



# CBR NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER OF CENTER FOR  
BIOETHICS AND RESEARCH

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The Centre for Bioethics and Research (CBR) is the leading organization providing training in research ethics in Nigeria. CBR is growing expeditiously as an independent training and research organization implementing a wide variety of training programs in clinical and research ethics, epidemiology studies, research administration and clinical trials in Nigeria. Our specific aim is to build capacity to support the rapidly growing number and complexity of research projects in Nigeria. We take this opportunity to emphasize the need to stay safe during this challenging period of COVID-19 pandemic. Please continue to be steadfast in your adherence to all health and safety precautionary measures despite the availability of vaccines. And take the vaccine as soon as they become accessible to you.

This edition of the CBR Newsletter describes the activities of CBR in the first quarter of 2021. We wish you a happy reading.

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## 1.0 Building institutional capacity for bioethics training in Nigeria

### a. Building awareness of the new Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

The new Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities recently established at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria will be the academic home of the Bioethics training program going forward after being hosted by the Department of Surgery since its inception. This further ensures institutionalization and sustainability of bioethics training in Nigeria.

In order to create awareness of the new department, its faculty members, led by Prof. T. O. Ogundiran – the pioneer Head of Department paid a courtesy visit on the Provost of the Postgraduate College, University of Ibadan. During the meeting, Prof. Ogundiran informed the Provost about the history of the Bioethics program and how it was started in the Department of Surgery, Ibadan through a grant from the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH). Professor Ogundiran mentioned that members of the new Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities received training in modern bioethics from Universities in Canada, the United States and Europe. He said the main thrust of the group's work over the years has been the establishment of the academic program in Bioethics at the Postgraduate College of the University of Ibadan, building awareness of bioethics in Nigeria and training ethics committees.

Prof. Babalola, the Provost of the Postgraduate College responded by saying the Bioethics program was not new to the Postgraduate College, but the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities certainly is. He said the Postgraduate College has been managing the admission, training and successful completion of the program by students since the inception of the program. He said the College will do everything possible to support the new department. The members of the Department thanked the Provost for his time and took a group photograph with him.

Members of the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities also paid a courtesy visit on Prof. Babatunde Ekanola, the acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan. The purpose of the visit was to create awareness for the new department and solicit the support of the Vice-Chancellor on a collaboration between the Center for Bioethics and Research, the new department and the Research Management Office of the University of Ibadan.



*Figure 1. From left to right: Prof. A. S. Jegede, Dr. O. R. Eyelade, Prof. C. O. Agulanna, Prof. T. O. Ogundiran, Prof. Babalola, Prof. B. Lanre-Abass, Prof. J. O. Akintayo, Prof. A. O. Adejumo, Mr. O. Adeyemo*

The Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities and the Center for Bioethics and Research plan to collaborate with the Research Management Office (RMO) of the University of Ibadan to strengthen Research Integrity in the Institution. The objective of the collaboration is to further the development of research integrity and responsible conduct of research in Nigeria

**b. Developing bioethics training programs in Nigerian institutions. CBR is working with the institutional leadership at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) and the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye to develop and implement new Master's degree programs in bioethics in their institutions.**

Recommended trainees from the two institutions were given preferential admission into the University of Ibadan MSc Bioethics degree program. They have successfully completed the program and defended their thesis. They will join other trainees of the Bioethics program who will convocate at the University of Ibadan later this year.

Dr. Ijeoma Ezeome is from the University of Nigeria Nsukka and her research project was titled 'Advancing the need for regulation of assisted reproductive technology in Nigeria: Practitioner perspectives and clients experiences'.

Dr. Olusola Sunday Aluko-Arowolo is from the Olabisi Onabanjo University Ago-Iwoye. His research project was titled 'Dispositional and Contextual Differences in Perceived Hindrances in Research regulation Compliance and Suggested Remedies among Social Science Researchers in Selected South-West Nigeria Universities'. Dr. I. Ezeome and O. Aluko-Arowolo will return to their institutions and form the core faculty of their Bioethics program.



*Figure 2. From left to right: Dr. Olusola Sunday Aluko-Arowolo, Dr. Ijeoma Victoria Ezeome*

## **2.0 Building institutional capacity for Responsible Conduct of Research in Nigeria**

CBR, the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) and the University of Maryland School of Medicine are collaborating with the Research Management Offices (RMO) in institutions across Nigeria to strengthen Responsible Conduct of Research. Prof. T. O. Ogundiran, the academic director of CBR held a virtual meeting with the leadership of Mountain Top University (MTU), Makogi-Oba, Ogun State, one of the target institutions, on strengthening the RMO in the institution and the benefits of the collaboration for the University.

The Center for Bioethics and Research will provide training and support to strengthen the institution's Research Management Offices (RMO) and their staff. CBR will sponsor an academic member of each University to complete an MSc/PhD program in Bioethics with concentration on Research Integrity and return to their institutional RMO in carrying out it's activities.

### 3.0 M.Sc. Bioethics Program, University of Ibadan

The Center for Bioethics and Research continues to support the implementation of the highly successful Master's degree program in Bioethics at the University of Ibadan. The Postgraduate College of the University of Ibadan recommended 12 students for admission into the program for the 2020/2021 academic session. This will be the first set of students to be admitted since the new Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities was established.

#### Meet our new intakes:



**Mrs. Oluwatobi Ajoke Adeniji,**  
Medical Laboratory Scientist,  
Bowen University, Iwo, Osun State



**Dr. Yakubu Beno,**  
Assistant Director, National Agency for  
Food and Drug Administration and  
Control (NAFDAC) Nigeria.  
His training is supported by the EDCTP



**Dr. Ejembi Godwin,**  
Veterinary medicine graduate of the  
University of Agriculture, Makurdi



**Mr. Idowu Olufemi Joseph,**  
Medical Laboratory Scientist,  
Bowen University, Iwo, Osun State



**Mr. Peter Ikhane,**  
Assistant Lecturer, Department of  
Philosophy, University of Ibadan.



**Mr. Mordecai Owajioniro Godstime,**  
Medical Laboratory Science graduate  
of the Niger Delta University, Bayelsa  
State



**Mrs. Ogunyemi Oluwafunmilayo,**  
Medical Laboratory Scientist, Bowen  
University, Osun State



**Ms. Ojo Blessing,**  
Enhanced Independent Monitor  
for the World Health Organization



**Mr. Onyekwere Onyekachi,**  
Research Scientist, National  
Biotechnology Development  
Agency, Abuja



**Dr. Orum Terese Gabriel,**  
Veterinary Medicine graduate from the  
University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri



**Mr. Wogu Victor Izuchukwu,**  
Microbiology graduate of Abia State  
University, Uturu, Abia State



**Mr. Cyril Ofejiro Oghenegueke.**  
Biochemistry graduate of the  
University of Benin



#### **4.0 Online Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) in collaboration with BRANY, New York**

As part of our partnership with the Biomedical Research Alliance of New York (BRANY)'s CITI program, we provided 1,449 online CITI trainings in Informed Consent, Responsible Conduct of Research, and a specialised module on the Nigerian National Code for Health Research Ethics from the 15th of December 2020 to 31st March 2021.

We are excited to announce a new course “**Observational Research Protocols: An Introduction**” in partnership with Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). This concise course covers the essentials of observational research protocol design and development. It explores the three primary types of study designs commonly used: cross-sectional, case-control, and cohort (both prospective and retrospective). Visit our website <https://bioethicscenter.net/> to take advantage of this and other course offerings, including Research Study Design, Good Clinical Practice, Essentials of Research Administration, Biosafety , Conflict of Interest and many more.

#### **5.0 BeOnline Journal – Accepting Manuscripts for Review and Publication**

BeOnline, the Bioethics Online journal of the Center for Bioethics and Research is an open-access online journal that provides a platform for individuals to contribute to the global discourse on bioethics by adding the voice of Africans and research in Africa to the discussions about clinical and research ethics, primarily in Africa and in the world at large. We invite you to submit your work to our panel of experienced reviewers and publish in the BeOnline journal. Rapid review and decision is guaranteed. We also provide text editing support to improve the quality of your papers. Let the world hear your view about research ethics.

For more information on how to submit a manuscript for review, please visit us @ <http://www.bioethicscenter.net/journal/> or send an email to [admin@bioethicscenter.net](mailto:admin@bioethicscenter.net)

## 6.0 Blended Diploma in Research Ethics – Accepting Applications

The Blended Diploma in Research Ethics is for individuals who desire to acquire more competence in research ethics and bioethics but are unable to take advantage of the 18 months fully sponsored M.Sc. Bioethics program at the University of Ibadan and University of Nigeria. This Program is generously funded by the United States' National Institutes of Health Fogarty International Center and the National Human Genome Research Institute. Applications for the diploma program are currently open till 21st May, 2021.

For more information on how to apply send an email to [diploma@bioethicscenter.net](mailto:diploma@bioethicscenter.net)

## 7.0 Closing Remarks

Thank you for taking your time to read this issue of the newsletter, your comments about the current issue, and ideas for the next issue are what will keep the Center for Bioethics and Research Newsletter an interesting and lively newsletter.

Please send contributions and suggestions to [admin@bioethicscenter.net](mailto:admin@bioethicscenter.net)

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