

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)

The year 2020 witnessed national and international public health concerns due to the unusual global health crisis caused by the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). In the grim situation of the pandemic, research ethics plays an important role in protecting the rights and safety of the research participants and ensuring the scientific correctness of research procedures. However, the conduct of COVID-19 related research requires a timely moral approach in granting approvals to study protocols. This is to aid the narrow time factor essential in gaining knowledge on incidence, contact tracing, diagnosis, and management of the diseases. As such, NIMR-Institutional Review Board adopted a conference review of COVID-19 studies to provide a flexible and timely expedited ethical review process without compromising safety and methodological validity and fair consent of study participants.

Ethical Review Meetings

- NIMR-Institutional Review Board held several review meetings and a Board meeting in November 2020.

Research Protocols Received and Approved in 2020

- NIMR-IRB received one hundred and seven (107) proposals in the year 2020. The research protocols reviewed and approved within the set turnaround time of six (6) weeks were of five categories:
- NIMR Staff Protocols: (78)
- Non-NIMR Staff (individuals) protocols: (29)

- NGO/CSO and multinational organizations protocols: (7)
- COVID-19 protocols (51)
- Students from various Universities and Polytechnics: (13)

Collaborations

International collaborations

- New HIV and Microbicides Advocacy Society (NHVMAS)
- Brown University
- West African Bioethics Training Programme (WABTP)
- National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC)
- Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Ebutte-Metta

Challenges

- Undue delay in the review of protocol and response for PIs
- Irregular submission of study progress reports by PIs
- Poor knowledge of researchers on good research and ethics practices

Way Forward

- Automation of the IRB process
- Organize more training on health research ethics

2021 Work Plan

- Capacity building of members and researchers
- Computerization of administrative/secretariat process
- Increase awareness on good research ethics and practice

Members of NIMR-Institutional Review Board

Names	M/ F	Profession	Organization	Position on Board
Prof. O. C. Ezechi	M	Gynecologist & Obstetrician	N.I.M.R	Chairman
Dr. A. N. David	F	Pediatrician	N.I.M.R	Vice Chairman
Dr. O. A. Nwogbe	F	Health Information Management Specialist	N.I.M.R	Admin Secretary
Dr. Tajudeen Bamidele	M	Microbiologist	N.I.M.R	Asst. Admin Secretary
Alh. A. S. Yunusazazzau	M	Administrator	N.I.M.R	Member
Prof. R. A. Audu	F	Virologist	N.I.M.R	Member
Dr. B. Adewale	M	Bioethicist	N.I.M.R	Member
Dr. G. Ohihoin	M	Gynecologist & Obstetrician	N.I.M.R	Member
Rev Ariire Bankole	M	Cleric	Anglican Church, Lagos	Member
Dr. O. B. Awoyomi	M	Orthopedic Surgeon	F.M.C Ebutte-Metta	Member
Dr. T.Y. Raheem	M	Med. Laboratory Scientist	N.I.M.R	Member
Dr. O. O. Aina	M	Pharmacologist	N.I.M.R	Member
Ms. Olayide Akanni	F	Media/Journalist	(JAAIDS)	Member
Barr. Olatunde Daudu	M	Lawyer	Olatunde Daudu & Co Lagos	Member
Dr. A. Z. Musa	F	Biostatistician	N.I.M.R	Member
Ms. Ifeoma Idigbe	F	Sociologist	N.I.M.R	Member
Alh. B. A.T. Lawal	M	Imam	Muslim Society	Member