



Center *for*  
Bioethics *&* Research

# CBR

## NEWSLETTER

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# | IN THIS EDITION

Welcome to the first Newsletter from the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria for 2025. We are pleased to bring the latest edition of our Newsletter where we share news of our activities in the first quarter of the year to you.

## **1.0 Institutional Training on Responsible Conduct of Research**

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

## **2.0 Blended Diploma Program in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)**

## **3.0 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.

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

## **4.0 Center for Bioethics and Research programs**

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

## **5.0 Appointments/Achievements**

5.1 Achievements

## **6.0 Trainees Progress and Academic Development**

7.0 New CITI – RCR Module.

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

7.2 The Bioethics Library of the Center for Bioethics and Research.

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

## **9.0. Information on Job Opportunities**

## **10. Closing Remarks**



# Institutional Training on Responsible Conduct of Research

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

The third cohort of six trainees for the MSc. Bioethics program with focus on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) at the University of Ibadan will begin their course work in April 2025 having completed the admission requirements of the Postgraduate College of the university. They will be provided with full scholarship for the duration of their program by the SURER Project. Upon graduation, the trainees are expected to return to their institutions to become the Research Integrity Officer (RIO). They will set up a Research Management Office (RMO) in their institution if there is none there or revive existing one. The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) will work with the trainees to set up RMO Office in their respective institutions.

The trainees were selected from the underlisted universities in Nigeria.

- i. University of Ibadan, Oyo State.
- ii. Babcock University, Ogun State.
- iii. Joseph Sarwuan – Tarka University, Benue State.
- iv. Ebonyi State University, Ebonyi State.
- v. Michael Okpara University, Abia State.
- vi. Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ogun State.

The first and second cohort of trainees on the program have completed their course work and they are working on their final research projects. The Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) University of Ibadan will organize an oral defense examination for the trainees at the completion of their research work, within the current academic session. The Scaling up Research Ethics and Research integrity (SURER) project is funded by the Fogarty International Center of the United States' National Institutes of Health and it is being implemented by the University

of Maryland School of Medicine in collaboration with the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria and the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) of the University of Ibadan.

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.

# Institutional Training on Responsible Conduct of Research

The second cohort of trainees for the SURER Project’s blended diploma program in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) started the program on the 4th of February 2025. The trainees completed training on Introduction to Philosophy for Bioethics, Research Integrity, Responsible Conduct of Research (Falsification, Fabrication, Plagiarism), and Conflicts of Interest. The training lasts for 3 months.

The RCR diploma program is designed for individuals who want more than an introductory course in RCR but are unable to pursue an MSc. program.



*Figure 2 At the Center, in white shirt and black trousers is Prof. C.O. Agulanna and the Second cohort of trainees for the blended diploma program of the SURER Project during their first Weekend Retreat after completing the course on ‘Introduction to Philosophy for Bioethics’.*

All the trainees were provided with reading materials and textbooks, including internet subscription for free by the SURER Project.



*Figure 3: On the left: CBR Facilitators and staff. On the right, are Participants and facilitators during an interactive session at the Weekend Retreat of the diploma program.*

# 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 is funded by the Fogarty International Institute of the United States' National Institutes of Health and it is implemented by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, in collaboration with the Center for Bioethics and Research and the University of Nigeria (UNN) Enugu. The program has admitted 21 candidates into the 5th training cohort for the MSc. Bioethics program. Scholarships, textbooks, laptops, data and a monthly stipend would be provided for selected trainees throughout the duration of their coursework.

The final research projects of the trainees will also receive full support.

Trainees from the 3rd & 4th batch of the MSc. Bioethics program that have completed their final research projects defended their thesis on the 11th of February 2025. During the defense, the examiners explored the trainees' research methods in conducting the study, findings and conclusions revealed by the study, and contributions the study is expected to offer.

Each trainee was allocated 10 minutes for presentation, which was followed by an engaging 20 minutes of questions and comments from the panel of examiners

The discussions were robust, they provided the trainees with critical feedback and reinforced the ethical and methodological rigor necessary for high-quality bioethics research.

All the trainees successfully defended their thesis.

One of the graduates from our ENRICH Program on the MSc. Bioethics program at the University of Nigeria - Adaorah Onyiaorah, wrote a paper from her MSc research project titled: Compliance with Research



Figure 1 From left to right: Onah Cosmas, Chukwu Isaac, Onya Chukwuemeka, and Ossai Edmund

Participant Protection Guidelines by Nigerian Medical Journals. The paper was accepted and published by BMC ethics Journal. The paper is cited below. Onyiaorah, Adaora A. & Ezugwu, Ezebus C. (2025). Compliance with research participant protection guidelines by Nigerian medical journals. BMC Medical Ethics 26 (1):1-7.

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

Trainees on the Masters in Public Health (MPH) with Bioethics concentration program at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka have completed their coursework and are also working on their final research projects. Currently, there are 4 trainees on the program and their final research project topics are listed below.

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 incen-

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

From January to March 2025, we provided the following trainings: 802 trainings on the Protection of Human Subjects of Research to investigators, students, and IRB members; 1,284 trainings in the special module on the Nigerian National Code for Health Research Ethics; 380 trainings in Good Clinical Practice; 63 trainings in Conflicts of Interest; 362 trainings in Responsible Conduct of Research; and 207 trainings in Public Health Research.

## Appointments/Achievements

### 5.1 Achievements

Prof. Clement Adebamowo was honored with the “Mamadou Gueye Award” during the 65th Annual Conference of the West African College of Surgeons (WACS). The prestigious award represents the highest recognition that WACS can bestow upon its Fellows and is given to those who have shown exceptional commitment and service to both the College and humanity.

The award commemorates Mamadou Gueye, a revered Neurosurgeon and former President of the College from Senegal, who passed to glory during his tenure as president of WACS. By presenting the Mamadou Gueye distinction award to a brilliant academic and well committed Fellow - Professor C.A. Adebamowo. The WACS has expressed its strong willingness to promote merit as has been demonstrated by the late Past -President Professor Mamadou Gueye for the progress of the WACS.



Figure 2 Prof. Clement Adebamowo at the 65th annual conference of WACS

The award ceremony took place at the opening session of the 65th annual WACS conference held in Bamako, Mali, on Monday, February 17, 2024. Notably, Prof. Adebamowo is only the fourth recipient of this award, following a tradition where previous awardees were all past presidents or secretaries general of WACS.



*Figure 3 Prof. Adebamowo delivering a presidential lecture at the WACS conference*

In addition to receiving the award, Prof. Adebamowo delivered a presidential lecture at the conference, presenting his research on the development of rapid, low-cost, portable diagnostics for the multiplex quantification of ER, PR, and HER2 in breast cancer with high sensitivity and specificity. The research has significant implications for molecular subtyping of breast cancer. Prof. Adebamowo also mentioned that he submitted a Notice of Invention related to the diagnostic device and is collaborating with the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) Office of Technology to pursue a patent application.

Prof. Adebamowo introduced a new training initiative called the SCAR Program, aimed at enhancing the capacity of surgeons to conduct research on surgically treatable non-communicable diseases among women. The program is set to launch in 2025 and will offer valuable training and research opportunities for WACS Fellows and trainees throughout West Africa. Prof. Adebamowo has also been appointed as Director, Division of Cancer Epidemiology, University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) is proud to be associated with this high achiever and we wish him more success.



# Trainees Progress and Academic Development

## 6.1 Dr. Peter Ikhane: MSc. Bioethics Graduate and Justice Dialogues Scholar

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) supports trainees and graduates of the MSc. Bioethics programs to increase confidence and expand their understanding of their field and the world so that they can also become disseminators of knowledge and skills impacting their Professional networks and communities.

In this edition, we share detailed updates on the progress of a graduate of the MSc. Bioethics program and a trainee that is just completing her program at the University of Ibadan.

**Dr. Peter Ikhane** is a graduate of the MSc. Bioethics program from the University of Ibadan. He completed the MSc. program in 2023, his final research project on **'Investigating the Role of Cultural Beliefs and Practices in the Ethics of Genomic Research among the Bini Cultural Group in Benin City, Edo state, Nigeria'** was supported by the Fogarty International Center (FIC) through the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria. He is currently a Post doctoral trainee on the at the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB), United States.

Dr. Peter Ikhane was recently announced as a scholar of the Justice Dialogues, a project which will bring together scholars for a series of virtual discussions throughout 2025 aimed at advancing justice-centered bioethics research. Peter's research will examine questions on equitable sharing of benefits that arise from using anonymous biobank samples in future unspecified research sponsored by commercial entities including genomics research.

During the Justice Dialogues, Dr. Ikhane's study will integrate justice frameworks, particularly from African relational ethics, to examine ideas about (i) justifying benefit sharing with donor communities, and (ii) ap-



Figure 4 Dr. Peter Ikhane

propriate mechanisms for benefits sharing with donor communities when commercial entities make profits from using the samples in research.

African relational ethics provides a framework to think of those – researchers and research institutions, research participants, research sponsors – involved in health research as a collective interested in improving human health, though each has interests specific to their participation in research.

CBR is proud of Dr. Peter Ikhane's progress and wishes him more success in his career and research work.



## 6.2. Dr. Lizette Ezenekwe's Participation in Climate Change and Health Ethics Conference

Dr. Lizette Ezenekwe is a trainee on the MSc. Bioethics program at the University of Ibadan, and she is currently working on her final research project. She attended the Conference on Ethical Issues Arising in Research into Climate Change and Health. The conference took place at the Majestic Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from the 19th to 20th of November, 2024. Attendees of the conference are experts from diverse fields including climate science, public health, ethics, and policymaking. They explored the ethical challenges associated with research on climate change and health.



*Figure 5: Dr. Lizette Ezenekwe*

The conference focused on themes like Interdisciplinary Approaches, Co-production, and Integrating Indigenous Knowledge. Rethinking Research Ethics Governance, Research Agenda Setting and Uptake: Power, Justice, and Fairness, Impact of Health Research on Climate Change, New Research and Emerging Technologies: Balancing Speed and Caution.



*Figure 6: Attendees at the conference on ethical issues arising in research into climate change and health in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.*

The conference also examined the ethical dimensions of research at the intersection of climate change and health. The conference featured keynote addresses, panel discussions, and breakout group sessions, offering opportunities for in-depth dialogue on the complex issues raised by this critical area of research.

Dr. Lizette Ezenekwe's attendance at the conference was a timely opportunity that provided a platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration. The outcomes and recommendations from the conference will guide future research, policymaking, and practice aimed at mitigating the health impacts of climate change.



*Figure 7: (In Yellow) Dr. Lizette Ezenekwe during one of the breakout sessions at the conference.*

# 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.

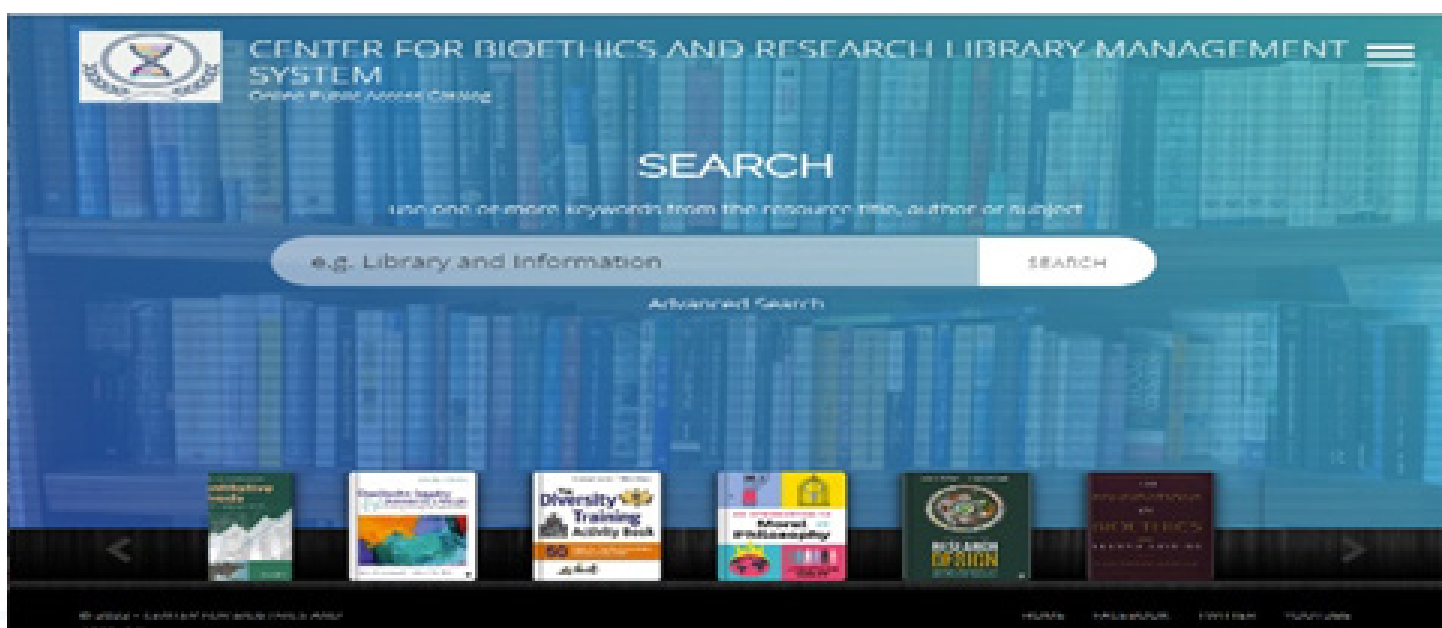


Figure 8: Bioethics library of the Center for Bioethics and Research, Ibadan, Nigeria

## 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](mailto:librarian@bioethicscenter.net)

## 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 9: 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](mailto:admin@bioethicscenter.net)  
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