



Alumni Interview

Dr Beckie TAGBO

ADVAC 2008

“One main challenge remains - developing Vaccine against the Ebola virus”

What did ADVAC bring to you on both a personal and professional level?

ADVAC opened me into the world of Vaccinology, helped advance my career in that field and subsequently mentor many younger ones. It also enlarged my capacity to consult for governments and organizations and my network.

What in your opinion have been the most important advances and challenges in vaccinology over the past 20 years?

Advances: The decade of vaccines, the GVAP and especially the newer Rotavirus vaccines that have been rapidly introduced in both developed and developing countries with high impact on morbidity and mortality.

Challenges: The Vaccine associated polio paralysis and the vaccine derived polio virus and its associated problems mitigating against polio eradication.

Also developing Vaccine against the Ebola virus.

Why does this field remain so important?

Because of its high impact at a relatively low cost.

Because, except there is eradication of a particular VPD, any decline in coverage implies a come-back of the disease as we can see in the case of measles.

Because of increasing antivaccine movements and increasing level of intolerance of adverse events following immunization.