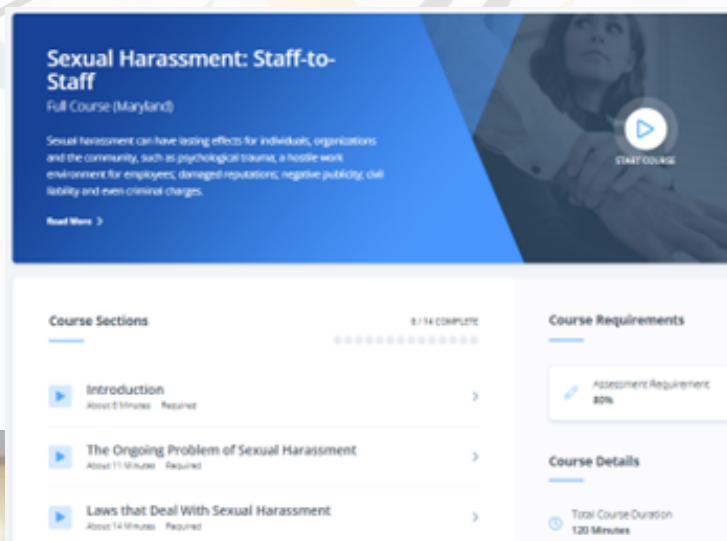
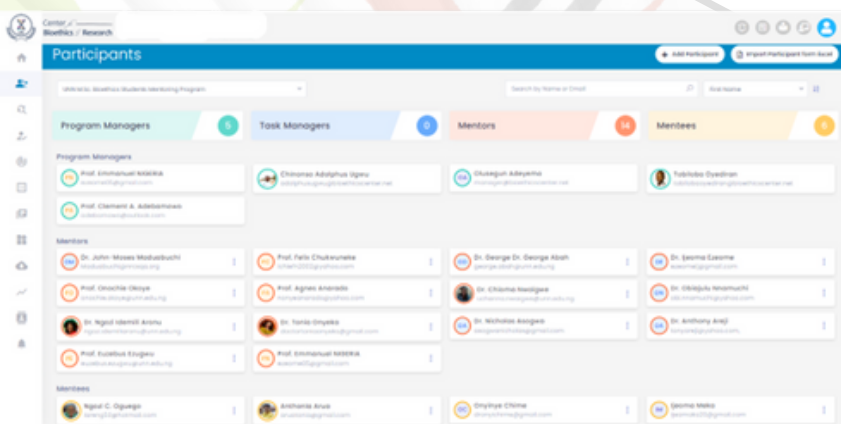




CBR NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER OF CENTER FOR BIOETHICS AND RESEARCH

VOL. 16 | ISSUE 1



The Centre for Bioethics and Research (CBR) continues to implement a wide variety of research and ethics capacity-building programs for biomedical researchers, members of health research ethics committees, and health professionals in Nigeria and other West African countries.

In this edition of our Newsletter, we share news of our activities in the first half of 2022.



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BIOETHICS AND RESEARCH

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1.0 Masters' degrees training programs in Bioethics

1.1 New focus for the M.Sc. Bioethics degree program at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria will start implementing and providing full scholarship for trainees in a new program - the Scaling Up Research Ethics and Research Integrity (SURER) Project at the University of Ibadan from 2022. The SURER Project is funded by the United States' Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health (FIC/NIH) and it is jointly led by Professors T. Ogundiran, A. Adejumo and C. Adebamowo. While we continue to support the highly successful MSc Bioethics program focused on research ethics at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, trainees admitted into that research ethics program will no longer enjoy the full scholarship that we previously provided.

The SURER Project is based on the need to build capacity for Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), Research/Scientific Integrity (RSI), Conflicts of Interest (Col), Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Safe Working and Sexual Harassment free Environment (SWSHE) in Nigeria. We believe these are the next challenges in building ethical and safe research environments that go beyond "informed consent" in the country.

CBR will provide full scholarship for individuals nominated by their universities for the MSc program and who agree to establish Research Integrity Units (RIUs) in their institutions at the completion of their didactic training at the University of Ibadan. The trainees would return to their institutions after completing their coursework to become Research Integrity Officers and establish or revive Research Management Offices (RMO) in their institutions. CBR will also provide complete training practicums and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the institutional Research Integrity Units (RIU).

Capacity building for ethical and safe research environment

The SURER Project implements a multi-institutional collaboration to develop Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), Research/Scientific Integrity (RSI), Conflicts of Interest (Col), Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Safe Working and Sexual Harassment free Environment (SWSHE) training programs for researchers in Nigeria. Graduates of the training program become Research Integrity Officers for their institutions and complete training practicums that lead to development of their institutional Research Integrity Units (RIU).

Conflicts of Interest (Col) Conflicts of Interest Short Online Courses	Responsible Conduct of Research Responsible Conduct of Research	Foundations of RCR, RSI and Col Foundations of RCR, RSI and Col MSc Bioethics	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Safe Working and Sexual Harassment free Environment Diversity, Equity Inclusion, and Safe Working	RCR, RSI, Col, DEI and SWSHE and Law RCR, RSI, Col, DEI, and SWSHE and Law
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SURER Project landing page on project website

If your institution is interested in training Research Integrity Officers and establishing Research Integrity Units, please contact the Administrator, Center for Bioethics and Research (admin@bioethicscenter.net) for more information. You can also visit the project website at <https://surerproject.net> to know more about SURER project.

1.2 M.Sc. Bioethics at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

The MSc. Bioethics program at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) supported by the Center for Bioethics and Research has been highly successful. A new set of 8 candidates have been admitted into the program for the 2021/2022 academic session. An orientation program was organized by the Institute of Public Health to welcome the new trainees, inform them about the modalities of the program, introduce faculty members, and provide information on the requirements to successfully complete the program within the stipulated time.

Prof. Ezeome who is one of the Program Directors informed the candidates that the MSc. program is supported by the ENRICH grant from the United States' Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health (FIC/NIH) and is a collaboration between the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR), Ibadan and the University of Nigeria (UNN).

He mentioned other programs supported by the ENRICH grant including a medium-duration diploma program in Bioethics, short-duration in-person training for Health Research Ethics Committees (HRECs) in South-East/South-South Nigeria, and short-duration online Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) programs for students and faculty members for free. He concluded by informing the candidates that everything they need to successfully complete the program within the stipulated period will be provided.



Prof. Ezeome during his welcome address at the orientation program

2.0 MPH with Bioethics concentration at University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

CBR continues to work with the Department of Community Medicine, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) to implement the Masters in Public Health (MPH) with Bioethics concentration program. This is the second-degree program supported by the ENRICH grant at UNN. The objective of the program is rapid training and development of bioethics researchers in Nigeria. Interested MPH students who have completed their course work are eligible to apply for the program. After interviews, the top 5 candidates are selected. The successful candidates conduct their MPH research projects on bioethics topics, and complete CBR's blended diploma in research ethics. 5 students successfully completed their program and defended their thesis during the just concluded academic session of the University. The second cohort of trainees in this program have been selected to complete their research with Bioethics concentration, and they will be supervised by faculty members from the MPH and Bioethics degree programs at UNN.

The candidates and their research topics are in the table below:

S/N	Candidates	Dissertation Topic
1	OBIGEORGE Chibueze. J.	Problems of Informed consent in the use of E - Health Platform
2	ORIH Victor	Barriers to appropriate informed consent in research in Enugu.
3	ANICHIE Oluchi	Ethical appraisal of informed consent for contraceptive services in Nigeria.
4	UGWU Chinenye Vivian	Public perception on the use and involvement of human beings and animals in clinical research.
5	EZECHUKWU Oluchukwu	Maternal health decision making among the Igbos of Southeastern Nigeria - An ethical analysis.

3.0 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 2,722 online CITI trainings in Informed Consent, Responsible Conduct of Research, and a specialised module on the Nigerian National Code for Health Research Ethics from the 15th of December 2021 to 19th of August 2022. Out of the total number of candidates that completed the CITI trainings 522 of them completed the Responsible Conduct of Research course.

3.1 Announcing a New CITI Course – Becoming an Effective Leader

The Center for Bioethics and Research in partnership with Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) is proud to announce the addition of “Becoming an Effective Leader” to its list of CITI Courses. The course introduces critical areas of leadership, including communication, relationship building and conflict management, team building, change management, and problem-solving. It also provides learners with strategies and tools that will help them develop the skills needed to effectively lead teams in the workplace, community, or academic setting. Please visit the CBR website at <https://bioethicscenter.net/> to take advantage of this and other course offerings. The course can also be accessed through the following link <https://about.citiprogram.org/course/becoming-an-effective-leader/>.

4.0 Publications by MSc. Bioethics Students & faculty

i. Ijeoma V. Ezeome Gamete donation—A review of ethical and legal issues. African Journal of Reproductive Health March 2022; 26 (3):124 DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i3.14.

5.0 My Experience on the MSc. Bioethics Program at the University of Nigeria (UNN)

Sometime in 2019, I thought it was time to improve myself, and obtaining an M.SC seemed appropriate; having obtained a master's degree in public health a few years ago. I approached the then Director of the Institute of Public Health, University of Nigeria, Professor Emmanuel Aguwa for professional advice. He informed me about a new Program that was just commencing in the Institute which he believed would be rewarding as there was a noticeable gap in ethics at my current place of work which is the Enugu State University Teaching Hospital. At that point, it fit into my dreams and aspirations. He encouraged me to consider the Program and I did. However, he left out a very important aspect of the application; it was on scholarship! So, like every other student, I applied for the Program. Luckily, I was among those selected for the Program. I knew nothing about the sponsorship until we came for the orientation at the Rotary Lecture Hall of the Institute of Public Health University of Nigeria. To say I was excited is an understatement. It was at the orientation that I discovered that most of my colleagues were doctors so relating with them was easy from that point.

The lectures started in earnest, lectures were regular, timely and exciting. Although the classroom was the least comfortable and the location was not freely accessible because it was close to the main market, I felt the whole exercise was worth every bit of the stress. Having no basic knowledge of Bioethics, I was intrigued by the lectures. As the lecturers, especially Prof Onochie Okoye recalled the unethical practices recorded over the years by scientists, especially physicians, I was in awe! Did these horrific acts occur all in the name of biomedical research? It was such a high price the world paid for scientific discoveries. But in all, I couldn't help but wonder where the world would be without these imperative findings. And there came Rev. Fr Abbahq with diverse arguments in philosophical theism on the existence of God, casting doubts on commitments to my religious belief. Coming from a Roman Catholic priest, it seemed odd, but that's the beauty in philosophy as I now know better.

I was really at home in the city; born in Enugu, attended both primary and secondary schools in Enugu, and currently residing with family in Enugu. Initially, I saw this as an advantage as I could both care for my family and yet pursue my career. This later turned out to be entirely the opposite. It made the entire process more challenging than I anticipated and though overcoming my struggles was getting difficult, I continued to strive for the best. Demands came in from all sides; from the ailing health of aged parents (residing 10 minutes away) to five children especially my latest addition – my four-month-old baby. A few months into the Program, my husband almost passed on following a case of pulmonary embolism. It wasn't long; I became unstable as the pressure gradually started taking its toll on me. At this point, I thought of throwing in the towel. I knew I had to choose between continuing with the Program and taking care of my needs. Then came my miracle; while the world was grieving over the devastating effects of the emergence of the novel COVID-19 virus, virtual lectures were

introduced. It became obvious to me that God wanted me to continue with the Program. I was relieved.

Being pioneer students, no one told us what to expect. Most of our lecturers had obtained their degrees abroad in climes different from ours. As students, we were perplexed. I guess we all did not bargain for what we were into. It was not surprising when two students could not successfully continue the Program. The rest of us stuck together; encouraging and supporting one another. The team spirit and bond were unimaginable. I guess it made the entire burden light. Together, we worked through a series of continuous assessments, presentations, and examinations. Like the Biblical Paul, we continued running the race, hoping to obtain our crowns at the end (we are yet to ascertain that though).

Our lecturers were very helpful, most of them were Professors in various fields and experts in Bioethics, they were well equipped and determined to see us excel in that challenging environment. Throughout my Program, Professor Emmanuel Ezeome I believe had no life outside the program, his commitment was unwavering. I can say he practically attended all our virtual lectures. He was set on ensuring the team produced seasoned Bioethicists. Other lecturers were very helpful and ready to assist in any form. On one occasion, I remember getting a score in a continuous assessment that I could not settle with. I was anxious to know what I could do to improve my grades, so I approached the lecturer, Professor Felix Chukwuneke and I was surprised by how helpful he was to help me achieve academic success. I did not know that we would later be paired in the Mentor-Mentee Program! Ultimately, I utilized the advice he gave me throughout my Program to help improve my writing skills.

My studies would not have been worthwhile without giving credit to other seasoned and committed lecturers such as Dr Anthony Areji and Dr Nicholas Asogwa – the philosophers, Dr John-Moses Maduabuchi, Dr Tonia Onyeka, Dr Ngozi Aronu, Dr Chioma Nwaigwe, Dr Ijeoma Ezeome, Dr Obiajulu Nnamuchi and Prof Ezebus Ezugwu. The dedicated team provided the background needed to shape my future research interests and make me the bioethicist that I have become presently. Hopefully, the training that I received will go a long way in closing the existing gap in bioethics in my facility now.



*Author: Onyinye Chime
MSc. Bioethics Scholar
University of Nigeria, Enugu.*

Obtaining my MSc. Bioethics degree has come at a great price putting all the personal sacrifices into consideration. At the end of this journey, one of my greatest accomplishments would be first to hold the certificate in my hands, and subsequently apply the acquired knowledge and skills to add more value to my hospital and academic community, ensuring that ethical standards are maintained during biomedical researches and delivery of health services.

6.0 The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Research Ethics Grand Round

The CBR Research Ethics Grand Round will be launched on October 12th, 2022, with a presentation on “Current challenges and opportunities in Research Ethics in Nigeria” which will be given by Professor Clement Adebamowo. This meeting will serve as a launch of the CBR Grand Round series. Subsequent meetings will be monthly and feature local and international bioethics experts. This virtual educational meeting is for Bioethics programs’ faculty members, past and current students. The objective is to promote networking, scientific discourse, research, and collaborations on grants’ applications.

7.0 Onsite Local Health Research Ethics Committees and Health Researchers training

The following onsite trainings were facilitated by CBR from Jan. to June. 2022.

Institution	Date	Attendance	Participants	Training type
University of Port Harcourt, and University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital	22nd - 24th February	34	Members of Health Research Ethics Committee	Modern Research Ethics
Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki HREC	8th - 10th March	19	Members of Health Research Ethics Committee	Modern Research Ethics
Ace Medical Center, Ota Ogun State	31st of March & 1st April	11	Members of Health Research Ethics Committee	Modern Research Ethics
University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, and College of Medicine, University of Nigeria	29th of June - 1st of July	23	Members of Health Research Ethics Committee	Modern Research Ethics
Schedule Officers of the National Health Research Ethics Committee, Abuja	3rd & 4th June	25	Schedule officers NHREC secretariat	Processing & review of protocols submission to NHREC

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 newly inaugurated Ethics Committees.

8.0 Capacity Building on Research Methodology and Study design for NHREC

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) facilitated a 2-day training on capacity building in research methodology and study designs for the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC) secretariat staff of Research and Knowledge Management Division in the Department of Health Planning Research and Statistics of Federal Ministry of Health. The training was focused on helping the attendees to develop sustainable abilities and skills enabling individuals to review and perform high quality research.

9.0 Appointments/Achievements

9.1 Promotions



Prof. T.O. Ogundiran

Professor T.O. Ogundiran was elected as Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Medicine University of Ibadan. Prof. Ogundiran is a founder member of the Center for Bioethics and Research. He is the current head of the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities University of Ibadan. He is Director of the Responsible Conduct of Research and Research Integrity course in the University of Ibadan MSc Bioethics degree program. CBR is proud to be associated with Prof. Ogundiran.

9.2 Achievements



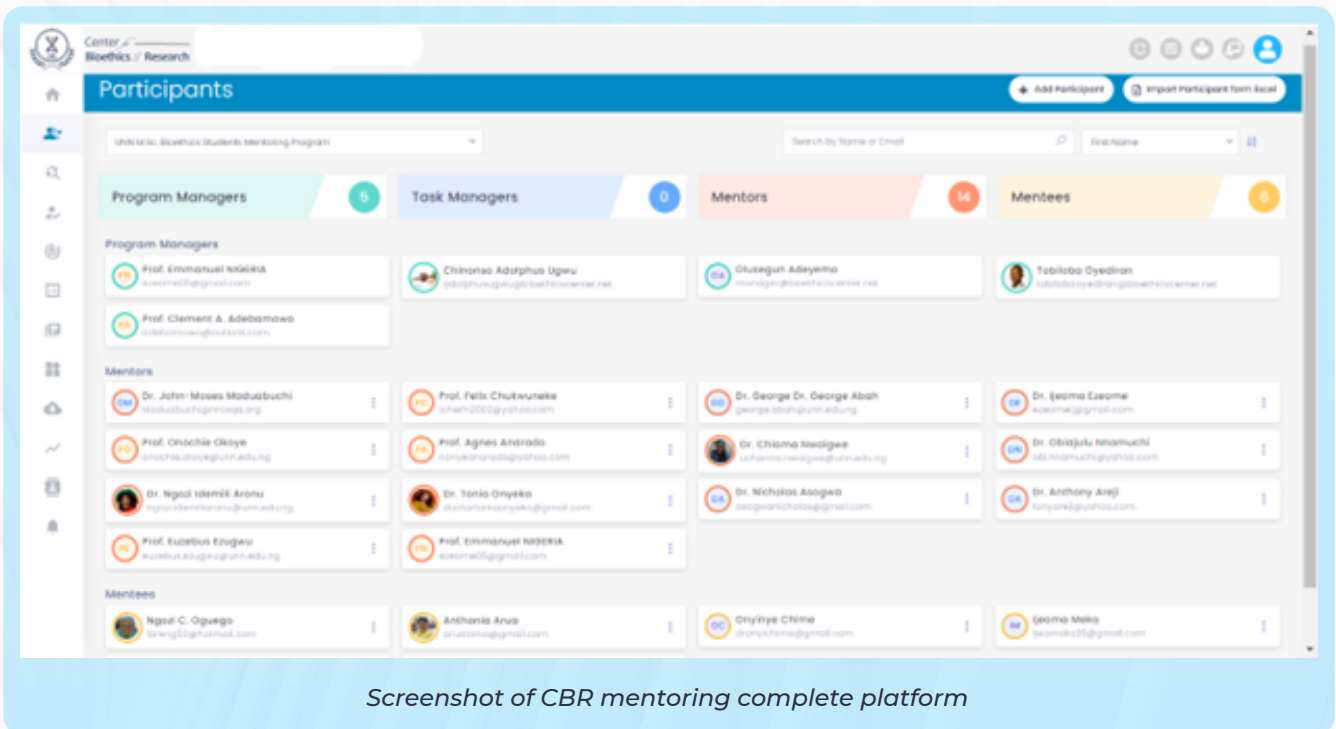
Prof. C. A. Adebamowo

Professor C.A. Adebamowo was awarded the 2022 Jeff Cohen PRIM&R Service Award by Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) <https://primr.org/>.

10.0 New CBR Programs

10.1 CBR e-Mentoring Program

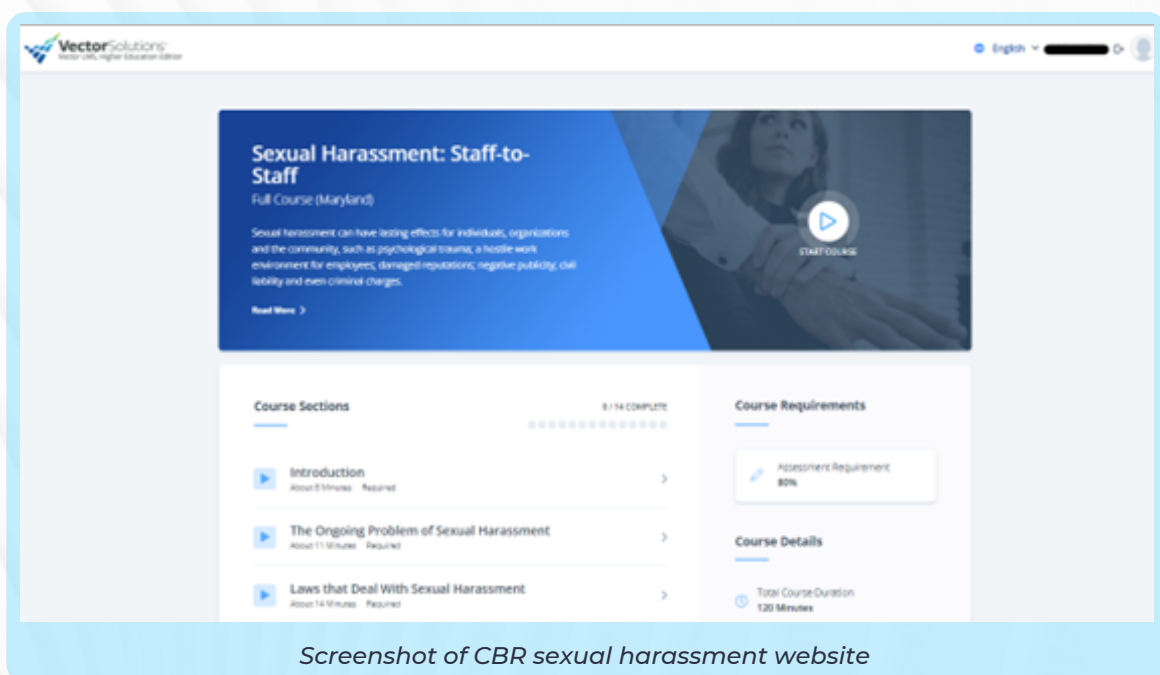
CBR recently launched an e-mentoring program for trainees and researchers in the field of health research ethics and health research in general. The program provides structured mentoring in Research Ethics, Responsible Conduct of Research, and general research career development. The program was established to support the career development of local researchers, members of ethics committees and bioethicists. The e-mentoring program addresses the problem of lack of local mentoring resources by recruiting accomplished local and international researchers to mentor and provide career guidance and support for mentees. The mentoring process is proactive and managed by a program manager at CBR. To support mentors and mentees, the program includes compulsory training courses in mentoring, behavioral nudges, and inducements to support the establishment of successful mentoring relationships. The e-mentoring program is integrated into the postgraduate degree programs supported by the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) in different Nigerian universities but is also available to interested individuals/groups outside of these programs. Information and steps on how to enroll or get invited into the program, either as a mentor or as a mentee, are available via the following link. Please visit - [Mentoring Training – Center for Bioethics and Research \(bioethicscenter.net\)](https://www.bioethicscenter.net) for more information.



Screenshot of CBR mentoring complete platform

10.2 CBR Sexual Harassment and Safe Working Environment Training Programs

CBR also recently launched new courses on 'Sexual Harassment Prevention' as part of our programs for building capacity of biomedical researchers in Nigeria. The main objective of the course is to educate, inform, protect, empower, and support the research community in confronting all forms of sexual misconduct and harassment in the workplace. Sexual harassment undermines the integrity of working relationships and interferes with the right of individuals to work and learn in an environment free from harassment. Please visit Sexual harassment training – Center for Bioethics and Research (bioethicscenter.net) for more information. CBR is committed to being a leader in preventing and effectively educating individuals on sexual harassment and misconduct.



Screenshot of CBR sexual harassment website

10.3 Bridging Gaps in the ELSI of Data Science Health Research in Nigeria (BridgELSI)

CBR is implementing "The Bridging Gaps in the ELSI of Data Science Research (BridgELSI) Project". The project is a collaborative research ethics study and training project that is focused on bridging the gaps in current governance framework on ethical oversight of data science health research by engaging key stakeholders to evaluate and co-develop novel governance framework for the Ethical Legal and Social Implications (ELSI) of data science health research in Nigeria. The project brings together talented and highly productive researchers at the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR), Nigeria, George Washington University, DC, and University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM). Please visit the project website BridgELSI Project - Center for Bioethics and Research (bioethicscenter.net) for more information.

11.0 BeOnline Journal – Accepting Manuscripts for Review and Publication

BeOnline Journal - 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.

To better serve potential submitters, our journal now has a dedicated online home - [BeOnline® Journal of the Center for Bioethics and Research \(beonlinejournal.net\)](https://beonlinejournal.net). You can also submit by contacting the Editor in Chief directly by email at editorinchief@beonlinejournal.net.

We invite you to submit your work to our panel of experienced reviewers and publish in the BeOnline Journal. Rapid review and decision are 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 at [BeOnline® Journal of the Center for Bioethics and Research \(beonlinejournal.net\)](https://beonlinejournal.net) or send an email to editorinchief@beonlinejournal.net.

12.0 Information on Job Opportunities

The Center for Bioethics and Research widely disseminates information about job opportunities in research and bioethics on our social media pages and website for interested individuals.

Please visit <https://bioethicscenter.net/jobs/> for more information.

Closing Remarks

Thank you for taking the 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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