



West African Bioethics

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WAB-Newsletter

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A Newsletter of West African Bioethics Training Programme

A program for teaching, service and research in modern international research ethics

SPECIAL

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Dr J U Maduabuchi. ③&④



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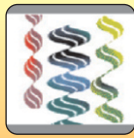
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2010/2011 WAB TRAINEES (MSC BIOETHICS PROGRAM)

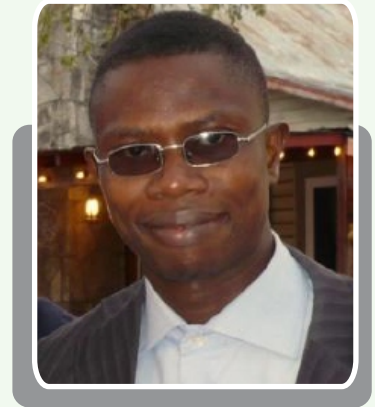
As always, in the last academic session of the University of Ibadan, WAB awarded three students full scholarship to study MSc Bioethics; a taught Master's degree program domiciled in the Department of Surgery, College of Medicine. The trainees are:

- 1. Dr John-Moses Uwanduoma Maduabuchi** (Country Coordinator; Association for Good Clinical Practice in Nigeria (AGCPN).)
- 2. Mr Lukman Oriyomi Onasanya** (Medical Representative; Codix Pharma Limited, Lagos, Nigeria.)
- 3. Dr Magbagbeola David Dairo** (Lecturer; Department of Epidemiology, Medical statistics and Environmental Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences and Dentistry, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan.)



My experience as an NIH-FOGARTY scholar @ WAB Ibadan, Nigeria by Dr J U Maduabuchi.

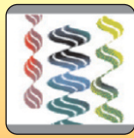
I heard about the West African Bioethics (WAB) Training Program and the MSC Bioethics course in 2007, but unfortunately or fortunately, I did not know it was offered with scholarship. I applied for the program in 2010, after my boss, Prof Ifeoma Okoye sent me a mail from WAB. Prior to my admission into the MSC Bioethics program, I had basic ideas about research ethics, especially because of my exposure to the AGCPN-CITI online training courses.



The University of Ibadan MSC Bioethics program involved both course work and a research project dissertation - the entire curriculum meant to be executed within three (3) semesters (18 months). My first surprise was that the coursework did not start in 2010, but rather in February

2011. There were some challenges, which arguably, had emanated from some unavoidable (though largely ameliorable) Nigerian circumstances that attended such a foreign-sponsored program. Notwithstanding, we understand that this MSC course could as well be (one of) the best post-graduate program in all the Nigerian universities.

The program was rich. We had the opportunity of being taught by a multi-disciplinary team of faculty (from Philosophy, Psychology, Law, Medicine, Sociology, Religion, etc).



My experience as an NIH-FOGARTY scholar @ WAB Ibadan, Nigeria by Dr J U Maduabuchi. (contd.)

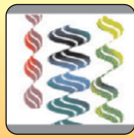
One key thing I learnt from these lecturers is the varied approaches to virtually all issues of life from, speaking from the ethical perspective; how to address/resolve contentious issues and ethical dilemmas, without the interference of one's own bias. I have been well-equipped by virtue of this program, not only in the technical aspects of setting-up and management of Research Ethics Committees but also in the application of ethics to emerging fields like genomics and neuroscience.

My research project was on "Concepts of Community Harms in Developing Countries; a pilot study in Oyo State". For the field survey, I had to spend several days in Igbo-ora, Ibadan Local Government Area of Oyo State. From the commencement of the work till the end, I have come to appreciate that what most young scientists need is responsible mentorship and active supervision. I appreciate the role played by my supervisor, Prof Clement Adebamowo and the entire members of WAB faculty. The interactions I had with the people of Igbo-Ora while conducting this study has also made an indelible mark on me. I now understand that we do not have to look out to the western societies for the ethical principles we may need for professional and research work in our contemporary society; we need to look inwards, into our indigenous societies. This study of the concepts of community harms in Igbo-ora showed me that our African societies have better perspectives on averting individual and group harms while promoting human subject research. I would like to repeat such study elsewhere, if I have the opportunity.

Long live WAB Training Program!

Long live NIH-FIC and NHRGI!!

Long live Bioethics Education in Africa!!!



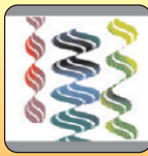
ETHICS AND GENOMICS RESEARCH IN AFRICA (EAGER-AFRICA)

Recently, a two-day joint workshop was held in Abuja-Nigeria by The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) and Fogarty International Centre (FIC) of the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH), The West African Bioethics Training Program (WAB) and University of Maryland, Baltimore (UM).

The workshop was generously funded by a grant from the United States' National Institutes of Health and was attended by both local and International speakers. The program was designed to promote ethical conduct of genomics research in Africa. Its aims include;

- 1.** Review of current knowledge of genomics research, its contribution to understanding gene-environment-disease association, population history and pharmacogenomics, and the interaction between these and bioethics.
- 2.** Evaluation of current research into ethical aspects of genomics research in Africa.
- 3.** Promotion of multidisciplinary approach to ethics of genomics research in Africa by improving communication and collaborations among the specialities and institutions that engage in issues relating to research and public health ethics of genomics research, such as philosophy, sociology, psychology, medicine and public health among others.
- 4.** Development of a roadmap for research and practice of ethics of genomic research in Africa.

Activities at the workshop include lectures, discussions and poster presentations. Dr Bunmi Ogunrin, a 2008 graduate of the WAB MSc Bioethics program was awarded a plaque for the best poster presentation, titled „Development and pilot testing of an on line module for ethics education based on the Nigerian National Code for Health Research Ethics“. The result of the research is hosted online as a supplement to the acclaimed CITI Online Ethics Training program and is compulsory for all individuals doing research in Nigeria. It ensures that such individuals are conversant with the nuances of the Nigerian research ethics environment in addition to the general international guidelines.



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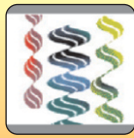
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Participants @ EAGER-Africa 2011

For more details about EAGER-AFRICA 2011, please visit www.eager-africa.com



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

Check us on the web

www.westafricanbioethics.net

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