



Center *for*
Bioethics & Research

CBR

NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS EDITION

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR), Nigeria continues to implement a wide variety of research and ethics capacity building programs for biomedical researchers, members of health research ethics' committees, and health professionals in Nigeria and other West African countries.

In this edition of our Newsletter, we share news of our activities in the third quarter of 2023.

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The Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) University of Ibadan.

1.1 Ratification of the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) University of Ibadan.

The Senate of the University of Ibadan ratified the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) as a full – fledged department in the Faculty of Multidisciplinary Studies on the 3rd of August, 2023.

The DBMH trains students admitted for Masters degree program and Ph.D. Program in Bioethics at the University of Ibadan. The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria provides support for the department in these activities.

1.2 Oral examination for defense of MSc Bioethics (Research Ethics) research projects

The DBMH organized an oral defense examination for the 11th set of trainees admitted for the MSc Bioethics program at the University of Ibadan. The oral defense examination is the last stage of the program for trainees. The trainees defended their final research projects before an audience of examiners. All the trainees were fully supported by the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria by providing full scholarship for them for the entire duration of their program.



Figure 1: From Left to Right: Mr. Adesola Adeyemo Graduate Teaching Assistant DBMH, Mr. Gabriel Orum, Mr. Mordecai Owajioniro, Mr. Godwin Ejembi, Prof. A.S. Jegede, Ms. Blessing Ojo, Prof. Omokhoa Adeleye, Prof. C.O. Agulanna, Ms. Tomilola Ogunyemi, Mrs. Tobiloba Adeniji, Dr. Victor Wogu, Dr. Peter Ikhane.

1.3 Admission into M.Sc. Bioethics (RCR) degree at University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria in collaboration with the new Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) University of Ibadan and the Postgraduate College of the University of Ibadan have admitted the second set of candidates for the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) focused MSc. Bioethics training program at the University of Ibadan.

The second set of candidates were nominated by their institutions for the program, they will become the Research Integrity Officer (RIO) for the Research Management Office of their respective institutions after successfully completing the program. 8 candidates were admitted by the postgraduate college of the University of Ibadan.

An orientation program was organized for the successful candidates by the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) and the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) University of Ibadan to welcome the trainees on board and provide them with information and training materials that will aid their completion of the program smoothly.



Figure 2 Front Row with caps from left to right: Prof. Adejumo, Prof. T.O. Ogundiran and Prof. C.O. Agulanna with the new set of trainees at the orientation retreat.

Graduates of the RCR focused MSc Bioethics program will return to their institutions after completing their coursework and final research project to implement everything they learned during their

coursework and time on the program. CBR will also work with successful trainees to revive/establish Research Management Office in their institutions by providing necessary support to them.



Figure 3 Presentation of brand-new HP Touchscreen laptops to the trainees at the Orientation Retreat by Prof. Aguilanna - the Head of department for DBMH, and other faculty members

Institutions in Nigeria that are interested in training Research Integrity Officers, and establishing Research Integrity Units should contact the Administrator, Center for Bioethics and Research (admin@bioethicscenter.net) for more information.

You can also visit the project website at <https://surerproject.net> to know more about Scaling Up Research Ethics and Research Integrity (Surer) project.

Training in Protection of Human Participants in Research at University of Nigeria, Nsukka

2.1 M.Sc. Bioethics at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.

Our successful ENRICH Program at the University of Nigeria (UNN) Enugu has continued to admit students for the MSc. Bioethics program. The 3rd set of candidates admitted for the current academic session have commenced their course work and selected topics for their final research project. During the 18 months MSc. Bioethics program at the University of Nigeria (UNN) students are trained to be competent Bioethicists using learning mechanisms such as seminars, classroom discussions, research, grand rounds, workshops and many more.

2.2 MPH with Bioethics concentration at University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.



Figure 4 From left to Right: Grace O. Bernard Asadu, Asemota A., Egwuatu I.S., Ugwu C.M., Uchenyi C.C., Okpaleke N. and Nwagbo A.N. (3rd Set of MPH with Bioethics concentration trainees at UNN).

The University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) School of Medicine and Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria continue to work with the Department of Community Medicine, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) to implement the Masters in Public Health (MPH) with Bioethics concentration program.

An orientation ceremony was organized by the UNN, Bioethics unit for the third cohort of trainees that fulfilled the admission requirements of the program. The admitted trainees will complete their final research projects on Public Health with Bioethics

concentration. They will be supervised by faculty members in the faculty of Public Health and Bioethics Unit of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN).



Figure 5 From left to right: Prof. Ogundiran (CBR facilitator) interacting with the trainees during the blended diploma weekend retreat.



Figure 6 Facilitators, Guest speaker at the Center in black cap (Prof. Akintayo) and trainees after the guest lecture at the blended diploma Weekend Retreat.

The trainees will also be required to complete the blended diploma program of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria. They were provided with course materials and textbooks courtesy of the Center for Bioethics and Research, Ibadan. Transportation and accommodation were also provided for them during the mandatory 1st weekend retreat of the diploma program by the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria.

Center for Bioethics and Research programs

3.1 Onsite Local Health Research Ethics Committees and Health Researchers training.

The following onsite trainings were facilitated by CBR from June. 2023 to December 2023.

Institution	Date	Attendance	Participants	Training type
IRRUA Specialist Teaching Hospital HREC.	19th – 20th September	19	Members of Health Research Ethics Committee.	Modern Research Ethics.

These trainings are part of the requirements by the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC) for members of an Ethics Committee and the registration of newly inaugurated Ethics Committees.

3.2 Human Subjects Protection training in collaboration with BRANY-Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), New York.

We have redesigned the curriculum page of the CBR-CITI page to make it easy for trainees to find courses that they are interested. Trainees can also quickly find other courses that may be of interest.

From July 2023 to December 2023, we provided 1,110 online trainings in IRB and protection of human participants in research, 1,629 trainings on the Nigerian National Code for Health Research Ethics, 270 Responsible Conduct of Research trainings, 60 IACUC and animal biosafety trainings, 86 Conflicts of Interest trainings, and 619 Good Clinical Practice trainings.

3.3 Online training in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Safe Working and Sexual Harassment free Environment (SWSHE) in Nigeria.

CBR has launched new courses on 'Safe Working Environment and Sexual Harassment free Environment' as part of our programs for building capacity of biomedical researchers in Nigeria. The main objective of the course is to educate, inform, protect, empower, and support the research community in confronting all forms of sexual misconduct and harassment in the workplace. Sexual harassment undermines the integrity of working relationships and interferes with the right of individuals to work and learn in an environment free from harassment. The Courses are still available on the CBR Website. Please visit Sexual harassment training – Center for Bioethics and Research (bioethicscenter.net) for more information. CBR is committed to being a leader in preventing and effectively educating individuals on sexual harassment and misconduct.

The image is a screenshot of the SURER Project website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, About, Components (with a dropdown arrow), News, and Contact. Below the navigation bar, there is a 'Course Spotlight' section featuring a banner for 'Safe Working and Sexual Harassment free Environment' with a 'LEARN MORE' button. To the right of the banner is an illustration of a man and a woman in professional attire. Below the spotlight section, there is a section titled 'Capacity building for ethical and safe research environment'. This section contains a paragraph describing the SURER Project's multi-institutional collaboration to develop training programs for researchers in Nigeria. At the bottom of the screenshot, there are five small thumbnail images representing different online courses offered by the project.

Figure 7: Online courses on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Safe Working and Sexual Harassment free Environment (SWSHE) on the SURER Project site

The Bioethics Library of the Center for Bioethics and Research.

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Bioethics Library is the most comprehensive repository bioethics books, journals, and other educational materials for students, faculty members, and researchers in Nigeria. It is available to all individuals interested in bioethics research and training. The library empowers students and faculty to discover and obtain information needed for their research in Protection of Human Participants in Research, RCR, RSI, DEI, Safe Working and Sexual Harassment free Environment. The librarian can be contacted, and the library's catalogue can be viewed through <http://library.bioethicscenter.net>. Please contact the librarian for any inquiries at librarian@bioethicscenter.net

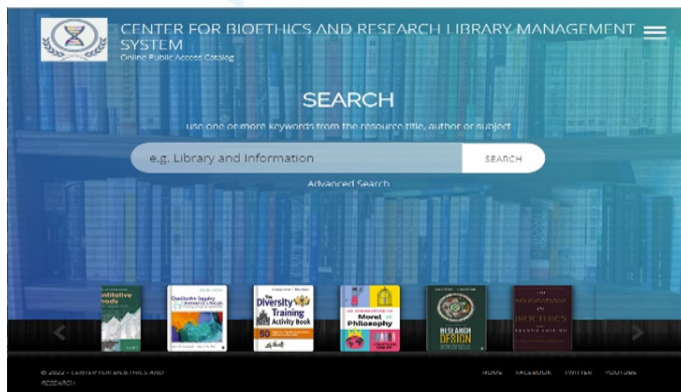


Figure 8: Bioethics library of the Center for Bioethics and Research, Ibadan, Nigeria



Figure 9. Prof. Christopher Agulanna.
HOD Bioethics and Medical Humanities,
University of Ibadan.

Appointments/ Achievements

4.1 Achievements

Professor Christopher Agulanna delivered a paper titled “African indigenous ethics and global bioethics beyond ubuntu,” at the 9th Annual International Bioethics Forum which took place at the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research, Lagos, Nigeria.

Prof. Agulanna is the head of the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities, University of Ibadan. He is a founding member of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR). We are proud to be associated with him and we congratulate him on this achievement.



Figure 10: Prof. Ijeoma Ezeome. ENRICH Faculty member, University of Nigeria.

4.2. Promotions

Dr. Ijeoma Ezeome is an alumnus of the Bioethics program from the University of Ibadan. She is a faculty member of the ENRICH program at the University of Nigeria (UNN).

She teaches on the Bioethics program, and she was recently promoted to Professor by the management of the University of Nigeria (UNN). The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) is proud to be associated with her.

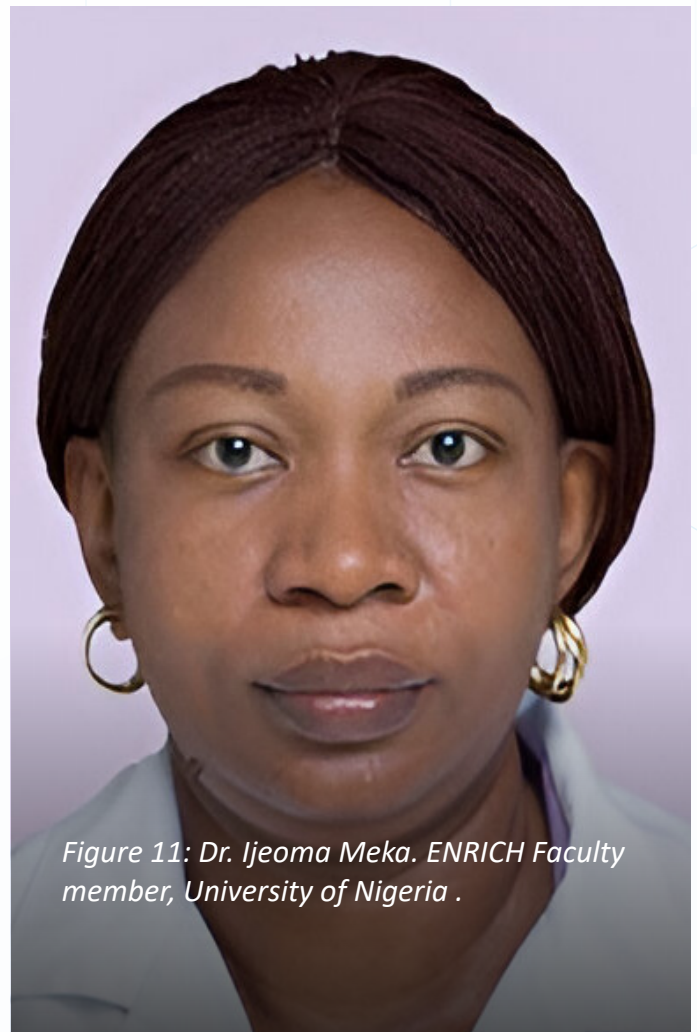


Figure 11: Dr. Ijeoma Meka. ENRICH Faculty member, University of Nigeria .

Dr. Ijeoma Meka is an alumnus of the Bioethics program from the University of Nigeria (UNN). She is a faculty member of the ENRICH program at the University of Nigeria (UNN).

She teaches on the Bioethics program, and she was recently promoted to Reader by the management of the University of Nigeria (UNN). The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) is proud to be associated with her.

My Experience on the Blended Diploma program of the Center for Bioethics and Research



Fig, 12: Dr. Anne Adeyanju | Author
MSc. Bioethics Trainee 2021/2022 session.
University of Ibadan

I am Anne Adebukola Adeyanju, an Associate Professor of Biochemistry with the Kola Daisi University in Ibadan, Oyo State Nigeria. My expertise is in Toxicology and drug metabolism.

The news of the opened door to receive post-graduate training in Bioethics came through the dean of my faculty and I was lucky to be prompt in expressing my desire to partake in the program. Initially, I wondered what we would be taught in ethics as an entire area of specialization. I called to mind the time I was having my Master's and Ph.D. in Biochemistry; for me, what I considered ethics was, to get ethical approval for animal studies. This was our ethical research approach as far as I knew then. Now, the Bioethics program has filled in the cracks. It is clearer that ethics is far beyond this. It involves

expression of honesty with one's experimental procedures and findings, reporting it as it was found without any manipulation, refraining from gift authorship, and so on. Bioethics is a field that can apply to almost anybody. It's a good field that will help one grow in terms of understanding the issues of today's research, clinical ethics and our health as human beings.

Apart from the newly acquired knowledge, this program has allowed me to meet with other great minds who are co-partakers in the program, and also many teachers who through their encouraging words and actions have made the course interesting, thus making one look forward to going deeper after the present program. In my class, even though we all work in the academic environment, our areas of specialization are different. This diversity has fostered the ability to see an issue from a different angle and ultimately created more creative solutions. The generosity of the sponsors of the program has removed the concern of looking for money to pay tuition fees and buy textbooks. The collection of books given to us at no cost, the provision of a laptop and the monthly stipend left us with only one duty and that is to read, study and be focused.

Several opportunities to attend webinars and conferences that can improve our knowledge of Bioethics are always available in our emails. One of the virtual conferences titled "Bioethics, Global Justice, and Longevity Research," sponsored by the Hevolution Foundation and the NYU Division of Medical Ethics, had a robust discussion on what might work to slow or reverse aging, possibilities concerning extending the human life span and what it would mean for society if we knew how to do so. Also, in one of the emails sent, I found this interesting interview by Professor Oye Gureje.

The extract was in line with our study on creating a safe and sexual harassment-free working environment. I read Professor Oye Gureje's interview on understanding and accommodation of gender-diverse individuals, and diversity of sexual behaviors. He pointed out that having sexual interest in the oppo-

site sex or the same sex is biologically determined. In addition, he said that homosexuality is not something that people choose to be, it is what they are! This interview emphasized the normality of homosexuality and discouraged its discrimination. This is a hard pill to swallow for me, but alas! a renowned Professor of Psychiatry has spoken.

I have also been introduced to moral philosophy where one of the most baffling philosophical dilemmas that I ran into is the problem of free will. This is the question of whether human beings can make choices that are truly their own, or whether our actions are determined by external factors such as fate, genetics, or the laws of physics. Some philosophers argue that we have complete freedom to make our own decisions, while others argue that our choices are ultimately predetermined by factors beyond our control. The threatening idea is this: that human beings lack free will and that all our behaviour is the effect of causes outside our control. According to this view, known as determinism, we are little more than sophisticated machines or robots. Then, if this is so, it is claimed, then there can be no moral responsibility, for beings that cannot make free choices cannot be held responsible for any action.

It is very important to mention that the program is well structured, and the learning environment is very conducive. The programme coordinator and the Manager are always and readily available to provide us with all we need to make our learning easy and effective. The weekend retreat they organize for instance creates an interlude to reflect on what

we have learnt, and the lecturers will be available to expand more on the various topics taught and answer our questions. The retreat makes us feel more motivated and confident. It is always top-notch that you forget other things for the period to focus on the program.

I see myself as one of the lucky ones especially as this is an evolving field of study in our environment, and I hope that as I practice in the field of Biochemistry, bioethical practice will be so interwoven with it that it will be inseparable. I hope to also stay involved in ethics decision-making at my institution, both to provide whatever utility I can and to continue learning about this exciting and evolving field. I would, without reservation, recommend this program to anyone with even a cursory interest in bioethics.

Finally, good biomedical research is not only research that employs high-quality scientific methods but also research that maintains high ethical standards. Therefore, if you want to be better prepared as a good biomedical research scientist, the ethical notions of beneficence, justice, fairness, non-maleficence, and respect for persons must be learnt. To do this, look no further than the Bioethics Program. My husband has been so supportive, and he has encouraged me to take my expertise further by doing PhD. So, I look forward to becoming a multidimensional scholar with a PhD in Bioethics.



BeOnline Journal

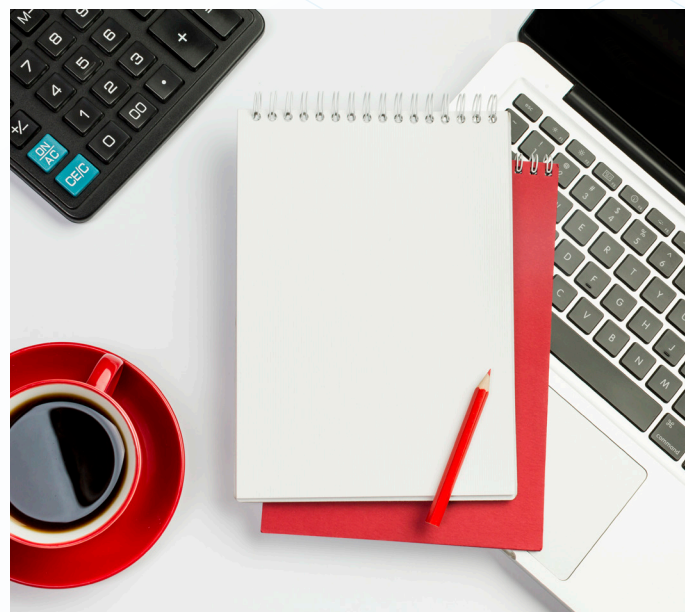
Accepting Manuscripts for Review and Publication

BeOnline, Journal - 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.

To better serve potential submitters, our journal now has a dedicated online home - BeOnline® Journal of the Center for Bioethics and Research (beonlinejournal.net). You can also submit by contacting the Editor in Chief directly by email at editorinchief@beonlinejournal.net.

We invite you to submit your work to our panel of experienced reviewers and publish in the BeOnline Journal. Rapid review and decision are 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 at BeOnline® Journal of the Center for Bioethics and Research (beonlinejournal.net) or send an email to: editorinchief@beonlinejournal.net.



Information on Job Opportunities

The Center for Bioethics and Research widely disseminates information about job opportunities in research and bioethics on our social media pages and website for interested individuals. Please visit <https://bioethicscenter.net/jobs/> for more information.

Closing Remark

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 Centre for Bioethics and Research Newsletter an interesting and lively newsletter.

Please send contributions and suggestions to admin@bioethicscenter.net

Check us on the web
www.bioethicscenter.net

We wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

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Seasons Greetings

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