

West African Bioethics

funded by: the Fogarty International Center of the
United States' National Institute of Health



wishes you all

Merry & Christmas
Happy New Year



WAB-Newsletter

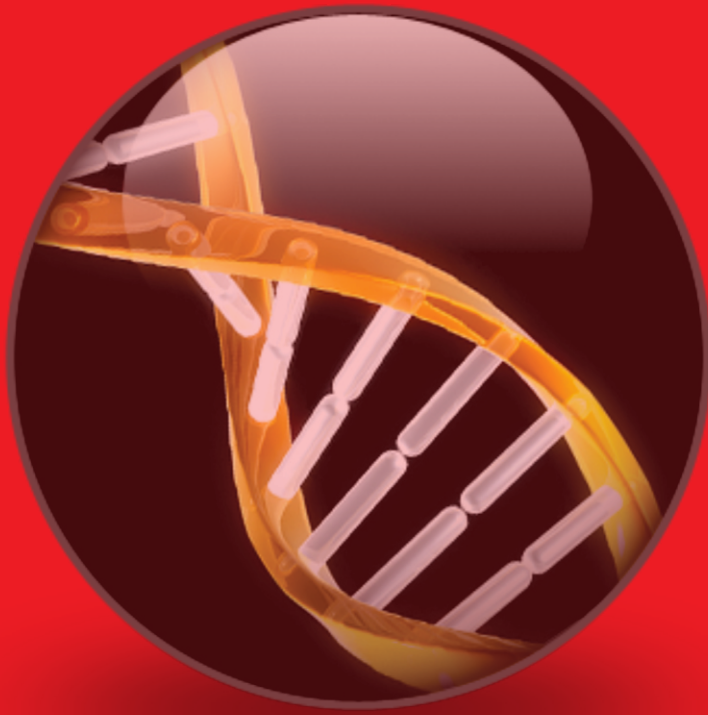
A Newsletter of West African Bioethics Training Programme

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● DECEMBER 2012

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.



INSIDE NEWSLETTER

Refresher Training Course on Modern Research Ethics for State Ethics Committees in Northern Nigeria **3&4**

Introducing WAB Web Master; Akinkunle Oyafajo **5 6&7**

Publications by students and faculty **8**

Graduation Ceremony **9&10**

Season's Greetings from WAB **11**



Refresher Training Course on Modern Research Ethics for State Ethics Committees in Northern Nigeria

A two-day workshop was organized by West African Bioethics Training Program (WAB) in collaboration with Partnership for Reviving Routine Immunization in Northern Nigeria; Maternal Newborn and Child Health Initiative (PRRINN-MNCH) and Save the Children. The training curriculum was accredited by the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC/TR/04/10/2012). The aim of the workshop was to refresh participants' memory on modern research ethics. In attendance were members of the State Health Research Ethics Committees of Jigawa, Yobe, Katsina and Zamfara States. The training held between the 9th and 10th October, 2012 at West Point Hotel, Masaka Close, Zone 7, Wuse, Abuja FCT. There were 31 participants excluding the two facilitators at the workshop.

There were 8 plenary sessions including; Ethics committees' reports and records, Ethical review processes, Annual reports and continuing reviews, Vulnerable populations, Comprehension and How to write an informed consent document including need for translations, Research misconduct, Inducement and compensation for research participants, Research related injuries and their management, Management of local and international collaborative multisite research.

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



Cross section of photographs taken at the workshop

Participants listening to the ongoing plenary session



Female participants at the workshop



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



Introducing WAB Web Master; Akinkunle Oyafajo

My name is Akinkunle (first name) and Oyafajo (last name); you may want to call me Kunle for short.

I am a Computer Solutions Developer/Analyst, a blogger, and motivator certified by Microsoft/Oracle/SUN Java /ITIL/PMP as professional. I develop and manage software projects targeting web, window and enterprise based platform. I am also a seasoned Web interface and Content based website developer.

I was born and raised in Ibadan and my primary languages are English and Yoruba (Popular in the South West of Nigeria). I have degree background in Electrical/Electronic Engineering and currently pursuing my MSC in Information System Management with University of Liverpool.

If you ask me what my main interest is, I will say "Driving things to work"; I get to do that with coding. I guess that makes me a computer programmer. I spent so much of my years of experience as Software Architect/Developer in Medical Research, Telecom, Oil and Gas Industries. A clear thinking, level headed individual is how I will describe myself; I love being involved in reforming processes with the help of software, I am keen about change and excellence.

I am married to Morenikeji, I often call her my baby, and we are expecting our first baby. I love reading and writing, playing chess and watching football at my leisure. Oh! Before I forget, I also sing, I sing very well though I don't have any single to my credit but I'm a chorister and my church choir won the best gospel choir award in Nigeria 2011.

I joined WAB August 2006 as Research Associate. I still remember vividly how the interview session went with Prof Adebamowo; it was more about enlightening me about what WAB is all about, the vision he has and where WAB was then and the picture he has of the nearest future. He explained how he wants the faculty to utilize online classroom technology using Moodle and other relative tools to bring this to live, it was all like a master plan to me and I felt honored to be the piece to put things to work. I got the job, I took over from a very good IT professional who had already set standard, this made the job more challenging because I had to not just maintain a standard but also take it to another level.





Introducing WAB Web Master; Akinkunle Oyafajo

contd.

The first month was a rough start because I was just brushing my knowledge of PHP, JavaScript and MySQL which were the essential tools used in website development. If you are a programmer, you will agree with me that it's not easy figuring another person's code especially when you are a newbie like me. I remember the website was down some time but I finally figured it out and restored the service. As soon as that was done; I took control immediately; for me, taking control was being able to think clearly and bring in new ideas and that was exactly what I did. I have to give the credit to Prof Adebamowo for his patience and belief in me.

WAB has travelled a long journey IT wise from transition to seamless web presence to courseware website, journal, and online student registration. Our focus has always been effective knowledge management and distribution through the aid of journal (BeOnline Journal of Bioethics)

We have been working so hard at WAB to ensure we increase the awareness of the subject of Bioethics in Africa through teaching and research works. One of our major tools is online courses; designed to bring classroom experience to students' computers. The instructor provides information posted on a course Web site that guides the student through course content, prompts discussions, and helps students keep pace with assignments. Due dates for assignments, a logical learning pattern, and start/end dates that correspond with a semester create a classroom that is available at a convenient time and place. Students may be required to take proctored exams or on-campus assessments at a testing center. In a web-enhanced course, the class meets just as a traditional class, in a classroom, with an instructor, at the regular scheduled day, time, and location, as stated in the Schedule of Classes. All face-to-face courses have an online presence, which allows instructors to enhance class activities by posting supplemental materials or posting grades. Instructors may also use the web-enhanced component to communicate with students or to post announcements. This is what we have been able to achieve by implementing MOODLE (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) as our online training courseware system. Moodle provides a collaborative medium, a place where we can all meet and read and write.

We have developed a new website which is visually rich in design with unique style and acute attention to detail. The design brings life to our content, creating a positive user experience for visitors. It provides beautiful integrated styling for various website modules, such as varying layout modes, the Fusion Menu and content integration.



Introducing WAB Web Master; Akinkunle Oyafajo

contd.

In the bid to provide excellent teaching and research services in Bioethics, we have acquired a new domain bioethicscenter.net in addition to westafricanbioethics.net and both have been unified into one to foster better web presence. The email system still resides in westafricanbioethics.net while the web infrastructure is deployed on bioethicscenter.net. User can easily navigate their through seamless integration of the two domains.

The Journal website of WAB is now more effective with enhanced communication, notification and user friendly experience. Users can login and submit abstracts, articles and other content that we can publish on our journal website. Our journal website has experienced tremendous improvement now from security to easy communication, with just one click; everyone will be informed of the happenings on the journal website. We have been posting articles

WAB has developed an online discussion forum to help strengthen the cord of relationship and follow-up on training and research activities.

In addition to my work at WAB, I have also worked with Prof Adebamowo for other societies like SOCRON, NHREC, Global health framework programme, EAGER-AFRICA amongst other project he is involved in. I'm so delighted to be someone he beckons on when it comes to delivering his lofty ideas on the web.

There are lots of ways we can improve our academic works like using social media like Facebook, Skype to aid classroom work, there are also lots of tools we can use for transcribing lectures, capturing classroom content quickly and easily with speech recognition. We are already in the right direction, with focus and cooperation from everyone we achieve even more.



Publications by students and faculty

One of our students recently published an article on BMC Medical Ethics, details below;

- Igbe MA, Adebamowo CA. Qualitative Study of Knowledge and Attitudes to Biobanking among Lay Persons in Nigeria. BMC Medical Ethics 2012;13:27.
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6939/13/27/abstract>



Our associates at the New HIV Vaccine and Microbicide Advocacy Society (NHVMAS) also recently published an article on Developing World Bioethics Journal with contributions from some WAB faculty

- Folayan MO, Adaranijo A, Durueke F, Ajuwon A, Adejumo A, Ezechi O, Oyedeji K, Akanni O. Impact of Three Years Training on Operations Capacities of Research Ethics Committees in Nigeria. Dev World Bioethics September 24.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1471-8847.2012.00340.x/abstract>
- Dr. Rev. Fr. Benedict Faneye, one of our faculty members and Director of our Introduction to Philosophy Course recently published a book, titled, 'Integrating the Informed Consent Process in End of Life Care: Options for Patients and Families" which is available on Amazon.com. <http://www.amazon.com/Integrating-Informed-Consent-Process->



Graduation Ceremony



In the recent graduation ceremony of the University of Ibadan, which took place between the 15th and 17th of November, 2012, six of our students graduated with the MSc. Bioethics degree. They all performed excellently well with five of them graduating with a grade that enables them proceed to PhD without needing to do an MPhil, while one would need to do an M.Phil. The students expressed their joy and satisfaction for finally completing their program in spite of the challenges they faced during the course of the training.

They expressed their appreciation to the West African Bioethics Training Program and Fogarty International Center of the United States' National Institutes of Health for supporting them in achieving this career goal. The graduands were;

- **Dr. Ms. Olapeju Adefunke Esimai:** She is a Public Health Physician and presently an Associate Professor in the Community Medicine Department, Faculty of Health Sciences, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Her training strengthens her ability to teach students bioethics at one of the leading research universities in Nigeria. Her interest is public health ethics and her research focused on community consent in rural and urban settings in low resource countries.
- **Ms. Banke Catherine Adeleke:** She is a Midwife tutor at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria. Her training gives her the ability to teach pre-service and in-service nurses and midwives research and clinical ethics. Her research was on ethical considerations in use of biological samples of high cultural values in research.
- **Dr. Kayode Omoniyi Osungbade:** He is a Public Health Physician and presently the Acting Head of the Department of Health Policy and Management, Faculty of Public Health, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. This training gives Dr. Osungbade the resources to improve research ethics training at the University of Ibadan and join other members of faculty there who are already teaching graduate and undergraduate students research ethics.



Graduation Ceremony

contd.



- **Ms. Adeyinka Ganiyat Ishola:** She is a Nurse and presently a lecturer in the Department of Nursing, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Mrs. Ishola's research was on ethical issues related to HIV vaccination in Nigeria. Her training further empowers her to continue this line of research and also contribute to teaching research ethics in her institution. Adeyinka as a Bioethicist

- **Mr. Lawrence Oluwaseun Fagbemiro:** He is Pharmacist and presently the Director and Head of National Drug and Poison Information Centre, Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja. This centre provides timely, unbiased, scientifically validated drug and poison information to health professional and the general public. His training in research ethics increases his capacity to include ethical considerations in the policies and advisories issued by this department while also proactively engaging the public on ethical aspects of new drugs and poison related issues. His research was on the viability of over-the-counter genomics testing in Nigeria.

- **Mr. Michael Adikpe Igbe:** He is a Principal Scientific Officer/ Research Advisor at the Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja. He works with international agencies to conduct operations and implementation research in Nigeria. His research was on the ethical aspects of biobanking in Nigeria



Ms. Adeyinka Ganiyat Ishola
One of the graduating student



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in modern international research ethics

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*The entire WAB family wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a prosperous new year*



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@westafricanbioethics.net

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