

# HDRUK

HEALTH DATA SCIENCE  
BLACK INTERNSHIP  
PROGRAMME

## Reflections and experience

Suliat Yusuf

Francesca Crowe

Centre for Health Data Science, Institute of Applied Health Research, University  
of Birmingham



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



# HDR UK Black Internship Programme: Experience



- Great to be involved in helping to support this internship
- HDRUK Midlands team involved our group from the beginning from helping to interview candidates for the internship to being involved in this sharing webinar
- I enjoyed the opportunity to be involved with Suliati's learning and see her understanding grow
  - Suliati was able to help me understand R script better!
- Helped to strengthen connection within the HDR UK Midlands team

# HDR UK Black Internship Programme: Reflections

- Early engagement is key
  - Met Suliat HDRUK Midlands conference
  - Face-to-face experience
- Have a plan but be flexible as plans can change
- Learning for Suliat and learning for us
  - Helped to identify areas where we can improve our training program and teaching materials
- Contributed to our team's sense of community
- Hope that we can continue to support Suliat's career



# HDR UK Black Internship Programme: off to a good start

- There are still systemic barriers and biases that can limit the opportunities and experiences of Black people in the UK, including in the field of health data research.
- Despite progress that has been made, there is still a need for greater awareness and action to address the structural inequalities that continue to disadvantage Black individuals and communities.
- While individuals can play a role in combating prejudice, addressing the institutional and structural biases requires a collective effort from all sectors of society, including academia, industry, and policy makers.
- The Black internship provide opportunities to improve equity and we are working to develop further support for our interns beyond the programme.

# HDR UK Black Internship Programme: Opportunity



- Great to be given the opportunity to participate in this internship
- Participating in the HDR UK Black Internship Programme was a transformative experience that significantly enhanced my skills and deepened my understanding of health data research.
- Through regular interactions and mentorship sessions, I gained valuable insights into the intricacies of data collection, analysis, and interpretation
- Francesca guided me through series of statistical analysis
- I had the privilege of participating in a project that focused on exploring the association between type 1 diabetes and epilepsy using matched cohort analysis.

# HDR UK Black Internship Programme: Learnings



- My experience at the HDR UK Black Internship Programme was incredibly enriching, providing me with numerous insights and invaluable learning experiences that have been pivotal in preparing me for a career in health data research.
- One of the key insights I gained during the internship was the critical role of data quality and integrity in research.
- I had the opportunity to work with real-world healthcare datasets, and it became evident that the accuracy and reliability of the data are fundamental to drawing meaningful conclusions.
- The HDR UK Black Internship Programme was crucial in getting me ready for a career in health data research. It didn't just teach me practical data analysis skills; it also helped me understand how important and intricate healthcare data can be.

# HDR UK Black Internship Programme: Skills gained

- The internship provided a unique opportunity to apply statistical modeling techniques to real healthcare data
- Working collaboratively on various research projects allowed me to significantly improve my data analysis skills in R
- The Black internship program encouraged collaboration with interns from diverse academic backgrounds.
- The collaborative nature of the program fostered an environment where interns could learn from each other's experiences and contribute to meaningful research projects in the field of health data analysis.







# HDR UK Black Internship Programme: Reflections and challenges

- I saw how health data analysis has the potential to influence healthcare policies, improve patient outcomes, and drive innovation in the medical field. This firsthand experience deepened my appreciation for the critical role of data in healthcare decision-making.
- One of the most valuable aspects of the internship was its exposure to diverse career paths within health data research. Through interactions with mentors and exposure to different research projects, I realized that this field offers a wide range of opportunities.
- In conclusion, the HDR UK Black Internship Programme at the University of Birmingham has been a transformative experience that not only deepened my understanding of health data research but also exposed me to various career paths within the field.