

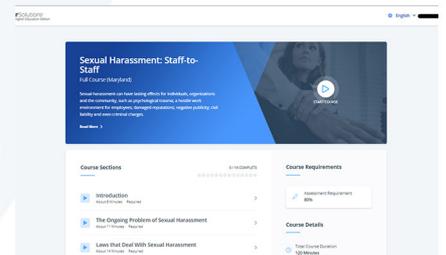


Center *for*  
Bioethics & Research

# CBR

NEWSLETTER

March 2023 | Vol. 17 | Issue 1



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# Responsible Conduct of Research Training

## 1.1 Onsite Training in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR).

The University of Maryland School of Medicine and the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria continue to implement a new Fogarty International Center of the US National Institutes of Health funded training program - the Scaling Up Research Ethics and Research Integrity (SURER) Project – at health research institutions in Nigeria.

CBR will utilize its successful training resources, technologies, and models to build institutional resources and infrastructure for Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training in Nigeria. SURER Project's goal is to foster RCR in over 400 universities, teaching hospitals, research institutes, and other health research platforms in Nigeria.



Figure 1: CBR facilitators and participants of the RCR training at Gombe State University

As part of these activities, CBR facilitated an onsite training in RCR for the research community of Gombe State University from February 7th to 9th 2023. The training was implemented according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines which stipulates that such training must include a minimum of eight hours of face-to-face contact. The training had 8 plenary sessions on topics such as, Fundamentals of Research and Research Ethics, The Scientist in the Society, Data and Data Management in Research, Authorship, Publication and the Peer

Review Process, Conflict of Interest and Mentorship, Scientific Integrity and Research Misconduct, Collaborative Research, and Safe Research Environments.

## 1.2 Online training Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), Research/Scientific Integrity (RSI), and Conflicts of Interest (Col).

For online RCR training in collaboration with CITI, log on to CITI Program site and select the Center for Bioethics and Research as your institution. This will take you to a registration page and a page to select or add courses. Next you will see the Curriculum page where you provide responses to Question 3, for RCR training (Figure 2).

### Responsible Conduct of Research

If you are seeking training in Responsible Conduct of Research, choose from the following:

- Conflicts of Interest
- Responsible Conduct of Biomedical Research
- RCR Facilitators Guide Course
- Not at this time

Figure 2: RCR Training Registration on CITI

Of course, you are welcome to choose any other course that you are interested in at the same time.

## 1.3 Online training in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Safe Working and Sexual Harassment free Environment (SWSHE) in Nigeria.

The University of Maryland School of Medicine and CBR are continuing 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. The second cohort of trainees on the program made presentations on their final dissertations to ENRICH faculty and academic members of the Department of Community Medicine.

Prof. E.R. Ezeome who is the director of the Bioethics program at UNN facilitated the presentations.



### 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 (CoI), 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 practicum that lead to development of their Institutional Research Integrity Units (RIU).

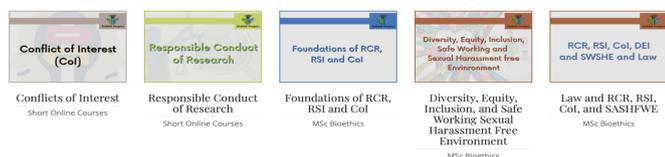


Figure 3: Online courses on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Safe Working and Sexual Harassment free Environment (SWSHE) on the SURER Project site

Figure 3: Online courses on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Safe Working and Sexual Harassment free Environment (SWSHE) on the SURER Project site

CBR also 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.

### 1.4 M.Sc. Bioethics degree with concentration on Responsible Conduct of Research.

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria in collaboration with the new Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) University of Ibadan organized a 2 – day orientation retreat from the 17th – 19th February 2023 for newly admitted trainees of the MSc. Bioethics postgraduate degree program of the University of Ibadan. The orientation retreat was organized to sensitize the trainees on the the program. The facilitators of the retreat made presentations on the overview of the program. They informed the trainees about measures that have been put in place to ensure that trainees complete the program within the stipulated time, Mentor/Mentee responsibilities, and Trainees

final research projects were also discussed during the retreat.

1 of the trainees spoke on behalf of the other trainees, he thanked the organizers of the retreat. He said retreats are important and practical avenues for discussing important issues, mapping plans for solid goals and fostering relationships, ideally away from the busy schedule of office life. He said getting professionals away from their desks and gathering everyone together is a unique idea, he added that the time spent together with other trainees and the facilitators at the retreat was fruitful, and they look forward to having more retreats where important issues will be discussed.



Figure 4 Facilitators and pioneer candidates of the M.Sc. Bioethics program with concentration on RCR.

Graduates of the MSc Bioethics program in the SURER Project would return to their institutions after completing their coursework and final research project to establish or revive Research Management Offices (RMO) in their institutions where they are expected to serve as Research Integrity Officers (RIO).

Institutions in Nigeria that are interested in training Research Integrity Officers and establishing Research Integrity Units should 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.

# Protection of Human Participants in Research Training

## 2.1 M.Sc. Bioethics at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.

The University of Maryland School of Medicine, Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria, and University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) bioethics training program, “the Eastern Nigeria Research Ethics Training (ENRICH) Program”, which is funded by the Fogarty International Center of the US National Institutes of Health has continued to train students in Bioethics at UNN. The second set of students in the MSc. Program presented their theses before examiners and faculty members of the UNN MSc. Bioethics program in January 2023.

The candidates and their theses’ topics are shown in the table 1 below.

S/N	Name	Final Thesis Topic
1	Onyiaorah Adaora	Conformity with Publication Ethics Guidelines Among Nigerian Medical Journals
2	Ani Chijioke Collins	Rethink the Ethicolegal Dimension of Physicians Assisted Suicide in Nigeria: A Comparative Analysis
3	Udeh Stephen	Handling Incidental Findings in Research. A study on Four Medical institutions in Enugu
4	Achi Ebere J.	The Ethics of Breaking Bad News: Physician Perceptions and Self-Reported Practices in Enugu, Nigeria
5	Ossai Edmund N.	Willingness to Receive or Donate Body Organs Among Head of Households in Urban and Rural Communities of Southeast Nigeria

Table 1: M.Sc. Bioethics Program trainees at UNN, Nigeria

## 2.2 MPH with Bioethics concentration at University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.

The University of Maryland School of Medicine and CBR are continuing 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. The second cohort of trainees on the program are working on their final dissertations. There are 4 students in the MPH with Bioethics concentration program, and they will complete the program at the end of the current academic session.

## 2.3 Onsite Local Health Research Ethics Committees and Health Researchers training.

The following onsite trainings were facilitated by CBR from Jan. 2023 to March 2023 (Table 2).

Institution	Date	Attendance	Participants	Training type
Federal Ministry of Defence Abuja HREC	25th – 27th January	13	Members of Health Research Ethics Committee.	Modern Research Ethics.
Gombe State University	7th – 9th February	13	Members of Health Research Ethics Committee.	Modern Research Ethics

*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.*

# Collaboration with BRANY–Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), New York.

As part of our partnership with the Biomedical Research Alliance of New York (BRANY)'s CITI program, we provided 1,391 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 14th of December 2022 to 31st of March 2023. Out of the total number of candidates that completed the CITI trainings 300 of them completed the Responsible Conduct of Research course. We have redesigned the curriculum page of the CBR-CITI page to make it easy for trainees to find courses that they are interested (Table 5). Trainees can also quickly find other courses that may be of interest.

### Question 1

**NIGERIAN NATIONAL CODE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS**

Are seeking ethical approval to conduct research in Nigeria, if yes, you must complete the NIGERIAN NATIONAL CODE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS Module

Yes  
 No

### Question 3

**Responsible Conduct of Research**

If you are seeking training in Responsible Conduct of Research, choose from the following:

Conflicts of Interest  
 Responsible Conduct of Biomedical Research  
 RCR Facilitators Guide Course  
 Not at this time

### Question 6

**Healthcare or Public Health Ethics**

If you are seeking training in Protection of Human Participants in Research, choose from the following:

Public Health Research  
 Healthcare Ethics Committee (HEC)  
 Not at this time.

### Question 2

**Protection of Human Participants in Research**

If you are seeking training in Protection of Human Participants in Research, choose from the following:

Group 1 - Investigators: **Biomedical Investigators**  
 Group 2 - Investigators: **Social and Behavioral Investigators**  
 Group 3 - IRB members: **IRB members**  
 Group 4 - Students: **Social Sciences Students**  
 Group 5 - Students: **Biomedical Students**  
 CITI Course in Good Clinical Practice (GCP): This 12 module course in GCP/ICH-E6 is an excellent foundation for investigators and staff conducting human subjects research according to Good Clinical Practice standards. The course will require 3-4 hrs to complete all modules and quizzes. The CITI "Basic" Course in The Protection of Human Subjects should be completed before attempting this GCP course.  
 IRB Reference Resource: All CITI modules are available for ongoing use and reference when you join this Learner Group. If you are required to complete the CITI modules as a prerequisite for conducting human subjects research, you should enroll in a Learner Group listed above and complete all requirements. If you enroll in this group you will be required to complete ALL CITI modules. You may change your Learner Group status to "IRB Reference Resource" later to access review any of the CITI modules.  
 IRB Chairs  
 IRB Administration  
 Institutional/Signatory Official  
 Revised Common Rule  
 Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)  
 Basic Biosafety Training  
 Biosafety Retraining  
 Animal Biosafety  
 Technology Transfer  
 None

### Question 4

**Ethical Aspects of Data Science Health Research**

If you are seeking training in Ethical aspects of Data Science Health Research, choose from the following:

IPS for Clinicians  
 IPS for Researchers  
 IPS for Students and Instructors  
 IPS for Fundraisers  
 IPS for Marketers  
 GDPR for Research and Higher Ed  
 Technology, Ethics, and Regulations  
 Technology Transfer  
 Not at this time

### Question 7

**Webinars**

Please choose the Webinars you would like to review:

Ethics & Policy Issues in CRISPR Gene Editing New Content  
 The Challenge of Medicare Advantage Plans and Local Coverage Determinations  
 GDPR & Human Subject Research in the U.S.  
 FERPA: A Quick Review of the Law for Researchers and IRBs  
 Preparing for Single IRB (sIRB) under the Common Rule  
 Building a ClinicalTrials.gov Compliance Program – Tips for Investigators and Institutions  
 Transitioning Research to the Revised Common Rule: The What, How, and Why  
 Revised Common Rule: Overview of Revisions  
 Revised Common Rule: Revisions to Definitions  
 Revised Common Rule: Revisions to Informed Consent  
 Running a Virtual IRB Meeting  
 Medical Marijuana: A Budding Field of Research  
 Understanding Consent Requirements and "Key Information" Under the Revised Rule  
 Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Human Subject Protections  
 Social Media and Research Recruiting  
 Importance of Peer Review and Data Validation in Research  
 COVID-19: Supporting Ethical Care and Responding to Workforce Concerns in a Public Health Emergency  
 "Nuts & Bolts" of Running a Virtual IRB Meeting  
 COVID-19 and Human Research Protection Programs  
 FERPA and Online Learning in the Time of COVID-19  
 International Students in Focus at U.S. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)  
 Informed Consent: A Focus on the Process  
 Informed Consent and Research with Wearable Tech  
 Health Disparities: Promoting Equity and Diversity in Clinical Research

Figure 5: Choice of online trainings available through the CITI-CBR website.

## Pioneer MSc Bioethics Students Convocation at University of Nigeria (UNN), Nsukka.

The University of Nigeria (UNN) Enugu conducted its 50th convocation ceremony on the 25th of March 2023. A total of 14, 308 bachelor's degrees of the UNN were awarded at the convocation while 2,482 postgraduate degrees were awarded. Among the students that were awarded with postgraduate degrees are the first set of MSc. Bioethics students that were admitted for the training program in 2021 at the University of Nigeria, Enugu. The convocation ceremony marked the official graduation of the students from the University of Nigeria.

The MSc. Bioethics students were fully sponsored by a training grant titled 'Eastern Nigeria Research Ethics Training (ENRICH) Program' funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with support from the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria. During their time on the program the students were provided with textbooks, laptops, tuition fees, and other learning materials to make their program as seamless as possible.

The ENRICH Program engages US and Nigerian faculty to support the development of robust research ethics capacity in eastern Nigeria. The program faculty are principally implementers of research ethics education programs and research ethics researchers in the US and sub-Saharan Africa. Some of these faculty mentor and supervise the projects of ENRICH trainees in addition to UNN Program faculty and mentors.

The ENRICH Program also consists of a health research ethics committee (HREC) Working Group (HWG) which consists of UNN ENRICH faculty that ensures HRECs receive on-site (or virtual) training for all members to enable NHREC registration or renewal of their registration.

The duration of the MSc. Bioethics program at the University of Nigeria spans over a period of 18 months of rigorous training where students are trained to be competent Bioethicists using learning mechanisms such as seminars, classroom discussions, research, grand rounds, workshops and many more.



*Figure 6: From left to right: Glory Chris – Onu, Jane Chisom Christopher, Anthonia Arua, Onyinye Chime, Ijeoma Meka..*

The Director of the Bioethics Unit Institute of Public Health UNN, Prof. E.R. Ezeome congratulated the students on their successful completion of the program. Prof. Ezeome is highly respected and admired by the students on the program. He is known for his in-depth knowledge in the field of Bioethics and has been a professor in the University for years.

The convocation ceremony also featured speeches from some of the students, who expressed gratitude towards the faculty, administration of the program, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the opportunity to benefit from the program.

# The Bioethics Library of the Center for Bioethics and Research.

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Bioethics Library is the most comprehensive repository bioethics books, journals, and other educational materials for students, faculty members, and researchers in Nigeria. It is available to all individuals interested in bioethics research and training. The library empowers students and faculty to discover and obtain information needed for their research in Protection of Human Participants in Research, RCR, RSI, DEI, Safe Working and Sexual Harassment free Environment. The librarian can be contacted, and the library’s catalogue can be viewed through <http://library.bioethicscenter.net>

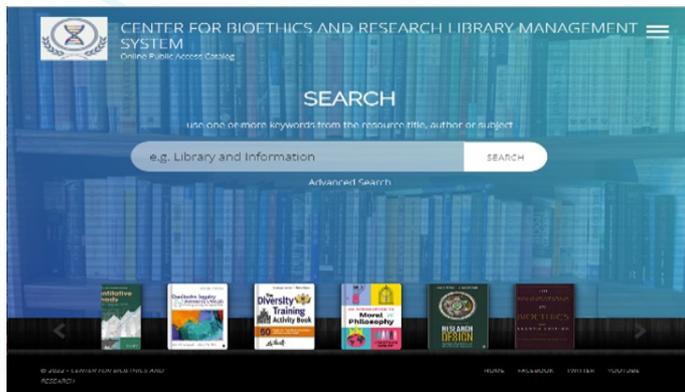
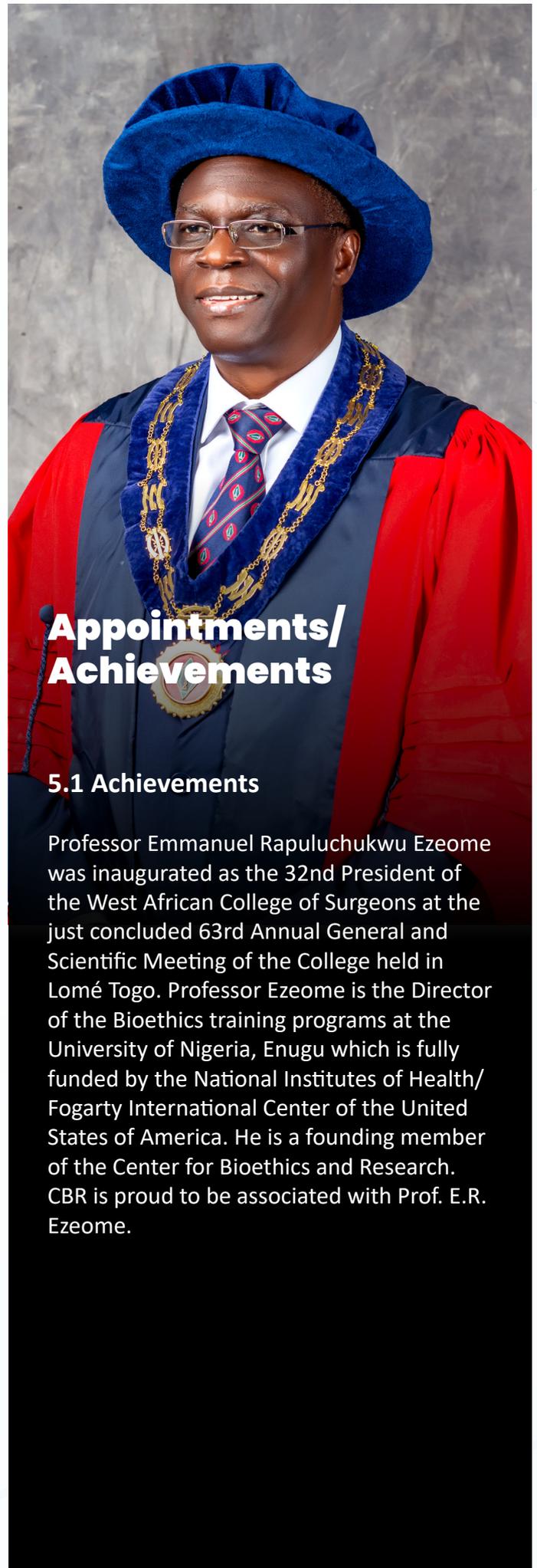


Figure 7: Bioethics library of the Center for Bioethics and Research, Ibadan, Nigeria



## Appointments/Achievements

### 5.1 Achievements

Professor Emmanuel Rapuluchukwu Ezeome was inaugurated as the 32nd President of the West African College of Surgeons at the just concluded 63rd Annual General and Scientific Meeting of the College held in Lomé Togo. Professor Ezeome is the Director of the Bioethics training programs at the University of Nigeria, Enugu which is fully funded by the National Institutes of Health/ Fogarty International Center of the United States of America. He is a founding member of the Center for Bioethics and Research. CBR is proud to be associated with Prof. E.R. Ezeome.

# CBR Programs



## 6.1 CBR e-Mentoring Program

CBR 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 for 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, 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 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 is available via the following link. Please visit - Mentoring Training – Center for Bioethics and Research (bioethicscenter.net) for more information.

## 6.2 Grand Rounds of the Center for Bioethics and Research (GR-CBR).

The Grand Rounds of the Center for Bioethics and Research is a new and innovative program designed to educate and enable development of bioethics research capacity in Nigeria. The Grand Round will hold monthly and feature presentations on Bioethics by faculty, local and international guest speakers. Trainees will also have an opportunity to present work-in-progress related to their research projects during these rounds.

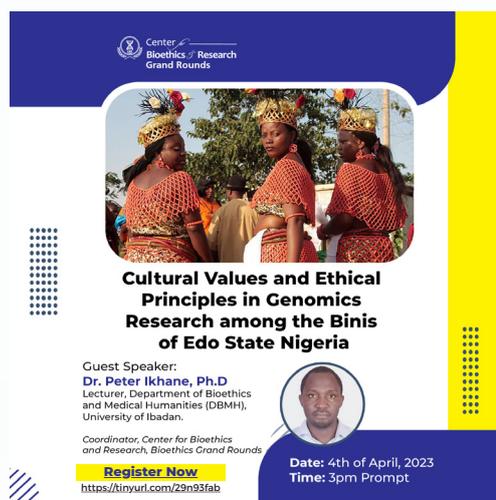


Figure 9: Event Poster for the CBR Grand Round.

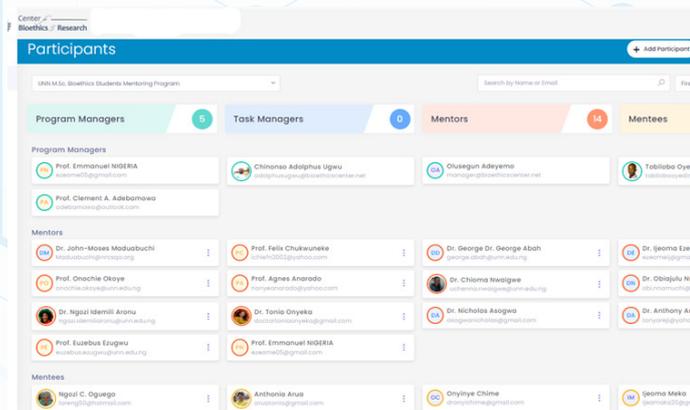


Figure 8 Screenshot of CBR mentoring complete platform.

Dr. Peter Ikhane of the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities, University of Ibadan made the first presentation of the grand rounds and it was titled ‘Cultural Values and Ethical Principles in Genomics Research among the Binis of Edo State Nigeria.’

Interested speakers should send an email to [admin@bioethicscenter.net](mailto:admin@bioethicscenter.net) effectively educating individuals on sexual harassment and misconduct.

# 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](http://beonlinejournal.net)). You can also submit by contacting the Editor in Chief directly by email at [editorinchief@beonlinejournal.net](mailto: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](http://beonlinejournal.net)) or send an email to: [editorinchief@beonlinejournal.net](mailto:editorinchief@beonlinejournal.net).



## 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 Remark

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 Centre for Bioethics and Research Newsletter an interesting and lively newsletter.

Please send contributions and suggestions to [admin@bioethicscenter.net](mailto:admin@bioethicscenter.net)

Check us on the web

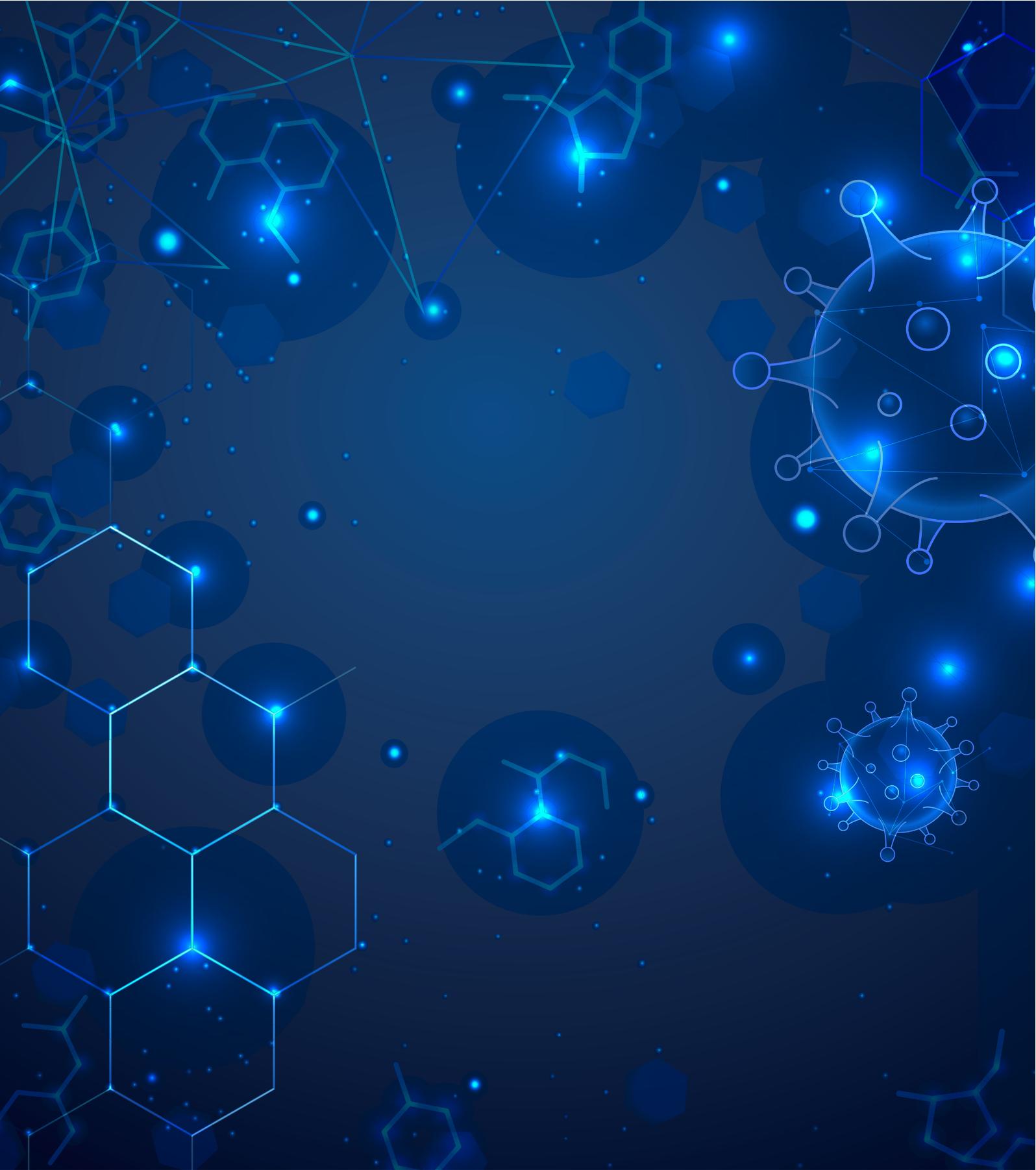
[www.bioethicscenter.net](http://www.bioethicscenter.net)

We wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

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