



# West African Bioethics

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## WAB-Newsletter

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## 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

2012/2013 WAB Trainees  
(MSc Bioethics Program) ③

My Experience in Ibadan  
as a WAB Scholar ④⑤&⑥

Rev. Fr. Joseph Peter Kenny, OP ⑦

Bioethics Baby ⑧

Workshop on Modern Research  
Ethics for members of the Health Research Ethics  
Committee of The Neuropsychiatric Hospital,  
Aro, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria ⑨&⑩



### 2012/2013 WAB Trainees (MSc Bioethics Program)



From L-R: Barr. Saburi Agbogunleri, Mr. Cletus Orji, Mr. Muhammad Ahmed, Mrs. Nkem Abiodun, Mr. Cornelius Ewuoso, Dr. Babatunde Uthman

This current session, WAB awarded six students scholarship 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. **Mr. Muhammad Ahmed:** He is a Statistician at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, Ilorin, Nigeria and also a member of the Institution's research ethics committee.
2. **Dr. Babatunde Uthman:** Dr. Uthman is a Public Health Physician and a lecturer at the Department of Epidemiology and Community Health, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.
3. **Mr. Saburi Agbogunleri:** He works as a Legal Officer at the Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro, Abeokuta, Nigeria and he is a member of the institution's research ethics committee.
4. **Mrs. Nkem Abiodun:** She is an administrative staff of the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria and also the secretary of the hospital's research ethics committee.
5. **Mr. Cornelius Ewuoso:** He is a Graduate Assistance at the Salesian Institute of Philosophy, Ibadan, Nigeria, affiliated to the Salesian Pontifical University, Rome, Italy.
6. **Mr. Cletus Orji:** He is a recent graduate of BA Philosophy from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria



### My Experience in Ibadan as a WAB Scholar



#### **UWAEME UCHENNA BERTRAM**

##### **Scientific Officer:**

National Biotechnology Development Agency Abuja  
(NABDA).

West African Bioethics Scholar (2011/2012)

##### **Msc Bioethics Student:**

University of Ibadan (2011/2012)

Following my admission with scholarship for the West African Bioethics MSc Bioethics program domiciled in the University of Ibadan for the 2011/2012 academic session, I came to Ibadan full of hope and expectations on the 20th of March 2012. Before now, my knowledge of Ibadan was just as a traveler who sees a glimpse of the city on my way to Lagos and also based on what I read in literature. This opportunity given to me by the West African Bioethics (WAB) funded by Fogarty International Centre, National Institute of Health to study MSc Bioethics at the University of Ibadan provided the platform for me to live, know, interact and understand the city, its inhabitants and culture.

Ibadan is the capital of Oyo State and the third largest metropolitan area, by population in Nigeria, after Lagos and Kano with a population of 1,338,659 according to the 2006 census report. As at Nigerian independence in 1960, Ibadan was the largest and most populous city in the country and the third in Africa after Cairo and Johannesburg. Until 1970, Ibadan was also the largest city in Sub-Saharan Africa. The city had been the center of administration of the old western region since the days of the British colonial rule. It is located in Southwestern Nigeria in the Southeastern part of Oyo State about 120 km east of the border with the Republic of Benin in the forest zone close to the boundary between the forest and the savanna, 128 km inland northeast of Lagos and 530 km southwest of Abuja, the federal capital, and is a prominent transit point between the coastal region and the areas to the north.





### My Experience in Ibadan as a WAB Scholar

Contd.



The principal inhabitants of the city are the Yoruba Muslims; there are also Christians and Yoruba traditional religion believers, and the local dialect is the Yoruba language.

After arriving Ibadan on Tuesday 20th of March 2012, I reported for orientation at The Centre for Bioethics the following day. The orientation ended on Friday and lectures commenced on Monday March 26th for the new section. I was the only student from the Southeastern (Igbo speaking area) part of Nigeria, the rest of the students are from the Southwestern (Yoruba speaking area) part of Nigeria. The first major challenge I faced in this city was to understand the Yoruba language. I find it difficult interacting with other inhabitants of this city because of the language barrier despite making effort to learn it as fast as possible. However this problem did not affect my studies in any way because my colleagues, lecturers and administrators communicated with me in English which is our National language.

Another hurdle I needed to cross in order to enjoy my stay in Ibadan was the issue of feeding. I grew up in Imo state, my place of birth. I was only used to our own type of foods, even when I attend social functions where different Nigerian delicacies are served, I usually eat our own delicacies. I left the Southeast to Abuja after obtaining my first degree from the Imo State University Owerri for National Youths Service Corps Program in 2002. While in Abuja, I continued eating what I am used to. In Ibadan, I was faced with eating fast foods, cooking for myself or eating at local restaurants in the city that cooks mainly Yoruba delicacies. After considering the cost of depending on fast foods, the time it will take me to prepare my own type of food, I decided to try the Yoruba delicacies. After my first time and subsequent trials, I began to enjoy it. Popular among the Yoruba delicacies that I love eating includes: Efo with Iyan, Ewedu with Amala, Gbegiri with Eba just to name a few. Even when I'm back in Abuja where I reside, I often visit some popular Yoruba restaurants to eat some of these Yoruba delicacies.



### My Experience in Ibadan as a WAB Scholar

Contd.



Ibadan is a beautiful city, with nice people, historic monuments and landmarks good for tourist and good climatic condition. Residents of Ibadan are nice, respectful, and accommodating. Those I interacted with are always willing to assist; they did everything possible for me to settle down without feeling like a stranger. The city is adorned with beautiful monuments and landmarks, some of which includes: a museum located in the building of the Institutes of African studies, the first television station in Africa, Dugbe and Bodija markets, the Bower Memorial Tower, Cocoa house; the first skyscraper in Africa, Mapo hall, Premier hotel, Adamasingba, Lekan Salami and Liberty stadium, IITA and Ibadan golf club, the first teaching hospital in Nigeria; University College Hospital (UCH), the first citadel of higher learning in West Africa; University of Ibadan (formerly the University College of Ibadan) where I received most of my lectures, and the Obafemi Awolowo Hall in the University of Ibadan which is said to be the tallest and largest hostel in West Africa.

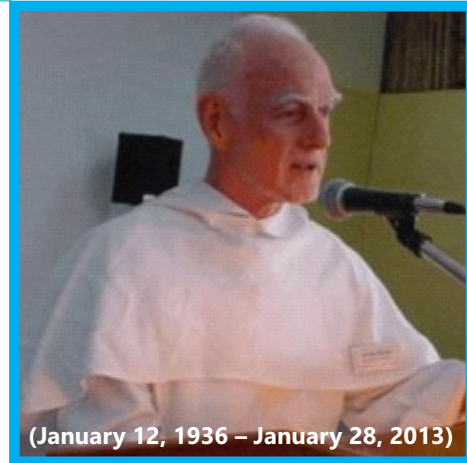
The scheduling of our lectures at three different locations namely The Centre for Bioethics, University of Ibadan Campus and the University College Hospital made it easier for me to move round the city more often, have a better knowledge and view of it, as well as interact with many of its inhabitants. The city also has a wonderful tropical wet and dry climate with a lengthy wet season and relatively constant temperatures throughout the year.

Finally, this opportunity given to me by WAB to study MSc Bioethics at the University of Ibadan, one of the premier educational institutions in Africa, is not only seen as a privilege to be identified with this great citadel of learning, it also provided me the opportunity to meet and make new friends, pass through the tutelage of wonderful lecturers and administrators, and also interact and learn the culture of the people of Ibadan. This will surely live a lasting impression on my life as I continue to march on. Ibadan indeed, is a wonderful place to be.



### Rev. Fr. Joseph Peter Kenny, OP

Rev. Fr. Joseph Peter Kenny was born on January 12, 1936 in Chicago. While growing up, he felt the call to the priesthood. In 1957, he took the vows of Religious Life, poverty, chastity and obedience, consecrating himself to God. Following that, he started his studies in preparation for the priesthood at the Aquinas Institute, River Forest. He did his basic Philosophy and Theology studies at River Forest, Illinois. Upon completion of his basic studies, he was ordained to the priesthood on April 15, 1963. However, he would continue with his studies going on to do his MA in Theology at the Aquinas Institute, Dubuque, Iowa in 1964. Soon after he finished with his studies, Fr. Kenny volunteered to be sent on mission to Nigeria to work in the Northern part of the country, particularly with the Muslims. He arrived in the country on November 13, 1964.



(January 12, 1936 – January 28, 2013)

Fr. Kenny did specialized studies in Arabic and Islamic studies at the University of Edinburgh, where he got his PhD in 1970. With this, he worked not only as an expert in Islam; his entire life was given to promoting Christian-Muslim relations.

In the words of the Prophet Isaiah 6:8: *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'* Fr. Kenny's willing disposition to be sent to Nigeria as a missionary could be taken as God's gift to those whose lives were impacted by his work. Fr. Kenny started lecturing as Lecturer I at the University of Ibadan in 1979 at the Department of Religious Studies and he retired on September 30, 2001 as a full Professor. In 1997, he entered into a relationship with West African Bioethics Training (WAB) Program at the invitation of Professor Adebamowo. He presented papers at conferences and seminars. He was also invited to teach during particular modules, which he gladly accepted to do. As a Dominican, Fr. Kenny remained active in the classroom at the Dominican Institute following his retirement at the University of Ibadan. In all, Fr. Kenny's attitude to life could be described as one who sees his tasks as a mission assigned to him and to which he devoted his entire life.

On January 28, 2013, after some three months of illness, he died peacefully and went home to his Lord. He is survived by two brothers and two sisters. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



### Bioethics Baby

The entire members of staff and students of WAB rejoice with our current MSc. Bioethics student, Dr. (Mrs) Duduyemi Adeola who delivered a baby girl on the 26th of October 2012. She wishes to say a big thank to all staff members for supporting her during the pregnancy period and ensuring that her condition did not sabotage the opportunity she has as a Bioethics scholar. Dr. Duduyemi is through with her course work and presently working on her project in which she is getting a lot of support.



Dr. Duduyemi, a WAB Scholar and her little cutie

The administrative staff welcomed her back to the program after two months of leave and Dr. (Mrs) Morisola Ogundipe, the Program Administrator, on behalf of WAB presented a gift to her baby.



Dr.(Mrs.) Morisola Ogundipe, WAB Program Administrator presenting a gift on behalf of the entire WAB students and staff to Dr. Duduyemi





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



A three-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/25/02/2013). The aim of the workshop is to strengthening the skills of members of the Research Ethics Committee on how to review research proposal and or protocols submitted to them for ethical approval. The training came up between the 26th and 28th February, 2013 at Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro, Abeokuta and in attendance were 18 participants who are members of the hospital's Research Ethics committee exclusive of the three facilitators.



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

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

- History of Research Ethics and Research Regulation
- Legal, Moral and Philosophical Foundations of Modern Bioethics
- Elements of Informed consent
- The Consent process – Comprehension, Voluntariness and Risk
- Exploitation, Benefits, Inducements and Compensation for research injuries and vulnerable populations
- Ethics of Neuro-Psychiatric Research
- Framework for Reviewing Neuro-Psychiatric Research Prorocols
- Functions of the National Health Research Ethics Committee
- Composition, Functions and Management of Institutional Ethics Committees
- Operationalising and Ethics Committee, Functions of the REC Administrator and Ethics Committee Reports and Records
- Scientific Integrity and Research Misconduct

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



*Group picture of the participants*



*Cross section of participants*



## 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](mailto:admin@westafricanbioethics.net)**

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