



Center
Bioethics & Research

CBR

NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS EDITION

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR), Nigeria has continued to build bioethics capacity in West Africa by combining training in modern bioethics with exploration of the religious, socio-cultural, and colonial heritage of West Africa and using the result to engage in bioethical inquiry and contribute to the global discourse on bioethics. We are also increasing our research into research ethics, data science and non-communicable diseases.

In this edition of our Newsletter, we share news of our activities in the second quarter of 2024.

1.0 Institutional Training on Responsible Conduct of Research.

1.1 Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Onsite Training.

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Institutional Training on Responsible Conduct of Research

1.1 Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Onsite Training.

The Scaling Up Research Ethics and Research Integrity (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. One of the components of the Surer Project is onsite training of biomedical investigators in higher institutions across Nigeria on Responsible Conduct of Research.

1.1 Onsite Local Health Research Ethics Committees and Health Researchers training.

The following onsite trainings were facilitated by CBR from April 2024 to June 2024.

Table 1: On-site Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Trainings conducted by CBR				
Institution	Date	Attendance	Participants	Training type
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State.	10th – 11th April	70	Faculty members and researchers.	Responsible Conduct of Research. (RCR).
Kola Daisi University, Ibadan, Oyo State.	27th – 28th May	50	Faculty members and researchers.	Responsible Conduct of Research. (RCR).
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile – Ife, Osun State.	20th – 21st June.	54	Faculty members and researchers.	Responsible Conduct of Research. (RCR).
Mountain Top University, Abeokuta, Ogun State.	25th – 26th June.	62	Faculty members and researchers.	Responsible Conduct of Research. (RCR).

(RCR). During the last quarter, we implemented on-site RCR training at the following institutions (Table 1):

a. Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State

Facilitators from the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria conducted RCR certificate training for members of staff of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State. The training lasted for 2 days from the 10th to 11th of April, and there were 9 plenary sessions for the duration of the training. Some of the topics that were covered during the training sessions include Plagiarism and Data Fabrication, Data Falsification and Manipulation, Data Sharing and Management, among other topics.



Figure 1: (First row in the Center). CBR Facilitators, (In cream color shirt and trousers) Prof. Charles Esimone - Vice - Chancellor of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, and attendees of the RCR training program

b. Kola Daisi University (KDU) Ibadan, Oyo State.

CBR facilitators also conducted 2 days RCR onsite training at the Kola Daisi University (KDU) Ibadan on the 27th and 28th of May, 2024 at the 'Agbeke' Auditorium of the University. Participants of the training were drawn from departments in the Bio-medical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Humanities and Law.



Figure 2: First row from the ground up, from left to right: Mr. Adesola Adeyemo, Dr. Anne Adeyanju (MSc. Bioethics student), Dr. Odekunle, Prof. Christopher Agulanna, Prof. Adebayo Adejumo, at the end of the 2 – days RCR training at Kola Daisi University.

c. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile – Ife, Osun State .

Onsite training in Responsible Conduct of Research for members of staff of the University was facilitated by CBR facilitators on the 20th and 21st of June, 2024 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University. The Vice – Chancellor of the University was represented at the training by Prof. A. I. Akinyemi, who is the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research Development and Innovation). The training was declared open by him.



Figure 3. (On the left). From left to right: Mr. Adesola Adeyemo, Mrs. Adetunji, Prof. Temidayo Ogundiran, Prof. Christopher Agulanna, and Prof. Adebayo Adejumo and participants at OAU Ile - Ife at the end of the training.

d. Mountain Top University, Ibafo, Ogun State.

d. Mountain Top University, Ibafo, Ogun State is another institution where CBR facilitators conducted onsite training in Responsible Conduct of Research for members of staff and the researchers of the University on the 25th and 26th of June 2024.



Figure 4 (On the right). CBR facilitators and participants at Mountain Top University.

M.Sc. Bioethics Training with focus on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

1.2. M.Sc. Bioethics Training with focus on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria collaborates with the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) University of Ibadan and the Postgraduate College of the University of Ibadan to train candidates for the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) focused MSc. Bioethics training program at the University of Ibadan. Trainees must be nominated by their institutions for the program, and they are expected to become the institutional Research Integrity Officer (RIO) after successfully completing the program.

One of the first set of trainees in the program is Dr. Peter Osimiri who received full sponsorship to give an oral presentation titled “Global Justice and the “Brain Drain” Syndrome” on the 9th & 10th of July 2024 at the Oxford Global Health and Bioethics International Conference at St Catherine’s College, Oxford, United Kingdom. The conference brought together an international bioethics community to address critically important ethical issues in the conception and implementation of Global Health.

The second set of trainees for the MSc. Bioethics program with focus on RCR are in the final stages of their course work and they will commence their research projects shortly.

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 5 Dr. Peter Osimiri. MSc. Bioethics trainee.

Fogarty International Center (FIC) Network Meeting

Faculty and staff of CBR attended the annual meeting of the Fogarty International Center (FIC) supported Bioethics Training Programs from all over the world. The meeting was held on 29th and 30th April 2024. Currently, FIC supports 30 training programs throughout the world.

The focus of this year's meeting is the development of Joint Regional Papers by all the Bioethics programs in every region of the world and overview of all the Bioethics programs.

Presentations were made on each day of the meeting by representatives of the programs. Following the presentations and question time, the attendees went into breakout groups to focus on their region's manuscripts. Faculty members and staff from the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria, the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) of the University of Ibadan, and the Bioethics unit at the University of Nigeria (UNN) Enugu were present at the meeting and breakout sessions.

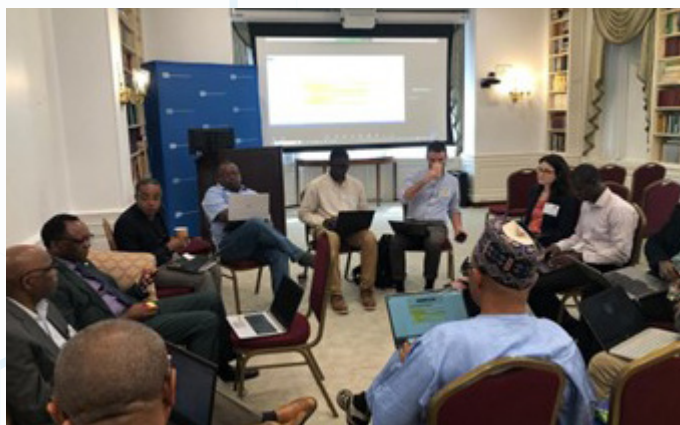


Figure 6: The West Africa region deliberating on their contribution to the paper during breakout session.

The planned paper will focus on the achievements of the different programs, detailing what the programs have successfully accomplished and what is still outstanding, the challenges that were encountered during the implementation of the project and how those challenges were overcome.

This will help other training programs' PIs and future PIs to navigate through those types of challenges. The empirical aspect of the paper will provide in-

formation on publications from the trainees' theses from different regions.

All the attendees expressed appreciation for the dedicated time to focus on the paper and everyone was glad that significant progress was made, even though it felt like the time passed by very fast.

Professor T.O. Ogundiran, Prof. E.R. Ezeome, Prof. E. Ezebus, Prof. C.O. Agulanna, Prof. A.O. Adejumo and Mr. Olusola Adeyemo, and Mr. Olusegun Adeyemo represented the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria, the ENRICH Bioethics training program, the SURER training program respectively at the meeting.



Figure 7: First row from left to right: Dr. Nishakanth Gopalan, and Prof. Jamuna Vadivelu. Second row from left to right: Prof. T.O. Ogundiran, Prof. E.R. Ezeome, Prof. C.O. Agulanna, Prof. A.O. Adejumo, Prof. E. Ezugwu, Prof. Shehu Adamu, Mr. Sola Adeyemo

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



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

Our successful ENRICH Program at the University of Nigeria (UNN) Enugu has continued to admit students for the MSc. Bioethics program. The 4th set of candidates have been admitted for the current academic session and they have commenced their course work. 11 students were admitted for the MSc. Bioethics program. They received textbooks, laptops and monthly data stipend as part of their scholarship on the Bioethics program.

During the 18 months MSc. Bioethics program at the University of Nigeria (UNN) students are trained to become competent Bioethicists using learning mechanisms such as seminars, classroom discussions, research, grand rounds, workshops and many more. Some of the trainees that completed the program successfully have been employed by the University as faculty members to teach on the program.

3.2 MPH with Bioethics concentration at University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.

The University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) School of Medicine and Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria continue 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. 5 trainees were admitted for the program in the current academic session, and they are working on their final research projects in Public Health with Bioethics concentration.

The trainees will complete the blended diploma program of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria. The diploma program provides training in research methods which in addition to enabling the MPH trainees to function like the MSc Bioethics trainees, it also enables them to conduct research in the research ethics field.

The trainees were provided with course materials and textbooks courtesy of the Center for Bioethics and Research, Nigeria. Trainees will also be fully sponsored for the diploma program retreats by CBR, by providing transportation and accommodation for them during the mandatory weekend retreats of the diploma 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 March 2024 to June 2024.

Institution	Date	Attendance	Participants	Training type
The Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) Staff. Lagos State	13th - 17th May.	100	Members of staff of the laboratory unit and researchers.	Overview of human research protection system in Nigeria and use and protection of animals in Research.

CBR facilitates HREC trainings in Nigeria. The training of HREC members is one of the requirements of the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC) for registration of newly inaugurated Ethics Committees and renewal of registration for existing HRECs.

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

From April to June 2024, we provided 591 trainings in Protection of Human Subjects of Research to investigators, students, IRB members, Administrators and Chairs. Some 865 trainings in the special module on the Nigerian National Code for Health Research Ethics were completed along with 302 trainings in Good Clinical Practice, 194 trainings in Conflicts of Interest, 358 trainings in Responsible Conduct of Research and 169 trainings in Public Health Research.



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).



Figure 8: Online courses on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Safe Working and Sexual Harassment free Environment (SWSHE) on the SURER Project site

Achievements



Fig. 10: Prof. John Oluwale Akintayo

Professor John Oluwale Akintayo, a member of faculty of DBMH and a founding member of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria, was elected as Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Ibadan. Prof. Akintayo teaches on the MSc. Bioethics program of the University of Ibadan. CBR is proud to be associated with him, and we congratulate him on this achievement.



Fig. 11: Dr Oluchi Maduka

Dr. Oluchi Maduka, who was a postdoc on the BridgeELSI project of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) was recently employed by the University of Ibadan as a member of the Faculty of Law. CBR is proud to be associated with her and we congratulate her on this achievement.

Appointments/ Achievements

Figure 9: Prof. T.O. Ogundiran. Academic Director Center for Bioethics and Research, Nigeria.

Professor Temidayo Ogundiran, the academic director of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria, was elected as Provost of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan Nigeria.

Prof. Ogundiran was the former head of the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH), University of Ibadan, and the current Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. He is a founding member of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) and we are proud to be associated with him, and we congratulate him on this achievement.

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

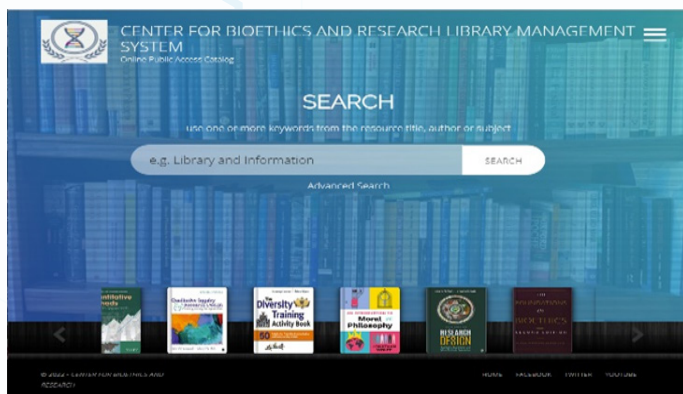


Figure 12: Bioethics library of the Center for Bioethics and Research, Ibadan, Nigeria

The Bridging Gaps in the ELSI of Data Science Research (BridgELSI) Project

BridgELSI Project

Bridging Gaps in the ELSI of Data Science Health Research

The Bridging Gaps in the ELSI of Data Science Research (BridgELSI) 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 will implement short and medium-term training on ethics of data science for data scientists, ethicists and ethics committees, and



Figure 13. BridgELSI Project

The Bridging Gaps in the ELSI of Data Science Research (BridgELSI) Project is a collaborative research ethics study and training project at CBR, Nigeria. The project is part of the DS-I Africa initiative of the NIH and it 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. Investigators in the BridgELSI project include Dr. C. Adebamowo, Prof. T. Ogundiran, Prof. A. Jegede, Prof. S. Akintola, Dr. S. Adebamowo, and Prof. S. Callier.

Publications



Figure 14: 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/s41467-023-41809-22>

2. Adebamowo C, Callier S, Maduka OC, Akintola S, Kukucka J, Arima CG, Ogundiran TO, Jegede A, Akintola A, Adeyemo O, Adebamowo SN Ethical Oversight of Data Science Health Research in Africa. NEJM AI. 2024;1(6):Alpc2400033. doi: doi:10.1056/Alpc2400033

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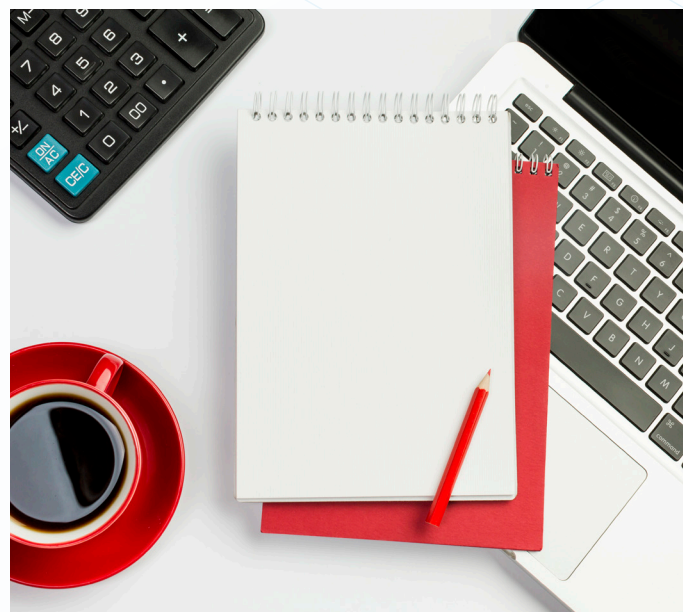
Accepting Manuscripts for Review and Publication

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). 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) or send an email to: 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

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