**The Taimaka Project:***Tackling childhood malnutrition through treatment and innovation*

**About Taimaka's Summer Fellowship Opportunity:**

The Taimaka Project is a joint Nigerian-American NGO focused on tackling acute malnutrition through treatment and innovation. In May 2023, Taimaka will expand its community based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) program to treat 5,500 children with moderate and severe acute malnutrition. Within our CMAM program, we implement rigorous research studies to build the evidence for ideas with the potential to make treatment for acute malnutrition more effective and accessible. As we grow, we would love to partner with students studying public health and related disciplines to offer a mutually beneficial experience – one in which students can get intensive, first-hand experience in working with a CMAM-based research program in West Africa, and one in which we can benefit from their education, capacity to assist our program, and excitement!

This summer fellowship is flexible and can be tailored to individual student's interests, as well as the requirements of their practicum or academic program. Broadly, the fellowship is intended to take place between May and September 2023 (exact dates are flexible), with preference for fellows who can spend at least six weeks in Gombe, Nigeria. The fellow would be expected to work roughly 40 hours per week alongside our team in Nigeria. Fellows would work primarily within the Research Department, which implements research studies within the CMAM program. However, we are a small team, and fellows would have the opportunity to learn about all areas of our CMAM program and contribute to day-to-day operations to shape, manage, and evaluate our treatment of children with acute malnutrition. While this fellowship is unpaid, we are able to provide housing on-site for the duration of the fellowship.

**Potential Responsibilities:**

* Design, implement, and analyse focus groups and interviews with CMAM staff, caregivers, and/or community members to enhance our understanding of program quality, gaps in our services, perceptions of current research projects, and priorities for operational research.
* Contribute to a mixed-methods evaluation of Taimaka's Tom Brown supplementary feeding program, which uses locally-sourced ingredients to treat children with moderate acute malnutrition.
* Support data collection and preliminary analysis for an RCT involving the effectiveness of azithromycin as a routine drug used in CMAM with a team of researchers led by Dr. Catherine Oldenburg at the University of California – San Francisco.
* Support data collection and preliminary analysis for an RCT involving the effectiveness of automated voice calls to sustain health-seeking behaviours and reduce default rates with a team of researchers led by Dr. Caterina Alacevich at the University of Florida.
* Assist with planning and preparation for a survey of the prevalence of severe and moderate acute malnutrition in three areas of Gombe State, including assisting with survey design, staffing plans, and preparation of training materials.
* Contribute to preliminary scoping and initial study design for research projects related to maternal mental health, micronutrient supplementation, and gender dynamics in nutrition services delivery.
* Conduct desk reviews, analyses of program data, and qualitative and quantitative assessments to inform future research projects and contribute to shaping Taimaka's CMAM research portfolio.

**​Skills We Are Seeking:**

* Interest in working with a nonprofit organization
* Prior experience or skill with:
  + ​Nutrition programming
  + ​Working in cross-cultural settings
  + ​Maternal and child health
  + ​Quantitative analysis o Program Evaluation
  + ​Research design

**Living in Gombe, State Nigeria:**

* Gombe is designated a 'Do Not Travel' area by the Department of State. That said, the central part of Gombe that we reside in is much safer and more peaceful relative to the rest of the region.
* We have put policies in place to ensure the safety of our team and have never had any incidents that have compromised any of our personnel.
* We ask that students who are interested in joining us feel comfortable traveling internationally and taking basic steps to ensure their personal safety (e.g. not using ATMs at night).
* We welcome students who are excited about adapting to a new environment.

**How to Apply:**

To apply to join our team, please email Jennifer Ostrowski at jennifer@taimaka.org with your resume and a brief (500 word) statement of interest that highlights your relevant skills and why joining us for your practicum appeals to you. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. We look forward to hearing from you!

**About Us:**

The Taimaka Project is a joint Nigerian-American NGO focused on tackling acute malnutrition through treatment and innovation. We treat thousands of children suffering from moderate and severe acute malnutrition in a community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM program). To improve global malnutrition treatment, we collaborate with academics to rigorously test 4-6 candidate innovations each year in our CMAM program. If these candidate innovations prove effective, we advocate for changes to global standards of care and help other implementers adopt our innovations at scale. If we can reduce the cost of treatment by 1% through innovation, we can free up $3.4 million already spent on malnutrition globally and treat an additional 50,000 children a year, in perpetuity. Find out more at our website: [taimaka.org.](https://taimaka.org/)

**Management Team:**

* [Justin Graham](https://taimaka.org/about-us): Executive Director; BA PPE, Oxford; MA, Georgetown University; former US DoD development analyst, machine learning researcher at the Center for Strategic and International Studies
* [Dr. Abubakar Umar](https://www.linkedin.com/in/abubakar-umar-9668311b9?originalSubdomain=ng): Medical Director; MBBS University of Maiduguri; 10+ years of clinical experience managing cases of acute malnutrition in Gombe
* [Jennifer Ostrowski](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-ostrowski-129341102/): Research Director; MPH MIA, Columbia University; PFMH alum and former outpatient program coordinator, previously worked with various NGOs and CD