

**OPENING REMARK BY THE DEPUTY VICE – CHANCELLOR RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS (PROF. OLUYEMISI BAMGBOSE, SAN) AT THE MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ETHICS PROGRAM FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS ON THE DAY OF DECEMBER, 2021.**

I am very pleased to be with you today, to discuss this essential topic.

Thanks to the internet and other technologies, life moves at a very fast pace. We are constantly adapting and learning new ways to do things as well as expecting and even demanding innovation daily, however, without research, our demands would go completely unanswered.

We may ask, what is research? Why is it so important? Why make it a subject of focus? Interestingly, research is what propels humanity forward. It is fueled by curiosity and when we get curious, we ask questions and immerse ourselves in discovering everything there is to know. As we all know that learning is thriving but without curiosity and research, progress would slow to a halt, and our world will be completely stagnant as well.

If early civilizations had not been curious about the dark sky, we would not have known anything about space. Decades of research have led us to where we are today, a civilized society with the knowledge and tools to move forward.

If research slowed to a standstill, what would happen? The answer is before us. We do all become ignorant and unaware. We would not go forward. Without research, we would have never been able to find the cure for many deadly diseases, we would possibly not have survived as long as we have now. Without research, what would have become the fate of the world in the cold hands of the deadly Corona virus?

I know you will all agree with me that there are still lots of things that are yet to be discovered, diseases to cure and all of these are possible with research.

Based on the importance of research, it is, therefore, germane to have in place a set of rules and norms to govern research and researchers. Research ethics are set of rules that govern how scientific and other research is performed at research institutions such as universities, and how it is disseminated.

Almost all disciplines, institutions, and professions have standards of behavior laid down to help coordinate and check the actions, inactions, and activities of their members. Just like there are ethical standards that govern conduct in medicine, law, engineering, and business, ethical norms also serve the same aims or goals in research and apply to people who conduct scientific research or other scholarly or creative works.

As people who are just building a career in research, we must understand that there are several reasons why it is important to adhere to ethical norms in research. First, norms promote the aims of research, such as knowledge, truth, and avoidance of error. For example, prohibitions against fabricating, falsifying, or misrepresenting research data promote the truth and minimize error.

Second, since research often involves a great deal of cooperation and coordination among many different people in different disciplines and institutions, ethical standards promote

the values that are essential to collaborative work, such as trust, accountability, mutual respect, and fairness. For example, many ethical norms in research, such as guidelines for authorship, copyright and patenting policies, data sharing policies, and confidentiality rules in peer review, are designed to protect intellectual property interests while encouraging collaboration. Most researchers want to receive credit for their contributions and do not want to have their ideas stolen or disclosed prematurely.

Also, many of the ethical norms help to ensure that researchers can be held accountable to the public and also help to build public support for research. People are more likely to fund a research project if they can trust the quality and integrity of the research.

Research ethics are important for several reasons and these include:

- Promoting the aims of research, such as expanding knowledge
- Ensuring that researchers can be held accountable for their actions
- Support the values required for collaborative work, such as mutual respect and fairness.
- Ensure that the public can trust researchers and the content of their researches.

Researchers need to inculcate the culture of honesty & integrity; objectivity; thoroughness & carefulness; openness; respect for intellectual property; confidentiality of data amongst others at an early stage.

As a community of researchers we should encourage a participatory process for developing and reviewing a code of ethics for good practice; a commitment to communicating the code of ethics, regularly and in varied ways so that it is reinforced amongst members, and a commitment to ensuring that new members become acquainted with the code of ethics.

Thankfully, the University of Ibadan is very much more concerned with research and innovation, and research is finding its place in the minds of both teachers and students. Students are eager to make discoveries, create solutions to the world's problems, and invent the next big thing.

With the help of God and our collective efforts, I know even the sky is not our limit. We are going places, as we embark on one research project at a time.