

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES AND SCIENCE GRANTING COUNCILS
Strengthening institutional capacity to identify and address Conflict of Interest in Health Research in Sub-Saharan Africa

OVERVIEW

WORLD CONGRESS OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

**CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION CENTRE**

**TUESDAY 24 and THURSDAY 26
SEPTEMBER 2024**

Presenter: DR AMINA JAKOET SABAN



**CONFLICT OF INTEREST
IN HEALTH RESEARCH**



RESEARCH TEAM AND AFFILIATIONS

Dr Amina Saban, University of Cape Town

Prof. Leslie London, University of Cape Town

Prof. Marc Blockman, University of Cape Town

Prof. Keymanthri Moodley, Stellenbosch University

Prof. Stephen Okeyo, Great Lakes University of Kisumu

Prof. Godfrey Tangwa, Cameroon Bioethics Institute

Prof. Jihad Makhoul, American University of Beirut

Abraham Opare, University of Cape Town

Meagan Jacobs-Alfred, Stellenbosch University

Syntia Munung, Cameroon Bioethics Initiative

FUNDER: IDRC

WHAT WAS THIS STUDY ABOUT?

2-year project

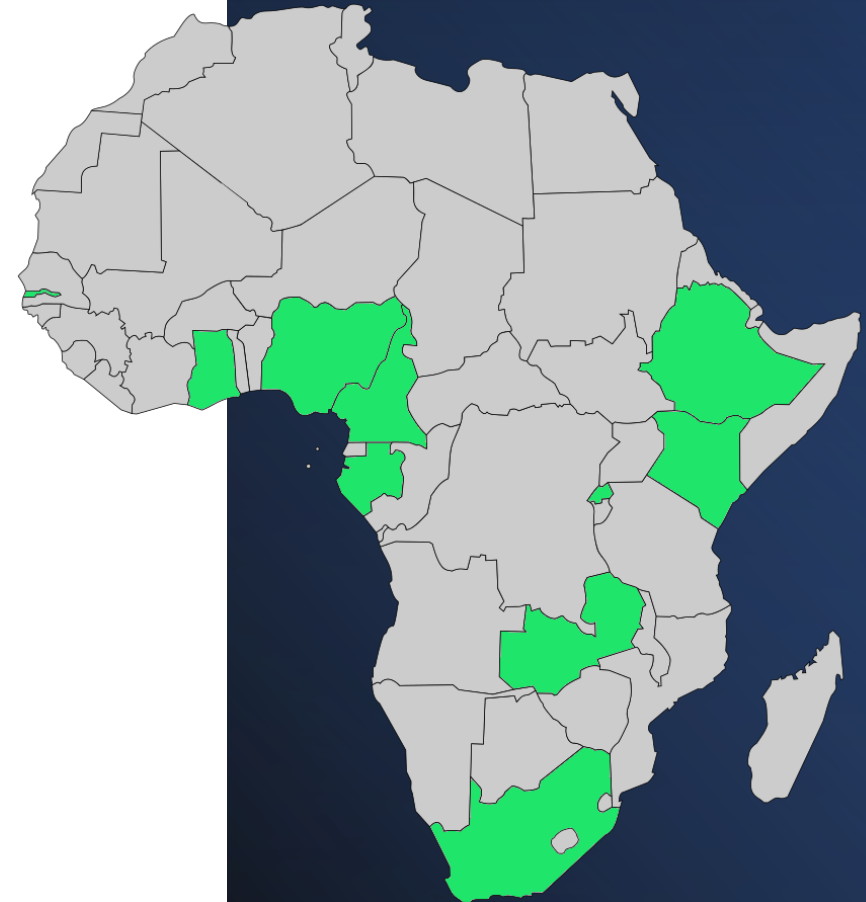
Multiple SSA
countries

Mixed methods

Improve capacity of
RECs and SGCs to
address Cols in
health research

COUNTRIES SURVEYED

- RECs SGCs in SSA countries
- Spread by region
- LIC/MIC



HOW WAS THE STUDY DESIGNED?



Iterative



Preliminary brief interviews



Online Survey questions



In-depth interview questions



Development of a Toolkit and an Online E-course

WHAT WERE OUR FINDINGS FROM THE ONLINE SURVEY?

30% response rate
(n=102)

Equal gender split

Most institutions
aware of Col (93%)

Most had process
to address Col
(90%)

25% expressed
obstruction to
addressing Col

75%+ need
increased capacity
to address/manage
Col

WHAT WERE OUR FINDINGS FROM THE IDIs (n=6)?

EMERGING THEMES

Recognising Col

Having a willingness to address Col

Managing Col via disclosure/declaration, prohibition, recusal, membership criteria

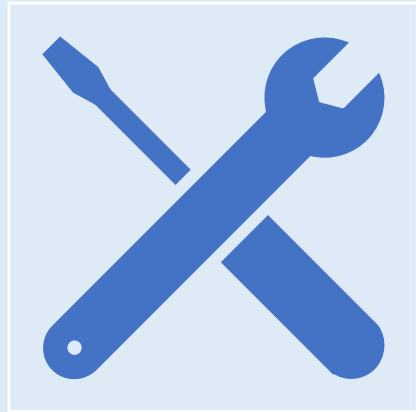
Have/do not have/inadequate/not specific policies and guidelines for Col

No training/no effective training/no FU on training for Col

Inadequate oversight

Lack knowledge/skills/human resources/funds to address Col

WHAT WERE THE STUDY OUTPUTS?



TOOLKIT



ONLINE E-COURSE

TOOLKIT

WHAT?

A set of guidelines, case examples and checklists to identify, address, and manage COIs

Tools and mechanisms to strengthen the capacities of SGCs and RECs

WHY?

Protect the integrity of health research from Col

Ensure that researcher independence in line with the spirit and purpose of science.

HOW?

Knowledge-sharing – to raise awareness on Col; provide access to resources.

Capacity building - to increase the capacity of institutions to identify Cols

Facilitating resource production - to increase the capacity of institutions to respond to Cols and mitigate the potential effects of Cols.

DISSEMINATION OF THE TOOLKIT AND E-COURSE



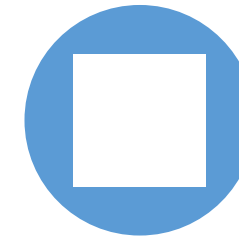
WEBINAR 16 AUGUST
2021
VALIDATION MEETING 21
NOVEMBER 2022
WC RESEARCH ETHICS
PRESENTATION SEPT
2024
WORLD CONGRESS OF
EPIDEMIOLOGY
WORKSHOP/INTERACTIVE
SESSION SEPT 2024



OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF
THE TOOLKIT IN
MOMBASA ON FRIDAY 12
MAY 2023



FURTHER
DISSEMINATION TO
STAKEHOLDERS AND
INTERESTED PARTIES



<http://www.publichealth.uct.ac.za/conflict-interest-health-research>

https://health.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/health_uct_ac_za/253/TOOLKIT%20DRAFT.pdf

asaban@mweb.co.za

*Thank
You*