



2015 BHEARD Scholar
Smith Gilliard Nkhata

Profile

Country of Study:	USA
University:	Purdue University
Department:	Food Science
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant - Ph.D.
Home Country:	Malawi
Home Institution:	University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture
Home Position:	Food and nutrition specialist, Malawi government
Mentored By:	Dr. Mario Ferruzzi (Purdue University)

Research Area: Food Science

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: August 2015

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: BSc, Agriculture (Food Science and Nutrition), Bunda College of Agriculture, University of Malawi

GRADUATE EDUCATION: MSc, Food Science, Michigan State University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Stability, bio-accessibility and bio-availability of pro-Vitamin A (β -carotene, α -carotene and cryptoxanthin) in food products made from bio-fortified maize. Different food products sold on the market in my home country are said to be fortified with Vitamin A. Do they have required levels of fortification? What is the stability under those storage and selling conditions? Are the fortification programs we have effective in combating Vitamin A deficiency? These are some of the research areas I would like to focus on in my home country.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: I would like to involve myself in research and food product development as a means to fight micronutrient deficiencies. I aim to advance fortification and bio-fortification of processed food products and crops grown in Malawi in order to increase micronutrient intake by Malawians to reduce prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: I enjoy chatting with friends, I love watching soccer and reading entrepreneurship books.