

Nyimasata Damba Danjo

Ann Arbor | Michigan | ndanjo@umich.edu

Education

PhD Candidate | Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology
University of Michigan | Roger Cone Lab | Ann Arbor, MI

September 2021-Present

Master of Public Health | Health Management and Policy

September 2025 - Present

University of Michigan | School of Public Health | Chear-LSI fellowship | MiSCDC Program | Ann Arbor, MI

Bachelor of Science | Neuroscience | Honors College

August 2017-May 2021

Michigan State University | CGPA 3.84/4 | Mastercard Foundation Scholar's Program | East Lansing, MI

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) pre-clinical coursework

September 2013- June 2017

University of the Gambia | The Gambia, West Africa

Publication

First Author | Abstract "The Role of MC3R in the Regulation of Lean Mass, Muscle Function and Exercise-induced Hyperphagia" | Journal of the Endocrine Society | doi.org/10.1210/jendso/bvaf149.01 2025

Co-Author | Chapter 3 | Educating African Immigrant Youth | Watson, Knight-Manuel et al., 2024

Public Health, Outreach, Applied Experience

Co-Founder | Inaugural Chair | Helpers for Health Gambia Foundation(H4H)

August 2019- February 2026

- Mobilized about 120 volunteer-health professionals to support rural health efforts in the Gambia.
- Fund-raised over \$8K for more than 7 mobile clinics for acquisition of medical, diagnostic equipment and drug dispensatory.
- Provided medical care for more than 1000 patients.
- Acquired health data on adult diabetes and hypertension and childhood immunization.
- Created a multi-partner network in rural health care access and delivery.

Research Experience

Graduate Student Research Assistant- Cone Lab | University of Michigan

May 2022- Present

- Investigating the Physiological Association of melanocortin receptor 3 and the regulation of lean mass.
- Investigating the regulation of exercise-induced feeding behavior and muscle function by MC3R.
- Applying genetic, molecular, and pharmacological tools to answer key research questions.

Biomed Research Assistant- Li Lab | Michigan State University

Feb- May 2021

- Collaborated (virtually) with graduate students on designing propeller blades using Fusion 360 tools.
- Led journal discussions on nanorobotics in drug delivery.

Biomed Research Assistant- Boss Lab | Michigan State University

Feb-Sept 2020

- Bred and cared for locust models used to develop chemical/biologic agent sensors.
- Managed lab personnel jointly with main lab manager.

Entomology Research Assistant- Tree Fruit Entomology Lab | Michigan State University

May-Aug 2018

- Reared the BMSB colony studied for its natural control through parasitoid invasion.
- Maintained records of harvested eggs, feed supplies and housing controls.
- Reported potential sources of infection, slow growth, and low egg yield and suggested control measures.

Teaching Experience

Graduate Student Instructor- MCDB 322 Course | Undergraduate Neuroscience Program

August-December 2023

- Supported 60 students' understanding of neuroscience topics through weekly discussion sections.
- Presented a lecture on the regulation of eating and drinking as it relates to my thesis project.

- Graded 5 term quizzes, 10 problem sets/paper assignments, and check-in questions for a total 105 students.

Work Experience

Service Center Representative- Residential and Hospitality Services | MSU May 2018-September 2020

- Provided resources, products, and service information across all residential hall neighborhoods at MSU.
- Facilitated conflict and concern resolutions for student residents.

Neurosurgery Intern - Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital| Banjul, Gambia May-August 2019

- Initiated the department's first EMR system for a more secured patient record and progress note keeping.
- Facilitated departmental outpatient clinic scheduling and appointment.
- Participated in Neurosurgery rounds, surgeries, patient admissions and discharges.
- Conducted Case Studies on Post Electrocution Headaches.

Talks/Presentations

King Talks Speaker| Titled "My Unplanned Journey, Battle and Presence, My Sickle Cell Story| Jan 2026

Poster Presenter|7th **Melanocortin Meeting**| Cambridge University, UK September 2025

Poster Presenter |**ENDO 2025**| San Francisco, CA July 2025

MCDB Checkpoint Two -Public Seminar| University of Michigan July 2023

Research Poster | Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, MSU April 2019

Leadership and Community Service

Proctor- Physiology Department |MSU January – February 2020

Student Volunteer Coordinator- Sparrow Hospital | Lansing, MI May 2018-August 2019

Executive Board Position- International Students' Association| MSU, MI

Scholarship, Fellowship, Honors (Awards, Recognitions, Grants)

Chear-LSI Child Health Policy Scholars Fellowship August 2025

Mastercard Foundation FAST Program Award November 2024

Margaret E. Gnegy Scholar| CEW+ Scholarships| July 2024

Exceptional Leadership Award |ASMSU| Senior Class Council Class of 2021 March 2021

MasterCard Foundation Scholars Entrepreneurship Grant Recipient March 2020

Honors College Community Giving Back Competition 2nd Awardee April 2020

One Health Challenge Award March 2018

MSU college of Natural Science Dean's Honor List (8 Semesters) Dec 2017-May 2021

Mastercard Foundation Scholar's Program |MSU| August 2017-May 2021
August 2018 - April 2019

Key Skills

Research Design: Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Scientific Data Analysis and Translation, Experimentation.

Data Processing: SQL, R, Microsoft Access, GraphPad.

Computer Programs: Microsoft Office, Google Drive.

Leadership: Active listening, public speaking, research communication, budgeting, sourcing, interpersonal, conflict management, communication, fund-raising, team building, resource management.