



Center *for*
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. CBR is contributing significantly to understanding and resolving some of the governance issues in the oversight of human participation in data science health research in Nigeria. In this edition of our Newsletter, we share news of our activities in the third quarter of 2024.

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

Institution	Date	Attendance	Participants	Training type
Ajayi Crowther University (ACU), Oyo, Oyo State.	Ajayi Crowther University (ACU), Oyo, Oyo State.	51	Faculty members.	Responsible Conduct of Research. (RCR).
Bells University of Technology (BUT), Ota, Ogun State.	29th – 30th July.	19	Faculty members.	Responsible Conduct of Research. (RCR).

Table 1: On-site Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Trainings conducted by CBR.

a. Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Oyo State.

Facilitators from the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria conducted RCR certificate training for members of staff of the Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Oyo State. The training lasted for 2 days from the 9th to 10th of July, 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 from left to right from 5th person). CBR Facilitators, (In grey suit and black shirt) Prof. Christopher Agulanna, Prof. Temidayo Ogundiran, female attendee of the RCR training program, Prof. Adebayo Adejumo, Mr. Adesola Adeyemo.

b. Bells University of Technology (BUT), Ota, Ogun State .

CBR facilitators also conducted 2 days RCR onsite training at the Bells University of Technology (BUT), Ota, Ogun State on the 29th and 30th of July, 2024 at the senate chamber of the University. The plenary sessions focused on the definition, and identification of what constitutes research misconducts and provision of helpful guides to researchers on how to avoid them or deal with them appropriately.



Figure 2 First row from the 4th person from left to right: Prof. Adebayo Adejumo, Prof. Christopher Agulanna, Prof. Jeremiah O. Ojediran (The Vice Chancellor Bells University of Technology), Mr. Adesola Adeyemo, and Prof. Temidayo Ogundiran, at the end of the 2 – days RCR training at Kola Daisi University

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

The first cohort of trainees on the MSc. Bioethics program with focus on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) have successfully completed their coursework and are currently working on their final research projects. Some of the final research projects are focused on topics such as:

- Attitude of Self-Funded Nigerian Researchers to public Sharing of data,
 - Pattern of Mentoring for Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) in Nigerian institutions, and
 - Understanding the Patterns of Authors' Rights, Attributions, and Policies in Nigeria.
- The second cohort of trainees for the MSc. Bioethics program with focus on RCR are rounding up their coursework and will commence their research projects shortly.

The MSc. Bioethics program with focus on Responsible Conduct of Research is a component of the Scaling up Research Ethics and Research integrity (SURER) project which is being implemented by the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) of the University of Ibadan in collaboration with the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria.

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.

Blended Diploma Program in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

We commenced training for pioneer students of our blended diploma program on Responsible Conduct of Research on the 20th of August, 2024. The diploma program is designed for individuals who want more than an introductory course in RCR but are unable to complete an MSc. program. The diploma training also helps participants to understand integrity, efficiency, reproducibility, and objectivity in implementing research projects.

All the trainees received reading materials and textbook, and they were sponsored by the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) to attend the first Weekend retreat where concepts were clarified, discussions on case studies to examine RCR issues and how to resolve them were held. A total of 25 trainees were admitted as the first batch of trainees for the 3 – months program



Figure 3: Pioneer students of the blended diploma program of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) during their first Weekend Retreat which was organized by the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria.

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 and train students for the MSc. Bioethics program. The 3rd set of students that were admitted for the MSc. Bioethics program presented their proposals for their final research projects on the 2nd of September, 2024 to an audience of examiners at the University of Nigeria (UNN).

The current set of students which is the 4th set of 11 students are currently taking their course work for the MSc. Bioethics program. They received textbooks, laptops and monthly data stipend as part of their scholarship on the Bioethics program. The students also receive a monthly stipend for the duration of their coursework.

The 18 months program trains students to become competent Bioethicists using learning mechanisms such as seminars, classroom discussions, research, grand rounds, workshops and many more.



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

The Masters in Public Health (MPH) with Bioethics concentration program admitted 4 trainees in the current academic session at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The trainees have completed the blended diploma on research ethics. The program provides training in research ethics which builds the capacity of the MPH trainees to provide service and conduct research in research ethics.

The trainees were provided with course materials and textbooks courtesy of the Center for Bioethics and Research, Nigeria. Trainees were also 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.



Figure 4: The 4th set of MPH trainees with Bioethics concentration holding their certificates of completion at the end of the 2 - month blended diploma program of the CBR. Trainees from left to right: Ms. Clara Echem, Mr. Eze Mbielu, Mr. Kingsley Obu, Ms. Lilian Ogbodo.



Figure 5: Another picture of the MPH trainees with CBR facilitators of the blended diploma program. From left to right: Prof. A.O. Adejumo, Ms. Clara Echem, Mr. Kingsley Obu, Dr. Olayinka Eyelade (Guest speaker), Prof. Temidayo Ogundiran, Mr. Eze Mbielu, Ms. Lilian Ogbodo, and Prof. Ayodele Jegede.

New CITI – RCR Module.

6.0 Online training in Safe Research Environment (SRE) in Nigeria.

CBR has added ‘Safe Research Environment’ to its CITI – Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) module. This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of sexual harassment and strategies to maintain a harassment-free environment.

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 course is available on the CBR Website. Please visit <https://bioethicscenter.net/sexual-harassment-training/> for more information. CBR is committed to being a leader in preventing and effectively educating individuals on sexual harassment and misconduct.

Safe Research Environments

Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR), Nigeria

INSTRUCTIONS

- Complete all 2 required modules
- Achieve an average score of at least 80% on all quizzes associated with this course's module requirements

PROGRESS

0 / 2
modules
complete

SCORE

0%

You have unfinished required or elective modules remaining.

Figure 6: CITI Online course on Safe Research Environment (SRE).

Center for Bioethics and Research programs

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

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.

The following onsite trainings were facilitated by CBR from July 2024 to September 2024.

Institution	Date	Attendance	Participants	Training type
The Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital HREC.	9th - 11th September	9	Members of the health research ethics committee.	Modern Research Ethics.

Table 2: On-site Research Ethics Trainings conducted by CBR.

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

From July to September 2024, we provided 461 trainings on Protection of Human Subjects of Research to investigators, students, IRB members, Administrators and Chairs, 903 trainings in the special module on the Nigerian National Code for Health Research Ethics were completed along with 354 trainings in Good Clinical Practice including 266 trainings for group – 1 investigators, 97 trainings for group – 2 investigators, 7 trainings for IRB members, 16 trainings for group – 4 students, and 71 trainings for group – 5 students, 117 trainings in Conflicts of Interest, 163 trainings in Responsible Conduct of Research and 134 trainings in Public Health Research.

Appointments/Achievements

7.0. Appointments/Achievements

Mr. Terese Gabriel Orum, an alumnus of the MSc. Bioethics program at the University of Ibadan, presented a poster at the 8th World One Health Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. His presentation was titled “Rabies Control Strategies in Resource-Constrained Settings: Ethical Challenges and Lessons Learned from a Rural Outbreak Response in Nigeria”. CBR is proud to be associated with him, and we congratulate him on this achievement.

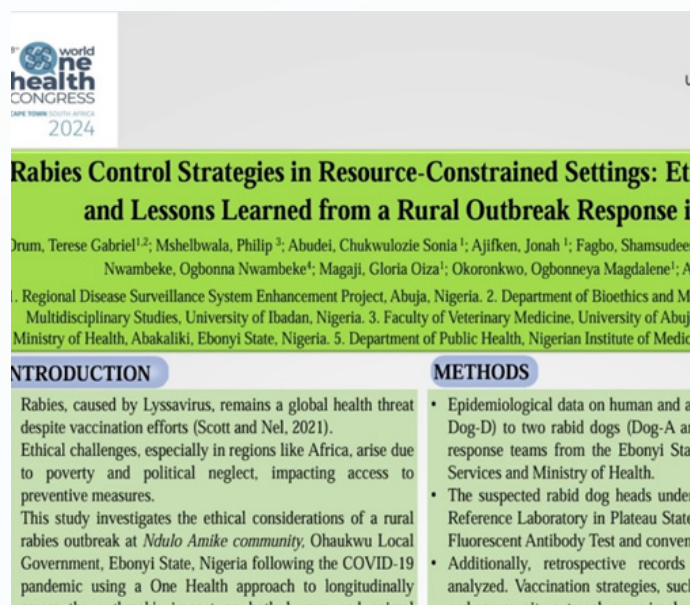


Figure 7: Mr. Orum’s poster presented at the 8th World One Health congress.

Appointments/ Achievements

The Bioethics Library of the Center for Bioethics and Research.



Figure 8: Prof. Clement Adebamowo at the far right back with other board members of the Fogarty International Center.

Professor Clement Adebamowo was welcomed by the Director of the Fogarty International Center and Associate Director for international research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Kathleen Neuzil, as a new board member of the Center. The Fogarty International Center is the arm of the NIH that is dedicated to advancing international research conducted by U.S. and international investigators.

Prof. Clement Adebamowo is the founder of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) and we are proud to be associated with him.

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

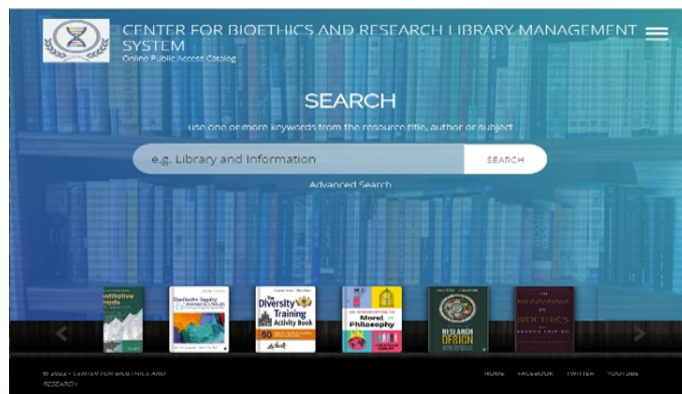


Figure 9: Bioethics library of the Center for Bioethics and Research, Ibadan, Nigeria

BridgELSI Project

Bridging Gaps in the ELSI of Data Science Health Research

**DATA SCIENCE
HEALTH RESEARCH****ETHICAL, LEGAL
SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS****BRIDGELSI***Figure 10. BRIDGELSI Homepage***The Bridging Gaps in the ELSI of Data Science Research (BridgELSI) Project**

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 11: Prof Clement Adebamowo***8.0. Publications**

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):AIpc2400033. doi: doi:10.1056/AIpc2400033

BeOnline Journal

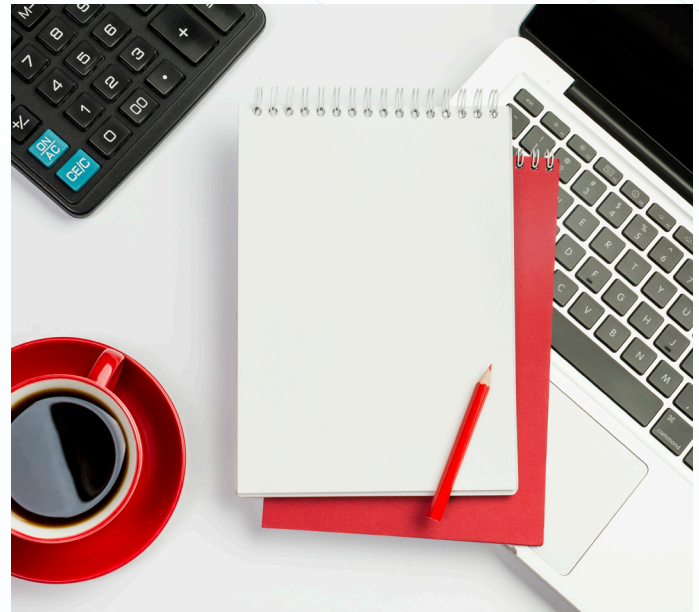
Accepting Manuscripts for Review and Publication

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). 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

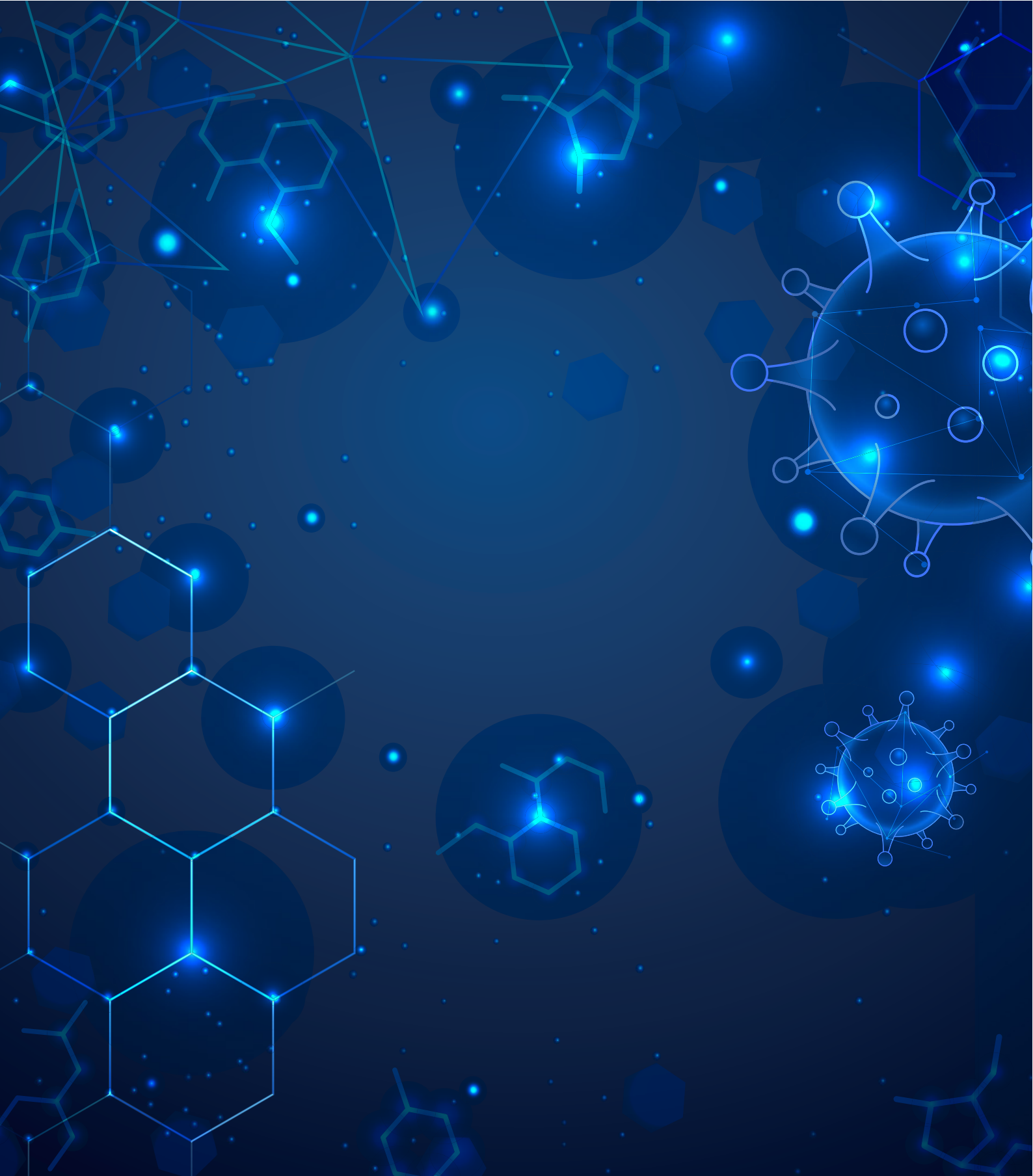
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