

Institutional Training on Responsible Conduct of Research

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

Our pioneer set of trainees on the MSc. Bioethics program with concentration on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) successfully defended their thesis before an audience of examiners at the University of Ibadan on the 16th of May, 2025. A total of 6 trainees participated in the defense examination and passed in flying colors. We are super proud of them and wish them success in all their future endeavors. The rest of the trainees in the first cohort are working on their final research projects.



Figure 1: From L to R: Dr. Samson Adedeji, Dr. Oluwato-yin Babalola, Dr. Korede Jalili Quadri, Dr. Anne Adeyanju, Dr. Cynthia Komolafe, Dr. Lekan Oduola

The second cohort of trainees on the program have completed their course work and they are working on their final research projects. The Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) University of Ibadan will organize an oral defense examination for the trainees at the completion of their research work

Our third cohort of six trainees on the MSc. Bioethics program with RCR concentration have been admitted by the Postgraduate College of the University of Ibadan. An orientation program was organized by the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities (DBMH) University of Ibadan and the Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) for the new trainees on the 1st of May 2025. The trainees have since began their course work after completing the admission requirements of the Postgraduate College of the university. The trainees were provided with laptops, textbooks, and full payment of their tuition fees as part of their scholarship on the program.



Figure 2: The third cohort of MSc. Bioethics trainees and the head of the Bioethics department at the University of Ibadan, Prof. Agulanna in black suit and glasses at the Center beside Prof. Adejumo faculty member in native attire and cap.

Upon graduation, all the trainees are expected to return to their institutions to become the Research Integrity Officer (RIO). They will set up a Research Management Office (RMO) in their institution if there is none there already or revive the existing one. The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) will work with the trainees to set up an RMO Office in their respective institutions.



Figure 3: From L to R: Dr. Ope Akoleowo, Mr. Dami-lare Oyelade (SURER Prog. coord.) Prof. Folusho David - Abraham, Prof. C.O. Agulanna (Head, Bioethics dept.), Dr. Nneka Ani, Dr. Simone Ter Atuna, Prof. Oluwatoyin Grace Tayo, Dr. Abiodun Ogunola



Figure 4: Textbooks and laptops that were provided for each trainee that was admitted for the program.

1.2. Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Onsite Training:

The Scaling Up Research Ethics and Research Integrity (SURER) Project implements a multi-institutional collaboration to develop Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), Research/Scientific Integrity (RSI) training programs for researchers in Nigeria. During the last quarter, we implemented on-site RCR training at the Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ebonyi State.

The training lasted for 2 days from the 26th to 27th of May. 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 (admin@bioethicscenter.net) for more information. You can also visit the project website at <https://surerproject.net> to know more about Scaling Up Research Ethics and Research Integrity (SURER) project.



Figure 5: CBR Facilitators and attendees of the RCR training at Ebonyi State University

Blended Diploma Program in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

Our second cohort of 25 trainees for the SURER Project's blended diploma program in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) have successfully completed the 3 – month long program. The trainees completed the program on the 27th of April 2025. All the trainees completed training in Introduction to Philosophy for Bioethics, Research Integrity, Responsible Conduct of Research (Falsification, Fabrication, Plagiarism), and Conflicts of Interest. They received textbooks, internet stipend, and full sponsorship to attend the mandatory weekend retreats. 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.



Figure 6: On the left are participants and facilitators during an interactive session at one of the Weekend Retreats. In the right picture, at the Center, in white shirt and black trousers is Prof. C.O. Agulanna and trainees of the blended diploma program of the SURER Project during their Weekend Retreat after completing the course on 'Introduction to Philosophy for Bioethics'.

The Center for Bioethics and Research (CBR) is proud of all the trainees that successfully completed the diploma program and wish them well in their endeavors.



Figure 6: Participants of the RCR Diploma program holding certificates of completion at the end of the program.