



Center *for*
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INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to bring the latest edition of the quarterly Newsletter of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria where we share news of our activities in the **second quarter of 2025** with you.

Institutional Training on Responsible Conduct of Research

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

Our pioneer set of trainees on the MSc. Bioethics program with concentration on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) successfully defended their thesis before an audience of examiners at the University of Ibadan on the 16th of May, 2025. A total of 6 trainees participated in the defense examination and passed in flying colors. We are super proud of them and wish them success in all their future endeavors. The rest of the trainees in the first cohort are working on their final research projects.



Figure 1: From L to R: Dr. Samson Adedeji, Dr. Oluwatoyin Babalola, Dr. Korede Jalili Quadri, Dr. Anne Adeyanju, Dr. Cynthia Komolafe, Dr. Lekan Oduola

The 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

Our third cohort of six trainees on the MSc. Bioethics program with RCR concentration have been admitted by the Postgraduate College of the University of Ibadan. An orientation program was organized by the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) University of Ibadan and the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) for the new trainees on the 1st of May 2025. The trainees have since began their course work after completing the admission requirements of the Postgraduate College of the university. The trainees were provided with laptops, textbooks, and full payment of their tuition fees as part of their scholarship on the program.



Figure 2: The third cohort of MSc. Bioethics trainees and the head of the Bioethics department at the University of Ibadan, Prof. Agulanna in black suit and glasses at the Center beside Prof. Adejumo faculty member in native attire and cap.

Upon graduation, all 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 already or revive the existing one. The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) will work with the trainees to set up an RMO Office in their respective institutions.



Figure 3: From L to R: Dr. Ope Akoleowo, Mr. Dami-lare Oyelade (SURER Prog. coord.) Prof. Folusho David - Abraham, Prof. C.O. Agulanna (Head, Bioethics dept.), Dr. Nneka Ani, Dr. Simone Ter Atuna, Prof. Oluwatoyin Grace Tayo, Dr. Abiodun Ogunola



Figure 4: Textbooks and laptops that were provided for each trainee that was admitted for the program.

1.2. 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) training programs for researchers in Nigeria. During the last quarter, we implemented on-site RCR training at the Ebonyi State University. The training lasted for 2 days from the 26th to 27th of May. Some of the topics that were covered during the training session include Plagiarism and Data Fabrication, Data Falsification and Manipulation, Data Sharing and Management, among other topics.



Figure 5: CBR Facilitators and attendees of the RCR training at Ebonyi State University

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)

Our second cohort of 25 trainees for the SURER Project's blended diploma program in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) have successfully completed the 3 – month long program. The trainees completed the program on the 27th of April 2025. All the trainees completed training in Introduction to Philosophy for Bioethics, Research Integrity, Responsible Conduct of Research (Falsification, Fabrication, Plagiarism), and Conflicts of Interest. They received textbooks, internet stipend, and full sponsorship to attend the mandatory weekend retreats. 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 6: On the left are participants and facilitators during an interactive session at one of the Weekend Retreats. In the right picture, at the Center, in white shirt and black trousers is Prof. C.O. Agulanna and trainees of the blended diploma program of the SURER Project during their Weekend Retreat after completing the course on 'Introduction to Philosophy for Bioethics'.

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) is proud of all the trainees that successfully completed the diploma program and wish them well in their endeavors.



Figure 6: Participants of the RCR Diploma program holding certificates of completion at the end of the 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 which is supported by the Fogarty International Center (FIC), National Institutes of Health in collaboration with the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) admitted the 5th batch of trainees in March 2025 for the MSc. Bioethics program at the University of Nigeria (UNN) Enugu. A scholarship that supports tuition, textbooks, laptops, data and a monthly stipend would be provided for selected trainees that meet the requirements throughout the duration of their coursework. The final research projects of the selected trainees will also be supported by the FIC funding.

The 4th batch of MSc. Bioethics trainees have completed their coursework; they will present the proposals for their final research projects to faculty members and their colleagues at the end of the semester. Recommendations and corrections from faculty members will be made on the proposals, and supervisors will also be assigned to the trainees for the commencement of their work.

One of the graduates of the ENRICH Program, Nkechinyere Uche, wrote a paper from her MSc research project titled Ethical Issues in Glaucoma Genomic Research: Perspectives and Preferences of Potential Research Participants in Enugu, Southeast Nigeria. The paper was accepted and published by Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics. The paper is cited below.

Uche NJ, Okoye OI, Ezeome ER. Ethical Issues in Glaucoma Genomic Research: Perspectives and Preferences of Potential Research Participants in Enugu, Southeast Nigeria. Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics. 2025;0(0). doi:10.1177/15562646251337654

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

Our 4th batch of 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 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. Human Subjects Protection training in collaboration with BRANY-Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), New York.

From March to June 2025, we provided the following trainings: 1,095 trainings on the Protection of Human Subjects of Research to investigators, students, and IRB members; 2,305 trainings in the special module on the Nigerian National Code for Health Research Ethics; 614 trainings in Good Clinical Practice; 249 trainings in Conflicts of Interest; 606 trainings in Responsible Conduct of Research; and 385 trainings in Public Health Research.

Appointments/ Achievements

5.1. Achievements

Dr. Sally Nneoma Adebamowo, one of the faculty on our ENRICH Program based at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) was promoted to Professor.

Dr. Adebamowo completed her medical training and earned an MBBS from University of Ibadan, Nigeria, MSc (Clinical Trials) from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK, and an ScD from the Harvard School of Public Health, US. She completed postdoctoral training in epidemiology and genomics at Harvard School of Public Health and the National Human Genome Research Institute, National In-

stitutes of Health (NIH), respectively, after which she joined the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, UMSOM as an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Adebamowo was appointed Co-Leader of the Population Science Program in 2024 at the University of Maryland School of Medicine Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center (UMGCCC). Her leadership has been guiding the program through new challenges, leveraging her expertise in population health to make impactful contributions to cancer prevention and health promotion. She has mentored several MPH students, predoctoral and post-doctoral fellows.

Her research interests include nutritional epidemiology and genetic epidemiology of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infections, cervical pre-cancer and cancer, breast cancer, cardiometabolic disorders and development of polygenic risk scores. The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) celebrates her promotion. We are proud to be associated with her and wish her more success.



Figure 7: Prof. Sally Adebamowo

Trainees Progress and Academic Development

6.1 Former trainee wins doctoral scholarship, among other accolades.

Oyebode Oluwaseyi Dosunmu who completed his MSc Bioethics program at the University of Ibadan in 2024 and conducted his final research project on “Developing Case Studies on Research Misconduct in Nigeria” won a Doctoral Scholarship from the Social, Economic, and Administrative Pharmacy (International) Program at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand in 2024.



Figure 8: Oyebode Oluwaseyi Dosunmu

Mr. Oyebode Oluwaseyi Dosunmu presented a paper titled **“Association between (Children) Medical Tourism and Health Inequities”** at the *2025 Children Medical Tourism Research Network International Workshop* organized by the Center for Ethics in Medicine, University of Bristol, United Kingdom, May 14-15, 2025. The presentation explored the moral dimension of unequal health distribution based on socio-economic status differences between the rich medical tourists and the poor in the destination.

Oyebode Oluwaseyi Dosunmu is a recipient of the *2025 University of Edinburgh Digital Volunteering with Wikipedia Edinburgh Award* for his contribution to ensuring open access to knowledge on Wikipedia.

CBR is proud of Oyebode Oluwaseyi Dosunmu ‘s progress and wishes him more success in his career and research work.



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

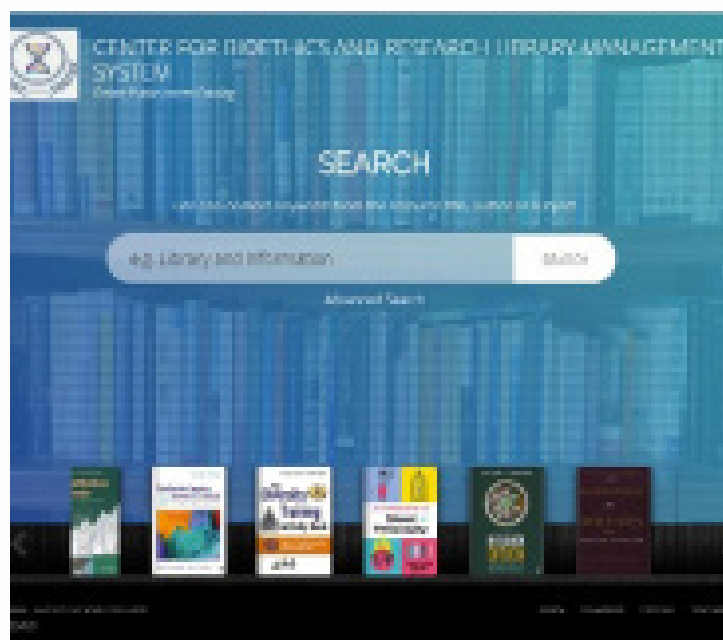


Figure 9: Bioethics library of the Center for Bioethics and Research, Ibadan, Nigeria

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.

Prof. Shawneequa Callier, a BridgELSI Project investigator presented a seminar presentation titled **'Ethical Trade-Offs in Data Science Health Research'** on the 20th of May, 2025 at the Eneza Data Science: Enhancing Data Science Capability and Tools for Health in East Africa meeting.

The 5th DS – I Africa consortium meeting will take place from 23rd -29th August 2025 **at the University of Ghana, Accra.**

Investigators on the BridgELSI Project plan to attend the meeting, to show 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.

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

Contact Address

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

Email; admin@bioethicscenter.net



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