



Center *for*
Bioethics & Research

CBR

NEWSLETTER

December 2024 | Vol 18 | Issue 4



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INTRODUCTION

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR), Nigeria is pleased to bring the latest edition of our Newsletter where we share news of our activities in the fourth quarter of 2024 to you.

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 has continued to implement 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 component of the Surer Project is onsite training of biomedical investigators in higher institutions across Nigeria on Responsible Conduct of Research.

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

Institution	Date	Attendance	Participants	Training type
Chrisland University, Abeokuta, Ogun State.	13th – 14th November 2024	46	Faculty members	Responsible Conduct of Research. (RCR).

During the last quarter, facilitators from the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria implemented on-site RCR training for members of staff of Chrisland University, Abeokuta, Ogun State. The training lasted from the 13th to 14th of November 2024. There were 9 plenary sessions for the duration of the training and some of the topics covered during the training sessions included Plagiarism and Data Fabrication, Data Falsification and Manipulation, Data Sharing and Management, among other topics.



Figure 1 CBR facilitators and participants of the RCR onsite training program at Chrisland University in Abeokuta, Ogun state.

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

The first and second cohort of trainees on the MSc. Bioethics program with focus on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) at the University of Ibadan have completed their coursework and are currently working on their final research projects.

The process for selecting the third cohort of trainees has commenced following the announcement of the sale of admission forms by the postgraduate school of the University of Ibadan.

The MSc. Bioethics program 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 and University of Maryland School of Medicine.

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)

The first cohort of 25 trainees for CBR's blended 3 months long diploma program on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) have completed the program. The trainees completed training on Research Integrity, Responsible Conduct of Research (Falsification, Fabrication, Plagiarism), Conflicts of Interest, Safe and Sexual Harassment Free Research Environment, Mentoring and Publication Ethics. The training started on the 20th of August 2024 and the program is designed for individuals who want more than an introductory course in RCR but are unable to pursue an MSc. program.



Figure 2: First cohort of trainees of the blended diploma program of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) during their final Weekend Retreat which was organized by the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria.



Figure 3: From left to right: Prof. T.O. Ogundiran presented Certificate of participation to Obiajulu Christian in first frame, and Ebele Lauretta in the second frame

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 ENRICH Program at the University of Nigeria (UNN) Enugu has admitted the 5th batch of trainees for the MSc. Bioethics program. An orientation program was organized on the 20th of November 2024 by the Institute of Public Health at the University of Nigeria, and the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) to onboard the trainees into the program. The trainees were provided with information about the MSc. Program and the scholarship that will be provided for them if they meet the requirements.



Figure 3 Group Photograph of the 5th batch of trainees for the MSc. Bioethics program at UNN

The current set of trainees which is the 4th set on the MSc. Bioethics program are working on their final research projects. CBR provides the trainees with textbooks, laptops, data plan, and monthly stipend throughout the duration of their coursework.

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

The 5th set of trainees on the Masters in Public Health (MPH) with Bioethics concentration program at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka have started working on their final research projects. The trainees made a presentation of their proposals to faculty members and supervisors on the 2nd of September 2024.

Changes and recommendations were made by faculty members to the proposals before the trainees were given approval to proceed with their field work. The final research project topics are:

1. Perspective and Attitude of parents and children in Enugu metropolis towards the enrollment of children in community-based health research.
2. A mixed method study of the opinions and practices of researchers in Enugu on the use of incentives to enhance research participation.
3. Ethical challenges experienced by health researchers in a community based participatory research in Enugu, Enugu state.
4. Empirical study of information needs of Research participants in informed consent for drug trial in Nigeria.

Trainees of the MPH Program with Bioethics concentration are fully sponsored for their entire MPH degree program and they attend the CBR blended diploma program on research ethics. Transportation, accommodation, and feeding are provided for them during the mandatory weekend retreats of the diploma program.

Center for Bioethics and Research programs

4.1 Onsite 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 October 2024 to December 2024.

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

Institution	Date	Attendance	Participants	Training type
The Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Abuja.	6th – 7th November 2024	15	Stakeholders on research ethics.	Mordern Research Ethics
The Oyo State Health Research Ethics Committee, Oyo State, Nigeria.	2nd – 3rd December 2024	19	Members of Oyo State Health Research Ethics Committee.	Mordern Research Ethics
The Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Abuja.	18th – 20th November 2024	23	Members of NCDC Health Research Ethics Committee.	Mordern Research Ethics

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

From October to December 2024, we provided 506 trainings on the Protection of Human Subjects of Research to investigators, students, IRB members, administrators, and chairs, 915 trainings in the special module on the Nigerian National Code for Health Research Ethics, 451 trainings in Good Clinical Practice, 65 trainings in Conflicts of Interest, 148 trainings in Responsible Conduct of Research, and 97 trainings in Public Health Research.

Achievements

4.1 Onsite Health Research Ethics Committees and Health Researchers training.

Dr. Sally Adebamowo has been appointed Co-Leader of the Population Science Program at the University of Maryland School of Medicine Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center (UMGCCC).



Dr. Adebamowo's leadership is expected to guide the program through new challenges, leveraging her expertise in population health to make impactful contributions to cancer prevention and health promotion. Her appointment also comes as the Population Sciences Program continues to deepen its research efforts in cancer control, exploring ways to improve quality of life and long-term health outcomes for individuals impacted by cancer.

Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) congratulate Dr. Sally Adebamowo and look forward to her leadership at UMGCCC driving significant advancements in cancer research and prevention and fostering impactful improvements in patient care and health outcomes. CBR is proud to be associated with her.

My Experience on the MSc. Bioethics Program

My name is Dahiru Suleiman. I am the Principal Statistician, Secretary of the Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC), and Grants Manager in the Department of Community Medicine, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua University Teaching Hospital, Katsina. This write up about my phenomenal experience on the MSc. Bioethics Program will not be complete without starting from the beginning which is the three-months blended diploma program of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) that I completed first in the year 2022 before I enrolled for the MSc. Bioethics program.

Prior to my enrollment in the diploma program of CBR I had little knowledge about Research Ethics or Bioethics. The diploma program began my journey of incredibly valuable learning that made a significant impact on me and a deep desire to know more about Bioethics. When I received the email that I had been accepted for the program I could not believe my luck because it was unexpected. I was aware of the large number of people that apply for the program annually so I was skeptical about my chances of being among the candidates that would be selected. The commencement of the online lectures confirmed that I was in for an international level of training.

The facilitators are very knowledgeable and come from diverse academic backgrounds. The diversity in geography and profession among the candidates that were admitted alongside me for the diploma program broadened my perspectives and enriched me with a network of like minds for collaboration on research ethics and bioethics projects all over the world.



Author

Suleiman Dahiru ND, BSc, MSc.

The program covered a wide range of topics such as the Introduction and History of Research Ethics, Ethical Principles for Review of Research Protocols, the composition of Ethics Committees, and a host of others. We also had virtual weekend chat sessions with the facilitators to go over lectures for the week every Saturday morning.

The sessions were very helpful to me, and they encouraged my participation in the program till the end.

I was nominated by my institution for the MSc. Bioethics program based on my interest in research and my previous collaboration with CBR as a diploma student, and the knowledge that I acquired from the program.

I will be the Research Integrity Officer for my institution at the end of my program. My MSc. Bioethics program is focused on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) which is a new area of interest for me and some of my colleagues in my institution that are involved in research work. I found the MSc. program to be quite demanding, in terms of intellectual rigor and time consumption, with a wide range of materials to read, assignments to be done, and term papers that need to be submitted. I enjoyed the weekend retreats at the end of each module because it was very enriching and was an opportunity to see other parts of Nigeria every time, I traveled from Katsina State to Ibadan.

I am grateful to the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria for providing useful and relevant materials such as textbooks, laptops, and a stupendous monthly stipend to combat the challenges of intensive academic work. I am also grateful for the enrollment in a 6-week course from Harvard University on "Mediation and Conflict Management" which was very helpful to me. I received a certificate from Harvard University for successfully completing the course.

A certificate from Harvard University is an awesome experience! The format of the class for the Harvard program was centered on classroom discussion and participation in mediation simulations, attendance was critical, so it required constant internet connection. CBR provided a regular stipend for my internet connection and a separate set of textbooks for the course. What more could I have asked for?

Every moment of my MSc. Bioethics train-

ing was a memorable experience that I will cherish forever. The program met my expectation and surpassed it. I have not come across another program like it in the whole country, and I am glad that I benefitted from it.

I am grateful to the United States' National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Fogarty International Center, University of Maryland School of Medicine, and Professor C.A. Ademowo for his initiative and commitment to the establishment of a Bioethics program in Nigeria, the program has changed many lives including mine, and it has put us on a pedestal that leaves us with no other choice but move forward and become the best version of ourselves.

I am also grateful to my lecturers in the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH), University of Ibadan – Prof. A.J. Ajuwon, Prof. A.S. Jegede, Prof. A.O. Malomo, Prof. E.B. Omobowale, Prof. T.O. Ogundiran, Prof. A.O. Adejumo, Prof. C.O. Agulanna, Prof. (Mrs.) Lanre-Abbas, Dr. Adeshina Afolayan, Prof. Akin Odebunmi, Dr. A.A. Osisanwo, Prof. S.O. Akintola and Dr. J.O. Lokulo-Sodipe; as well as staff of CBR – Mr. Segun Adeyemo, Mr. Philip Arowolo, and our able coordinator Mr. Adesola Adeyemo who worked tirelessly to ensure that our experience on the program was a pleasant one.

Lastly, my experience on the MSc. Bioethics program has been a life-changing one that has taught me the importance of not just conducting research responsibly but also living responsibly for myself and those around that rely on me. My academic training on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) will go a long way because my institution is ready to give me all the necessary support to set up a Research Management Office (RMO) that will oversee the implementation of all research projects in my institution and the region. I am confident that the MSc. Bioethics program will have a lasting impact on my career, and I will someday contribute positively in a massive way to the global research community.

Author: Suleiman Dahiru ND, BSc, MSc.
MSc. Bioethics Trainee (2022/2023 session)



New CITI – RCR Module.

7.1 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.

7.2 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

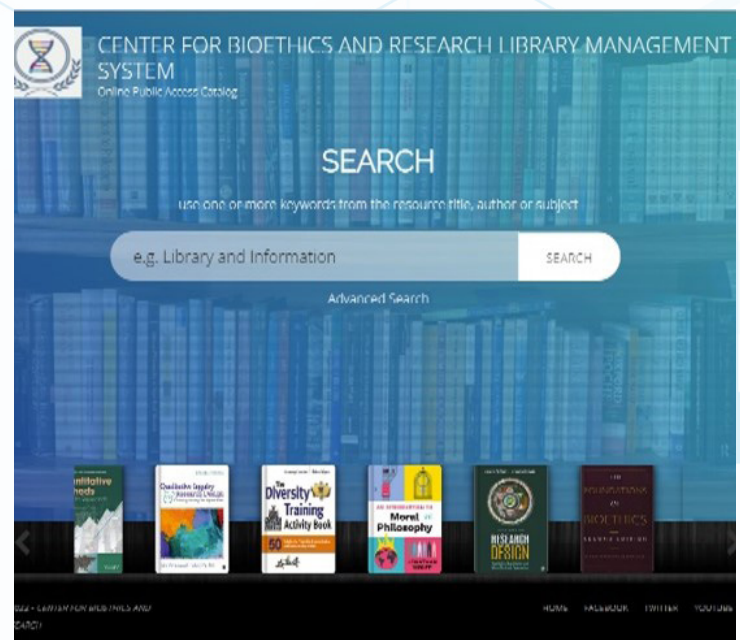


Figure 3: Bioethics library of the Center for Bioethics and Research, Ibadan, Nigeria

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

BridgELSI project 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.

The 4th DS – I Africa consortium meeting took place in Mauritius from the 16th to 22nd of November 2024. It was an opportunity to engage the local scientific community, representatives from government, relevant biotechnology and industry partners.

Investigators on the BridgELSI Project were present at the meeting, and they presented a poster that showed the achievements of the project and the next steps. 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.

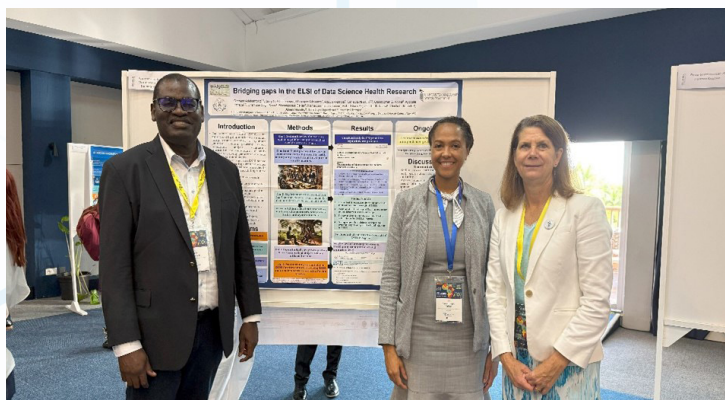


Figure 3 Photograph from DS-I Africa meeting in Mauritius – (From left to right- Photo of Professor C. Adebamowo (PI, BridgELSI), Prof. S. Callier (Co-Investigator), and Dr. K. Neuzil (Director of Fogarty International Center)

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 Remarks

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

Check us on the web

www.bioethicscenter.net

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year in advance.

Contact Address

102, Bashorun Road, Ashi-Bodija

P.O. Box 29822,

Ibadan, Oyo State

Nigeria.

Email; admin@bioethicscenter.net



The background of the page is a deep blue gradient. It is decorated with various glowing elements: several hexagonal shapes of different sizes, some of which are interconnected to form a honeycomb-like lattice on the left side. Other hexagons are scattered throughout, some with small white dots at their centers. There are also faint, glowing molecular structures, including what appears to be a benzene ring and a more complex branched structure. On the right side, there are two spherical clusters of nodes connected by lines, resembling network graphs or molecular models. The overall effect is a futuristic, scientific, and digital aesthetic.

Contact Address

102, Bashorun Road, Ashi-Bodija P.O. Box 29822,
Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Email: admin@bioethicscenter.net