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"CERHI... Advancing better reproductive health for West and Central Africa".



# CERHI NEWSLETTER



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INNOVATION (CERHI)  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY, NIGERIA

CERHI 2019 NEWSLETTER

A Publication of CERHI- UNIBEN

VOLUME 2



CERHI Medical and Research Laboratory (CMARL)

"CERHI... Advancing better reproductive health for West and Central Africa".





# FOREWORD



**Professor Friday Okonofua, FAS**

**I**t is with great delight that I introduce this edition of the official newsletter of the African Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI) at the University of Benin in Nigeria. The newsletter reports activities and milestones achieved by the Centre in the first and second quarters of 2019. During this period, the Centre achieved significant milestones that strongly positioned it as a West African regional hub for education and research in the field of reproductive health. In particular, our spheres of influence have continued to soar not only within the West African region but throughout Africa and beyond.

In the first quarter of the year, we began a biweekly interaction with our sectorial and industrial partners through seminars and guest lectures delivered by key representatives of partners. This has enabled the Centre to gain more national visibility and agency in achieving one of its primary objectives of ensuring diffusion of its research activities and programs into policy and industrial uptake. As part of this effort, seminars were delivered by key partners from the Ford Foundation, the UNFPA, the

Macarthur Foundation, and the Federal Ministry of Health.

We also hosted seminars on key reproductive health and development issues delivered by academic partners from the University of Dubai, the University of Sydney, Australia, the Chicago State University, Fayetteville University, USA, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria, and the University of Ghana. Our staff in CERHI complemented the seminar tracks by presenting their proposed research activities as well as reporting their completed research works and on-going projects. One of our major accomplishments during this phase of the program has been the development of partnership agreements with international academic partners. Thus, we received a key academic staff from Kyoto University, Japan in April following the visit which two staff of CERHI made to the University in the later part of 2018. The visit has enabled CERHI to strengthen its partnership with Kyoto University in ways that we see a possibility of a key staff of CERHI joining the Kyoto University on a one-year long internship in the early part of 2020. The visit from Kyoto included a seminar presentation on socio-epidemiology, which has now enabled CERHI to consolidate this framework as part of its on-going training and research fielding. We also received partnership discussion and visits from the University of Coventry, UK, and the University of Brussels seeking to establish a joint PhD program between CERHI and Brussels. Under this later partnership, one of our MSc students in health economics has secured admission waiting for finalization of the partnership agreement between the two Universities. Also, in April 2019, CERHI received partners from BioInnovate Africa hosted by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, icipe, Nairobi, Kenya, as well as a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kenya. This visit was designed to seek ways to collaborate with



BioInnovate Africa, icipe on innovation and the development of an incubation hub in reproductive health and development as one of the forward-looking programs of CERHI. The seminar on innovation and creativity which was fielded as part of this visit was rated by participants as highly creative and productive. Indeed, going forward, BioInnovate Africa, icipe has agreed to work with CERHI in establishing an incubation hub that focuses on reproductive health and development as part of the implementation of the ACE impact project of CERHI.

Indeed, the icing in the cake during this reporting period of CERHI was the full international accreditation given to CERHI and its public health programs by the Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA) in June 2019. This accreditation included the full recognition of CERHI as a credible international Centre in reproductive health as well as the international accreditation of two of its short courses – Emergency Obstetrics Care, and Gender and Ethics in Reproductive Health.

Also, part of what we did in the first and second quarters of 2019 was the development of curricular validation and self-assessment for the PhD program in Health Economics and MSc programs in Nursing, and Reproductive Health for submission to another international accreditation body, the HCERES based in Paris, France. In June 2019, technical experts from HCERES visited CERHI, and conducted a detailed site assessment and evaluation of the Centre. We are happy to report that on September 10th, 2019 we received a final report from the HCERES indicating that all programs submitted for international accreditation by CERHI (i.e. PhD Health Economics, MSc Nursing, and MSc Reproductive Health) have been accredited by HCERES. Going forward,

CERHI will continue to seek international accreditation for all its courses, including future new courses based on the considerable experiences we have garnered with the APHEA and HCERES processes. We will also support the entire University of Benin community to accomplish the future international accreditation of its courses and programs.

In sum, CERHI has fulfilled the aims and objectives of its founding philosophy and we are proud that we are ending the ACE 1 project with our heads held high and tall. In the process, we have gained considerable experiences which we believe will see us through the implementation of the ACE Impact project. We are grateful to all those who made this process seamless and painless, especially officials of the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC), the Association of African Universities (AAU), technical experts, and the World Bank who worked in truly dispassionate ways to keep the program on its course. As we understand that Andreas Blom will be leaving the ACE program to higher levels of responsibilities in the World Bank, we congratulate him on his promotion and salute him for the sagacity, tenacity and efficiency with which he handled the project initiation, and wish him many more years of accomplishments at the Bank and internationally.





# About CERHI

**C**ERHI is a World Bank-supported project at the University of Benin whose mission is to implement high quality training and applied research for professionals needed to build a new cohort of human resource to tackle the population and reproductive health challenges in the African region. The program which commenced in 2016, has acquired some of the most up-to-date pedagogical, research and laboratory facilities that compete favorably with some of the best in any part of the World, and has graduated its first set of students. The program particularly invites applications from students in other African countries, as CERHI has excellent training facilities that will meet their needs, including a fully air-conditioned international

students' hostel complete with 24-hours internet access and a wonderful receptivity by the University community throughout their stay.

The center is internationally accredited making it Africa's First Internationally Accredited Public Health (Reproductive Health) Institution by APHEA.

## Programmes offered:

- 1) MSc and PhD in Reproductive Health
- 2) MPH and PhD in Public Health with specialization in Reproductive and Family Health
- 3) MSc and PhD in Nursing Sciences
- 4) MSc and PhD in Health Economics



## Vision

To be a leading institution providing innovative and transformational changes on matters relating to population and development and the improvement of the living standards of citizens in Africa.

## Mission:

To implement high quality training and applied research for reproductive health professionals needed to build new cohort of human resource for reducing region's high burden of fertility unsafe abortion, maternal mortality and HIV/ AIDS.





## CERHI's AWARD OF THE ACE IMPACT GRANT AND THE 10TH ACE WORKSHOP/ACE IMPACT BOOTCAMP IN DJIBOUTI (18TH-26TH FEBRUARY, 2019).

The Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI) has been awarded the Africa Centres of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE Impact) grant. This is to improve the quality, quantity and development impact of the Centre's postgraduate education (Master's and PhD degrees, and short-term professional level courses and training).

ACE Impact project is to provide support to two types of centres (a) ACEs and (b) Emerging Centres. The Project Development Objective is to improve the quality, quantity and development impact of postgraduate education (defined to include Master's and PhD degrees, and short-term professional level courses and training) in selected universities through regional specialization and collaboration. The expected results of the proposed project include:

- Increase in the number of students, in particularly regional and female, enrolled and graduating from Master's and PhD programs

- Improvement in the quality of programs including an increase in the number of programs – and ACE host institutions – that obtain international accreditation
- Development impact attributable to the project, including improvement in the relevance of the education/training programs and of the applied research evident through:
- Increase in the number, and strength, of sectoral partnerships that lead to production and hiring of high-performing graduates, internships for students, application and commercialization of research results, advisory board participation, etc.
- Increase in the amount of externally generated revenue, including from companies and other sectoral partners

Each ACE Impact centre is expected to identify an aspect of a development challenge that can be addressed with an integrated program of work that is achievable over 4 ½ years project duration.



*A photograph of participants at the ACE Impact Workshop in Djibouti*

# ACE IMPACT BOOTCAMP

## (DJIBOUTI CITY, DJIBOUTI: FEBRUARY 18-26, 2019)

The ACE Impact boot camp was organised for new and continuing ACEs.

**T**he overarching objective of the Bootcamp was to provide participating centres, their host institutions, and governments with the tools necessary to improve their readiness for Project implementation.



CERHI Team in picture at Djibouti

### Key focus areas included were:

1. **Roles and expectations:** an overview on the roles and expectations of all key stakeholders in the project (centres, host universities, governments, partners, AAU, AFD, World Bank) and what it takes to ensure a successful centre was presented;
2. **Regional networks:** the meeting provided an opportunity for centres to form regional networks and kick start groupings and formulations of thematic network activities and expectations;
3. **Quality education:** information to centres on how they can create teaching and research environments that are in line with international standards was provided;
4. **Student centeredness:** the relevant tools and strategies for successful recruitment and retention of students (with a focus on regional and female students and issues around sexual harassment) was identified and discussed;
5. **Sustainability:** the pathway towards sustainability of the centres beyond the lifetime of the ACE Impact project was highlighted;
6. **World Bank/AFD processes and requirements:** an overview and one-on-one centre support on World Bank/AFD processes and requirements including financial management, procurement, safeguards and M&E was provided.



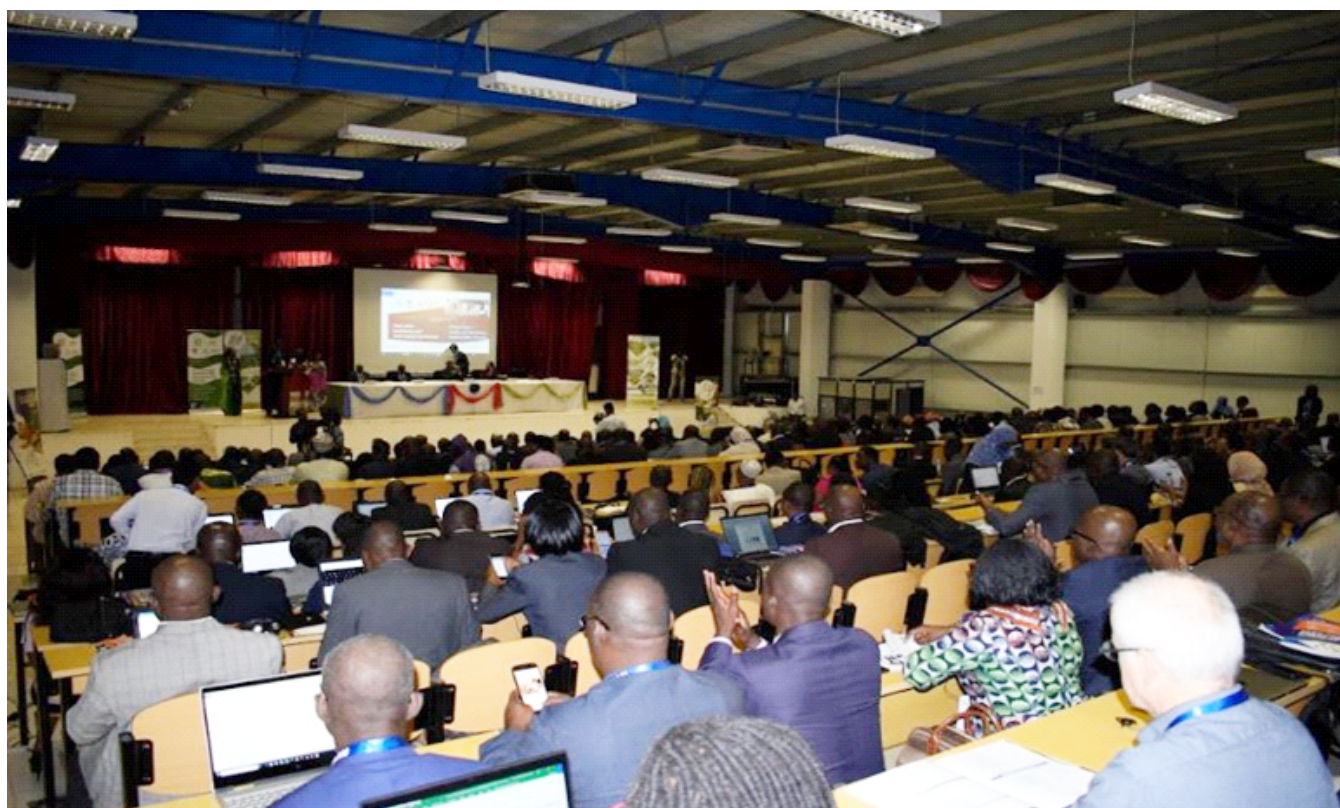


**Prof. Friday Okonofua, (Centre Leader- CERHI)**



**CERHI Program Manager, Project Accountant and Project M&E Officer**

The boot camp ended with a plenary session titled “Pathway towards Sustainability”. This was followed by closing formalities. Participants were then treated to lunch before their final departure.



**Cross section of participants at the 10<sup>th</sup> ACE Workshop/ACE Impact Bootcamp in Djibouti**



# CERHI PUBLIC LECTURES AND SEMINARS

As mandate to build capacity for addressing the challenges related to reproductive health, population, and development in the West and Central African region, CERHI organized a series of Public Lectures and Seminars with

the objective to provide opportunities for policymakers and stakeholders to interact with key players in government and non-governmental agencies to address developmental issues.

S/N	DATE	TOPIC(S)	GUEST SPEAKER/LECTURER
1	February 1, 2018	1.Artesunate Resistant Malaria among Pregnant Women with HIV Infection in Benin City, Nigeria  2.Investigation of chlorophyll derivatives for the management of inflammation-induced preterm labour	Dr. Fredrick Akinbo/Dr. B. I. Omo-Omorodion  Dr. Enitome Bafor
2	February 8, 2019	1.Female genital schistosomiasis during pregnancy and associated adverse outcomes in rural communities of Ondo State, Southwestern, Nigeria  2. Interdisciplinary Research Hubs for Biological monitoring and exposure assessment of mycotoxins contamination among Pregnant Women in Edo and Ondo State, Nigeria: CERHI-UNIMED-GU Network for Mycotoxin Research (CEUMG)	Dr. Oyetunde Oyeyemi  Dr. Yemisi Jeff-Agboola
3	February 15, 2019	1.Effect of <i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> Extracts on Monosodium Glutamate Induced Uterine Tumour in Female Wister Rats and Human Cell Lines  2. Gut microbiota and micro-nutrient levels in obese children compared with non-obese controls	Rosephine Enadeghe  Prof. Mathias A. Emokpae
4	February 27, 2019	1.Exploring the biochemical and transcriptomic effects of cassava and yams on the reproductive capacity of rats of Sprague Dawley strain  2.Multidrug-resistant <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> genotypes in pregnant women attending antenatal care in some selected hospitals in Oyo State	Prof. Akhere A. Omonkhua  Dr. Fredrick Akinbo
5	March 20, 2019	Involving men in sexual and reproductive health: Exploring new frontiers in Research and Innovation in expanding family planning and reproductive health access in Nigeria.	Professor Omokhoa Adeleye
6	March 29, 2019	Programming on Accountability and Transparency: Implications for management of Projects and Programs in Nigerian Universities.	Dr Kole Shettima, Country Representative of the Macarthur Foundation
7	April 12, 2019	New international developments in post-graduate Nursing Education:	Professor Mutairu Ezimokhai, Provost, Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine, Dubai, UAE.





8	<b>April 26, 2019</b>	Global, Regional and National programming in maternal and reproductive health of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).	Professor Eugene Kongnyny, Acting Country Representative of the UNFPA in Nigeria
9	<b>May 10, 2019</b>	Cancer prevention and Management: An agenda for national reform.	Professor IF Adewole FAS, Honorable Minister of Health of Nigeria



*Professor Eugene Kongnyny, (left) Acting Country Representative of the UNFPA in Nigeria and Prof. Friday Okonofua in picture.*



*Professor Mutairu Ezimokhai, (right) Provost, Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine, Dubai, UAE*



*Participants at one of the Public Lecture*



# CERHI, AFRICA'S FIRST INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTION BY APHEA.

**T**he Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI) received international accreditation for the Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA) on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 for a six-year term.

**CERHI is now Africa's First Internationally Accredited Public Health (Reproductive Health) Institution by APHEA.**

The program is now better placed to receive students and scholars not only from Africa but from all parts of the world. I



CERHI presently has students from Cameroon, Republic of Guinea, Malawi, Ghana, and the Gambia. The international accreditation of CERHI will attract more students from other parts of the continent. It also ensures that students who graduate from the program are well equipped with needed skills for the industry and can work anywhere in the world.



*APHEA Team in a group photograph with the Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC), Centre Leader, Co- Centre Leader and others during their visit*



APHEA is an independent body established as an International Non-profit Association (INPA) which represents the five leading associations of public health in the European Region and is committed to assuring and improving the quality of educational activities throughout the European Region and the globe.

The institutional accreditation focuses on CERHI's ability to provide a solid structure or foundation for public health academic, research and service output. APHEA Accreditation is also aimed at supporting CERHI in continued education and training for public health workforce throughout the African region and the world at large





## CERHI-ICIPE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS IN UNIVERSITIES IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

The Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI), University of Benin, Nigeria organized a two-day regional workshop on “**Strengthening Innovation Ecosystems in Universities in West and Central Africa**” from April 29-30, 2019. The idea for the workshop was conceived during the **1st Africa-Japan Higher Education Partnership Workshop in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan** from October 22 to 26, 2018. The Japan Study Tour raised pertinent questions on the extent of innovation in African Universities and the need for this to be strengthened. CERHI thus collaborated with BioInnovate Africa and the Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF), both hosted by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) in Nairobi, Kenya to organize the workshop



*Participants and facilitators in a group photograph*

BioInnovate Africa is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and supports scientists and innovators in the region to link biological based research ideas and technologies to business and the market.

The Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF) is the flagship initiative of the Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET). RSIF aims to support doctoral training and post-doctoral research and innovation in about 10 priority economic sectors for growth and development across SSA. The RSIF is hosted by *icipe*.

As part of CERHI's mandate to build capacity that will engender research excellence and foster innovation and entrepreneurial development among researchers, the Centre partnered with **BioInnovate Africa**, the **RSIF**

and *icipe*, to organized the a two-day workshop titled “Strengthening Innovation Ecosystems in Universities in West and Central Africa”.







*Photograph of Participants at the CERHI-ICIPE Workshop.*

## WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

1. To update the knowledge of participants on the role of innovation in research excellence
2. To establish the importance of innovation ecosystems
3. To provide examples of successful innovation ecosystems
4. To provide practical sessions on building innovation ecosystems, and
5. To stimulate the interest of researchers in building viable markets for their research outputs



A photograph of CERHI Faculty (Community Health Department) at the CERHI-ICIPE Workshop



CERHI Staff at the CERHI-ICIPE Workshop





## PARTICIPANTS AT THE WORKSHOP



A cross section of postgraduate students, researchers, and scientists from Universities (including the World Bank Africa Centres of Excellence in West, Central and East African regions), Research Institutions, and policy makers from Ghana, Cameroon, Guinea and Nigeria participated in the workshop.

## SOME FACILITATORS

1. Dr. Julius Ecuru, Manager, BioInnovate Africa, icipe, Nairobi, Kenya
2. Dr. Moses Osiru, RSIF RCU Manager, icipe, Nairobi, Kenya
3. Ms. Mukiibi Shiira, BioInnovate Africa, icipe, Nairobi, Kenya
4. Prof. Crispus Kiambu, Former Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi, Former PS Ministry of Education, Kenya and member of the PASET RSIF Consultative Advisory Group.
5. Prof. Olufemi Bamiro (Former Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Nigeria)
6. Prof. Olusola Olu-Aderounmu (Former Vice Chancellor, Wesley University, Ondo, Nigeria)
7. Prof. Ndowa Lale (Vice Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria).
8. Prof. YKE Ibrahim (Centre Leader, ACE on Neglected Tropical Diseases and Forensic Biotechnology (ACENTDFB), Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria)
9. Rev Fr. Anslem Adodo, OSB (Pax Herbal Clinic and Research Laboratories, Ewu, Edo State, Nigeria)



*Prof. Crispus Kiambu, Former Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi, Former PS Ministry of Education, Kenya and member of the PASET RSIF Consultative Advisory Group.*



The Vice Chancellor, University of Port-Harcourt, Nigeria, Prof, Ndowa Lale during the plenary sessions at the CERHI- ICIPE Workshop



## CERHI AT AAU WORKSHOP IN ACCRA, GHANA

The CERHI Communication Officer, Mr. Augustine Kumah, attended the Association of African Universities (AAU), workshop on Effective Communication Skills and Strategies for Higher Education Institutions



The workshop was held from April 24-26, 2019 at the AAU Secretariat in Accra, Ghana.



The training workshop was aimed at equipping Communication Officers of the ACEs with the necessary tools in developing diverse communication strategies and effective implementation methods to help create visibility for their institutions.



Mr. Augustine Kumah (CERHI Communication Officer) receiving a Certificate at the AAU Workshop in Accra.



## Training Workshop on the Evolving role of the 21st Century Accountant, Auditor, Finance Officer, Budget Heads and Cost Managers held in Accra Ghana (11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019)

In the quest to compete in a global environment, the role of financial professionals has changed significantly and is still changing. It is simply not enough for financial professionals to limit their roles to the legendary 'debit and credit' function. Surveys continue to indicate that finance personnel will become increasingly involved with activities such as interpreting information, assisting in decision-making, improving processes, and evaluating performance. Finance professionals must therefore become a key part of the driving force for continuous improvement throughout their organizations.



A group photograph of participants at the workshop.



CERHI's financial team made up of the Accountant, Auditor, and the Budget Head attended the **Association of African Universities (AAU)** workshop which provided participants with the latest financial management strategies and techniques to keep their skills sharp, strong and focused to suit each stage of their career





The objectives of the four- day event facilitated by **Prof. Adom-Frimpong** (Chartered Accountant and Management Consultant) was to equip participants to:

1. Have a broader knowledge base both in technology and in non-financial business areas.
2. Learn how to spend less time on traditional processes and focus more on value-adding “consulting” activities.
3. Learn how to use shared-service centres to reduce costs and leverage talent.
4. Learn more effective and efficient means to assure compliance and good governance.
5. Learn specific steps and areas for finance professionals to add value in their organization.
6. Learn the requirements of moving to a lean system.
7. Learn a framework and techniques to develop an effective measurement and reporting program.
8. Learn the theory of constraints to identify better ways of managing expansions and capital expenditures.
9. Learn the role of the finance professional in the continuous improvement process.
10. Identify the core ethical responsibilities a finance officer has to the public and to his or her clients/ employer



CERHI Project Auditor. Mrs. C O Omwanghe (right) in picture with other participants.

The workshop ended with a panel discussion session. CERHI Project Auditor, Mrs. C O Omwanghe (Nigeria) and Aliija Ronald (Uganda) were among the three member panelist and was moderated by Mr. Frank Adjie (Ghana).





## INSTITUTIONAL VISIT TO CERHI BY DR. PATOU MUSUMARI, (PhD), GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE FOR PROMOTION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH KYOTO UNIVERSITY, JAPAN

**D**r. Patou Musumari, visited to the Centre from 6-11 May 2019. Dr. Patou is an Associate Professor from the

Interdisciplinary Unit for the Global Health Centre for Promotion of Interdisciplinary Education and Research, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan.



A group photograph of CERHI Staff/Faculty and Students with Dr. Patou Musumari.

During his five-day visit, Dr. Patou Musumari engaged in series of meetings with the Centre Leader, faculty/Staff and students of CERHI for further development of CERHI-Kyoto partnership. He also had series of Seminar on Socio-Epidemiology, Global health and Socio-epidemiology and Theoretical understanding and mathematical modeling of infectious diseases for staff and students of CERHI.



Dr. Musumari also met with faculty/staff of the various departments on research, collaboration, proposal writing, students' supervision, etc. and also met with individual students to discuss projects, proposals and internships and student exchange programmes.



## 1<sup>ST</sup> CERHI-UNIBEN AREF RESEARCH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI), University of Benin in collaboration with the Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF), Medical Research Foundation, UK, organized a five-day training workshop on research leadership development.



Prof. Akhere A. Omonkhua delivering a lecture on Supervision versus Mentoring

The five-day training workshop was designed to use experiential techniques to enhance the research and leadership capacity of early to middle career academics working on important health challenges in Nigeria.

Amongst others, the workshop focused on capacity building in:

- Mentoring,
- Grant writing, and
- Research communication/ dissemination

Workshop facilitators included:

1. Prof. Friday Okonofua - Centre Leader CERHI, University of Benin
2. Prof. Akhere Omonkhua. Institutional Lead, CERHI-UNIBEN Excell Team, University of Benin
3. Prof Emmanuel Unuabonah, Redeemer's University, Ede
4. Dr. Oyetunde Oyeyemi, CERHI-UNIBEN Excell Fellow, University of Medical Sciences, Ondo
5. Dr. Enitome Bafor, CERHI-UNIBEN Excell Fellow, University of Benin
6. Dr. Loretta Ntoimo, Federal University, Oye-Ekiti
7. Dr. Bisi Oduwole, Achiever's University, Owo



Prof. Friday Okonofua delivering a lecture on Grant Proposal Writing



## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) USA



**A**nalysis and Presentation Unit and also of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Benin has been awarded a Research Fellowship by the **National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI), USA** to perform research on reproductive immunology.

Her research at the NIH/NCI will focus on investigating and understanding the female biased disease induction of autoimmune diseases and test therapeutic approaches to delay disease induction or progression and define the tumor microenvironment in the autoimmune mouse model.

Enitome E. Bafor (PhD)

**Dr. Enitome E. Bafor**  
(PhD), Coordinator of CERHI-Data

**CONGRATULATIONS  
DR. BAFOR**



## HCERES ACCREDITS THREE CERHI PROGRAMMES

**H**igh Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (HCERES) has given International accreditation to three of CERHI's programmes, namely:

- **MSc in Nursing,**
- **Reproductive Health and**
- **PhD in Health Economics.**

HCERES is a European Institution (France) charged with evaluating higher education institutions, research organizations, scientific cooperation, foundations, National Research Agencies, and research units at the request of the institutions to which they belong. HCERES assesses the quality of the education provided and of the degrees delivered by higher education institutions, publicly funded investment programmes, and private companies dealing with research and higher education.



HCERES also ensures that the dissemination of scientific, technical and industrial results is taken into account in the higher education and research staff's careers.



*HCERES team (sitting in front) in a group photograph with CERHI Faculty and NUC staff (Abuja) during the onsite visit.*



## GAMBIA STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP: ESTABLISHING A YOUTH- FOCUSED DEVELOPMENT NGO IN THE GAMBIA

CERHI, in partnership with the Ford Foundation, Government of the Gambia and the CERHI Alumni from the Gambia, established a **Youth Focused Development** NGO in the Gambia to enable the mainstreaming of youth development and provision of social safety net for youths in the Gambia. The first cohort of the students graduated from the Master's program of the Centre in December 2017 and the final PhD students are scheduled for their thesis defense in September 2019.

CERHI in January 2016, admitted 17 students from the Republic of the Gambia to undergo Masters and PhD courses in Nursing, Reproductive Health and Public Health.



A group photograph of CERHI Gambia Alumni, CERHI Staff and other Stakeholders at the workshop.

Due to the current paucity of human resources in the Gambia, especially at the youth level, CERHI believes that these graduating students are posed to make significant contributions to mitigating many of the social challenges facing youth and development in the Gambia. Hence, CERHI and its international partner's continue support the development trajectories of the Gambia through initiatives generated and propelled by CERHI Alumni. Proposed Activities of the concept note submitted includes;

- Organization of two days workshop in the Gambia to enable the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for the proposed NGO.
- Initial identification and training of the Board to use the strategic plan document.
- The registration of the NGO with the Gambian authorities.
- Meetings with local and international funding sources for fund-raising
- Proposal writing for funding requests.



To kick start activities, a stakeholders workshop with the theme; Needs Assessment on the Establishing a Youth Focused Development NGO in the Gambia was held from the 11<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> September 2019 at the Khamsys Technologies Ltd, Gambia. The workshop was highly attended by Registrar of Medical and Dental Council- Dr. Muhammed Cham, a director from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, National Youth Council, President of Association of

NGOs in the Gambia, CERHI-Gambia Alumni, a representative from Medical Research Council, National Nutrition Agency, and many more.



*From left to right: Dr. Muhammad K. Cham, Prof Friday Okonofua, Mr Musa Neget and Mr. Madi Jobarteh in picture.*



Gambia, especially when seen within the priorities of the government of the Gambia and those of other relevant development sectors in the country.

At the end of the workshop, a strategic plan was developed for the new NGO and the process for registration as a legal organization has been initiated by the alumni association.

The objectives of the workshop was amongst others;

- To review the general and social developmental challenges in the Gambia and identify the strategic position of youth in overcoming the challenges;
- To assess the role of NGOs in supporting the social development in the Gambia and the gaps that need to be addressed; and
- To specifically identify the role of a youth-led NGO in supporting the social development of the



*From Left to Right: Mr Musa Neget, Prof. Friday Okonofua, Vivian Onoh and Madam Horeja Saine (Chief Matron, Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital, Gambia).*



# STUDENTS LIFE AT CERHI

Set one foot at CERHI and you'll feel it—a vibe that celebrates life, learning, and daily activities that are anything but routine. CERHI offers students unparalleled

academic support, enriched activities galore, sports and cultural offerings, wellness and fitness programs, and endless opportunities to explore, engage, and better the community and the world.



*A group photograph of some CERHI Regional students on an Excursion*

CERHI helps students make the most of their experience, bringing together the people, places and programs that support their growth, wellness and success both within and outside of the classroom



**Pictures of CERHI Regional Students on Excursion**



## OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE AT CERHI

**CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INNOVATION (CERHI)**  
**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**  
**CERHI MEDICAL AND RESEARCH LABORATORY (CMARL)**

**OUR SERVICES**

<b>HAEMATOLOGY</b> Full Blood Count Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) Genotype, Blood Group etc	<b>GENERAL RESEARCH</b> Freeze Drying Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (AAS) Genetic Studies	<b>MICROBIOLOGY</b> Urine, Stool, HIVS and ECS, Semen M/C/S and Analysis Mycology Studies etc
<b>CLINICAL CHEMISTRY</b> Blood Sugar, Lipid Profile Liver Function Test Electrolyte, Urea/Creatinine etc	<b>IMMUNOASSAYS</b> Hormonal Assays HIV Confirmation Hepatitis B and C Confirmation Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) etc	

**CONTACT US**  
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 working hours: 8:00am - 5:00pm  
 CMARL... Developing Regional Medical and Research Laboratory Capacity



*CERHI Laboratory Services*

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CERHI Medical and Research Laboratory