

KHRC IEC MAKING THE NEWS

The past week has been pleasantly busy for the ethics committee. Two very significant events were recorded as part of activities of the ethics committee.

1. 4th AMANET Health Research Ethics workshop:

The 4th in the series of eight (8) health research ethics workshops for African institutions was successfully held between 25th and 29th February 2008 in the cradle of African independence- Accra, Ghana.

Three (3) of our members: Mr. Emmanuel Ofori, Nana Franklin Fei and Mr. Jeremiah Tiimob attended this very important workshop which is primarily aimed at building and improving capacity of ethics review members. The administrator- Benedict Weobong, was also in attendance to undergo training on the ProIRB software.

Impact of the workshop- what our ethics committee members had to say:

‘This workshop is indeed very timely and insightful... I did not know my role on the committee is crucially important’- Jeremiah could not hide his excitement half way through the workshop.

‘for me, this training is very beneficial because I am certain the rural health training school will in the near future be interested in ethics work and probably run courses in ethics... my experience on the committee will be helpful’- Mr. Ofori.

And Nana was full of kind words to AMANET; ‘AMANET is doing very well in building the capacity of ethics activities across Africa... I hope my other colleagues in the ethics league will also have the opportunity to undergo this training... the reports about ethical abuses in research makes me increasingly interested in protecting my community members through ethics’

On the ProIRB software training, Ben had this to say; ‘this is a pleasant revolution in ethics administration... this software is certainly going to help cut down on time spent on general administrative procedures in the secretariat- this software can even generate meeting agenda’s!’

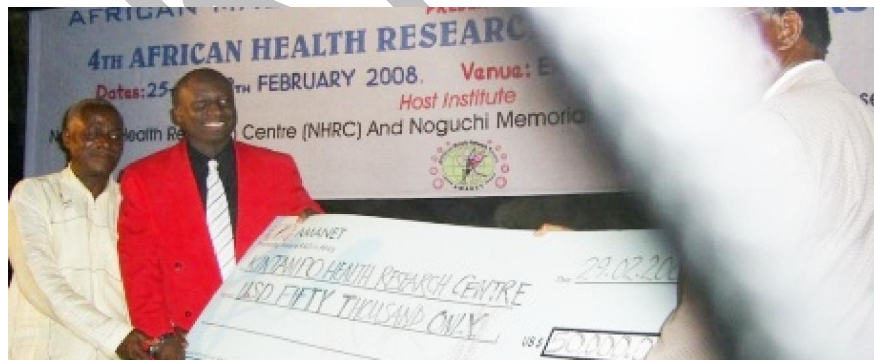
In other related developments, the AMANET ethics coordinator Dr.

Aceme Nyika announced that similar workshops are being planned for investigators so that they are aware of the demands of ethics committees- watch out for the details of these workshops!

2. AMANET GRANT FOR CAPACITY STRENGTHENING:

The institutional ethics committee was among three (3) other ethics committees in Ghana to receive a USD 50,000 grant from AMANET. In a colourful ceremony to present the check, the managing trustee of AMANET Prof. Wen Kilama indicated that the award was made possible through a grant from Bill and Melinda Gates foundation. In his remarks he hoped that the award will hopefully make 21 ethics committees across Africa to be able to conduct the ethics review process without fear of intimidation from arm twisting researchers. He particularly praised Ghana for winning 3 of these very competitive awards. The presentation from Professors Kilama and Francis Nkrumah, was received on behalf of Dr. Seth Owusu-Agyei, the award winner By Benedict Weobong.

*By HRE administrator
Benedict Weobong*



Second LEFT: Benedict Weobong receiving award on behalf of the Director of KHRC