

# West African Bioethics

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



## WAB Newsletter

## 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

**Training of Journalists on Modern Research Ethics in Abuja**

**Modern Research Ethics Training in University of Benin, Benin City Nigeria**

**2013 Pre-field Bioethics Seminar**

**BeOnline Journal – Accepting Manuscripts for Review and Publication**



## **Federal Ministry of Health of Nigeria (FMOH), National Health Research Ethics Committee of Nigeria (NHREC), United States' Center for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) and the West African Bioethics Training Program (WAB) Collaborative Training for Journalists on Modern Research Ethics**

**A**s part of efforts to continue to sensitize the Nigerian public about the value of research and the role of research ethics in protecting participants in research projects, the Federal Ministry of Health of Nigeria (FMOH), National Health Research Ethics Committee of Nigeria (NHREC), United States' Center for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) and the West African Bioethics Training Program (WAB) conducted a training program on Modern Research Ethics and Collaborative research for journalists in Nigeria. This is part of the joint efforts of the stakeholders to ensure that Nigerians understand the value of research and be reassured that their rights and welfare are protected when they volunteer to participate in research projects. This is the second of such training organized for journalists in Nigeria since a previous one in April 2013. This training introduced the journalists to research ethics, highlighting the role of the media in informing the public accurately, ethically and fairly about research and research ethics. Participants were encouraged to suggest ways that the media in Nigeria could better engage with and contribute to protection of human research participants.

A total of 25 journalists from various media outfits including Nigerian News Agency (NAN), Nigeria Television Authority (NTA), Channels TV, ITV, Thisday Newspaper, Daily Trust Newspaper, Daily Independent Newspaper, Compass Newspaper, National Trail Newspaper, National Mirror Newspaper, Kapital FM Radio Station, and Vision FM Radio Station. The Deputy Director for Press Affairs, as well as nine (9) other press officers from the Federal Ministry of Health attended the training.



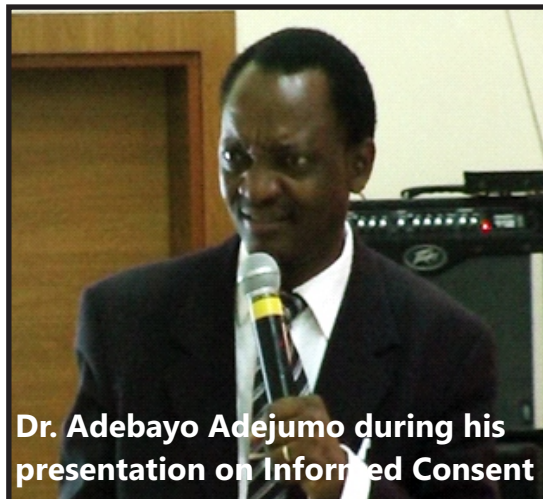
# Photographs Session



Cross section of participants at the Journalists' training in Abuja



Participants at the training of Journalists on  
Modern Research Ethics in Abuja



Dr. Adebayo Adejumo during his  
presentation on Informed Consent



## Participants at the training of Journalists on Modern Research Ethics in Abuja

NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANIZATION
Fagbemiro, Lawrence	Assistant Director	Press Unit FMOH
Marcus Fatunmole	Reporter	National Mirror
Modupe Aduloju	Correspondent	Kapital FM Radio Nigeria
Mohammad Salihu	Press Officer	Press Unit FMOH
Danisa Cynthia	Press Officer	Press Unit FMOH
Mr. Kalu .I. Kalu	Press Officer	Press Unit FMOH
Lucky .O. Isowode	Senior Reporter	Channels TV
Ajah-mong Lilian	Correspondent	Vision FM92.1
Ndidi Chukwu	Correspondent	National Trail
Marcus .Y. Mangai	Press FMOH	Press Unit FMOH
Anna Angbazo	Reporter	News Agency of Nigeria
Aisha Uba-Ali	Reporter	NTA News 24
Patrick Ugeh	News Editor	Thisday
Ikechukwu Ibe	Photo	DailyTrust
Mrs. Udoh Ema	Assistant Press Officer	FMOH
Hassan J. Zaggi	Correspondent	Daily independent
Joseph Kadiri	Reporter	ITV
Ladi Patrick	Reporter	Compass
Rabi Abdallahi	Correspondent	NTA Network
Aminu Yakubu	Admin Officer	NHREC/FMOH
Prof. A. Malomo	Facilitator	WAB
Dr. A. Adejumo	Facilitator	WAB





## Highlights of the training

During the course of the training, the following presentations were made and discussed:

**History of Bioethics and Research Misconduct: the role of the media:** This was presented by Prof. A. Malomo. The presentation highlighted some instances of research misconduct in history and the role that the media played. These instances included the Nuremberg Experiments, Tuskegee Syphilis Study and the Trovan Trial, in Kano Nigeria among others. While the media was shown to have played active roles in bringing some of the instances of unethical conduct of research to the fore and contributing to the eventual action(s) that were taken by authorities to address the issues; the media played passive roles in other instances. Overall, it was recommended that the role of the media should be towards promoting societal good through objective reporting of issues as they are.

### **Role of media and society in fostering good research involving human beings:**

• This presentation discussed the role that the media can play in promoting ethical research. The presentation recommended that the role of media in fostering good research should be based on the following principles

- Information for genuine enlightenment.
- Education for holistic personal development and enhancement.
- Entertainment for genuine refreshing, inspiration and re-invigoration.
- Ethical social engineering.

The argument was made that applying these principles in research will help the ethical media reporter/editor to synthesize information that they can report either for awareness creation, generating debate, or facilitating action to be taken by responsible authorities.

### **Legal, Philosophical and Moral Foundations of Bioethics:**

Dr. Adebayo Adejumo gave a historical account of legal decisions/provision related to research ethics, including the trials of the Nazi doctors at Nuremberg and the Tuskegee trials among others. It was argued that the latter was the main driver behind subsequent developments in protection of human research subjects in the United States including the Code of Federal Regulations 45, sub part 46.



## Highlights of the training *contd.*

The various philosophical theories and principles that are used as basis for ethical reasoning were also highlighted. The need to balance the application of these theories and principles, with societal morals was also highlighted.

### **Phases of clinical trials and what makes research ethical:**

This was presented by Mr. Lawrence Fagbemi of the Department of Food and Drugs Services, Federal Ministry of Health and graduate of the West African Bioethics Training Program. The presentation highlighted the various phases of clinical trials and the ethical issues that are inherent in each of the phases. In ensuring an ethical trial, the eight benchmarks elucidated by Emmanuel et al in their article "what makes clinical research in developing countries ethical? The benchmarks of ethics research" were extensively discussed.

**Informed Consent:** Dr. Adebayo Adejumo gave a presentation that highlighted the importance of informed consent as a sine qua non for ethical research. Participants were made to understand that informed consent was a continuous process. Re-consenting participants may become necessary if there is new information that has affected the risk-benefit balance of the study. Researchers are to ensure that participants have full understanding and comprehension of the study, its risks and potential benefits and agree to participants of their free will without any undue pressure.

### **NHREC, HRECs and their roles in Health research in Nigeria:**

This was presented by Mr. Aminu Yakubu, the NHREC administrative officer and a graduate of both the Johns Hopkins and WAB training programs. His presentation highlighted the evolution of health research ethics committee globally and in Nigeria citing experiences of unethical research practices as the major drivers. In Nigeria, the National Health Research Ethics Committee provides the guidelines and ensures adherence to these guidelines for ethical research among ethics committees and researchers. Through its registration mandate, NHREC has been able to categorise ethics committees in Nigeria according to the types of studies they can approve. It is important for researcher to know which ethics committee is right to review their proposed studies. Information about registered ethics committees in Nigeria is available on NHREC website: [www.nhrec.net](http://www.nhrec.net)



# Modern Research Ethics Training

for Members of the Health Research Ethics Committee of the College of Medical Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City Nigeria

A two-day workshop was organized by the West African Bioethics Training Program, Ibadan (WAB) in collaboration with the College of Medical Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City. The drive for the implementation of this workshop and the constitution of the ethics committee at this institution was led by Professor Olubunmi Ogunrin, a neuroscientist and West African Bioethics Training Program graduate who had also led the development of the Nigerian training module on the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) online ethics training platform. He was assisted by Dr. Omokhoa Adeleye, a member of faculty of the College of Medical Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City and a West African Bioethics Training Program graduate.

The training curriculum was accredited by the Nigerian National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC/TR/20/08/2013). The aim of the training was to strengthening the skills of members of the committee on how to review research protocols in order to achieve ethical clearance. The training came up between the 9th and 10th of September, 2013 at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City. In attendance were 21 participants and 2 facilitators..

A total of nine training sessions were taken, these include

- Meaning and history of research ethics
- Principles of research ethics
- Guidelines for HREC approval of research
- Requirements for research conduct
- National Code of Health Research Ethics
- HREC registration, membership, functions and operations
- Categories of ethical review of research proposals
- International collaborative research
- Scientific misconduct

Various participatory mechanisms were used to facilitate learning during the training. These include: brainstorming, question and answer sessions, cases studies, plenary discussions.

The workshop evaluation showed that participants had indeed acquired new knowledge and skills. The mean pre-test score was 47%, scores ranged from 33% to 80% with three persons scoring less than 50%. The mean post test score was 78%. They all could identify new skills they had acquired and the new things they plan to do with the skills acquired.





**Members of the HREC of the College of Medical Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City and WAB faculty**



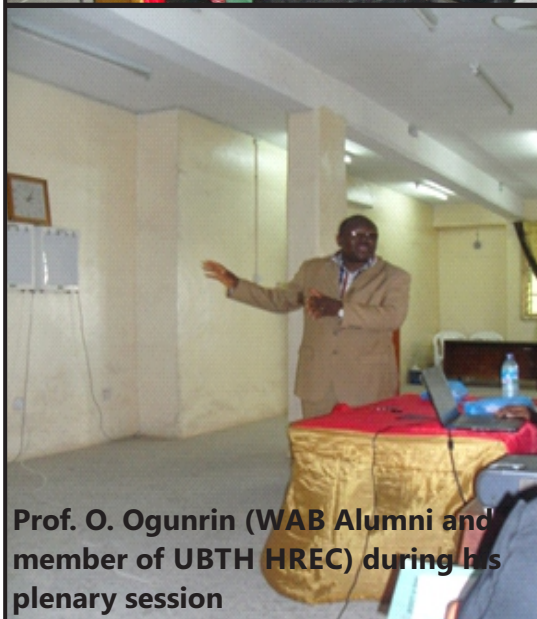
**Prof. (Mrs.) E.I. Unnigbe, Chairman of College of Medical Sciences, University of Benin, Health Research Ethics**



**Dr. C. Agulanna (facilitator from WAB) during his plenary session**



**Cross section of participants**



**Prof. O. Ogunrin (WAB Alumni and member of UBTH HREC) during his plenary session**



**Dr. O. Adeleye (WAB Alumni) during his plenary session**

# Training Photos





## 2013 Pre-field Bioethics Seminar

The afternoon of September 10, 2013 was a busy one at the Bioethics Center; the current MSc. Bioethics students took turn to present their research proposal. In attendance were faculty members, administrative staffs and of course the students. Each student was allocated 30 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for questions and comments. The students and the topics they presented were:

- Ethical Aspects of Conducting Research on Child Abuse by Ms. Doris Abiodun
- Ethics of Pharmacogenomics Research in Schizophrenia by Barr. Saburi Agbogunleri
- A Comparative Study of the Views of Christian and Muslim Women about Autonomy in Breast Cancer Genomics Research by Mr. Kamaldeen Ahmed
- The ethics of Pre-natal Genetic Testing for Disease Susceptibility by Mr. Cornelius Ewuoso
- Ethical Implications on Genomics Tests by Mr. Cletus Orji
- Ethics of sharing "big data" in genomics research conducted in low resource environments by Dr. Babatunde Uthman

Following each presentation, students and faculty took turn to comment on the presentation and also ask the presenter constructive questions.



**Cross section of students and faculty**



**Barr. Agbogunleri (MSc. Bioethics student) during his proposal presentation**



**Mr. Kamaldeen (MSc. Bioethics student) during his proposal presentation**

# Seminar Photos



# BeOnline Journal – Accepting Manuscripts for Review and Publication

BeOnline, the Bioethics Online journal of the West African Bioethics Training is an open-access online journal. This journal contributes to the global discourse on bioethics with the focus of adding the voice of Africans and research in Africa to the debate about clinical and research ethics, primarily in Africa and in the world at large.

Submit your work for review by our panel of experienced reviewers and get it published in BeOnline journal. Rapid review and decision is guaranteed. Let the world hear your view about research ethics.

For more information on how to submit a manuscript for review, please visit us @ <http://www.bioethicscenter.net/journal/> or send an email to [admin@westafricanbioethics.net](mailto:admin@westafricanbioethics.net)



## 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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