

## **Cynthia N. Rittenberg Travel Scholarship Winner**

### **Paulina Ackley Akpan-IdioK, PhD**

From among the MASCC Annual Meeting Travel Scholarship applicants, the highest-ranking nurse applicant is awarded the Cynthia N. Rittenberg Travel Scholarship. This year, the award goes to Paulina Ackley Akpan-IdioK, PhD, of Nigeria, for her abstract titled “Influence of Supportive Intervention on Caregiving Burden among Cancer Caregivers in Two Selected Primary Health Centres in Odukpani, Cross River State, Nigeria.”

Paulina holds a doctoral degree in Medical Surgical Nursing from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and is currently a lecturer in the Department of Nursing Sciences, University of Calabar, Nigeria. She has also worked as a bedside registered nurse midwife, a public/community health nurse and a primary healthcare tutor for over 30 years at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital.

Paulina is passionately committed to promoting supportive cancer care in developing countries. Her main research interests include oncology nursing, pain and palliative care, primary health care nursing, counseling, and nursing education, and she has published in numerous journals. She is a member of numerous professional associations, including the Oncology Nursing Society, International African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer, Hospice & Palliative Care Association of Nigeria, the Psycho-Oncology Society of Nigeria, the West African College of Nursing, the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives, and the Society of Oncology and Cancer Research of Nigeria.

Among her many awards and scholarships are the Professor O. I. Akinyele Memorial Award for the Best Student in Nutrition, University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria (2002), the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital Scholarship for the M.Sc Programme (2008-2014), and a University of Calabar Staff Development Study Fellowship (2015-2018).

Paulina is married and the mother of four children.