

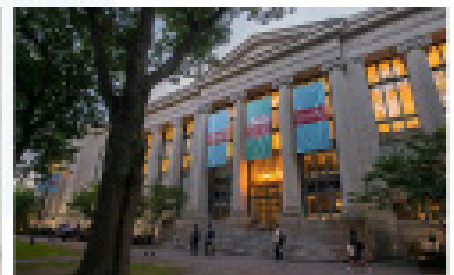


Center *for*  
Bioethics *&* Research

# CBR

## NEWSLETTER

March 2024 | Vol. 18 | Issue 1



# IN THIS EDITION

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR), Nigeria 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 quarter of 2024.

## 1.0 The Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) University of Ibadan.

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# The Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) University of Ibadan.

## 1.1 Ratification of the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) University of Ibadan.

The Senate of the University of Ibadan ratified the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) as a full – fledged department in the Faculty of Multidisciplinary Studies on the 3rd of August, 2023.

The DBMH trains students admitted for Masters degree program and Ph.D. Program in Bioethics at the University of Ibadan. The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria provides support for the department in these activities.

## 1.2 MSc Bioethics (Research Ethics)

The Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) at the University of Ibadan has received 13 expression of interest letters from individuals interested in applying for the Bioethics program at the commencement of the next academic session. Our current set of trainees are on their final set of course work, they will start working on their final research projects at the end of their coursework.

Trainees are fully supported with learning materials by the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria.

## 1.3 Admission into M.Sc. Bioethics (RCR) degree at University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Between January and March 2024. So far, we have received 4 applications from universities in Nigeria nominating candidates for the Masters degree in Bioethics focused on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). The Federal Universities are listed below.

1. Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State.
2. Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.
3. Joseph Sarwuan Takar University, Makurdi, Benue State.
4. Federal University of Health Sciences, Otuoke, Bayelsa State

Applicants must be nominated by their institutions, and they are expected to become the Research Integrity Officers (RIO) in the Research Management Offices of their respective institutions after completing the program.

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 Scaling Up Research Ethics and Research Integrity (Surer) project.



Figure 1: From Left to Right: Mr. Adesola Adeyemo Graduate Teaching Assistant DBMH, Mr. Gabriel Orum, Mr. Mordecai Owajioniro, Mr. Godwin Ejembi, Prof. A.S. Jegede, Ms. Blessing Ojo, Prof. Omokhoa Adeleye, Prof. C.O. Agulanna, Ms. Tomilola Ogunyemi, Mrs. Tobiloba Adeniji, Dr. Victor Wogu, Dr. Peter Ikhane.



# Training in Protection of Human Participants in Research at University of Nigeria, Nsukka

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

Four students in the MSc Bioethics program at the University of Nigeria (UNN) Enugu have completed their course work and started working on their final research project.

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

Eight trainees in the MPH with Bioethics Concentration program at UNN have started working on their final research projects. They are supervised by faculty members in the faculty of Public Health and Bioethics Unit of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN). The trainees have completed the blended diploma program of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria. The diploma program provides the MPH students with graduate level training in bioethics to complement their MPH training.



**Figure 1:** From left to right: Christopher Usman, Ugwu Mary, Asemota Aisosa, Nnenna Okpaleke, Grace Bernard - Asadu, Egwuatu Ifeoma, Amaechi Jude, Nwagbo Amara

The trainees were provided with course materials and textbooks courtesy of the Center for Bioethics and Research, Nigeria during their training. Transportation and accommodation were also provided for them during the mandatory weekend retreats of the diploma program by the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria.



**Figure 2:** Prof. Jegede (CBR facilitator) interacting with the trainees during the blended diploma weekend retreat.



**Figure 3:** Trainees forming a simulated group named: Apple HREC have a focus group discussion based on the case study prepared during the weekend retreat program.



# Center for Bioethics and Research programs

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

The following onsite trainings were facilitated by CBR from January, 2024 to March 2024.

Institution	Date	Attendance	Participants	Training type
Eye Foundation Specialist Hospital HREC.	16th – 17th February	13	Members of Health Research Ethics Committee.	Modern Research Ethics.
The Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) Staff.	29th Jan. – 2nd February.	100	Members of staff, laboratory unit, and research teams.	Overview of human research protection system in Nigeria and use and protection of animals in Research

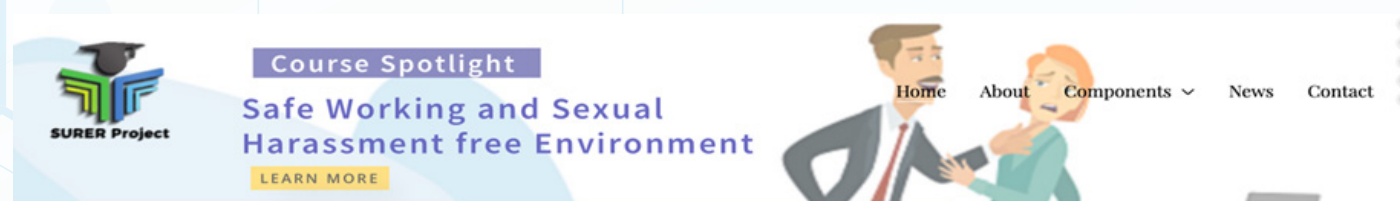
*These trainings are part of the requirements by the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC) for registration of newly inaugurated Ethics Committees and renewal of registration for existing HRECs.*

## 3.2 Human Subjects Protection training in collaboration with BRANY-Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), New York.

We provided the following online trainings to biomedical researchers and students in Nigeria - 867 in Protection of Human Subjects of Research, 1,356 on the Nigerian National Code for Health Research Ethics, 481 in Good Clinical Practice, and 77 in Conflicts of Interest, and 321 in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) from the 1st of January 2024 till 30th of March 2024.

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

CBR has launched new courses on ‘Safe Working Environment and Sexual Harassment free Environment’ 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. The Courses are still available on the CBR Website. Please visit Sexual harassment training – Center for Bioethics and Research ([bioethicscenter.net](http://bioethicscenter.net)) for more information. CBR is committed to being a leader in preventing and effectively educating individuals on sexual harassment and misconduct.



## 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

*Figure 4: Online courses on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Safe Working and Sexual Harassment free Environment (SWSHE) on the SURER Project site*

# 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>. Please contact the librarian for any inquiries at [librarian@bioethicscenter.net](mailto:librarian@bioethicscenter.net)

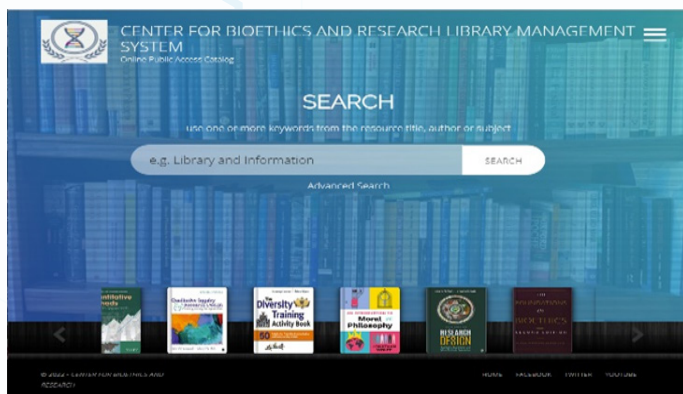


Figure 5: Bioethics library of the Center for Bioethics and Research, Ibadan, Nigeria

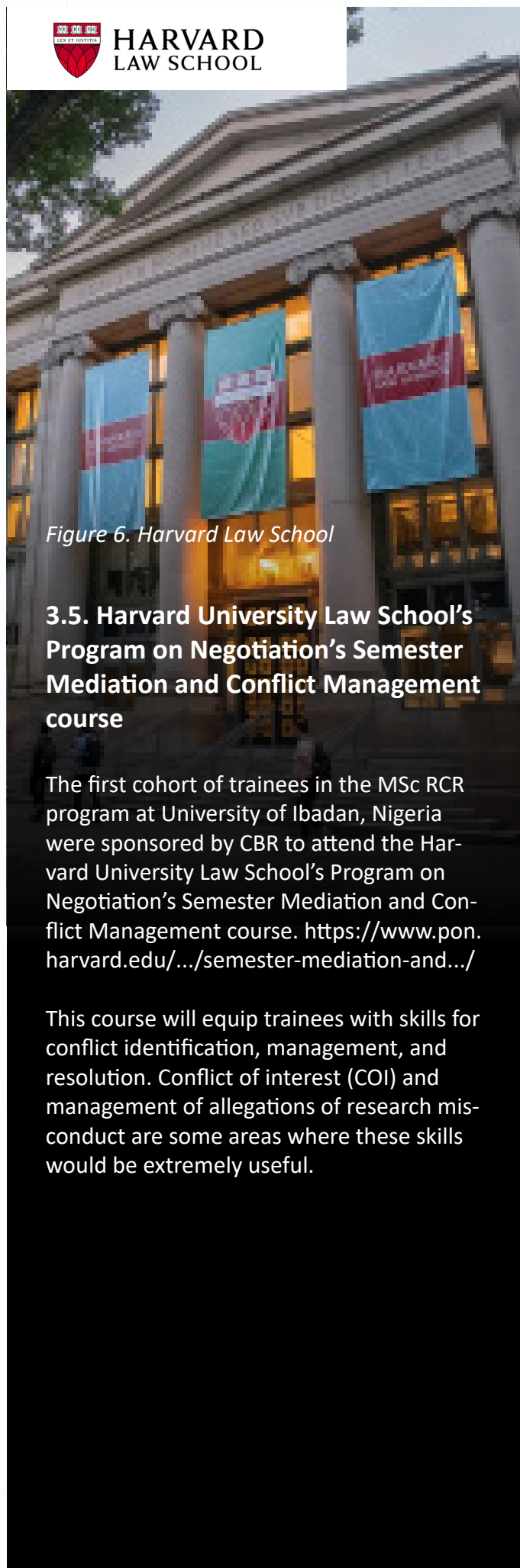


Figure 6. Harvard Law School

## 3.5. Harvard University Law School's Program on Negotiation's Semester Mediation and Conflict Management course

The first cohort of trainees in the MSc RCR program at University of Ibadan, Nigeria were sponsored by CBR to attend the Harvard University Law School's Program on Negotiation's Semester Mediation and Conflict Management course. <https://www.pon.harvard.edu/.../semester-mediation-and-.../>

This course will equip trainees with skills for conflict identification, management, and resolution. Conflict of interest (COI) and management of allegations of research misconduct are some areas where these skills would be extremely useful.

## Publications



*Figure 7: Prof Clement Adebamowo*

1. Adebamowo, C.A., Callier, S., Akintola, S. et al. The promise of data science for health research in Africa. *Nat Commun* 14, 6084 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-41809-2>

This publication is derived from the Bridging Gaps in the ELSI of Data Science Health Research in Nigeria (BridgELSI) Project which is being implemented by the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria.

The publication discusses emerging efforts to build ethical governance frameworks for data science health research in Africa and the opportunities to advance these through investments by African governments and institutions, international funding organizations and collaborations for research and capacity development. The BridgELSI Project is a collaborative project 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.



# BeOnline Journal

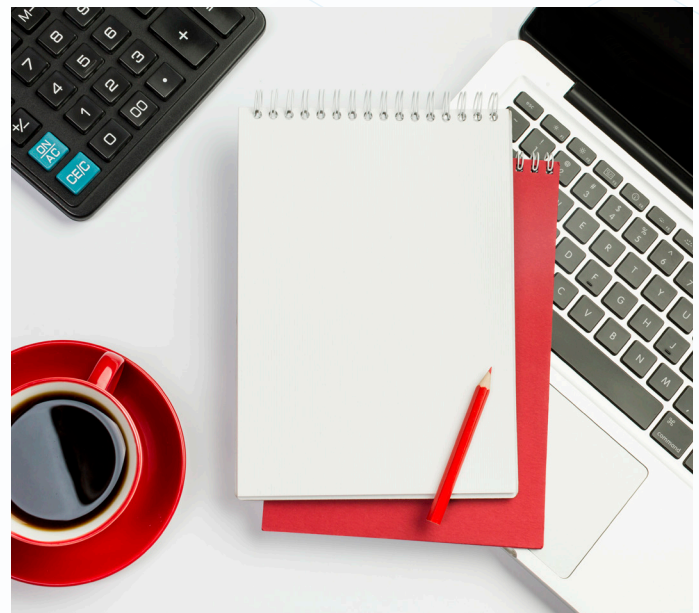
## Accepting Manuscripts for Review and Publication

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.

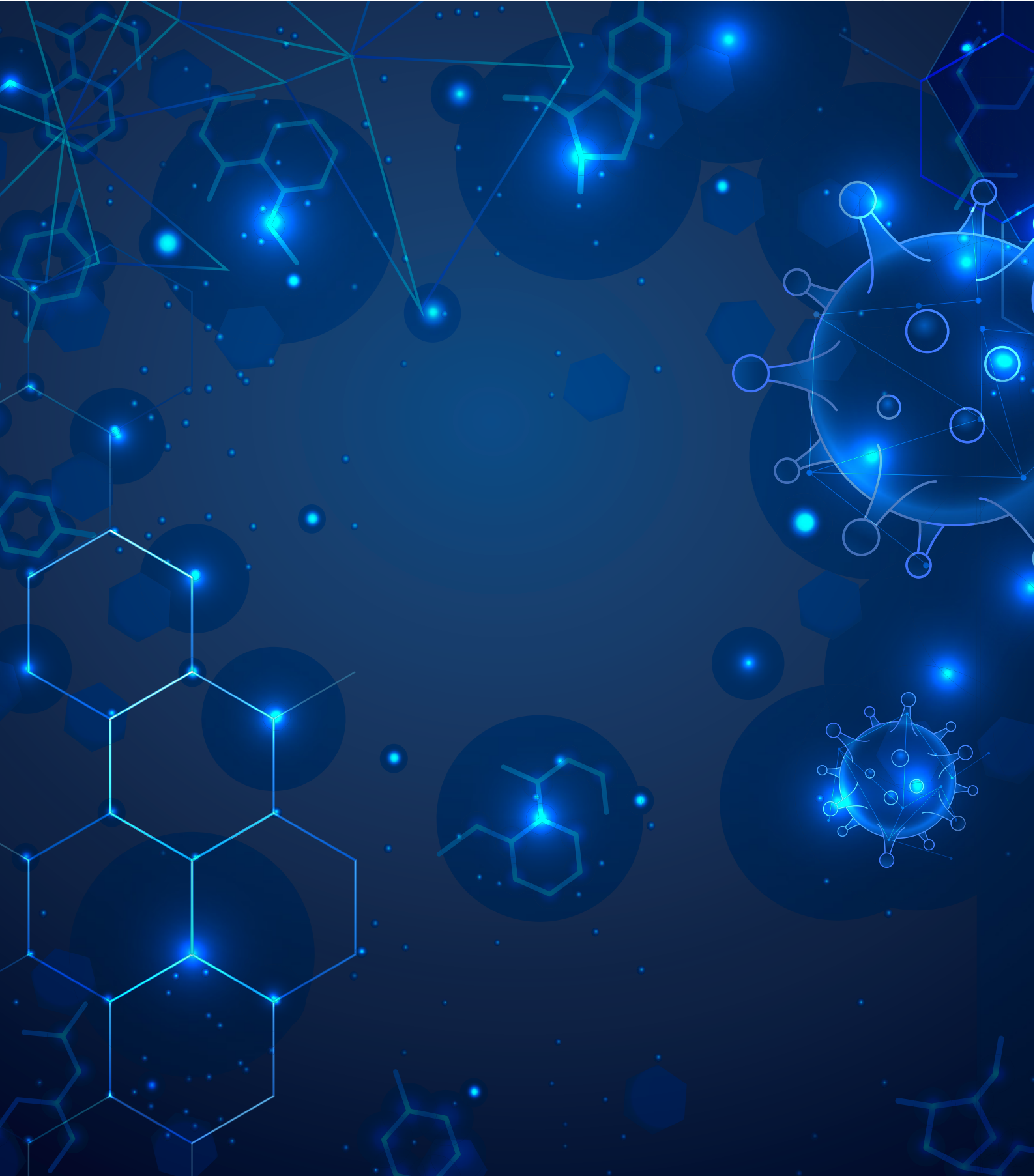
Please send contributions and suggestions to [admin@bioethicscenter.net](mailto:admin@bioethicscenter.net)

Check us on the web  
[www.bioethicscenter.net](http://www.bioethicscenter.net)

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