

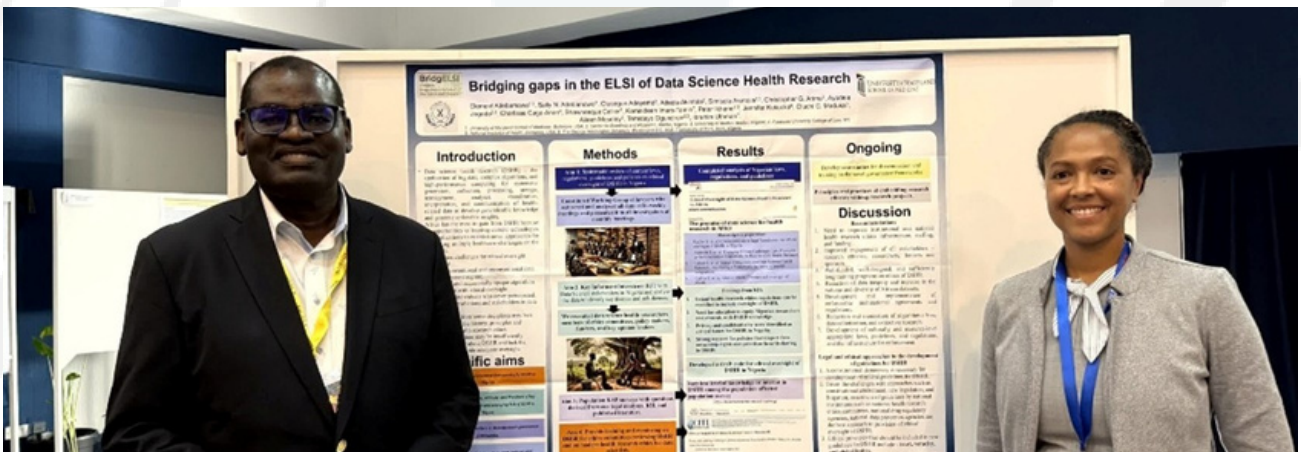


Center *for*
Bioethics & Research

CBR

NEWSLETTER

July 2026 | Special Issue



INTRODUCTION

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 a significant milestone for one of our co-investigators on the Bridging Gaps in the ELSI of Data Science Research (BridgELSI) Project.

Prof. Shawneequa Callier

CBR celebrates the promotion of Professor Shawneequa Callier to the rank of Professor in the Department of Clinical Research and Leadership at George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences, United States, effective 1st of July 2026.

Prof. Callier is an expert in bioethics and genomics law, she is widely recognized for her research on the ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) of human genome research and data science. Her promotion to the rank of Professor recognizes her impactful work on the global stage. Prof. Callier has worked closely with members of the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR), Nigeria conducting ethics research which has led to publications in high impact journals.

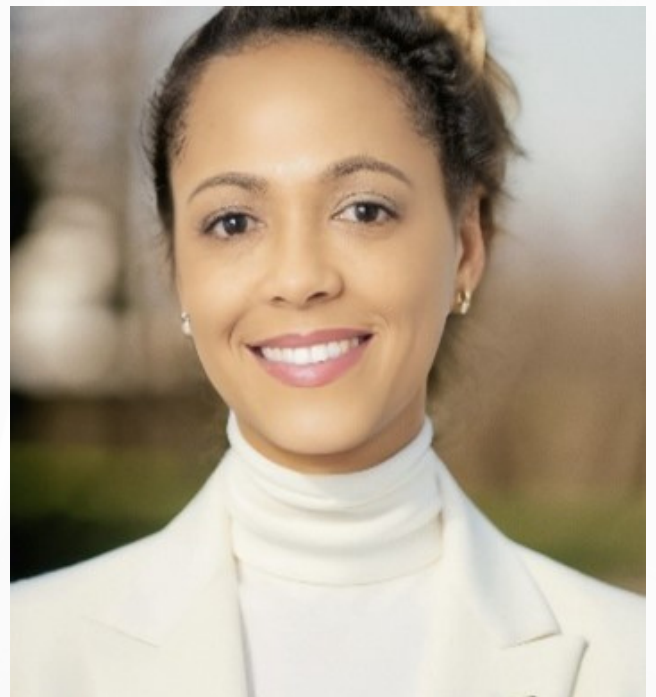


Figure 1: Prof. Shawneequa Callier

As a member of the Bridging Gaps in the ELSI of Data Science Research (BridgELSI) Project, Professor Callier explores the legal and ethical implications of AI, Data Science, Genomics and other emerging technologies. As part of her collaboration with the CBR, Prof. Callier and other co-investigators attended the 3rd Data Science Innovation (DS-I) Africa meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in November 2023, and the 4th DS-I Africa consortium meeting in Mauritius in November 2024. Prof. Callier also chaired a breakout session at the 5th DS-I Africa consortium meeting in Accra Ghana in August 2025 where she made a presentation on **'Results of Data Sharing and Governance Survey'** – part of the BridgELSI Project work.

Prof. Shawneequa Callier

Prof. Callier has published several BridgELSI papers including the project's first paper in Nature Communications in September 2023 titled **'The Promise of Data Science for Health Research in Africa'**. Other BridgELSI papers by Prof. Callier include:

- 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.
- Adebamowo C, Callier S, Maduka OC, Akintola S, Kukucka J, Arima CG, Ogundiran TO, Jegede A, Akintola A, Adeyemo O, Adebamowo SN Ethical Oversight of Data Science Health Research in Africa. NEJM AI. 2024;1(6):Alpc2400033. doi: doi:10.1056/Alpc2400033
- Akintola A, Ikhane P, Maduka OC, et al Protocol for a modified Delphi study of ethical oversight of data science health research (DSHR) BMJ Open 2025;15:e105799. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2025-105799
- Adebamowo C, Adebamowo SN, Akintola S, Jegede A, Imam-Thamim M, Uthman I, Callier S, Akintola A, Ikhane P, Ogundiran T, Adeyemo O, BridgELSI Project as a part of DS-i Africa Yoruba. Moral Philosophy and the Ethical Governance of Data Science Health Research in Africa. JMIR Preprints. 24/05/2026:102321. DOI: 10.2196/preprints.102321

Professor Callier's commitment to her field extends beyond research and into science policy. She is a passionate advocate for ensuring that underrepresented populations are ethically and fairly included in biomedical and genomic research. Her tireless efforts in



Figure 2: Prof. Shawneequa Callier (Left) & Prof. Simisola Akintola (Right) at the 6th DS-I Africa meeting in Mombasa, Kenya

this area were recognized when she received the NIH Genome Recognition Award (GREAT Award) in October 2017 from the National Human Genome Research Institute of the US National Institutes of Health. Her advocacy shapes modern methods for data collection to ensure that global human genomic variation is accurately represented.

Prof. Callier is renowned for her innovative approach to online and in-person education. She teaches bioethics and health care law in the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) Translational Health Sciences Ph.D. program. She is passionate about training the next generation of scientists, researchers, and healthcare professionals to thoughtfully navigate the ethical dilemmas they will face in their careers. She bridges the gap between law and medicine, ensuring that students and researchers alike understand both the legal parameters and the human impact of data science.

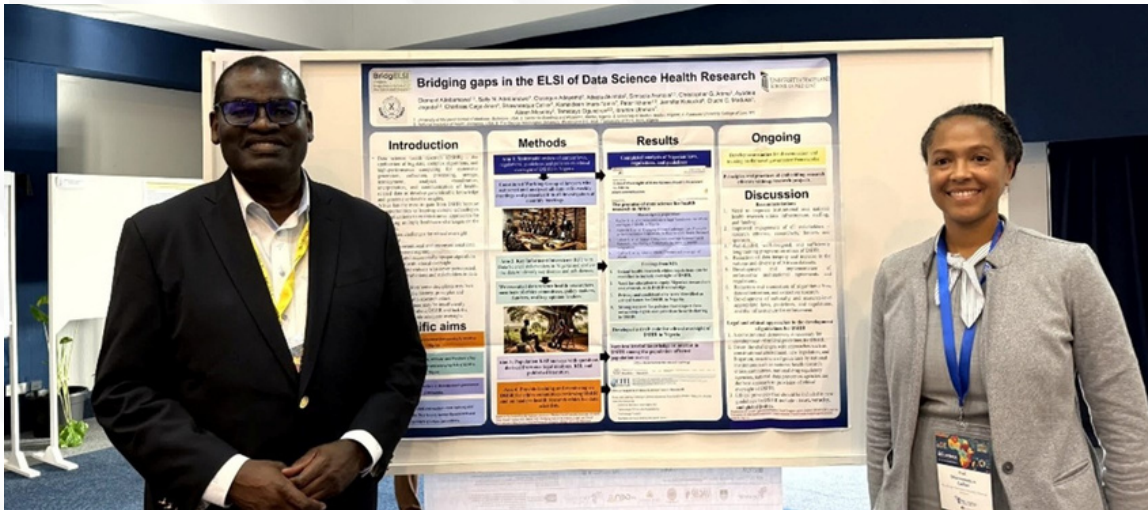


Figure 3: Left to Right: Prof. Clement Adebamowo and Prof. Shawneequa Callier at the 4th DS-I Africa consortium meeting

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) Nigeria, and investigators on the Bridging Gaps in the ELSI of Data Science Research (BridgeELSI) Project will continue to work with Prof. Callier on the intersection of human genetics laws and health research ethics. We wish her all the best in her new position, and we are proud to be associated with her.

Closing Remarks

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

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