

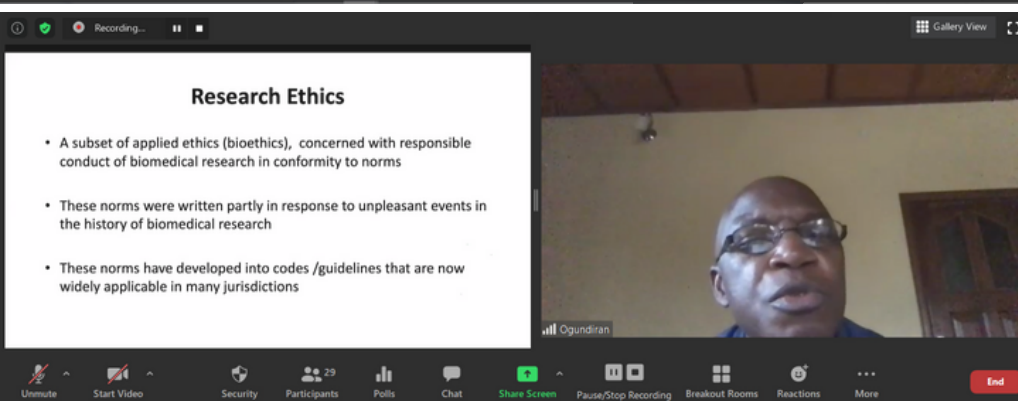


CBR NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER OF CENTER FOR
BIOETHICS AND RESEARCH

VOLUME 14 | ISSUE 1

JULY 2020



The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) is the leading organization providing training in research ethics in Nigeria. CBR continues to train healthcare and biomedical research professionals on research ethics and promote research ethics to ensure the ethical conduct of research in Nigeria. Ethical issues are fundamental parts of human development. It is therefore essential to create awareness on the basic principles of ethics that can help to lead a more fulfilling life whether on a personal or professional level.

We take this opportunity to emphasize the need to stay safe during this challenging period of COVID19. Please continue to be steadfast in your adherence to all health and safety precautionary measures, if possible, with greater intensity in this season.

This edition of the CBR Newsletter describes the activities of CBR in the first half of 2020. We wish you a happy reading.

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Centre of the United States
National Institutes of Health**



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1.0 M.Sc Bioethics Training Program

We continue to implement our highly successful Master's degree training program at the University of Ibadan. The postgraduate school, University of Ibadan has shortlisted 10 candidates for the program by reviewing their applications and forwarding their names to the department for recommendation and admission in the new academic session of 2019/2020.

The current set of M.Sc. Bioethics Students that were admitted in the 2018/2019 session for the masters degree program have completed their course work and they are now working on their final research projects. As part of our efforts to sustain and modernize bioethics training at the University of Ibadan, we use the results of previous courses and evaluations completed by our students and faculty to revise the Master's degree curriculum at the University of Ibadan.

2.0 M.Sc. Bioethics University of Nigeria, Enugu

The Center for Bioethics and Research and the management of the University of Nigeria have began implementation of the M.Sc. Bioethics degree program in the institution. 7 Students have been admitted for the degree program and they have completed the course work for the first semester of the program.



One of the MPH Students with Bioethics concentration Ms. Jane Christopher standing during the presentation of her proposal to assigned supervisors

The Institute of Public Health, College of Medicine UNN is also providing training opportunity in Bioethics to students that have completed their course work and are about to commence their final research projects with Bioethics concentration.

5 MPH students that have completed their course work and are about to commence their final research projects with Bioethics concentration have been selected for the program. The selected MPH Students received Sponsored participation in the Blended Diploma program of the Center for Bioethics and Research.

CBR also worked with the Institute of Public Health, College of Medicine UNN to collaboratively approve research topics and identify supervisors for the MPH students. There was a presentation of proposals by the 5 MPH Students which was accepted by the assigned supervisors, the students were recommended to proceed with data collection.

3.0 Online Blended Diploma Program on the DREIN Project

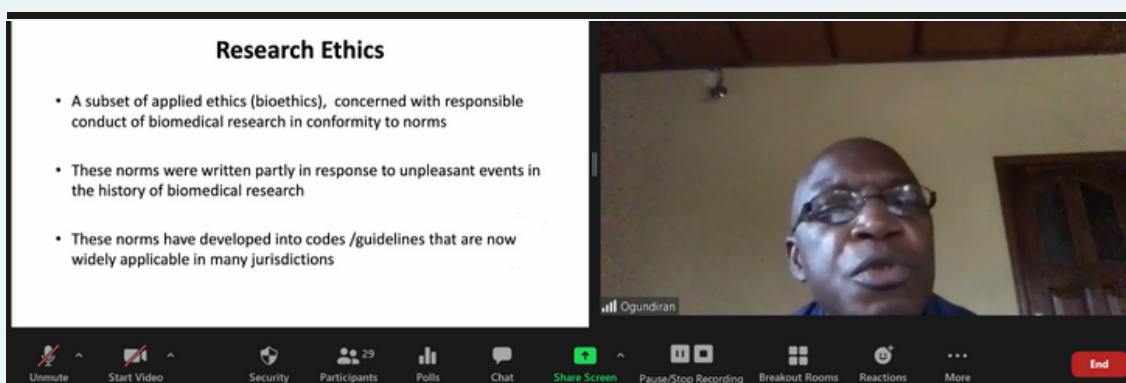
The Center for Bioethics and Research organized a 2 - month blended diploma program for the second set of selected members of Research Ethics Committees in Nigeria, the blended diploma training for ethics committee members that were selected by the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC) is the concluding part of Work package 3 on the Deepening Research Ethics In Nigeria (DREIN) project. The specific aim of the Work package is to advance the skills and resources of members of institutional research ethics committees in Nigeria through provision of blended advanced diploma in research ethics.

The Center for Bioethics and Research organized a 2 - month blended diploma program for the second set of selected members of Research Ethics Committees in Nigeria, the blended diploma training for ethics committee members that were selected by the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC) is the concluding part of Work package 3 on the Deepening Research Ethics In Nigeria (DREIN) project. The specific aim of the Work package is to advance the skills and resources of members of institutional research ethics committees in Nigeria through provision of blended advanced diploma in research ethics.

The training was facilitated by adept faculty members of the Center for Bioethics and Research from the 30th of March to 6th of June, 2020. The online lectures for the blended Diploma in Research Ethics are hosted on the Center for Bioethics and Research website using the open source Moodle® Learning Management system which enables the creation of a resource rich, educational content

system with collaboration and communication tools.

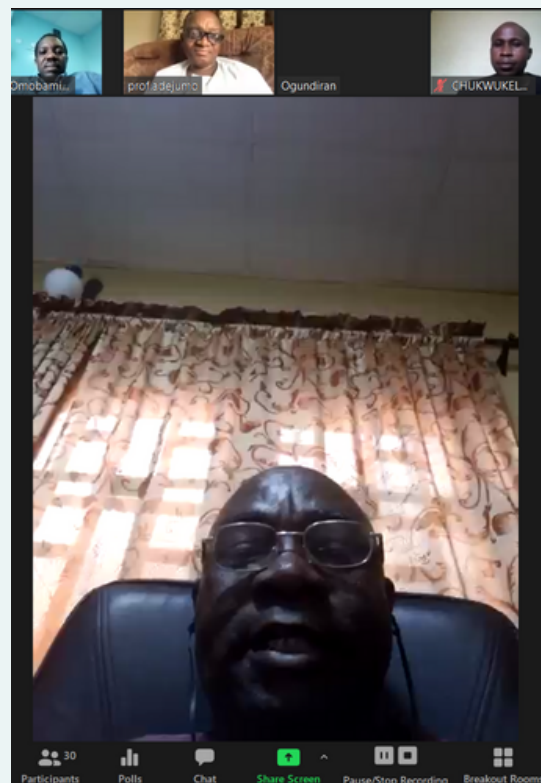
The courses of the diploma program are divided into 2 halves. The first 14 topics are taught over a period of 4 weeks followed by a one-week break. This is followed by two days long, in-person meeting with all trainees and faculty members at the venue for a weekend retreat. During the retreat, topics and course materials covered so far in the first month are reviewed. The second half of the program commences after another one-week break and the online courses resume with lectures for another 4 weeks. This is followed by a final 2 days in-person meeting with the participants and faculty members at the venue for the second Weekend Retreat. At the second weekend retreat, the entire topics for the diploma program are reviewed and the participants and staff evaluations are conducted. The participants are presented with certificates of completion for participating in the program.



Prof. T.O. Ogundiran facilitating the virtual Weekend retreat.

Due to the corona virus outbreak and the restriction on gatherings including the ban on interstate travels to reduce the spread of the virus, the participants of the blended diploma program were unable to travel for the Weekend Retreats so the Center for Bioethics and Research and the facilitators of the blended diploma program organized virtual weekend retreats for the participants.

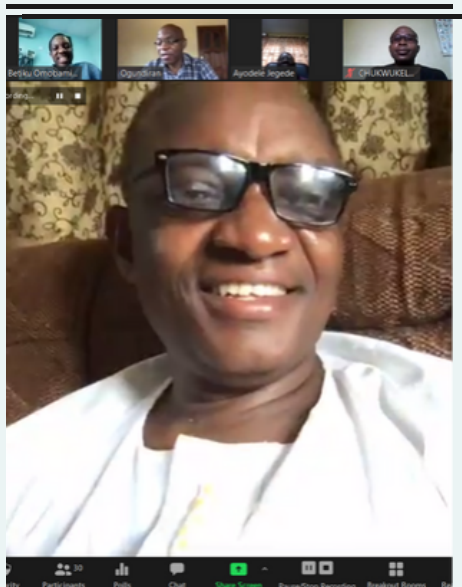
Prof. T.O. Ogundiran facilitated the first session of the virtual weekend retreat, he introduced himself and welcomed participants to the weekend retreat. He explained to the participants the reason for the virtual retreat and what the usual practice is for weekend retreats on the diploma program. Prof. Ogundiran also asked the participants to introduce themselves so that everyone will know each other. After the introductions Prof. Ogundiran provided background information on the West African Bioethics (WAB) Training program which is also known as the Center for Bioethics & Research and the programs of the Center since inception. He presented an overview of the courses that he facilitated during the online lectures and Weekend chat sessions of the diploma program. At the end of his presentation he entertained questions from the participants. It was a very interactive session between the facilitator and the participants, and it lasted for 2 hours on the first day of the retreat. Prof. A.S. Jegede facilitated the morning session for the second day of the retreat. He presented a summarized version of the lectures that he attended to during the weekend chat sessions with the participants. All the questions that were submitted by the participants to the program administrator on the What's App platform for the group before the commencement of the retreat, and on the Zoom chats during his presentation were promptly attended to at the end of his presentation. There was a mock IRB session for participants during the retreat, case 1 on **'SARS and Airplane passengers'**



Prof. A.S. Jegede during the Weekend Retreat

was selected from the casebook on research by World Health Organization for the participants to deliberate upon. The Second case that participants deliberated upon during the mock IRB session was Case 24 on **"Breast Cancer in South Asia"**. Some participants of the program were nominated to form an IRB and deliberate on the cases. An IRB Chairman, Primary and Secondary reviewers were selected from the participants to have a first-hand experience of some of the challenges that actual IRBs encounter before taking decisions on protocols that are submitted for approval. At the end of the deliberations Prof. T.O. Ogundiran commented on the justification of the cases that were considered by the participants. He said an advantage of the diversity of ethics committee members in looking into the nuisances of the proposed protocols is finding the best possible patient care obtainable in the selected countries when reviewing protocols.

Dr. A.O. Adejumo facilitated the afternoon session of the retreat, he presented an overview of the lectures that he facilitated during the online lectures and Weekend chat session with the participants. He also responded to questions that were pooled from the WhatsApp platform and the Zoom chats at the end of his presentation. Another IRB session with the participants was organized and case 4 on ***'Documenting the health conditions of an indigenous community'*** was deliberated upon by the participants. Another set of participants were selected to form the IRB Chairman, primary and secondary reviewers for the selected case. The participants deliberated on the case while the facilitator interjected from time to time.



Dr. A.O Adejumo facilitating during the virtual Weekend retreat

During the closing remarks for the retreat all the participants expressed their appreciation to the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) and the DREIN Project for the textbook on Institutional Review Board: Management and Function by Elizabeth .A. Bankert and Robert . J. Amdur that was sent to each one of them. The Participants were also grateful for the electronic materials in the course repository that was made available to them and the monthly stipend for data subscription for the entire duration of the program.

Dr Karimatu Tanau from Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital HREC expressed her appreciation for the training opportunity and her desire to be in Ibadan for the retreat. She also mentioned that the training has broadened her horizon and would enable her to perform her duties better as a member of the committee that she belongs to, she was also grateful for the networking opportunities.

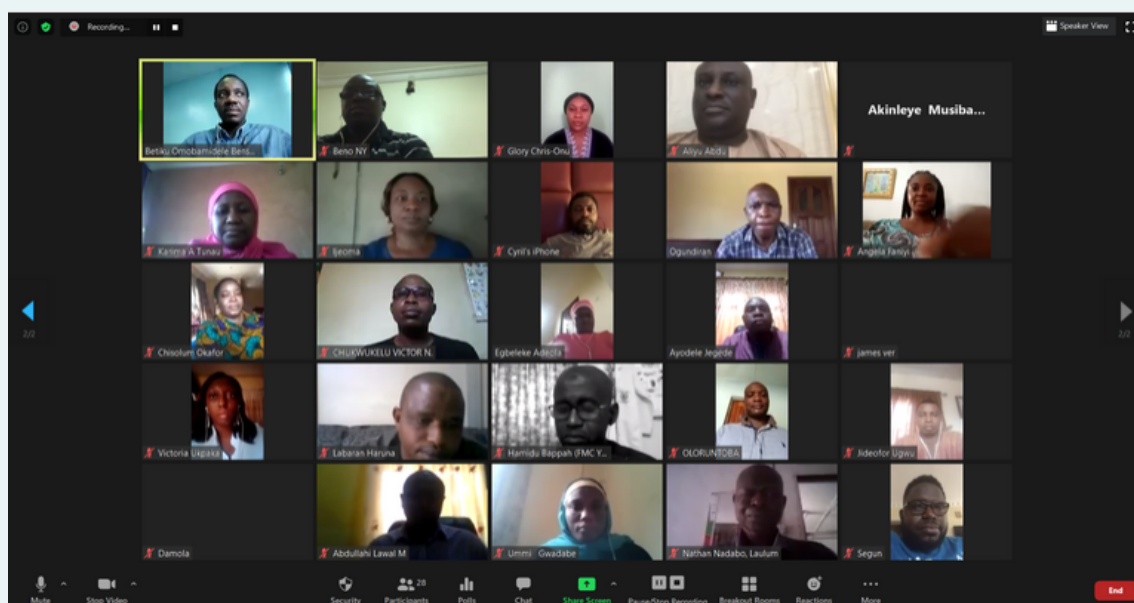
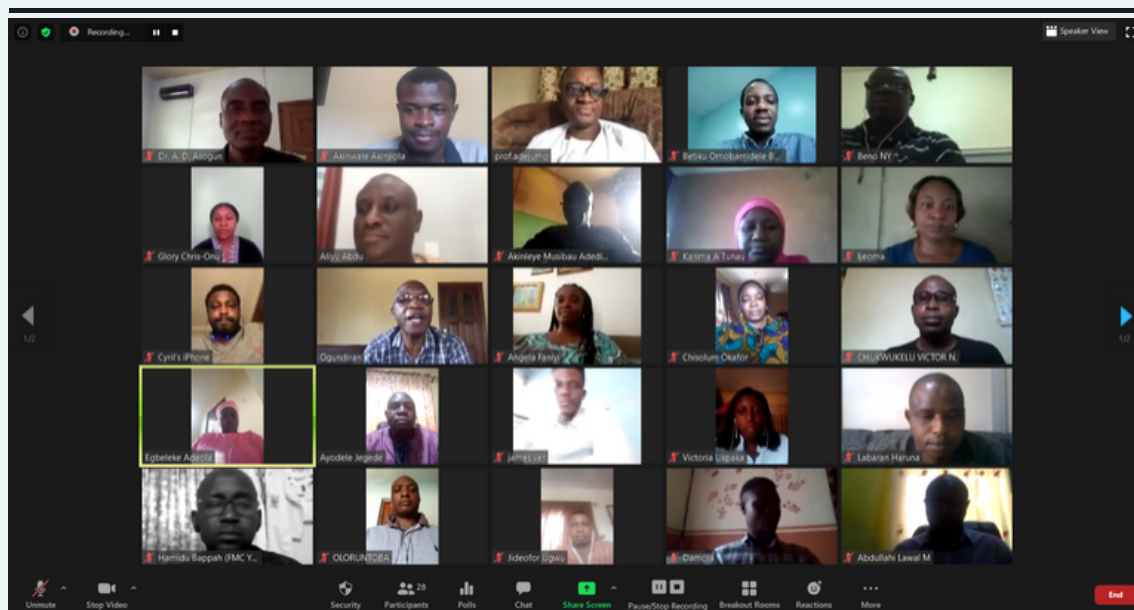
Dr Jideofor Ugwu from the Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital HREC expressed his gratitude to the facilitators of the training program, he appreciated the delivery of the training and promised to recommend the training to members of his committee.

Dr Omobamidele Betiku from Lily Specialist Hospital HREC thanked the organizers and facilitators of the training, he mentioned that he had received an upward boost from the program in his practice of ethics.

The facilitators also appreciated the participants for their interactions, contributions, promptness to meetings during the program.

Prof. Ogundiran closed the retreat by expressing his appreciation to the participants for being active contributors during the program and the virtual retreat. He mentioned his regret on the current global situation that has prevented the opportunity to interact with the participants over a face to face weekend retreat. He informed the participants of possible contact in the future from CBR to inquire on how they have been able to apply everything they learned from the training. The Participants also made positive comments on the professionalism and management of the program despite the ongoing Covid-19 situation in the world.

Below are screenshots of all the participants and facilitators at the Weekend retreat.



Screenshots of all the participants and the facilitators at the Weekend Retreat

	Names of participants	Nominating Body	Institutions
1	Mr. K.I Amuda	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC).	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control . (NAFDAC)
2	Dr. Beno.N.Yakubu	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control . (NAFDAC)
3	Mrs. Ebele .P Anto	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. (NAFDAC)	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. (NAFDAC)

	Names of participants	Nominating Body	Institutions
4	Mrs. Anastasia <u>Adaku Ofojee</u>	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. (NAFDAC)	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. (NAFDAC)
5	Mr. Ake I. Dennis	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. (NAFDAC)	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. (NAFDAC)
6	Mrs. Okwara Ugochi	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. (NAFDAC)	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. (NAFDAC)
7	Mr. Nathan Nadabo	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. (NAFDAC)	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. (NAFDAC)
8	Mrs. Angela Ember Faniyi	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. (NAFDAC)	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. (NAFDAC)
9	Dr Karimatu Sokoto	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	Usman Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital Health Research Ethics Committee. (UDUTH HREC)
10	Mr Bappah Hamidu Mohammed	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	Federal Medical Center, Yola.
11	Dr Mrs Ijeoma Meka	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC).	College of Medicine, Enugu
12	Prof. Aliyu Abdu	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital.
13	Dr Benson Betiku	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	Lily Hospital Health Research Ethics Committee, Warri
14	Prof Abdur-Rahman Oladele	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	Babcock University Health Research Ethics Committee.
15	Mrs. Egbeleke Tawakalit Adeola	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	Oyo State Health Research Ethics Committee.
16	Mr. Akinleye Musibau Adediran	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	University College Hospital, Ibadan Health Research Ethics Committee.

	Names of participants	Nominating Body	Institutions
17	Mr Oloruntoba Ekun	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	College of Medicine, University of Lagos.
18	Dr Cyril Erameh	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital.
19	Prof. Danny Akhere Asogun	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital.
20	Mr Labaran Haruna	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital.
21	Mr Saleh Ibrahim	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	Yobe State Health Research Ethics Committee.
22	Pharm. Lawal	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	Neuropsychiatric Hospital Maiduguri
23	Mrs Umami Musa Cwadabe	National Health Research Ethics Committee. (NHREC)	College of Medicine Kano
24	Dr Okafor Chisolum Ogechukwu	Center for Bioethics and Research. (CBR)	Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital, Nnewi
25	Dr Jidefor Ugwu	Center for Bioethics and Research. (CBR)	Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital, Nnewi
26	Mrs Glory Chris-Onu	Center for Bioethics and Research. (CBR)	University of Nigeria, Enugu. (Institute of Public Health.)
27	Mr Victor Chukwukelu	Center for Bioethics and Research. (CBR)	University of Nigeria, Enugu. (Institute of Public Health).
28	Mr James Ityough	Center for Bioethics and Research. (CBR)	University of Nigeria, Enugu. (Institute of Public Health.)
29	Mrs Chisom Christopher Jane	Center for Bioethics and Research . (CBR)	University of Nigeria, Enugu. (Institute of Public Health) .
30	Mrs Victoria Ukpaka	Center for Bioethics and Research. (CBR)	University of Nigeria, Enugu. (Institute of Public Health) .

4.0 My Personal Experience as a participant of the Blended Diploma Program on the Deepening Research Ethics in Nigeria (DREIN) Project

In my days as a child, I ask my parents a lot of questions. I have these desire to know and why certain things are like they are, and why. My parents often get bored by my questions, some of which are often stupid questions. May be, I could say that is where my interest in science started. Science has always been about asking and providing answers and practical solutions to some unanswered questions about life.

In my early days in secondary school, I developed interest in science and along the line picked up interest in Medicare. Back then, my interest was to study Medicine and become a medical Doctor. However, I later changed my mind to read Pharmacy, the cousin brother of medicine. I applied to study Pharmacy and was offered admission.

Pharmacy studies may take you through some aspect of drug research and drug development. The study aspect of drug development will also take you through clinical trials with humans and patient's trials as the final Phase of drug development. Then, and even after graduation and Pharmacy practice, the one and only ethical requirement that I know was informed consent when research involves human subjects and compensation during, after and if a subject picked up a medical condition that is unfavorable as a result of the trials.

When I was nominated by my organization and asked to apply. I applied and was given the admission for the DREIN programme. I never anticipated what I learnt. I thought before now that research involving human participant is just about informed consent and compensation. As materials were sent and the programme started, I knew I was going in, for something serious and interesting. I had no idea whatsoever about all the scandals mentioned in the introduction.

I was shocked when I read through the introductory course/materials and learnt about all the scandals enumerated. The stories about the scandals made me eager to want to learn the more about Bioethics and that served as a fuel for me and a kind of interest, to want to learn more. When modules are over for the week, I have always been eager for the weekend to end, for me to learn the more about the world of research involving human participant in other modules.

The design, structure and all the topics were relevant, interrelated and very interesting to me. I love the quiz that follows every module. The lectures by all the resource persons were clear and straight to the points. The additional materials for studies in all the modules were relevant and makes clearer all the points made available in the lecture notes.

The lecturers were all on top of the game and their experience in the field of research involving humans counted during the studies and especially during the virtual retreat. I enjoyed the retreat. Saturday weekend interactions were all enlightening and all questions raised were adequately treated at least to my satisfaction.

“ *The design, structure and all the topics were relevant, interrelated and very interesting to me. I love the quiz that follows every module. The lectures by all the resource persons were clear and straight to the points.* ”

The biggest surprise and blessings of the study was the scandals, which turn out to be a reason for the development of seven Ethical requirement in research ethics for human participant. I really appreciated the seven ethics requirement, Viz:- Value, Scientific validity, Fair selection of subject, Favorable Risk-Benefit, Independent review, Informed consent and Respect for humans. These to me are the fundamental principles or the cornerstone of ethics requirement in research involving humans. The seven Ethical requirements to me summarizes everything we studied in research ethics. They are the essential ingredients to be seen and needed in research protocols for research involving human participant.

The DREIN programme has equipped me with knowledge enough to review Clinical trials protocols and to go out and conduct a credible oversight in some registered research institutions with the National Health research ethics committee, whenever the need arises as a regulator in my country, Nigeria.

I want to finally and sincerely appreciate and thank the West Africa Bioethics, organization, Ibadan Oyo state, for painstakingly sourcing for grants from donors who are interested in equipping staff from



**Author: Pharm. Nadabo L. Nathan
(NAFDAC), LAGOS. NIGERIA.**

**Participant of the Blended Diploma
Program Deepening Research Ethics In Nigeria
(DREIN) Project, June 2020.**

relevant organizations that has one thing or the other to do with research involving human participant to acquire this knowledge free of charge. I know what it takes to acquire this knowledge if we/I am to pay for it.

To the lecturers and our able coordinator of the programme, Mr. Akinwale Akinjiola the DREIN project administrator, I lack words to use, just to express how grateful, happy, and thankful I was to all of you. All of you were wonderful throughout the programme.

5.0 Onsite Institutional Ethics Committees and Health Researchers Training

The following onsite trainings were conducted by the Centre for Bioethics and Research from January 2020 to date.

Institution	Date	Attendance	Participants	Training type
University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital.	February 10 - 11	18	Members of Health Research Ethics Committee- HREC.	Modern Research Ethics.
IBOM Specialist Hospital, Uyo.	February 3 - 4	11	Members of Health Research Ethics Committee.	Modern Research Ethics.

The Center for Bioethics and Research facilitated on-site training for 2 Health Research Ethics Committees and their Members before the COVID-19 outbreak. These trainings are part of the requirements by the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC), for members of an Ethics Committee and the registration of a newly inaugurated Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board.

6.0 Appointments/Achievements

6.1 Promotions

- **Dr. Chiedozie Ike** an alumnus of CBR was appointed as the head of the Research Management Office for IRRUA Specialist Teaching Hospital.

6.2 Achievements

- **Professor. Clement Adebamowo** was appointed a member of the Ethics Advisory Board of Illumina (<https://www.illumina.com/company/about-us/ethics-advisory-board.html>). Illumina is a leading developer, manufacturer, and marketer of life science tools and integrated systems for large-scale analysis of genetic variation and function.
- **Professors Akintola and Oduwole** won the Global Forum on Bioethics in Research (GFBR) grant.
- **Professor Ikeoluwapo. O. Ajayi** delivered the 487th inaugural lecture of the University of Ibadan.

7.0 Publications

Ubuntu philosophy and the consensus regarding incidental findings in genomic research: a heuristic approach.

Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy | <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11019-020-09953-4>

Author: Cornelius Ewuoso

Abstract

This study adopts a heuristic technique to argue the thesis that a set of norms rooted in the African philosophy of Ubuntu can usefully supplement current research guidelines for dealing with incidental findings discovered in genomic research. The consensus regarding incidental findings is that there is an ethical obligation to return individual genetic incidental findings that meet the threshold of analytic and clinical validity, have clinical utility, and are actionable, provided that research contributors have not opted out from receiving such information. This study outlines the hurdles that may hinder the integration of this consensus in mainstream clinical practice and shows how an ethical theory from the global south may be used to address the same. This will advance the field of ethical, legal and social issues of personalized medicine by providing exposure to the under-represented African perspective on the ethical, legal, and social issues of genomics.

Rethinking Parenthood Within Assisted Reproductive Technology: The Need for Regulation in Nigeria.

PMID: 32529710. Bioethics.2020 Jul;34(6):578-584. | doi: 10.1111/bioe.12759.

Authors: Olohikhuae .O. Egbokhare, Simisola . O. Akintola.

Abstract

In Nigeria, reproduction is highly valued, with many people desiring to produce a child 'in their own image and likeness'. Previously, aspiring parents often resorted to adoption. Today, the availability of assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) has provided options other than adoption for those desiring to procreate. Through ARTs, aspirations for a family may be attained through an exchange of reproductive goods and services, and not necessarily through traditional heterosexual relationships. ARTs have altered the perception of parenthood as it exists in Nigeria, and courts face a difficult task in defining parenthood within Nigerian jurisprudence, as they can only adjudicate based on extant law. Although ARTs provide greater individual choices for fulfilling the desire to procreate, they raise a number of ethical and legal issues that evolving legal systems, such as that in Nigeria, are ill-equipped to manage. This paper describes the traditional assignment of parenthood under indigenous laws and other sources of law within the Nigerian jurisprudence. We carried out an in-depth study of the Nigerian legislative framework and found that there are no laws directly regulating parenthood, procreation and ARTs in Nigeria. We also found that the extant laws are only tangentially related and do not answer the relevant questions sufficiently well, especially concerning succession, nationality and assignment of responsibility in collaborative reproduction. We conclude by highlighting the need for and recommending a regulatory framework on ARTs with a particular focus on providing a definition for parenthood achieved through ARTs in Nigeria.

8.0 Online Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) in collaboration with BRANY, New York

As part of our partnership with the Biomedical Research Alliance of New York (BRANY)'s CITI program, we provided **3,628** online CITI trainings in Informed Consent, Responsible Conduct of Research and a specialised module on the Nigerian National Code for Health Research Ethics from 10th of December, 2019 to 30th June, 2020.

9.0 BeOnline Journal – Accepting Manuscripts for Review and Publication

The coronavirus global pandemic also known as covid - 19 has been ravaging the world for some months, it is a highly transmittable and severely infectious disease threatening public health and safety. Although there are a lot of concerns related to covid - 19, the ethical issues remain a priority for the special edition of the BeOnline Journal. The Editorial Board of the Journal is calling for articles engaging the ethical concerns and dilemmas emerging in response to both the clinical context of Covid - 19 and the research ethics space of journeying into vaccines and drug development on the viral disease.

The Journal emphasizes articles with significant theoretical or social bioethical potential impact, backed by rigorous logical presentation.

Submitted articles may be conceptual, empirical, or case studies. The articles may be quantitative, qualitative, or mixed modes. Main articles or essays should not exceed 7,500 words while commentaries should not exceed 2,500 words, including notes but excluding references. The closing date for submission of articles is 31st August, 2020.

BeOnline, the Bioethics Online journal of the Center for Bioethics and Research is an open-access online journal that provides a platform for individuals to contribute to the global discourse on bioethics by adding the voice of Africans and research in Africa to the discussions about clinical and research ethics, primarily in Africa and in the world at large. We invite you to submit your work to our panel of experienced reviewers and publish in the BeOnline journal. Rapid review and decision is guaranteed. We also provide text editing support to improve the quality of your papers. 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@bioethicscenter.net

Closing Remarks

Thank you for taking your time to read this issue of the newsletter, your comments about the current issue, and ideas for the next issue are what will keep the Center for Bioethics and Research Newsletter an interesting and lively newsletter.

Please send contributions and suggestions to admin@bioethicscenter.net

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