

## **Building Nursing Research Capacity in Africa and Optimizing Health Outcomes: Finding Evidence Through Research and Translating Evidence into Best Practice**

### **\*WORKSHOP REPORT\***

The workshop was attended by a total of 182 participants over two days and advertised through the Global Alliance for Nurses and Midwives (GANM), Global Health Online (GHDonline), Health Information For All (HIFA), as well as through local nursing research groups, Head of Nursing Services departments of Public and Private Hospitals in Nigeria, and other forums including nursing blogs and nursing WhatsApp groups.



Participants came from different States in Nigeria such as Enugu (host city), Anambra, Ebonyi, Imo, Abia, Ibadan, Lagos, Delta, and Rivers, with the majority of participants from the Southeast region where the programme was hosted. A representative from the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) was in attendance to participate and observe the proceedings of the workshop.

The workshop was sponsored by The Global Health Network (TGHN) under the Global Research Nurses (GRN) programme. Blue Torch Home Care received the funding and used the stock of stationary and promotional materials available from previous workshops.

## **Day 1: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

The programme commenced at 8:00am on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November after confirmation of pre-registered and walk-in participants. Ralueke Ekezie introduced The Global Health Network (TGHN); and the initiatives underway in Nigeria as part of the Global Research Nurses (GRN) programme. He also introduced the platform and guided attendees in how to register for free to become members of the GRN. The GRN Programme in Nigeria started back in 2014 and has been running ever since with support from Blue Torch Home Care Limited anchoring the programmes. Approximately 309 nurses have benefited from involvement in nursing research and clinical nursing research; with about 6 functional nursing research groups across Nigeria.

Dr Iheanacho a Nursing Research Lecturer at University of Nigeria Enugu Campus (UNEC) hosted a session focusing on “Good Clinical Practice (GCP) and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)”.

This was followed by a comprehensive 2 hour presentation by Hope Opara (Mrs), covering key concepts such as “Mentorship in Nursing Research” and “Dissemination of Research Findings”.



To keep the programme engaging, participants enjoyed tea breaks and refreshments and during this time were given the opportunity to register their membership with the GRN platform. On returning to the seminar room, a questions and answers session was hosted in response to the presentations of the first two speakers.

The next presenter provided insight on considerations for “Data Management” (Mrs Chinenye Ogbogu) and subsequently Dr. Nwonu spoke informatively on the “Development of a Research Protocol”.



Participants were provided with Lunch and networking opportunities. The format for the afternoon saw participants also engaged in group exercises to foster discussion around the various topics that were presented. One person from each group then made a 3 minute presentation to summarise the challenges and successes identified from experience, to bring the first day of the workshop to a close.

## **Day 2: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

The second day started with a presentation on “Recruitment and Retention of Research Participants” by Prof. Anarado, Head of Department (HOD) Nursing Sciences, University of Nigeria Enugu Campus and was followed with a session on “Archiving” given by Ralueke Ekezie, the coordinator of the workshop.

Participants proceeded for refreshments and returned to the opportunity for questions and answers in response to the two previous presenters.

Ralueke continued with a presentation underpinning “Clinical Trials Conduct and the roles of Nurses”, directed at the target audience this workshop sought to serve.

As part of The Global Health Network free resources, the WHO-TDR “Competencies Framework and Professional Development” was presented by Dr. Elize Pietersen a former GRN Coordinator based in South Africa. Dr Pietersen delivered her presentation remotely and successfully (offering a positive experience for considering more future key-note talks delivered remotely via this mechanism).

The final session of the day was made by a Clinical Research Nurse: Bridget Nwokolo who presented a case study of ‘Study site engagement by a Clinical Research Nurse’. Bridget has kindly written an article offering insight into this case study which can be accessed on GRN.

This laid further foundation for rich group discussion and quick summary feedback to the audience by nominated group leaders. Ralueke also guided and warmly requested participants complete the workshop feedback online survey form provided as a link via email.

This was followed by lunch with further opportunity for networking among participants and visiting speakers. During this time, the nominated group presenters were issued with a GRN customized Flash Drive as thanks for their input and participation to the exercise. The programme ended by 3:30pm with a vote of thanks by the moderator of the day **Mercy Otoijaghale**.

***For Blue Torch Home Care Limited  
Ralueke Ekezie***