

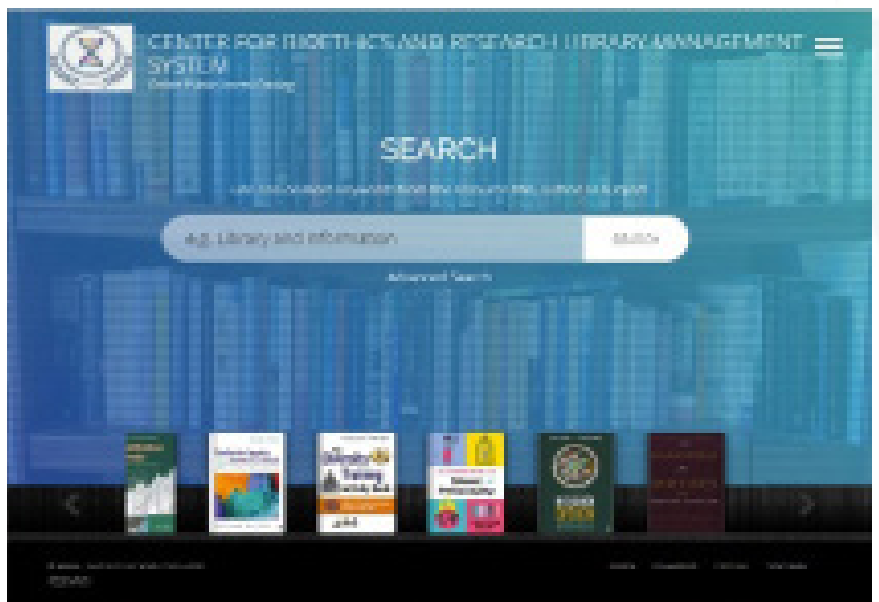


Center *for*
Bioethics & Research

CBR

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INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to bring you the fourth edition of the quarterly Newsletter of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria for 2025.

Institutional Training on Responsible Conduct of Research

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

Five trainees from our MSc Bioethics program at the University of Ibadan submitted abstracts from their thesis to the 9th World Conference on Research Integrity (WCRI) 2026 and these were accepted. Three of the abstracted were poster presentations and two were oral presentations. In addition, the program faculty submitted an abstract on development and implementation of graduate training in Responsible Conduct of Research, and this was accepted for oral presentation.

Our third cohort of trainees are rounding up their course work, and they have obtained ethics approval from the Faculty of Social Sciences Ethics Committee of the University of Ibadan for their final research projects. The trainees will commence work on their final research projects at the end of their coursework. All the trainees will be supported by CBR to complete their research projects.

Upon graduation, all the trainees are expected to return to their institutions to set up Research Integrity Offices or Units (RIO/RIU) if there is none there already or revive the existing one. CBR will support the trainees in this endeavor.

1.2 Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) On-site Training

Our Scaling Up Research Ethics and Research Integrity (SURER) Project implements a multi-institutional collaboration to provide Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), Research/Scientific Integrity (RSI) training to researchers in Nigeria. During the last quarter, we implemented on-site RCR training at Babcock University, Ilishan, Remo, Ogun State. The training took place on the 25th and 26th of September. 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. 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



Figure 1: CBR Facilitators and attendees of the RCR training at Babcock University Ilishan Remo, Ogun State

(admin@bioethicscenter.net) for more information. You can also visit the project website at <https://sureproject.net> to know more about Scaling Up Research Ethics and Research Integrity (SURER) project.

Blended Diploma Program in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

There are still opportunities to participate in our blended diploma program on Responsible Conduct of Research. Our 3-month program provides advanced training in research integrity and responsible conduct of research (RCR) for researchers, lecturers, and institutional leaders based on the 3-credit core courses completed by MSc trainees. 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. Successful applicants will receive textbooks, stipend for internet access, and full sponsorship to the mandatory weekend retreats of the diploma program. You can visit our project website at <https://surerproject.net> to know more about how to apply for 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 funded by the Fogarty International Center (FIC), U.S. National Institutes of Health and collaboratively implemented by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria, 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 is provided for the trainees throughout the duration of their training. The final research projects of the selected trainees will be supported by the ENRICH Program.

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 2025 to September 2025.

Institution	Date	Attendance	Participants	Training type
The Bells Univeristy, Ota, Ogun State	4th - 6th August	13	Members of the health research ethics committee	Modern Research Ethics
Federal Medical Center, Abeokuta, Ogun State	29th - 30th September	17	Members of the health research ethics committee	Modern Research Ethics

Table 1: 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 30th September to 23rd December 2025, we provided the following online trainings:

- a. 1,778 trainings on the Protection of Human Subjects of Research to investigators, students, and IRB members
- b. 2,843 trainings in the special module on the Nigerian National Code for Health Research Ethics
- c. 1,310 trainings in Good Clinical Practice
- d. 229 trainings in Conflicts of Interest
- e. 412 trainings in Responsible Conduct of Research

Appointments/Achievements

5.1. Achievements

Prof. C.O. Agulanna, the head of the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities, University of Ibadan and a founding member of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) delivered a lecture titled 'Taking a Walk from the Work' at the 'End-of-Year' Meeting organized by the Capacity Building Committee of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria on the 5th of December 2025.

CBR congratulates Prof. Agulanna on the inspiring lecture and excellent delivery, we wish him more success, and we are proud to be associated with him.



Figure 2: Prof. C.O. Agulanna

Trainees Progress and Academic Development



6.1. Former trainee wins doctoral scholarship, among other accolades.

Terese Gabriel Orum who completed his MSc Bioethics program at the University of Ibadan in 2024 and conducted his final research project on “Data Privacy and Ethical issues in collecting health data using artificial intelligence: A qualitative assessment amongst health workers.” won a Doctoral Scholarship from the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission United Kingdom in 2025.

Dr. Terese Gabriel Orum’s research work at University of Glasgow, United Kingdom will focus on “Exploring Ethical Narratives and Cultural Perceptions to Enhance Rabies Prevention and Elimination in Endemic Rural Areas of Nigeria’.

Dr. Terese Gabriel Orum’s recent publication is titled “Ethical Considerations in Companion Animal Care: Examining the Consequences of Rabies in an Unvaccinated Boer Boel Dog and Implications for Animal Welfare Policies” (<https://doi.org/10.1002/vrc2.908>). The article combines Bioethics with Veterinary Medicine by emphasizing the ethical responsibilities of pet owners.

CBR is proud of Terese Gabriel Orum ‘s progress and wishes him more success in his career and research work.

6.2. Testimonial on My Experience in the MSc Bioethics Program University of Ibadan.

My experience in the MSc Bioethics program at the University of Ibadan has been both enriching and transformative, academically and personally. I was selected by my institution; Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo based on my position as the Director of Research for the Institution. One of the criteria given by the sponsoring organization; the Centre for Bioethics, Ibadan with funding from Fogarty International Foundation is that candidates for the program must be able to train others on completion of the course. This will ensure the realization of the objective of transforming the research landscape of Nigeria through responsible conduct of research in all Nigerian Universities. Gaining admission into the program was an important milestone for me, especially considering that my first degree is in Agriculture. At the initial stage, this difference in disciplinary background posed a challenge; however, through the University’s flexible and inclusive admission process into the program my admission challenge was eventually resolved. This is a reflection of the program’s strong commitment to interdisciplinarity and openness, which are central to the practice of bioethics.

From the beginning of the program, I was impressed by the richness and relevance of the curriculum. The MSc Bioethics program offers a wide range of courses that address both foundational and contemporary ethical issues. These include responsible conduct of research, legal perspectives in bioethics, research ethics and governance, intellectual property and copyright, artificial intelligence and ethics, assisted reproduction, and the ethical implications of emerging scientific and technological developments. The program also provides solid training in both qualitative and quantitative research methods, training on Stata and Atlas.ti software which has strengthened my analytical skills and im-

proved my capacity for ethical inquiry in academic research. One particularly valuable aspect of the program is its strong emphasis on applying ethical principles to real-life situations. Through discussions, and case studies, I gained a clearer understanding of how bioethics operates within legal, institutional, and societal frameworks. Exposure to global perspectives on contemporary debates has broadened my outlook on how cultural and contextual factors shape ethical decision-making in health care, research, and innovation.

The program has also provided excellent opportunities for interaction and networking with fellow students from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. Learning alongside colleagues' different disciplines has enriched classroom discussions and deepened my experiences.

Having spent over twenty-five years as a university lecturer, returning to the classroom as a student was a humbling and eye-opening experience. It gave me a renewed appreciation of the challenges students face as they balance academic responsibilities with professional, family, and personal commitments. This experience has helped me better understand students' struggles with deadlines, workload, and expectations, and it has positively influenced my own approach to teaching and mentoring by fostering greater empathy and patience.

The learning environment within the MSc Bioethics program is highly supportive and well resourced. Appreciation goes to the Centre for Bioethics and Research (CBR) for providing the scholarship through the funding from Fogarty International Foundation, National Institute of Health (NIH). Students are provided with up-to-date and relevant academic literature at no cost, ensuring access to current and high-quality materials. In addition, the provision of a laptop and data support demonstrates the program's strong commitment to effective learning and digital engagement.

A unique feature of the program is the combination of online classes, Moodle classes and academic retreats organized at different stages of the program cycle. The retreat offers a relaxed but intellectually stimulating setting where students and lecturers interact. They provide opportunities for reflection, clarification on difficult concepts and the sharing of experiences. I found these retreats particularly valuable, as they strengthened relationships, encouraged open discussions, and fostered a sense of academic community built on mutual respect. The relationship between lecturers, the administrative staff and students in the program is commendable. It is a practical demonstration of the principle of IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility) as we have been taught. I am grateful to all our facilitators, including the Head of Department, Prof Agulanna and the grandfather of the program; Prof. Clement Adebamowo for the opportunity. The Manager of the Centre, Mr Olusegun Adeyemo, the program coordinator, Mr Damilare Oyelade and all the



Figure 3: Prof. Oluwatoyin Grace Tayo. MSc. Bioethics Trainee

ICT staff have been wonderful in their support. In conclusion, the MSc Bioethics program at the University of Ibadan is well-structured and intellectually stimulating. It combines strong academic content with practical ethical engagement and a supportive learning environment. My participation in the program has significantly enhanced my understanding of bioethics, improved my research skills, and positively influenced my professional practice. I confidently recommend the MSc Bioethics program to anyone interested in ethical issues at the intersection of science, health, law, and society.

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 <https://library.bioethicscenter.net>. Please contact the librarian for any inquiries at librarian@bioethicscenter.net

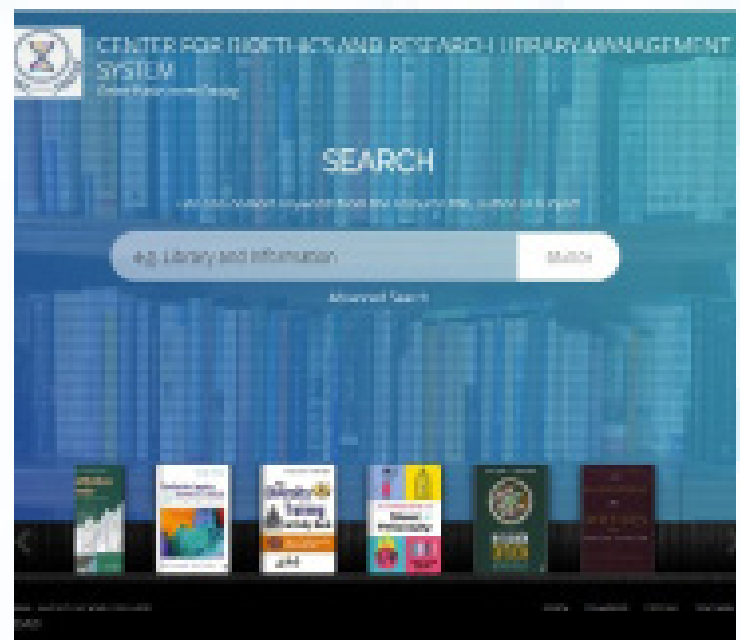


Figure 9: Bioethics library of the Center for Bioethics and Research, Ibadan, Nigeria

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. Our other investigators in the BridgELSI project include Dr. C. Adebamowo, Prof. T. Ogundiran, Prof. A. Jegede, Prof. S. Akintola, and Dr. S. Adebamowo.

The BridgELSI project recently published two papers:

1. Adebamowo C, Akintola A, Maduka OC, Ikhane P, Jegede A, Callier S, Akintola S, Ogundiran T, Adeyemo O, Adebamowo SN. Knowledge and Recommendations of Stakeholders regarding Ethical Oversight of Data Science Health Research: A qualitative study protocol. JMIR Res Protoc. 2025 Oct 20. doi: 10.2196/78557. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41130595.
2. P.A. Ikhane, T. Yusuf, O. Adeyemo, T.O. Ogundiran, S.N. Adebamowo, C.A. Adebamowo, Community and bioethicists' perspectives on iPSC research with biobanked samples collected using broad consent, Stem Cell Reports, 2025, 102721, ISSN 2213-6711, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.stemcr.2025.102721>.

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 at <https://www.bioethicscenter.net>



Season's Greetings

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