



Ethics in Biomedical Research and global best practices in the context of Preventive Chemotherapy Neglected Tropical Diseases (PC-NTDs) Elimination Strategy in Nigeria

WORKSHOP REPORT

Olagunsoye Oyinlola Conference Auditorium, Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria

17th November 2020

SUMMARY

The Nigeria Global Health Trials Ethics in Biomedical Research and global best practices in the context of Preventive Chemotherapy Neglected Tropical Diseases (PC-NTDs) Elimination Strategy in Nigeria workshop took place on the 17th November 2020 at the Olagunsoye Oyinlola Conference Auditorium, Osun State University, Osogbo in Nigeria. This targeted session was aimed at selected members of the Parasitology and Public Health Society of Nigeria, researchers, laboratory technologist, Environmental scientist, Nurses, Physicians, Members of the Osun State University Institutional Review Board (IRB), Postgraduate students in the areas of Microbiology, Zoology, Biochemistry, Public health Sciences with two hundred and fifty (250) delegates registered for the workshop. The programme included two plenary sessions, a series of presentations and two dedicated discussion sessions, as well as an induction of new members to The Global Health Network. Both refreshment and lunch breaks were also used for networking among the participants. Topics discussed included an *Introduction to Bioethics, Good Clinical Laboratory Practice, Community Participation in Research and Feedback mechanisms to ensure communities benefit from NTD Research.*





The programme started at 9:15 am

The Mater of ceremony (MC) in person of Dr. Ogunfeni Abanikanda launched the session by welcoming all dignitaries and participants to the One-Day free workshop. The MC introduced the following dignitaries already seated in the auditorium.

Vice-Chancellor of Osun State University: **Prof Labode Poopola**

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic, Research, Innovation and Partnership (ARIP), Osun state University: **Prof Anthony Olusanya**

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, Osun State University: **Prof Janet Olaitan**

Head of Department, Zoology, Federal University of Abeokuta: **Prof Sam Wobo**

Provost, College of Health Sciences, Osun State University: **Prof Chris Alebiosu**

Provost, College of Science Engineering and Technology, Osun State University: **Prof Amos Popoola**

Dean, College of Science Engineering and Technology, Osun State University: **Prof Israel Oyewole**

Head of Department, Zoology, Osun State University: **Dr A. M Rufai**

Conveners: **Dr. O. A Surakat and Prof M. A Adeleke**

Thereafter, anthems of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Osun state and Osun state university were rendered respectively.

9: 30am - Welcome address

by the Head of Department, Zoology, Osun State University: Dr. A.M Rufai

Dr A. M. Rufai welcomed all dignitaries and participants present at the workshop. He briefly presented the history of the Department of Zoology, Osun state university, grants currently running in the department including the grant won for the ongoing workshop and the benefits of these grants to students in the department. He expressed his gratitude to the sponsors and conveners. He concluded by employing all participants to enjoy the workshop.

9:40am - Introduction to The Global Health Network (TGHN)

by the Convener: Dr O. A Surakat

The convener, Dr Olabanji Surakat acknowledged and thanked the University for providing a platform to explore innovative research. He also gave a concise narration of how he joined



The Global Health Network and won the grant. Dr Surakat thereafter advised other researchers on the benefit of joining the Network.

9:50 am- Presentation from The Global Health Network

by the Project Manager Helena Wilcox

Helena Wilcox joined the session remotely from oxford university, United Kingdom. She spoke on the ethos and motives of The Global Health Network, the vision and efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Networks ongoing capacity building for health research with communities across the region. She encouraged young scientists to join The Global Health Network for further collaboration irrespective of their research background. She briefly talked about the importance of ethics in biomedical research and several E-learning ethical courses on the Network Training Centre for researchers to undertake and get certified for professional development. She thanked the conveners, the Vice-Chancellor of the University in person; Prof Labode Popoola and all participants.

9:55 am - Remarks by the Dean, College of Science, Engineering and Technology, Osun State University

Prof Israel Oyewole

The Dean of CSET, Prof Israel Oyewole welcomed the participants and all dignitaries present. He emphasized the importance of ethics in carrying out biomedical research and acknowledged the effort and contributions of the facilitators for adding value to scientists.

10:00 am- Remarks by the Provost, College of Science, Engineering and Technology, Osun State University

Prof Amos Popoola

Prof Amos Popoola acknowledged and thanked the Vice-Chancellor, for creating a conducive environment to conduct research and the conveners and The Global Health Network for their support and sponsorship.

10:02 am- Remark and Declaration by the Vice Chancellor. Osun State University

Prof Labode Popoola

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Labode Popoola welcomed and thanked the principal officers of the University, conveners, participants and The Global Health Network. He noted the importance of ethics in advancement of research and that humans and animals are to be respected in



biomedical research. He reiterated that the workshop will help researchers to learn more on the ethics of research towards advancing their personal development. The Vice-Chancellor also used the medium to appeal to the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) in Nigeria to discontinue the strike and work out modalities for the advancement of academic activities in the country.

10:15 am – Workshop officially open

The workshop was declared open by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Labode Popoola.

The Anthems were conducted and all participants stepped out for group photographs.

10:25 am- 10:35 am BREAK

10:37 -11:13 am FIRST PRESENTATION: Introduction to Bioethics in the context of NTDs and Communicable Diseases

Prof Musa Muhibi, Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Edo State University, Iyahmo made the first presentation of the day, however this was delivered by Prof M.A Adeleke of Department of Zoology, Osun State University on his behalf. The presentation centred on "Introduction to Bioethics in the context of NTDs and Communicable Diseases" where he discussed the meaning and relationship between ethics and morality. He stated that ethics is custom and morals means character. Other highlights of his presentation include:

- i. Origin of bioethics with focus on respect for every living being
- ii. Evolution of bioethics with focus on distinction between care and research
- iii. Evolution of Institutional Review Boards (IRB) with focus on various ethical committees created to regulate human and animal research
- iv. Professional group ethics committee with focus on how committees are being constituted
- v. Principles of bioethics which includes; Beneficence and maleficence, justice and equity, consent (Autonomy), confidentiality and vulnerability of participants
- vi. Collaborations and its importance in biomedical research with a focus on intra-disciplinary, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary
- vii. Conflict of interest with more explanations on elements of conflict of interest such as; Conflict of value, conflicts of commitment and dual loyalty
- viii. Protocol consideration such as informed consent forms which should be precise and understandable

Conclusively, Dr Adeleke emphasized the importance of ethics and the need to always remind ourselves about ethics as researchers.



11:20 am - 12:05 pm SECOND PRESENTATION: Good Clinical and Laboratory Practice and Ethical Standard

Good clinical and laboratory practice and ethical standards was a topic presented by Prof Olusola Ojurongbe from the College of Health Sciences, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Osogbo. The highlights of his presentation include:

- i. Ethics as a set of principles for conducting research. Everyone is responsible for ethics.
- ii. Codes of ethics such as strict confidentiality, accountability, respect and prudence in the use of laboratory resources
- iii. History of bioethics with respect to Nuremberg code in 1947 which was the first well recognized ethical history
- iv. Ethical abuses in research with reference to incidence in the nineteenth century with emphasis on:
 - a. Johannes Fibiger from Denmark (1896-1897)
 - b. Guiseppe Samaarelli (1897)
 - c. Tuskegee's syphilis study (1932-1972)
- i. Principles of biomedical research which includes; Respect for persons, Beneficence, Justice
- ii. Ethical issues in the Lab with focus on:
 - a. Pre-analytical phase i.e. SOPs and trained personnel should be in place
 - b. Analytical phase - Confidentiality
 - c. Post analytical phase - Availability of data
- i. Ethics in experiments with animals: Animals must be treated humanely.

Prof Olusola Ojurongbe concluded by emphasizing that medical practitioners and researchers are bound by the ethical codes of their respective profession and as such must respect animals and humans involved in research.

12:08 pm- 12: 37 pm THIRD PRESENTATION: Roles and responsibilities of a researcher in implementing good clinical research practice

Prof Christopher Alebiosu, the Provost of Health Sciences, Osun State University presented on the roles and responsibilities of a researcher in implementing good clinical research practice. Key points of his presentation are:

- i. The importance of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) which is to ensure standard practices are strictly adhered to in biomedical research
- ii. GCP is an International ethical and scientific quality standard research
- iii. Document must be reproducible
- iv. Confidentiality



- v. Commitment i.e. adequacy of resources
- vi. Participation should be voluntary
- vii. Finding must be communicated to participants
- viii. Safety Reporting
- ix. Institution, participants, regulations should be informed in case of any premature termination of research

12:40 - 1:10 pm Discussion Session (Question and Answer Session)

The Moderators were Prof S.B Akinde and Dr. (Mrs) Oge Aribado

Question 1: Dr Adebayo Olorunfemi from Federal Medical Centre, Lokoja:

When a community is requesting for financial assistance before supporting a researcher, what should the researcher do?

Answer: Prof C. Alebiosu

You don't need to induce people for research but inform their leader/King who can help you communicate your motives to the people in the community. However, incentives should be given to participants.

Question 2: Dr Eyitope Bello, Elizade University, Ondo State:

When there is an alteration in research topic after submission of proposal to the ethical committee, is there a need to inform the ethical committee?

Answer: Prof M. Adeleke

You can change your title/ topic without informing the ethical committee but if methodology was changed, you must inform the ethical committee.

Question 3: Dr Alebi Joshua:

What ways can an academic be penalised after violating an ethical code?

Answer: Prof Alebiosu

Ethical approval can be withdrawn, also, sanctions can be made by the professional body or court of law.

Answer: Prof C. Alebiosu

There is harmonisation currently going on between institutional and Government ethical Boards. Collaborations do exist between the two Boards.

Question 4: Dr O.A Surakat, Osun State University

Is there a meeting point for institutional and state official ethical Committees?

Question 5: Dr. A. M Rufai, Osun State University:

Is there any need for informed consent while using hospital data for research?

Answer: Prof M. Adeleke

You need ethical approval not informed consent.



1: 50 pm FOURTH PRESENTATION: Community participation in Research

Prof Sam Wobo Head of Department, Zoology, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta was the presenter for the session. Key points from his presentation include:

- i. Basic necessity for community participation in our research: Community entry, community engagement and community participation
- ii. Community entry: This is the process of initiating, nurturing, sustaining a desirable relationship with bearing and sustaining the community's interest in all aspect of the research
- iii. Community engagement: It is the process of working collaboratively with or through a group of people by geographic proximity. Informing the community about their gains in participating in such research
- iv. Community Participation: it is the process of communicating to individual participants and seeking their consent for taking part in the research
- v. Effective community participation in research requires the following:
 - Inform the community before study
 - Follow study process during the study
 - Share your research findings with participants
 - Avoid stigmatization of participants

Prof Sam- Wobo concluded by advising researchers on the need to follow required steps for a successful research study.

2:30 pm FIFTH PRESENTATION: Standard Operational Practices and Ethical Conduct in the Laboratory

Prof S. B. Akinde, Director of the Multidisciplinary Research Lab, Osun State University, made his presentation in this session. Highlights of his presentation include:

- i. Giant in science and laboratories
- ii. Improvement in modern day laboratories compared to old laboratories
- iii. Types of laboratories – Commercial testing lab, Regulatory testing lab, in-house close community lab and Research based lab
- iv. Osun State University Multidisciplinary Lab: a non-clinical laboratory facility which can receive samples, analyse and generate results
- v. Why standard operation practices and ethical conduct? It is all about data integrity
- vi. Good laboratory Practice (GLP)
 - a. Appropriate sample collection
 - b. Proper recording of reagents and facilities used
 - c. Pest system i.e. proper handling of animals and their surroundings



- d. Sample storage: stored appropriately
 - i. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
 - ii. Management: Documentation of reagents used for each study in the lab
 - iii. All procedures must be written down and followed accordingly.
 - iv. Operational Practices in Good Labs
 - Maintain your proficiency
 - Training and re-training of staff: addition of skills
 - Use of traceable standard materials
 - Duplication of samples for credible data
 - Assign equipment to analyst for proper handling

Conclusively, Prof S. B. Akinde reinforced to researchers to always follow rules while in the Laboratory.

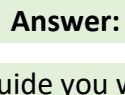
3:10 pm DISCUSSION SESSION (Questions and answers session)

The moderators were Prof Ojurongbe and Dr (Mrs) Adeyemi

Question 1: How to persuade Participants to engage in your research while in the community?

Answer: Prof Sam Wobo

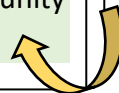
You need to debrief the participants on their gains in relation to the improvement of their health



Question 2: What can a researcher do in case of disagreement between Community, stakeholders, gatekeepers and leaders?

Answer: Prof Sam Wobo

Always ask your Mentor along to guide you with the best experience as there are no specific pathways for community entry but just employing the best tailored strategies



Question 3: How do I balance risk and benefit of research?

Answer: Prof Sam- Wobo

Balance must depend on the risk. Benefit should outweigh the risk.



Question 4: How do I make my research as a post-graduate student easy?

Answer: Prof Sam-Wobo

If you are carrying out research in a community, engage someone in the community as your research assistant. You can also employ undergraduate students to assist you.





Question 5: How do one manage research data to avoid loss?

Answer: Prof Sam-Wobo

Store your data on cloud (electronic servers)

Answer: Prof S. B. Akinde

No, but Safety Protocols must be observed in the lab regardless.

Question 6: Does researchers need to observe any ethics in the lab when animals and humans are not in use?

3:30 pm LUNCH BREAK

4:18pm - 4:30 pm TECHNICAL SESSION

REGISTRATION TO THE E-LEARNING COURSES AVAILABLE ON THE GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK (TGHN)

In this session, Dr A. O Surakat, Department of Zoology, Osun State who was also the convener demonstrated how to access The Global Health Network platform and encouraged all participants to register/sign up. He also explained the various research ethics courses available online where certificates can be obtained immediately after completion.

4:30pm - 4:35 pm TAKE-HOME POINTS FROM WORKSHOP

Prof Oladele Popoola recapped the presentations and key points at the workshop.

4:35pm - 4:45 pm WORKSHOP IMPACT EVALUATION AND ISSUE OF CERTIFICATE

Prof M. A Adeleke shared vital information on The Global Health Network and encouraged participants at the workshop to visit the platform. He informed all participants that certificate and evaluation of workshop documents will be sent to their email. He acknowledged all for their active participation at the workshop.

4:45 pm

The workshop was declared closed by the Provost, College of Science, Engineering and Technology, Osun State University in person by Prof Amos Popoola.

Dr A. O Surakat,

Department of Zoology, Osun State University

Global Health Trials (GHT) <https://globalhealthtrials.tghn.org/>