
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: Okobi Eko Ekpo	POSITION TITLE: Assistant Professor of Anatomy & Cellular Biology, Department of Biological Sciences, Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi
EDUCATION/TRAINING (<i>Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing,</i>	
INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE
University of Calabar, Nigeria	B.Sc. Anatomy (majoring in Anatomical imaging)
University of Ibadan, Nigeria	M.Sc. Anatomy (majoring in Nervous system anatomy)
University of Pretoria, South Africa	Ph.D. Anatomy (majoring in Histology and Cell Biology)

A. Relevant Professional Memberships

- 2003 - present Member, Society of Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA)
2009 - present Member, International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN)
2010 - present Member, American Association for Anatomy (AAA)
2013 - present Alumnus, International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) Schools
2017 - present Member, Human Anatomy and Physiology Society (HAPS)

B. Relevant Research Experience and Skills

1. Cell Biology:

Primary and cell lines culture; Bioactivity testing: effects of phytochemicals, botanical extracts, nanoparticles and repurposed drugs; techniques: immunocytochemistry, immunohistochemistry, oxidative stress assays, and assessment of neurotransmitter levels.

2. Animal Studies and Histology:

Animal handling; microsurgery; neurobehavioral assessment; tissue processing; light and electron microscopy; histomorphometry using Image-j and ZEN image software; immunohistochemistry

3. Applied Anatomy:

Radiological anatomy and analysis of radiological images; brain dissection; gross and histological morphometry.

C. Current Research Interests

- Effects of natural products, nanoparticles and repurposed drugs in CNS diseases
- Neuroprotection mechanisms in neurodegenerative diseases.
- Neurotoxicity mechanisms

D. Most Recent Peer-reviewed Publications (in chronological order - publication year)

1. Kangwa TS, Hiss DC, Hussein AA, **Ekpo OE**, Omoruyi SI (2024). *In vitro* neuroprotective effects of *boophone disticha*, *brunsvigia bosmaniae* and *strumaria truncata* extracts in SH-SY5Y cells. South African Journal of Botany 166, 512-524. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sajb.2024.01.062> (IF: 3.1; Q2)
2. Omoruyi, S.I., Delpont, J., Kangwa, T.S., Rahman Z., Hussein AA., Lorke DE & **Ekpo OE** (2024). An update on the bioactivities and health benefits of two plant-derived lignans, phyllanthin and hypophyllanthin. Advances in Traditional Medicine (ADTM). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13596-023-00738-7> (IF: 2.48; Q2)

3. Boltman T, Meyer M, **Ekpo O.** (2023): Diagnostic and Therapeutic Approaches for Glioblastoma and Neuroblastoma Cancers Using Chlorotoxin Nanoparticles. *Cancers* 15(13):3388. <https://doi.org/10.3390/cancers15133388>. (IF: 5.06; Q2)
4. Omoruyi SI., Akinfenwa, AO., **Ekpo, OE.**, Hussein AA. (2023). Aspalathin and linearthin from *Aspalathus linearis* (Rooibos) protect SH-SY5Y cells from MPP+-induced neuronal toxicity. *South African Journal of Botany* 157, 53-63. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sajb.2023.03.042>. (IF: 3.20; Q2)
5. Nkemzi AQ, **Ekpo OE,** & Oguntibeju OO (2022). Reproductive, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, protective and antidiabetic activities of *Helichrysum* Mill. species. *Plant Science Today*. <https://doi.org/10.14719/pst.1484> (IF: 0.83; Q3)
6. Ajibare AC, Ebuehi OAT, Adisa RA, Sofidiya MO, Olugbuyiro JAO, Akinyede KA, Iyiola HA, Adegoke YA, Omoruyi SI, **Ekpo OE (2022)**. Fractions of *Hoslundia opposita* Vahl and *hoslundin* induced apoptosis in human cancer cells via mitochondrial-dependent reactive oxygen species (ROS) generation. *Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy* 153, 113475. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biopha.2022.113475>. (IF: 7.419; Q1)
7. Boomgaard A, Fritz KA, Isafiade OE, Kotze RCM, **Ekpo O,** Smith M, Gessler T, Filton KJ, Cupido CC, Aden B, Yokwe N, Mayekiso L, Gxowa S, Levitt A, Dlodlo L, Madushana N, de Laroche Souvestre DL. (2022): A Novel Immersive Anatomy Education System (Anat_Hub): Redefining Blended Learning for the Musculoskeletal System. *Applied Sciences* 12(11):5694. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app12115694>. (IF: 3.14; Q3)
8. Akinyede, KA., Hughes, GD., **Ekpo, OE,** & Oguntibeju, OO (2022): Comparative Study of the Antioxidant Constituents, Activities and the GC-MS Quantification and Identification of Fatty Acids of Four Selected *Helichrysum* Species. *Plants (Basel, Switzerland)*, 11(8), 998. <https://doi.org/10.3390/plants11080998>. (IF: 4.67; Q1)
9. Akinyede KA, Oyewusi HA, Hughes GD, **Ekpo OE,** Oguntibeju OO (2022): *In vitro* Evaluation of the Anti-Diabetic Potential of Aqueous Acetone *Helichrysum petiolare* Extract (AAHPE) with Molecular Docking Relevance in Diabetes Mellitus. *Molecules* 27(1):155. <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules27010155>. (IF: 4.67; Q2)
10. Mzezewa, SC, Omoruyi, SI, Zondagh, LS, Malan, SF, **Ekpo, O. E.,** & Joubert, J. (2021). Design, synthesis, and evaluation of 3, 7-substituted coumarin derivatives as multifunctional Alzheimer's disease agents. *Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry*, 36(1), 1606-1620. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14756366.2021.1913137>. (IF: 5.69; Q2)

Book Chapter

11. Shameemah Abrahams, Katelyn Cuttler, Minke Bekker, Jonathan Carr, Soraya Bardien, **Okobi Ekpo** (2021): Antioxidant effects of curcumin and neuroaging. In *Factors Affecting Neurological Aging*, Chapter 52, pp. 603-616. Editors: Colin R. Martin, Victor R. Preedy, Rajkumar Rajendram. Academic Press. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-817990-1.00052-4>.

(Publications selected from 63 peer-reviewed publications)