

A FUNDING PROPOSAL

Oluwaferanmi Oladepo

AI researcher and engineer · Oyo State, Nigeria

Help me take Nigerian healthcare AI research from Nigeria to NeurIPS.

Research I lead and co-authored has been accepted for presentation at three events at NeurIPS 2026, the world's leading machine-learning conference. Almost everything is in place. The one thing I cannot cover on my own is the flight.

I AM RAISING

~~₦~~3,000,000

towards a return flight, Lagos to Sydney, quoted at ~~₦~~3,220,847 on 9 November 2026.

WHERE THINGS STAND

- ✓ **Research accepted** at GlobalSouthAI, WiML and the Affinity Support Pilot Program
- ✓ **Australian visa** obtained
- ✓ **Registration** complimentary, via a NeurIPS travel award
- ✓ **Accommodation** in Sydney covered by NeurIPS financial assistance
- ✗ **Flight** not yet funded, and the ticket must be bought soon

oladepooluwaferanmi1@gmail.com

oluwaferanmioladepo.com

THE CONFERENCE

NeurIPS: the world's largest AI conference



NeurIPS, the Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems, is the field's biggest annual gathering and one of its most selective. First held in 1987, it is where many of the ideas behind modern AI, from deep learning to today's large language models, were first presented to the research community.

1987
year it was founded

21,575
papers submitted in 2025

5,290
papers accepted in 2025, about 1 in 4

~26,400
registrations in 2025, a record

Why it matters

Researchers, labs and companies from every continent gather here to present results, challenge each other's methods and decide what the field works on next. Being accepted means the work has passed review against thousands of other submissions.

The conference also runs programmes to bring in researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America, regions that are still under-represented in AI research.

NeurIPS 2026

The conference runs across three cities at once this year. I am registered at the **International Convention Centre Sydney**, with sister sites in Atlanta and Paris. Organisers expect over 18,000 attendees across all sites.

My three accepted presentations are part of the affinity and workshop programme, where research from under-represented regions is showcased.

Sources: NeurIPS 2025 Fact Sheet · NeurIPS Newsletter, August 2026 · NeurIPS 2026 invitation letter. "Largest" reflects the scale of submissions and attendance reported above.

THE RESEARCH

Healthcare AI that knows when it might be wrong

In many Nigerian communities, a health worker may have no specialist nearby, a weak connection, and an image that looks nothing like the clean examples a model was trained on. My work asks what AI should do in those conditions, and in particular how it should behave when it is unsure.

EVENT	PRESENTATION	MY ROLE
GlobalSouthAI	TRIDENT: Safety-Gated, On-Device Triage for Paediatric Teledermatology on Pigmented Skin	First author
Women in ML (WiML)	Silent Failures in Degraded Chest X-Rays: Triage in Resource-Constrained Settings	Co-author
Affinity Support Pilot	Silent Failures in Degraded Chest X-Rays: Benchmarking Uncertainty Methods for Pneumonia Triage in Resource-Constrained Settings	Co-author

TRIDENT

Skin conditions in children are often assessed using tools built mostly on lighter skin. TRIDENT is a lightweight model that runs on a phone and focuses on pigmented skin. Before it gives an answer, it checks the image quality and its own uncertainty, so it can ask for a better photo or flag a case for a clinician instead of guessing confidently.

Silent Failures

Chest X-rays taken on older equipment are often blurred, noisy or poorly exposed. This project measures how that degradation quietly breaks pneumonia triage models, and compares uncertainty methods to see which ones actually warn us when an answer should not be trusted.

> Both projects are research, not deployed clinical tools. Presenting at NeurIPS puts them in front of the people best placed to challenge our assumptions, and that criticism is what shapes responsible next steps.

Why being there matters

For a researcher from Nigeria, NeurIPS is more than a poster on a wall. It is the room where methods are debated, collaborators are found and research directions are set. Presenting in person means our questions, about African patients and low-resource clinics, are part of that conversation. I will bring what I learn back through talks, mentoring and the student and youth communities I work with.

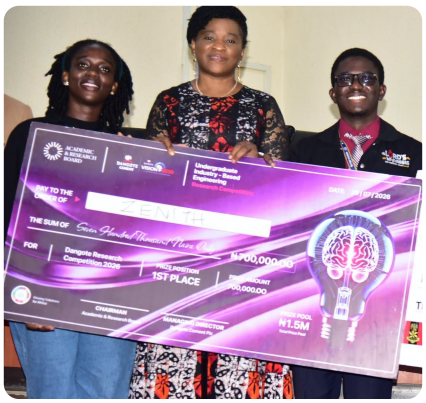
ABOUT ME

A track record of building, presenting and serving

I graduated with First Class Honours in Information and Communication Engineering from the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA). My work moves between research, building products and public service, always with the same aim: technology that works for the people around me.



With fellow Student and Young Professional awardees at IEEE IRAI 2026, Melbourne.



Team Zenith receiving 1st place (₦700,000) in the Dangote Undergraduate Industry-Based Engineering Research Competition 2026.



With the Vice-Chancellor of FUTA at the university's reception for award-winning students.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH	Presented work on early detection of electro-mechanical faults at **IEEE IRAI 2026** in Melbourne, as a Student and Young Professional awardee.
NATIONAL RECOGNITION	With Nunsi Shiaki and Adejire Adegite, **Team Zenith won first place** nationally for an early-warning system using vibration and electrical signals. FUTA's report ↗
BUILDING FOR ACCESS	Founder and CTO of **Kaanta AI**, which makes Nigerian tax information accessible on WhatsApp in local languages. Microsoft Certified Azure AI Engineer Associate.
PUBLIC SERVICE	Member for Afijio in the **Oyo State Youth Parliament**; Secretary-General of the **EU Youth Sounding Board** in Nigeria and ECOWAS; class representative throughout my degree.
HEAR FROM ME	My TEDxTanke talk ↗ · My research video ↗

THE FUNDING

Help me get from Lagos to Sydney

What the trip costs, and what is covered

Return flight, Lagos to Sydney (quote of 9 Nov 2026)	₦3,220,847
Conference registration	Covered
Accommodation in Sydney	Covered
Australian visa	Obtained
Crowdfunding target	**₦3,000,000**

I am working to cover the remaining ₦220,847 separately. Airfares change daily, and the sooner the ticket is bought, the lower the cost is likely to be.

Why I need help upfront

I have also been awarded up to **US$500** in travel support by the NeurIPS Bridging the Future Project. It is paid as a **reimbursement after the conference**, once attendance is verified, so it cannot be used to buy the ticket now.

That is why your support today makes the difference between presenting in Sydney and missing the opportunity.

What a shared effort looks like

300	120	60	30
people × ₦10,000	people × ₦25,000	people × ₦50,000	people × ₦100,000

Any amount helps. Organisations can also sponsor the flight outright, and introductions to potential sponsors are just as valuable.

FROM NIGERIA · NAIRA

Zenith Bank Plc

2270728121

Oluwaferanmi Praise Oladepo

FROM ABROAD · US DOLLARS

Lead Bank · Checking

219721113700

Oluwaferanmi Oladepo · Routing 101019644

1801 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64108, USA

My commitment to you

I will share updates as the campaign progresses, along with confirmation of the ticket purchase. If other funding comes through or contributions exceed what is needed, I will tell supporters and explain exactly how any surplus is used. My NeurIPS invitation letter and registration confirmation are available on request.

Thank you for helping me share this work and bring the learning home.

Oluwaferanmi Oladepo · oladepooluwaferanmi1@gmail.com · oluwaferanmioladepo.com