

WARIMA 2026

17th Annual Workshop & Conference

Compliance = Quality Research

11 – 14 May 2026

West Africa College of Physicians (WACOP) Hotel & Conference Centre, Abuja, Nigeria

Programme of Activities

SUNDAY

10 May 2026 · Arrival & Registration

16:00 – 18:00**Onsite Registration***Conference Registration Desk, WACOP Hotel and Conference Centre***DAY 1**

Monday, 11 May 2026 · Pre-Conference Workshops

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS · 09:00 – 16:00

Workshop 1 Research Operations & Project Management Facilitator: Sheikh Omar Jallow / Mrs. Sakyibea Biney-Nyamekye	Workshop 2 Impact Planning & Monitoring and Evaluation Facilitator: Dr. Olufemi Abiodun Gisanrin	Workshop 3 Horizon Europe Framework Programme Facilitator: Coginity Advisory
AM Session: 09:00 – 12:00 Break: 12:00 – 13:00 PM Session: 13:00 – 16:00	AM Session: 09:00 – 12:00 Break: 12:00 – 13:00 PM Session: 13:00 – 16:00	AM Session: 09:00 – 12:00 Break: 12:00 – 13:00 PM Session: 13:00 – 16:00

EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

14:30 – 18:00	WARIMA Executive Meeting <i>By Invitation Only</i>
14:30 – 17:00	Special Committee Meetings <i>By Invitation Only</i>

EVENING

17:00 – 19:00	Welcome Cocktail Reception & 20th Anniversary Launch <i>Venue WACOP -- All Conference Delegates</i>
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DAY 2

Tuesday, 12 May 2026 · Pre-Conference Workshops (Continued)

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS · 09:00 – 16:00

Workshop 1 Research Operations & Project Management (Day 2) Facilitators: Sheikh Omar Jallow / Mrs. Sakyibea Biney-Nyamekye	Workshop 4 Strategic Leadership & Career Development Facilitator: WARIMA <i>Venue: By Invitation Only</i>	Workshop 5 Good Financial Grant Practices Facilitators: Paul Miki Carvalho / Genevieve Kiff
AM Session: 09:00 – 12:00 Break: 12:00 – 13:00 PM Session: 13:00 – 16:00	AM Session: 09:00 – 12:00 Break: 12:00 – 13:00 PM Session: 13:00 – 16:00	AM Session: 09:00 – 12:00 Break: 12:00 – 13:00 PM Session: 13:00 – 16:00

DAY 3

Wednesday, 13 May 2026 · Conference Day 1

OPENING CEREMONY: 09:30 – 11:00

09:00	Arrival and Seating of Guests
09:30	Welcome Address <i>Prof Eme Owoaje</i>
09:40	Open Statement <i>Institute of Human Virology (IHVN)</i>
09:50	President's Statement <i>WARIMA President</i>
10:05	Introduction of Keynote Speakers <i>Master of Ceremonies</i>

10.05 – 10:30 · Keynote 1

EU-Africa Initiative to Advance Africa Research Capacity: Leveraging Opportunities to Address Africa Research Needs*Prof Michael Faborode*

10.30 – 10:45 · Keynote 2

WIPO's Role in Compliance in Africa Research Space*Dr Oluwatobiloba Moody*

10:45 – 10:55	Declaration of Conference Open <i>TETFund</i>
10:55 – 11:05	Goodwill Message <i>ECOWAS</i>
11:05 – 11:15	Group Photo <i>All Guests and Participants</i>
11:15 – 12:00	Networking · Poster Presentations <i>Exhibition Area</i>

PLENARY SESSIONS · 12:30 – 14:00

Chair – Dr Garry Aslanyan

12:30 – 12:55	Plenary 1: WAITRO: Global Collaborations and Technology Transfer & Africa Development within WAITRO <i>Dr Benjin Luo, Secretary General, WAITRO and Dr Sechaba Bareetseng, Director Africa Development</i>
12:55 – 13:20	Plenary 2: Navigating African Partnerships — Compliance in International Research Collaborations [PAN-RIMA] <i>Speaker: PAN-RIMA Session Regulatory harmonisation, donor intelligence, and cross-border partnership management</i>
13:20 – 13:45	Plenary 3: Equitable Research Partnerships: Aligning Collaboration with Compliance and Quality <i>Speaker: Dr Jackson-Malete Jose Strengthening equitable research partnerships through effective governance, compliance frameworks, and quality assurance</i>
13:45 – 14:00	Building it Forward for Research Management Leadership in Southern Africa <i>Speaker: SARIMA</i>
14:00 – 14:50	Lunch Break · Networking · Poster Presentations <i>Exhibition Area</i>

CONCURRENT SESSIONS · 15:00 – 16:45

Session 1 Room A	Session 2 Room B
Ethics & Regulatory Standards / Safeguarding Financial Integrity	Due Diligence in Compliance Systems / Safeguarding Financial Integrity
<p>15:00 – 15:15 Standardized research ethics often clash with socio-cultural realities <i>Salako Luc Djogbenou · University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin</i></p> <p>15:15 – 15:30 Strengthening Research Management through Ethical Compliance and Community Engagement <i>Chinoza Eze · Universidade Lusófona da Guiné-Bissau</i></p> <p>15:30 – 15:45 Safeguarding Financial Integrity Through Custom-Built AI Automation: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa <i>Oluyomi Scherif Adegniko · CERMELM</i></p> <p>15:45 – 16:00 Strengthening Ethics and Regulatory Standards for Research in Africa: A Case Study of the University of Ghana’s Ethics Committee for the Humanities (ECH) <i>Angelina Appiah-Kubi & Patience Okpoti · University of Ghana, Legon</i></p> <p>16:00 – 16:15 Safeguarding Financial Integrity in International Research: Lessons from the MRC Unit, The Gambia <i>Momodou Gando Bah · MRC Gambia</i></p> <p>16:15 – 16:30 EU Calls for Africa Researchers Cognity Advisory</p>	<p>15:00 – 15:15 Evaluating How Due Diligence Enhances Compliance, Accountability, and Research Integrity at the Research Support Office, MRC The Gambia <i>Solinda Gomez · Medical Research Council, The Gambia</i></p> <p>15:15 – 15:30 A Framework for Risk Assessment and Compliance in Pre-Award Research Administration: A Case Study from the University of Ghana <i>Beatrice Biney-Nyamekye · University of Ghana</i></p> <p>15:30 – 15:45 Financial Accountability as a Foundation for Sustaining Donor Confidence – USTTB <i>Samba Lamine Cisse · University Clinical Research Center (UCRC)</i></p> <p>15:45 – 16:00 The Role of Due Diligence in Building Compliance Systems for Grant-Funded Projects <i>Precious Okafor · Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN)</i></p> <p>16:00 – 16:15 Developing SOPs for Good Financial Grants Practice (GFGP) Certification — University of Ibadan <i>Adesola Olumide · CRIM, University of Ibadan, Nigeria</i></p> <p>16:15 – 16:30 Impact of Ineffective Communication on Budget Overspend in Research Administration at MRCG (LSHTM) <i>Babucarr A. Touray · MRC Gambia</i></p>
Q & A	Q & A
<p>18:00 – 22:00 Gala Dinner <i>All Conference Participants</i></p>	

DAY 4

Thursday, 14 May 2026 · Conference Day 2

08:00 – 09:00Poster Presentations
*Exhibition Area***PLENARY SESSIONS · 09:00 – 10:00****Chair- Prof Salou****09:00 – 09:30****Plenary 4: Ethics Under Pressure — Upholding Integrity in High-Stakes Research***Speakers: Prof Christian Happi / Elizabeth Batchilly / Prof. Asan Jaye***09:30 – 09:45****Plenary 5: AI Ethics in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)***Speakers: Dr Hailemichael Getachew***09:45 – 10:00****Managing International Research Collaborations: Negotiating Dignity and Ethics for Emerging Scientists in Central Africa***Speakers: Dr Palmer Masumbe Netongo***CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 10:00 – 11:00**

Session 3 Room A Building a Sustainable Compliance Culture	Session 4 Room B Mentorship & Continuous Development of Research Managers
10:00 – 10:15 Institutionalizing Compliance-Driven Research Excellence in Nigerian Private Universities: A Framework for Sustainable Quality Culture <i>Titilayo Ajayeoba · Adeleke University, Nigeria</i>	10:00 – 10:15 Leveraging on Mentorship and Continuous Development of Research Managers for Improved Research in the Faculty of Education in Rivers State University <i>Nwovuhoma Ihua-Jonathan · Rivers State University, Nigeria</i>
10:15 – 10:30 Managing Compliance across Clinical Trials in West Africa: The Four Pillars Approach of MRCG Clinical Trials Unit <i>Isatou Mahmoud · Medical Research Council, The Gambia</i>	10:15 – 10:30 Building a New Generation of Research Managers at the University of Abomey-Calavi: A Pathway to Quality Research <i>Lydia Sognone · University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC), Benin</i>
10:30 – 10:45 Cultivating a Culture of Research Ethics Compliance Using Education and Motivation in African Universities <i>O. M. Iyiola · University of Ibadan, Nigeria</i>	10:30 – 10:45 Essential First Steps for New Research Managers in African Universities <i>Sylvia Antwiwaah Sarbah · University of Ghana</i>
Q & A	Q & A

11:00 – 11:30Coffee Break · Networking · Poster Presentations
*Exhibition Area***PLENARY SESSION: 11:30 – 12:00****Chair: Dr. Sophie Osawe****11:30 – 12:00****Plenary 6: Striving for Quality in a Resource-Constrained and Evolving Research Ecosystem***Speakers: Prof Christian Happi · Prof Amal Amin, NARIMA - Dr Palmer Masumbe Netongo · Global recognition, building funder trust, sustaining research quality in low-resource settings***12:00- 12:15****Plenary 7: WAITRO: WAITRO Profile and Global Engagement***Ms Ran Duan, WAITRO Director*

CONCURRENT SESSIONS · 12:00 – 13:00

Session 5 Room A Building a Sustainable Compliance Culture (Continued)	Session 6 Room B Managing International Research Collaborations
<p>12:30 – 12:45 Strengthening Research Integrity through Institutional Due Diligence and Compliance Systems <i>Deborah Akyeampon · University of Ghana</i></p>	<p>12:30 – 12:45 From Red Tape to Red Carpet: Embracing the Journey of International Research Management at Tropical Infectious Diseases Research Center of the University of Abomey-Calavi <i>Sena Grégoire Dangbeme · Tropical Infectious Diseases Research Center, University of Abomey-Calavi</i></p>
<p>12:45 – 13:00 Navigating Compliance Complexities in Multinational Research <i>Hallir Adam Muhammad · Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital, Nigeria</i></p>	<p>12:45 – 13:00 Compliance as a Driver of Research Quality: Experiences from International Collaborations at MRCG at LSHTM <i>Gibril Gabbidon · MRC Gambia</i></p>
<p>12:30 – 12:45 From Compliance to Competence: Embedding Research Ethics in English Language Curricula <i>Bolatito Adejare · Adeleke University, Nigeria</i></p>	
Q & A	Q & A

12:45 – 13:15	Closing Ceremony <i>WARIMA President</i>
13:15 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 16:00	Annual General Meeting <i>All WARIMA Members</i>