Chairman,

I am pleased to write this letter of introduction on behalf of William McCarthy, Caroline Crain, Simon Birk, and Rakesh Kathiresan, second-year medical students at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston in the United States.

These students are participating in a global health research project under the mentorship of an interdisciplinary team, including Dr. Jayhun Lee and Dr. Irene Stafford at our institution and Dr. Manu Prakash with the Stanford Bioengineering group. They are also working closely with several Nigeria-based collaborators, including Dr. Tope Olubodun, Dr. Dola Adedayo, and Dr. Adebayo Adeniyi at the Federal Medical Center Abeokuta; Dr. Akinola Oluwole at Sightsavers; and Dr. Uwem Ekpo at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB).

The project seeks to explore innovative and cost-effective diagnostic tools for urogenital schistosomiasis control strategies, with intended work to be carried out in Ogun State.

We respectfully request your support in facilitating ethical clearance for this project through the Ogun State Health Research Ethics Committee, should it meet local standards. The students are also seeking IRB approval through their home institution in Texas. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristina Tebo

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