



Oscar Ekpenyong, RPh, PhD
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Oscar Ekpenyong, RPh, PhD is a registered pharmacist turned pharmaceutical scientist. He is currently a Senior Scientist in the Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics and Drug Metabolism department at Merck & Co., Inc. His expertise is in the preclinical development of small molecules, peptide and protein therapeutics and is accomplished in bioanalytical method development and validation, and pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics studies. Oscar is proficient in the design, planning and execution of new LC-MS/MS and ligand binding assays for the quantitative analysis of exogenous and endogenous compounds (xenobiotics, biomarkers, peptides and proteins) to support pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamics, and endogenous metabolomic studies in a variety of preclinical models and challenging matrices. He has demonstrated impact across multidisciplinary discovery research including cardiovascular, renal, metabolic, ophthalmology and immuno-oncology. Prior to joining Merck, Oscar worked as a Pharmacist in retail, hospital and pharma industry settings.

Dr. Ekpenyong earned his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Texas Southern University, where his doctoral research focused on the pre-clinical studies of small molecules intended for the treatment of tuberculosis and castration-resistant prostate cancer respectively. This involved the development and validation of LC-MS/MS methods for the determination of the new chemical entities in solutions, plasma, urine and tissues; pre-formulation studies and formulation of the molecules for application to pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics studies in pre-clinical models. His doctoral research also extended to gold nanoparticles-antibody conjugation for hypoxic tumor targeting and photo-thermal ablation. His patented and peer-reviewed works have been published in esteemed journals and presented at numerous scientific meetings.

Oscar is a member of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, International Pharmaceutical Federation, American Society of Mass Spectrometry, and Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria. He holds a State of Texas Pharmacist license and several other professional certifications. Outside of work, Oscar likes to travel, explore different cultures, food, and wine.