

WAB Newsletter



West African Bioethics

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A Newsletter of West African Bioethics Training Programme

About WAB

The West African Bioethics is program for teaching, service and research in International Bioethics

The West African Bioethics training program is unique because it uses the opportunity afforded by its location in West Africa to research and train in Bioethics in English and French languages, both of which are widely spoken in the West African subregion.

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2014/2015 WAB Trainees (MSc Bioethics Program)



From left to right, Gbadamosi Raymond Ojo, Dr Fakorede Omokehinde Olubunmi, Ogwu – Richard Sandra Olukemi and Chilobe Damian Chinonso.

This current session, WAB admitted Four students to study MSc Bioethics; a taught Master's degree program domiciled in the Department of Surgery, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The trainees are:

1. **Dr (Mrs). Fakorede Omokehinde Olubunmi:** She is a Physician at the Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro, Ogun State.
2. **Mr Chilobe Damian Chinonso:** He is a Secondary School Principal at Plato Academy, Enugu State, Nigeria.
3. **Mr. Gbadamosi Raymond Ojo:** He is a recent graduate of B.A Philosophy from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria
4. **Mrs.Ogwu-Richard Sandra Olukemi:** She is a graduate of Microbiology from Olabisi Onabanjo University, and an M.Sc graduate in Public Health.



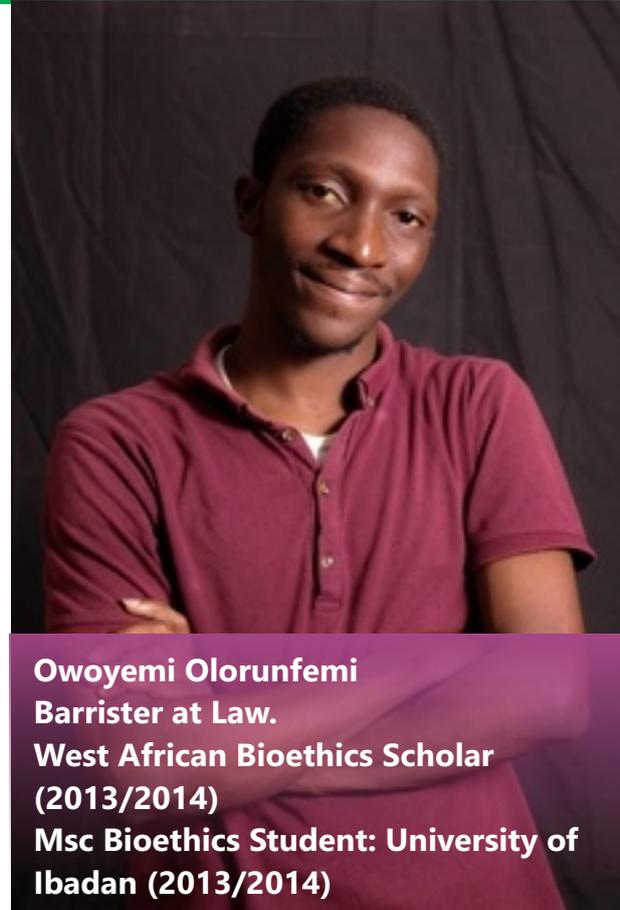
My Experience as a WAB Scholar

Following my admission with scholarship for the West African Bioethics Training program in the University of Ibadan for the 2013/2014 academic session. I was full of hope, excitement and expectations on my sojourn into the world of Bioethics.

The MSc Bioethics program run by the University of Ibadan, through the Center for Bioethics, has been an intriguing experience. The program is quite a rigorous one, true; but it has also been an eye-opening experience. Daily classes that run for six to eight hours could be draining but every hour spent reveals a new piece of knowledge about bioethics and the world in general. The faculty members are always creative in their ways of teaching – using multimedia facilities, recommending movies that throw more light on their topics, etc. and this makes learning fun and easy.

The program affords the opportunity to meet the best-of-the-best lecturers in the faculty. These people are seasoned academics who have made a mark in their disciplines and have acquired a wealth of experience too. This makes teaching and learning smoother and more interesting. The dig into their repertoire of knowledge and experience to make their points clear and to clarify any ambiguity or question that may arise from the students.

For me, the opportunity to step out of my primary discipline, law, and to learn from faculty members specialized in other disciplines has been an enriching experience. The interdisciplinary nature of the program has stimulated new areas in me that I had earlier not given much attention to. With interactions with these faculty members, interest is birthed and it is sustained through reading of diverse materials (from internet pages, journals to textbooks) available in these disciplines.



Owoyemi Olorunfemi
Barrister at Law.
West African Bioethics Scholar
(2013/2014)
Msc Bioethics Student: University of
Ibadan (2013/2014)



My Experience as a WAB Scholar

contd.



Owoyemi Olorunfemi
Barrister at Law.
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The Bioethics program provides for a one-on-one interaction with the lecturers and faculty members. Accessibility to lecturers is one plus that the program has and which is what helps to make the journey enjoyable all the way. With lecturers who show keen interest in their students' welfare and academic progress, the program is made easy to go through. With regular seminars and attending the UI/UCH Ethics Committee meetings, the practical sides of the things we have learned about research ethics are brought to bear.

The West African Bioethics runs an efficient secretariat. The Program Administrator is always available and easy to access for whatever needs that the students need as pertaining to the learning within the program. Within the West African Bioethics

network, information about learning and career opportunities are shared with everyone. This has turned out to be very valuable for adding knowledge and widening one's prospects and carving a niche in the fast growing field of Bioethics.

Finally, I am grateful for the opportunity given to me by the West African Bioethics Training Program to study Bioethics in the University of Ibadan. The Program has been a life changing experience for me.



Trainings

The West African Bioethics Training Program in partnership with the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) at the University of Miami through a web based training successfully trained three hundred and fifty-nine individuals between January and April, 2015 in Nigerian National Code for Health Research Ethics (NNCHRE), Good Clinical Practice (GCP), Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), Biosecurity and Biosafety and in a new Conflict of Interest (COI) course.

Towards capacity building, the Bioethics Center with support from World Medical Association has also provided trainings on research ethics evaluation to ninety-three participants through our e-learning platform (<http://elearning.trree.org>) free-of-charge.



Workshop on Modern Research Ethics for members of the Health Research Ethics Committee of The Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria



Prof Jegede (one of the facilitators from WAB) during a plenary session



Dr Adejumo (one of the facilitators from WAB) during a plenary session

A two-day workshop was organized by West African Bioethics (WAB) in collaboration with The Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro (NPH, Aro). The training curriculum was accredited by the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC/TR/19/02/2015). The aim of the workshop is to strengthen and improve the skills of members of the Research Ethics Committee on how to review research proposals and protocols submitted for ethical approval. The training came up between the 25th and 26th February, 2015 at Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro, Abeokuta and in attendance were 35 participants who are members of the hospital's Research Ethics committee.

A total of eight plenary sessions were taken, which included;

- History of Research Ethics and Research Regulation
- Legal, Moral and Philosophical Foundations of Research Ethics
- Health Research Ethics Regulation in Nigeria
- Defining risks, participants benefits and inducement in Research
- Determination of Research- When is an activity research?
- Voluntariness and Vulnerability in Research. Different types of Vulnerable population
- The Informed Consent
- Principles of Research Ethics

The training used various participatory mechanisms to facilitate learning, which include brainstorming, question and answer sessions, case studies and plenary discussions.



Workshop on Modern Research Ethics for members of the Health Research Ethics Committee of The Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria

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CLOSING REMARKS

Thank you for taking your time to read the issue of the newsletter, Your comments about the current issue, and ideas for the next issue are what will keep the West African Bioethics Newsletter an interesting and lively newsletter!!

Please send contributions and suggestions to **admin@bioethicscenter.net**

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