



Center *for*
Bioethics & Research

CBR NEWSLETTER

Special Edition



FEATURING

- Interview with Dr Razaq Oladapo
- MSc Bioethics Alumnus



SPECIAL EDITION

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria supports bioethics and non-communicable diseases research and training throughout Nigeria. In this special edition of our Newsletter, we celebrate three alumni of our medium-term Diploma in Research Ethics and long-term MSc. Bioethics Programs.

Dr. Rasaq Kayode Oladapo

Dr. Oladapo completed his first degree in Pharmacy from the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Ile – Ife, Osun State in 2017, after which he worked with various NGOs and government organizations in Nigeria.

Despite a deep interest in Bioethics, he could not attend a full postgraduate program because of his responsibilities at work. He therefore took advantage of the 3-months long Hybrid Diploma in Bioethics consisting of 3, 3-credit graduate courses in research ethics offered by the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) in 2021.

In this program, lectures are delivered asynchronously online, and there are online office hours with faculty and weekend retreats for in-person reinforcement learning and course evaluations.

The blended diploma program is one of the numerous training programs offered by CBR and it was designed for individuals like Dr. Oladapo who are interested in advanced research ethics but are unable to take advantage of the 18 months long, M.Sc. Bioethics program at the University of Ibadan and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) that are fully supported by CBR.

CBR's editorial team recently interviewed Dr. Kayode Rasaq Oladapo to find out how he has been utilizing the training that he received during the blended diploma program. The transcript of the interview is below. (It has been edited for clarity).



Interview with Dr Oladapo.

CBR: Please tell us about yourself and what you are currently doing.

Dr. Oladapo: I am Rasaq Kayode Oladapo. I am currently a first year PhD student specializing in Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy at the University of Kentucky's College of Pharmacy, one of the top pharmacy programs in the U.S. My academic journey began with a distinction in Bachelor of Pharmacy (B. Pharm) from the prestigious Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria in 2017, where I developed a strong foundation in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Public Health. Since then, I have collaborated with government and non-governmental organizations, leveraging my expertise to strengthen Nigeria's public health systems.

In 2022, the United Kingdom recognized my contributions to improving population health outcomes and awarded me the prestigious Commonwealth Shared Scholarship from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to complete an MSc in Epidemiology at the University of Bristol, a globally renowned institution for research. My thesis focused on predicting drug-related mortality among people who use drugs (PWUD) in Appalachian Kentucky, where I utilized advanced methods such as Cox regression and competing risk analysis. This research, which aligns with the U.S. National Drug Control Strategy, was part of several cross-national projects funded by the U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the U.K. National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). It includes studies such as Examining the Impact of the Twin Epidemics of Methamphetamine and Opioid Use and EPHESUS project (Award ID: NIHR160569) in Scotland.

Currently, my research is centered on opioid use and healthcare services for rural, underserved populations. Notably, I am involved in examining persistent opioid use in post-surgical cancer patients, as well as analyzing Carfentanil-involved overdose mortality patterns in Florida, U.S. I strengthened the U.S. federally funded Wastewater Epidemiology to Examine Stimulant Trends (WeTEST) project's final report by conducting an in-depth analysis of fatal drug overdose trends at the county level in Kentucky thereby shaping target-



Fig. 1. Dr Razaq Oladapo, MSc in Epidemiology with distinction at the University of Bristol.

ed public health policies aimed at reducing overdose rates in high-risk areas of Kentucky. In recognition of my potential to impact U.S. public health, I was awarded a competitive graduate assistantship and the Layman T. Johnson Fellowship at the University of Kentucky.

In addition to my research, I serve as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Research and Evidence-Based Medicine in Pharmacy Practice course. In this role, I bridge theoretical research principles with practical applications, enhancing students' understanding and engagement with the material. My contributions extend to teaching, exam proctoring, and supporting the department's educational mission.

Beyond these roles, I am a peer reviewer for high-impact journals, including Public Health Reviews and other top-tier journals, where I ensure the quality and ethical rigor of submitted research. I also serve as a Global Assessor for the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH), by evaluating grant applications aimed at addressing global health challenges. My commitment to ethics and scientific integrity, shaped by the Fogarty-CBR Bioethics Fellowship, is evident across my publications in reputable international outlets such as Addiction. With several articles published in peer-reviewed journals, my work on opioid misuse, healthcare access, and

disease prevention has been well-received, contributing to my growing citation record and influence in the field of Public Health.

As I advance in my career, I remain dedicated to ethically responsible research and meaningful public health impact, driven by the foundational bioethics principles I gained through the Fogarty-CBR fellowship.



Fig. 2: Dr Razaq Oladapo (right) receiving his diploma certificate from Prof Ogundiran (left)

CBR : Tell us how you became aware of CBR's training program.

Dr. Oladapo: I became aware through a close friend, Pharmacist Oyetola Babatunde Afeez, who had previously completed the blended diploma program, he introduced me to the program because he recognized my dedication to ethically sound research and believed the diploma program would be invaluable to my work in public health field.

CBR : Tell us how the CBR blended diploma program has made any impact on you and your career.

Dr. Oladapo: I completed the Blended Diploma in Research Ethics through the Fogarty-CBR Fellowship. The program included an online component with lectures, discussions, and weekend retreats for in-depth reviews and testing based on the course content. The training was generously funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health's Fogarty International Center (FIC) and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), and it has profoundly impacted my career. It equipped me with essential skills to handle ethical challenges in research, such as ensuring informed consent, maintaining confidentiality, and prioritizing participant well-being, especially in sensitive studies involving drug

use and underserved communities. The training has been vital in upholding the integrity and ethical standards of my work.

CBR : What are your plans for the future with the training that you have acquired from completing CBR's blended diploma training program.

Dr. Oladapo: With the bioethics training, I aim to continue advancing my research on opioid misuse and health service disparities. I plan to leverage this ethical foundation to pursue roles that address these public health issues, informing healthcare policy and contributing to ethically responsible research that serves marginalized populations.

CBR : Do you have any recommendation(s) or suggestion(s) for the management of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria on the implementation of CBR's training programs.?

Dr. Oladapo: I recommend that CBR should continue expanding the fellowship's reach to include more international collaborations, as this could further strengthen the ethical frameworks for global health researchers, particularly those focused on sensitive and underserved populations.

The CBR editorial team expressed gratitude to Dr. Razaq Oladapo for his time and look forward to collaborating with him in the future.



Fig. 3. Dr Razaq Oladapo

MSc. Bioethics Alumnus

MSc Bioethics Alumnus Updates

Mr. Gabriel Orum, and Mr Raymond Gbadamosi are graduates of the MSc. Bioethics program at the University of Ibadan who were supported by the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) throughout the duration of their training.

They graduated in 2019 and 2022 respectively. They were recommended to the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) for employment by CBR. They now work with the NCDC in Abuja as research officers. CBR is proud to be associated with them and of their accomplishments.



Fig. 4: From left to right: Mr. Gabriel Orum, Mr. Raymond Gbadamosi

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 special feature issue of the newsletter, your comments about the special feature issue, and ideas for the next quarterly 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

Check us on the web

www.bioethicscenter.net

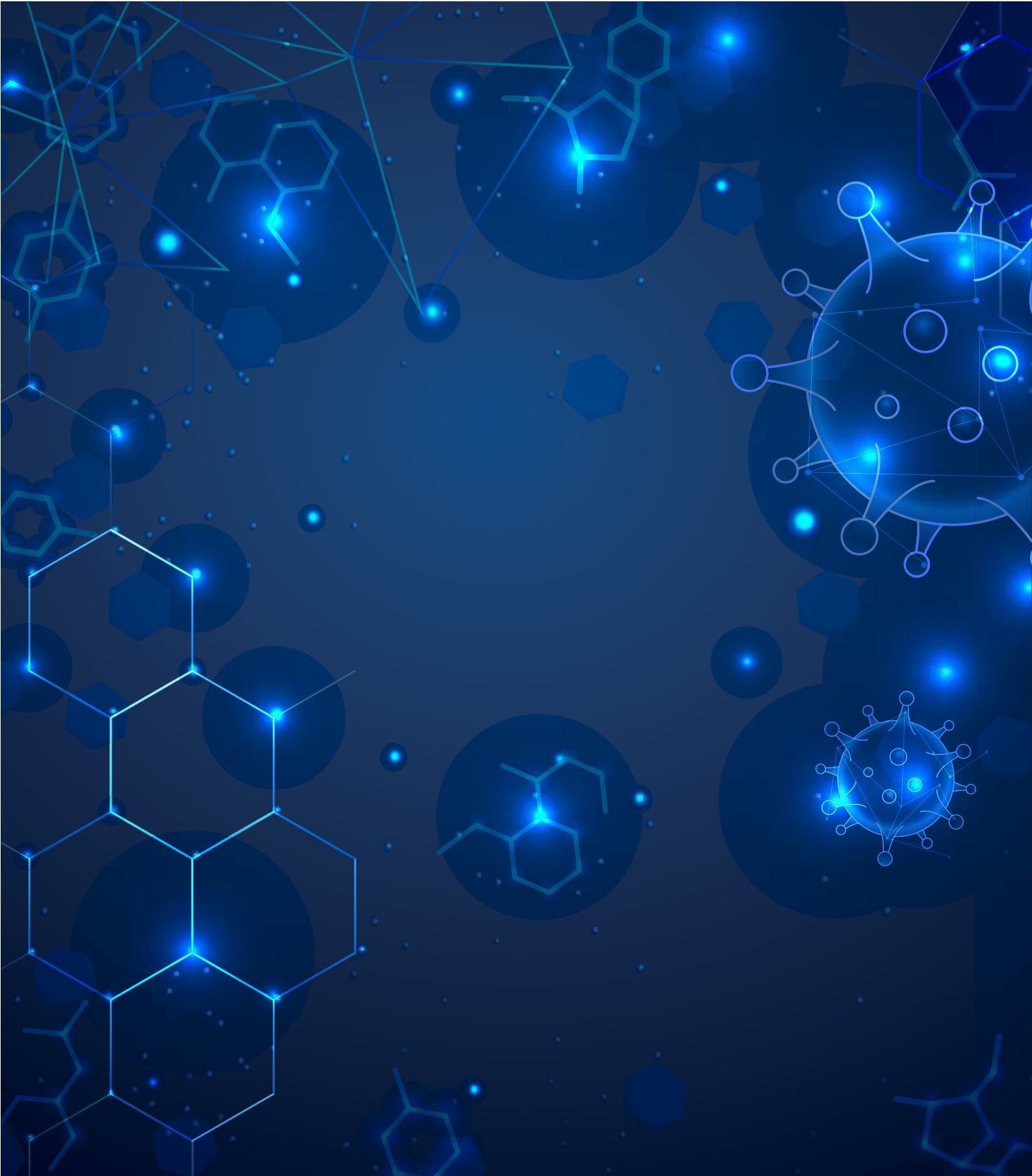
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