Fostering Research Integrity In Africa

Challenges and Opportunities

Francis Kombe
Introduction
Africa, the paradox

- Rich diversity
- Resource-rich continent
- Poorest-economically
- Highest disease burden
- Victim of social injustices and inequalities
- Unique and complex relations
History and Politics of Ethics

- Increase in transnational research
- Donor driven research agenda
- Well developed research ethics environment in Africa.
- SA has the oldest and highest number of ethics review committee
- Has the lowest documented but not immune to human research abuses
Contextualizing Research Integrity
Research Integrity as a spectral

Steneck (2006)

Ideal behavior

Honesty in all aspects of research
Accountability
Professional courtesy and fairness
Good stewardship

Salami publication
Authorship hoarding
Sloppy, careless research
Abuse of power

Fabrication
Falsification
Plagiarism

Worst behavior

Singapore statement in research Integrity
Montreal Statement on Research Integrity
Research Integrity as a spectral

Does it matter?
The unique African Context

• RI is often reduced to FFP
• FFP is important, but needs capacity and resources—Reflection and contextualization
• We need to prepare the environment—Education and knowledge development
• Conditions associated with some external funding may impede RCR
  • Treat African researchers as experts and equal partners—Montreal statement
• African stakeholder are less empowerment—FAIR principles
A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step....
Asante Sana - 非常感謝

OUR FUTURE IS SO BRIGHT.