The WHO estimates that untreated mental health disorders account for 13% of the total global burden of disease. By 2030, depression alone will be the leading cause of disability globally.

The GFBR is a global platform for the exchange and sharing of experience and expertise on research ethics. The GFBR welcomes applications for participants to attend the 2021 meeting in Toronto, Canada.

The GFBR is seeking case studies highlighting ethical challenges, the ethics of mental health research, and proposals on governance issues in conducting research on mental health conditions in LMIC settings.

Cases studies are invited on the following themes:

- Flagship Case Study: Research is critical to advancing mental health as a global priority. Strengthening capacity in mental health research is paramount, early career researchers should not be left behind.
- Flagship Governance Proposal: Does a country’s governance structure and regulation support or challenge the ability to conduct research with people who have mental health conditions?
- LMIC contexts:
  - What are the different regulatory models that countries use to include people who lack capacity to consent, and do these models promote inclusion?
  - How can training and capacity strengthening be maximised for building and maintaining robust governance structures?
- Applicable to individual health research that is limited published mental health research. At the same time, there is compromise mental health research. Inclusion is a central ethical and human rights consideration, especially for adults lacking decision-making capacity. Engaging experts by experience empowers individuals and enriches research processes.
- Limited evidence?
- How can impactful and ethical mental health research be maximised to generate meaningful evidence?
- What is the ethical duty of researchers to assess and address mental health stigma as part of their research?

Case studies and governance proposals will be selected to attend.

What are the ethical values & principles guiding inclusion?

- Fairness
- Equality
- Respect
- Justice
- Accountability
- Human rights

Governance proposals are invited on the following themes:

- To what extent are ethics governance structures, processes and practices supporting the inclusion of people with mental health conditions in research?
- Does a country’s governance structure and regulation support or challenge the ability to conduct research with people who have mental health conditions?
- What are the different regulatory models that countries use to include people who lack capacity to consent, and do these models promote inclusion?
- How can training and capacity strengthening be maximised for building and maintaining robust governance structures?

Case studies and proposals will be covered for successful applicants from LMICs.

What are the next steps?

- Visit www.gfbr.global for details of how to apply and to access the Background Paper.
- All applications should be sent to gfbr@wellcome.org by 17.00 GMT 4th December 2020.
- The Planning Committee will inform all applicants on the outcome of their applications by 20 January 2021.
- Please contact gfbr@wellcome.org for additional queries.

What should you expect?

- Up to 80 people from a broad range of countries and disciplines will be selected to attend.
- Successful case study and governance proposal applicants will be supported to develop their submissions into a format suitable for presentation.
- Cost of travel, accommodation and single-entry visa will be covered for successful applicants from LMICs.

This list is not exhaustive! GFBR organisers will decide the exact meeting themes based on the case studies received.