



UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

RESEARCH MANAGEMENT OFFICE



Anniversary Special Edition

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Vol. 2 No. 5



Prof. A.S. Jegede

The importance of research in national development is widely acknowledged. Research being a major component of the role of the University system, places the university strategically to drive development. Therefore, the university as the incubator for research and innovation is the engine room for national development. If Nigeria will achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) research must be properly organized and managed in our higher educational institutions. Realizing this, University of Ibadan (UI), the premier higher educational institution in Nigeria, has taken the stride to take leadership in this area by putting in place appropriate research infrastructure. Exactly, ten years ago, specifically on 10 May, 2010, UI established her Research Management Office (RMO). The motto of the RMO is "to advance translational research output and uptake to meet societal needs". The vision is "to support researchers with information on funding opportunities, encourage

collaboration and provide adequate training/services for acquisition of knowledge and skills in grantsmanship that will enable researchers to carry out cutting-edge research". The mission of the RMO is "to be the flagship of Innovative Research Administration and Management in Sub-Saharan Africa, a catalyst for doing and up taking cutting edge research in the society." Today, I am glad that the office has not deviated from its vision and mission in one decade of its existence.

There is no doubt that the RMO has changed the research architecture of the university in the last 10 years. It has taken a bold step to change the research architecture by promoting multidisciplinary research collaboration and mentorship. Through a number of programmes, it has helped to develop the capacity of the next generation of research leaders and equip them with ethical values for sound scholarship. One of such programmes is the "Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE) Institutional Strengthening Programme (ISP)" of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). Most of the over 200 early career researchers have been trained through this programme have been working together with guidance of their mentors.

The RMO has been able to enhance the research capacity of staff and improve access to research funding. From time to time, the RMO disseminates research opportunities to the research community. This has increased response rates to requests for proposals. For instance, the role of the RMO in the dissemination of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) National Research Fund (NRF) has resulted in improved participation and the impressive outcomes of successful proposals recorded in the recent calls for proposals.

The journey has not been without challenges. These include but are not limited to inadequacy of the Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure and limited funding. The celebration of a birthday is not only for reminder but also to have a vision for the coming years. As a leading institution, we aspire to continue to increase the university's grant profile by promoting research collaborations within and outside the University.

Staff development will continue in order to take the RMO to higher levels. We shall continue to promote research uptake by developing new partnerships and building strong relationships with policymakers, industries and funders. We shall ensure that research counts by improving on the current reward system to encourage active participation in research. In partnership with relevant organs of the university we shall work towards the establishment of Business and Entrepreneurship Incubation Centre (BEIC) where students with good business ideas

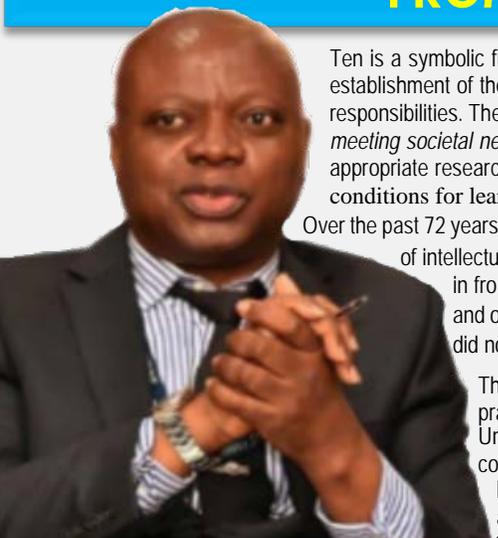
would be able to develop it with expert coaches. We shall work with other relevant organs of the university to establish University of Ibadan Science Park (UISP) where start-ups and established companies can interact with funders and researchers.

I cannot end this piece without appreciating those who have contributed to the survival of the RMO one way or the other over the years. I appreciate the Vice Chancellor, Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka for supporting the RMO and promoting the ideals of the unit at all times. The Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships (DVCRISP) deserves applause for leading by example. Her initiatives and motivation significantly improved the RMO operations. The past and current Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration and Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic are appreciated for their support for the RMO. I appreciate Professor Olufemi Bamiro, a former Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan during whose tenure the RMO commenced, for accepting to share his thoughts and reflections on this occasion. I thank the immediate past Vice Chancellor, Professor Isaac Folorunso Adewole for nurturing the RMO to stability. I thank the first Director of the RMO, Professor Eme Owoaje, for a well laid foundation and the immediate past Director, Professor Oyeronke Odunola, for consolidating the efforts of her predecessor. I have every reason to thank all members of staff of the RMO for working very hard to take it to this enviable level. I appreciate the contributions of the following units and persons to the success recorded during these years; namely past and current Bursars, past and current Deputy Bursars (Grants) past and current Registrars. I also appreciate the past and current Directors of the MacArthur Foundation and the Director of the University of Ibadan Research Foundation (UIRF), Professor Ayoade Oduola for their support to the RMO. I cannot but appreciate the past and current Directors of Academic Planning and Office of International Programmes (OIP).

The support of the past and current Provosts of College of Medicine for the RMO is appreciated. Information sharing by the College of Medicine Research and Innovation Management (CRIM) office with the RMO is appreciated. I deeply appreciate the financial support of the Postgraduate School (now College). I appreciate all Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments, staff and students of our great university for their contribution to the success story. My appreciation goes to all grant holders in the University for being the testimony of our celebration. I cannot forget our funders and collaborators for believing in us and working with all these years. Finally, All glory and honour to God Almighty for His faithfulness and grace for this first decade of the RMO and beyond.

UI-RESEARCH NEWS

FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR'S DESK



Prof. A.I. Olayinka

Ten is a symbolic figure which symbolizes obedience, responsibility and completeness. Generally, as a symbol of obedience and responsibility, establishment of the Research Management Office (RMO) is deference of a university to call to duty since research is a major component of its responsibilities. The University of Ibadan cannot be truthful to her vision of being *"a world-class institution for academic excellence geared towards meeting societal needs"* without adequate attention to research. Therefore, to engage in cutting-edge research, there is the need to put in place appropriate research infrastructure. As the premier university with a mission "to expand the frontiers of knowledge through provision of excellent conditions for learning and research", taking leadership position in this area is not unexpected.

Over the past 72 years of her existence, UI has put Nigeria on the global map of the ivory tower in the comity of nations, and has remained the flagship of intellectual development in Nigeria. I am bold to say that the University of Ibadan has been able to achieve this feat through her record in front-line research. This has made the university to be the first choice for research collaborators working in Nigeria, in particular, and one of the most preferred institutions to work with for research collaborators working in Africa in general. University of Ibadan did not attain this feat without appropriate research infrastructure.

The RMO at 10 is a landmark in the history of UI because it marks a decade of managing research according to global best practices. It is germane to opine that research management in the university predates the RMO structure. For instance, the University has engaged in many kinds of research requiring appropriate structures like the Dementia study and the Igboora concept dating as far back as in the 1960s. Many research endeavours conducted in the university at the different decades of her existence met appropriate infrastructure standards, just as the RMO is to the current dispensation. It is on this note that I am glad that UI had had this structure long before it became a national agenda now driven by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

Ten years is not a joke as a historical epoch! There are certain expectations from a child of 10 years. Space will not allow me to mention all the RMO's achievements over the years. I am happy to say that the UI RMO has been providing technical support to sister institutions to establish their research management offices across the country. Currently, it is one of the biggest, if not the biggest, research management office among the Nigeria universities, with 25 Research Administrators (RAs) and a Director. The RAs are constantly exposed to on-the-job trainings and workshops, locally and internationally. Because of the importance the University attaches to research, UI is the first university in Nigeria to establish the office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships) (DVC RISP) which oversees the RMO as one of its functions to strengthen research process. The RMO has added value to the university research profile through increase in research collaborations, new research initiatives, responses to calls for proposals, improved University/Industry relationships and research uptakes. Presently, more than 250 research collaborations are ongoing in the university. The university now has partnership agreement with some companies for laboratory supplies with rebate to improve access laboratory quality and cost effective supplies. The university has established a culture of publishing *Annual Report* for disseminating the research activities of members of the academic staff. The RMO has also established competitive annual Best-Published Researchers' Recognition (BPRR) of the Year, usually reported in the Annual Report. Since the establishment three years ago 16 members of staff have been awarded through a rigorous process. The Research Report is widely distributed to all stakeholders. Also, the RMO has established a research newsletter, *the UI Research News*, to engage the research community. Being an e-publication, the newsletter has a global distribution and is promptly available to people irrespective of the users' physical location worldwide.

All these achievements are not without some challenges. I am quite aware of these challenges which include the usual context-specific issues that always dominate discussion in Nigeria, such as limited financial resources, inadequate human resource, and poor Information and Communication and Technology (ICT) infrastructure. The University Management will continue to improve on all these and others not mentioned to ensure that the RMO gets to where it should be. As the RMO opens a new chapter, UI will professionalize research management in order to open up job opportunities in research administration. I am glad to say that a career path has been approved for our RAs. This will be made possible by putting up appropriate training opportunities in research management and administration in order to produce well-trained personnel for the growing number of higher educational institutions and other research institution in Nigeria. The university will digitalize research management system in order to ensure that the university remains choice brand for cutting-edge multinational institutional research collaborations. Considering the role research plays in building up national development government should channel resources to research management because properly organized research management system is a necessary condition for a nation to be able to maximize the opportunities in the fourth industrial revolution and knowledge based economy.

I want to appreciate the efforts of the Management Team led by Professor Olufemi Bamiro as the Vice Chancellor during whose tenure the RMO, the good seed was sowed. The immediate past Management Team led by Professor Isaac Folorunso Adewole who watered the seed to germinate also deserves commendation. I also thank the past Directors of RMO - Professors Eme Owoaje and Oyeronke Odunola who laboured very hard to tend the plant. It is very obvious that without the commitment of these great people there would not have been anything to celebrate today. I am glad to say that I have had opportunity to oversee the RMO as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic (DVCA) during Professor Adewole's tenure as the Vice-Chancellor. Sustainability is usually the problem with any vision. That this Office has survived three administrations is a good testimony and an evidence-based sustainability data for project management. The current Director, Professor Ayodele Samuel Jegede, a former Dean, Faculty of The Social Sciences, has demonstrated in no small measure that the future is bright for research enterprise in our University. While I thank the staff and students of our great University for making the Research Management Office a quintessential part of our great history, I return all glory to God Almighty for giving the enablement.

Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka, FAS

Vice-Chancellor

FROM THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLORS RISP'S DESK



Professor Olanike K. Adeyemo

THE RESEARCH MANAGEMENT OFFICE: OUR EXPECTATION IN THE NEXT DECADE

I thank Professor A.S. Jegede, the Director, Research Management Office for his kind invitation to write a message to mark 10 years of existence of the RMO. I hereby commend the foresight of Professor Olufemi Bamiro, the 10th Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan who deemed it fit to establish this vital unit in May 2010 to centrally coordinate and manage research conducted at the University of Ibadan. I equally salute the subsequent Vice Chancellors, Prof. I.F. Adewole and Prof. Abel Idowu Olayinka for expanding the scope of the vision. Previous DVCs (Academics) who had oversight function on the activities of the RMO before the unit was ceded to the Office of DVC (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships) in 2017 are also appreciated. The RMO has grown over the years through the dedicated leadership provided by Professors Eme Owoaje, Oyeronke Odunola and the incumbent Director, Professor A.S. Jegede. The research administrators, whose numbers have grown over the years have also been visibly active across all Faculties of the University.

While commending the contributions of all stakeholders to the progress the RMO has made in the past decade; it is vital to note that an excellent research management structure and infrastructure is of paramount importance to the success of a 21st century University. This is because effective administration of research funding, in compliance with all administrative, financial management, and regulatory requirements, amongst others is at the core of continuous fund generation through grant writing and strategic partnerships with world-class academic institutions, funding agencies, industries and other key components of the society.

In the next decade, it is my expectation that the RMO will offer more support in the proposal/pre-award phase; basically, in assisting researchers with applying more successfully to research funding calls. The burden of grant management and financial administrative compliance should also be taken off researchers. These will be easier if the RMO executes an integrated grant management system synthesized with a grants/bursary operation which insulates grant funds from unnecessary bureaucracy, and other vagaries. We therefore look forward to a more vibrant RMO team, a key player throughout the life of every research project, from proposal development through to project closure, and reporting, developing and harmonising project management methodologies and best practices, monitoring compliance with policies and requirements of the University internally and funding agencies externally.

Professor Olanike K. Adeyemo; FCVSN, FEnvs, FAAS, FAS, FTWAS
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation & Strategic Partnerships)

RESEARCH MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION IN A RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION-ORIENTED UNIVERSITY



Prof. O.A. Bamiro

Former Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan

PREAMBLE

It is indeed a thing of joy when Prof. Ayodele Jegede, the current Director of the University of Ibadan Research Management Office (RMO), informed me that the Office would be ten years old by 10th May, 2020. He went further to note "...As the Vice Chancellor who sowed the seed, we are pleased to request that you write a feature article for the May 2020 edition of the RMO newsletter.

What came immediately to my mind was to express my gratitude to the MacArthur Foundation led by Dr. Jonathan Fanton for the sponsorship of a visit sometime in 2008 to the University of California, Davis by me as the Vice-Chancellor and Prof Adesomoju, the then MacArthur Grant Liaison Officer. It was through the visit, that I got exposed to the critical role being played by a research management office in a research intensive university. The experience, to be articulated later, informed the establishment of the RMO at the University of Ibadan.

Based on the above request of the Director of the UI RMO, I have titled this short paper, "Research Management and Administration in a Research, Development and Innovation-Oriented University". The title is dictated by the established vision of University of Ibadan as a postgraduate university with research and training being given the pride of place in the performance of the key functions of teaching, research and community service. The community service is to be achieved through focused research, development and innovation activities that address our national strategic development agenda, with some of its elements already encapsulated in the strategic development goals (SDGs). Towards this end, this paper is in three sections prior to suggest the way forward: one, the role of research, development and innovation in the journey towards relevance; two, sources of research funding and grants; and three, the role of the research management office.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION IN THE JOURNEY TOWARDS RELEVANCE

Permit me to be graphic in presenting the major points under this topic.

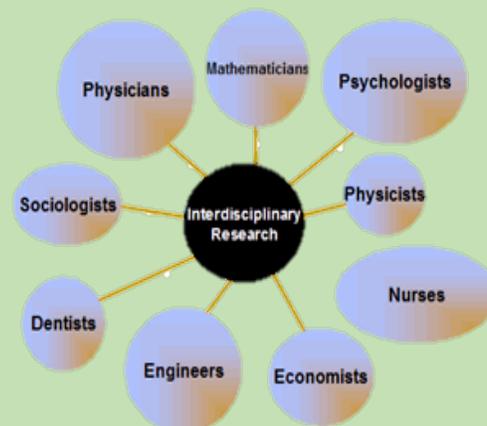
- Higher education worldwide has moved from the periphery to the centre of governmental agenda with universities now seen as crucial national assets: as they become sources of new knowledge and innovative thinking; providers of skilled personnel; contributors to innovation; attractors of international talent and business investment. Let it be stated clearly that development-oriented universities have evolved from being, simplistically speaking, 'skills providers' to 'drivers of change' by enhancing connections between their university education, and research missions, and the economic and social objectives of their nation states. Furthermore, university programmes are increasingly promoting education and skills for the development of an entrepreneurial mindset in university students.
- In respect of research, a university's concern should be 'useful knowledge', but not merely with the immediately applicable - a university is a resource for an unknown future. Welcome the Coronavirus pandemic, and its exposure of the varying levels of the preparedness of universities and other research establishments to meet the challenges of evolving an immediate solution. The research community is being called upon to collectively diagnose, offer solutions and advice in the context of the emergent uncertainty and complexity. Thus, in the performance of the research function, a university is expected to engage with both *basic* research that may be preparing grounds for the uncertain future (not necessarily of immediate application) and *applied research* (of immediate application to addressing pressing problems in the socio-economic space.)

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- Most research-driven issues that impact our industrial and national development are beyond what can be handled by just one discipline. To leverage technology to address the challenges of development, it is highly desirable that our university system develops a sense for problem-oriented and multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary research involving an integration of the disciplines, and deliberate promotion of timely transfer of technology into actual production of goods and services. Multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary research is now increasingly being recognized as a veritable tool to address national development initiatives. It is important that we do understand the concept in application. Actually, the National Research Fund, being operated by TETFund and the ongoing World Bank African Centres of Excellence (ACE) project have placed a high premium on the composition of the research team in proposal application by insisting that it must be multidisciplinary with the specific roles of each researcher clearly stated. Also stipulated is the inclusion of junior academics on the premise that research projects are to provide training ground for research capacity building. This calls for a paradigm shift in teaching and research methodology that encourages multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary approaches.

Thus, the present, and future research team will be as conceptually captured below. This accentuates the fact that multi- and interdisciplinary research teams will be required to solve the "puzzle" of complex diseases and conditions. This may probably be the case for the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, which is still eluding solution.

Research Teams of the



As remarked by Lawrence A. Tabak :

"...if you look at research teams of the future that will be required to do these types of interdisciplinary research, no doubt they will be composed of sociologists, engineers, physicists, mathematicians, economists, nurses, and dentists as well. It's going to be our collective challenge to figure out how to get all these folks to interact. The initial major barrier, of course, is that if you put all of these folks in a room together, it would be like a Tower of Babel. There would be a lot of talking, but no one would understand one other. So, a great deal of what we need to emphasize early on is some common platform, some common lexicon whereby these folks from these different fields are able to communicate effectively with one another..."

This brings me to the team of researchers applying for COVID-19 –driven research grants to develop ventilators. The team comprised engineers, doctors, virologists, etc. already cooperating in the biomedical engineering department of the University.

- The Triple Helix concept involving government-academia-industry partnership is now a powerful tool for achieving socio-economic development of nations with government facilitating the flow of research-driven knowledge and innovation from the universities to the industrial space. The power of the Triple Helix towards the building of industrial competitiveness with the centrality of academia (universities and polytechnics) is illustrated by the case of Tshumisano Trust Agency of South Africa, through its funding of research-driven innovation for transfer to the target industrial sectors to improve competitiveness. Under the program, **universities and technicians** (polytechnics) were challenged by **government** with industrial problems with research-driven solutions deployed to the relevant **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** in a continual process of increasing the industrial competitiveness of these actors. Significant results are being achieved under the scheme.
- Most universities in the Nigerian university system, including our University of Ibadan, can boast of several research products that litter the system and are usually proudly displayed in research fairs with no takers to commercialise them. In the parlance of the popular S-Curve depicting the profile of funding and disciplines in the journey through research-development-demonstration-market, these products are locked in what is usually referred to as the *valley of death*. It is not uncharitable to say that such products make no difference to the economy while, at best, serving the researcher's needs for academic promotion. Some products may also lead to patents. It is pertinent to note that the routes through which patents can generate revenue for an inventor are typically: outright sale, licensing, joint venture ship to exploit the invention, establishment of incubators, science or technology park to further develop the invention and get it to the market. Wealth creation from R & D activities cannot be realized unless: one, the research outputs (including patents) are exploited through taking them to the market place; two, translation into innovation occurs through entrepreneurial activities that take the results to the market; and three, the R & D is demand-driven and solves real life problems in the form of products, services and processes.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH FUNDING AND GRANTS

There is a significant presence of grants for research and capacity building by Funding Agencies across Africa, including Nigeria. Those having visible presence in our system include:

- ✚ WHO (The World Health Organisation)
- ✚ IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)
- ✚ USAID (United States Agency for International Development)
- ✚ CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency)
- ✚ John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- ✚ Carnegie Corporation
- ✚ UNFPA (United Nation Population Fund)
- ✚ Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- ✚ FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation)
- ✚ NIH (National Institute of Health), USA
- ✚ National Science Foundation (NSF) of USA
- ✚ World Bank
- ✚ African Development Bank
- ✚ Rockefeller Foundation

Permit me in this short paper to highlight just two distinct platforms of funding; one, the emerging concept of centres of excellence such as being operated currently by the World Bank; and two, award of grants to research projects of relevance to the identified national research agenda of a country or an agency. University of Ibadan can boast of three centres of excellence emanating from stiff competition for their establishment by different funding agencies. These are the Centre for Sustainable Development (CESDEV), the Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law (CPEEL) and the Hub for Earth and Life Sciences of the Pan-African University, established by the African Union. The advantage of a centre in advancing the research and capacity building of a university is illustrated by the World Bank-sponsored Western and Central Africa - Africa Centres of Excellence (ACE) project launched in April 2014 with funding envelope of \$165 million.

Suffice it to note that the 10 funded ACE centres in Nigeria under ACE-1 had at least 1,000 Ph.D. students and 5,000 M.Sc. students enrolled in various programmes. In respect of research, one is always excited to refer to the achievement of one of the centres – the African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID) at Redeemer's University Ede, which was also established in January 2014. Using advanced next generation sequencing technology, ACEGID scientists at

Redeemer's University, under the leadership of Professor Christian Happi, has achieved quite a lot to bring recognition to the University in the service of the entire nation and beyond. According to Happi: "...*We mapped the genome of the Ebola virus and identified useful epitopes for Ebola virus rapid diagnostics. Within 5 months of Ebola outbreak in West Africa, we developed a novel 10 minutes Ebola virus rapid diagnostics test (ReBOV™). The novel Ebola RDT was validated and approved by the World Health Organization and the US Food and Drug Agency (FDA) for emergency use. The deployment of the Ebola RDT kit that we developed at ACEGID, Redeemer's University was a major turning point in the containment of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, because the diagnostics results could be provided in nearly real-time and thus facilitate clinical management...*"

No wonder our nation state is already looking in the direction of RUN as well as some other research-intensive universities in tackling the COVID-19. Like the case of the Ebola referred to above, it will bring resources from different sources to such institution having demonstrated research and training capacity with results. The success of the World Bank ACE project has led to the increase to the current 17 centres of excellence with funding per centre not less than US\$5.0 million. The message in this is that UI must seize the opportunities inherent in centres of excellence to build capacity and demonstrate competencies that can readily be deployed to tackling developmental problems facing our nation state.

TETFund Funding for Research and Research Capacity Building

TETFund has been actively involved with the following activities of relevance to research and research capacity building:

- the Academic Staff Training and Development (ASTD);
- the Institution-Based Research grant; and
- the National Research Fund

The Academic Staff Training and Development (ASTD)

ASTD is an intervention window geared towards upgrading the quality of teaching and research capacity in Nigeria's public tertiary education institutions through sponsorship for Masters and Doctoral degree studies within and outside the country in top quality universities. As at 2018, TETFund has sponsored close to 7,000 university staff, distributed as follows: 2,331 (Foreign Ph.D), 1,048 (Foreign Masters), 448 (Foreign Bench Work), 2,049 (Local Ph.D), 1,053 (Local Masters). Whilst this is an excellent platform for building our institutional and national research capacity, it is rather sad to note that despite the huge in-flow of TETFund interventions, a number of universities have not been able to take full advantage of such support. Most disturbing is the poor implementation of the staff capacity building allocations to some universities.

Institution-Based Research (IBR) Grant

Once upon a time, universities in our system, most especially the first generation universities, used to have the Senate Research Grant to support academic staff research to enable budding academics to cut their teeth in research at different levels. This became non-operational for many years due to the paucity of fund, resulting in low level of research activities in the system. The rather limited research in the system was supported by foreign grants, as earlier noted. The introduction of IBR by TETFund is therefore, very much welcome as it has become a platform for support of research and research capacity building in the system. The individual grant, at the limit of ₦2 million, will go a long way to supporting many junior academics in their journey towards building their research capacity to tackle bigger projects in their fields.

National Research Fund (NRF)

The TETFUND National Research Fund (NRF) was introduced in 2009 as a special intervention approved by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Fund is aimed at promoting the conduct of applied research and innovation by academics in public tertiary educational institutions through competitive grants. The main objective is to drive the socioeconomic development of Nigeria in an increasingly globalized and highly competitive knowledge-driven world economy. Since its inception, the NRFS&MC has handled in six batches a total of 3,356 proposals, comprising 2,043 under Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI), 773 under Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) and 540 under Cross-Cutting (CC). Only a total of 241 proposals were awarded grants totaling ₦6,729 million.

The major reasons for the failure of most of the rejected research proposals, which cut across all the higher education institutions (universities, polytechnics and colleges of education) are as indicated below.

- ✚ Research scope too broad and unfocused; disconnect between title and content.
- ✚ Little originality in research ideas/content.
- ✚ Low value-addition profile i.e. research content not novel or strikingly new.
- ✚ Poorly written Executive Summary.
- ✚ Poorly stated research objectives.
- ✚ Unsatisfactory/inadequate methodology for addressing core research goals.
- ✚ Choice of mundane or not up-to-date analytical tools/methods in addressing core research content.
- ✚ Inadequate or shallow research content of the proposal.
- ✚ Outrageous budgeting: determined effort to make budget as close as possible to the maximum advertised funding limit of ₦50.0 million.

Added to the above was the paucity of fund to take care of all the fundable research proposals. However, the number of proposals given grants increased significantly to 128 in 2019 with a total grant of close to ₦4.0 billion. The relative success of the 2019 exercise led to the increase of grant allocation to ₦7.5 billion for the 2020 grant cycle, which will soon be launched through call-for-concept-notes. The University of Ibadan researchers won 12 out of the 128 grants awarded in 2019. The UI RMO should gear up to support staff towards winning more NRF grants.

THE ROLE OF THE RESEARCH MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The term research management embraces anything that universities can do to maximise the impact of their research activities, other than the conduct of the research itself. It includes assistance in identifying new sources of funds, presenting research applications, and advice on costing projects and negotiating contracts with external sponsors. It incorporates project management and financial control systems. It also involves help in exploiting research results, through commercialisation, knowledge exchange, and dissemination to wider society.

In the University World News, Africa Edition of 2019, Wagdy Sawahel made the following pertinent submission on research management and administration capacities in Africa: *“Analysis of the research management and administration (RMA) capacities as published by Webometrics in 2019, shows that most of the top 200 African universities do not meet the standards for strategic research management, review of international research grant and collaboration opportunities, research and grant management, research ethics, research incentives, and professional staff development.”*

On the same issue, Kerridge, who is the director of Research Services at the University of Kent, noted: *“From my perspective, many African universities suffer from a lack of human infrastructure to support research activity. In many parts of the world research universities benefit from a cadre of professional staff to support and advise academic and research staff in winning and managing grants ... Having a dedicated research support service builds expertise and frees up valuable time for academic staff to undertake research rather than be burdened by administration....RMA is becoming a global profession...In recent years, there have been various initiatives to help grow research support capacity and there are now associations of research managers and administrators in Africa, but research services functions remain far from ubiquitous in African universities. More still needs to be done”* [Underline in the above is mine]

–One of the greatest problems militating against the conduct of research, and the attraction of funding by most institutions, particularly in Nigeria, is the lack of institutional framework for the management of research and innovation as witnessed in most successful research universities in the world. Prior to the establishment of RMO at the University of Ibadan in 2010, research administrative activities consisted of financial management of grants, ethical review of proposals by an ad-hoc committee and unfocused training of researchers in research methodology and data management. Thus, these activities were usually conducted independently of each other and there was no designated RMO charged with the duties of overall coordination. Generally, researchers in most Nigerian academic institutions sourced for funding and conducted their research activities in isolation with minimal administrative support. At a time, the poor management of grant led to the blacklisting of University of Ibadan by a number of granting agencies.

Luckily, the former Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ayodele Falase was, against all expectations, able to attract the MacArthur grant to the university. He had to make special arrangements for the management and administration of the grant. The success achieved led to the University receiving three tranches of close to US\$10.0 million from MacArthur. The experience on grant management and administration garnered by me as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Admin) under Prof Falase stood me in good stead to appreciate the functions of a research management office when I visited University of California, Davis and University of Florida, through the sponsorship by MacArthur Foundation. As at the time of the visit sometime in 2008, the University of California had this profile of sponsored research activities.

▪ Awards Received	5,932
– New Awards Received	2,218
– Continuations or Supplementals	3,714
▪ Grant and Contract Dollars Awarded	\$500,010,976
▪ Gifts for Research	\$18,765,148
▪ Total Sponsored Research Funding	\$518,776,124
▪ Projects Active During the Fiscal Year	6,170
▪ Faculty Receiving Awards	1,889
▪ Number of Sponsors	926

The volume of research awards processed (5,932) involving 926 sponsors and 1,889 members of staff, all attest to the critical function of research management. Worthy of note was the existence of a number of patents and licences from the University's research efforts resulting in another stream of income to the institution of close to \$43 million. All these activities were being facilitated and managed by the University's RMO. The leadership of the RMO was provided by professionals and members of staff of the university. The professionals had associations at the national and international levels providing platforms for training and regular exchange of ideas. The lesson was clear – for an institution to thrive in research, it must create the cultures and structures to stimulate and promote funded research projects.

Back at the University of Ibadan, we conceived the RMO as one to be staffed by trained academics and/or professionals who would not only scan the local and international environment for research funds, but, also, help researchers to package research proposals to attract funding, as well as manage the conduct of funded research to ensure compliance with the stipulations by the funding agencies. Thus, the RMO, as initially conceived, was to be involved in:

- ✚ Advancing the Mission and Vision of the university as they relate to research
- ✚ Assisting in proposal preparation and electronic submissions, i.e., packaging of proposals
- ✚ Facilitating financial accountability in the administration of grants and research-related contracts, i.e., financial management and research compliance oversight
- ✚ Collaborating with the relevant units in identifying, developing, protecting, and marketing the institution's intellectual property and promoting knowledge transfer networks with the private sector
- ✚ Regulatory compliance
- ✚ Facilitating the ethical conduct of research
- ✚ Dissemination of research funding information
- ✚ Facilitating the institution's liaison with external funding agencies

The critical issue was the appointment of the foundation director. Worthy of note are the following identified responsibilities of a Research Administrator:

- Development and publication of robust databases of expertise in the institution together with existing research projects and research grants
- Scanning the local and international environments for research grants
- Active involvement with the elements of research project administration cycle (involving Idea Generation, Finding— —funding, Proposal Development and Submission, Award Negotiation, Grant Management, and Close Out).
- Involvement with the development and operation of the IP policy of the institution.
- Promoting the commercialisation of projects in the Institution's IP portfolio.
- Promoting linkage with NOTAP and its Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Offices (IPTTOs)

We scanned the university environment for somebody with considerable research experience, well exposed to local and international research grant operations coupled with reasonable exposure to some form of administration. Without much ado we picked Dr. Eme T. Owoaje, now a Professor, of the Department of Community Medicine, College of Medicine. She was sent to the University of Florida, United States for training on the operation of RMO for two months prior to taking over the management of the University's RMO. We were not disappointed as she built the UI RMO to an enviable standard over the period of 5 years (2010-2015). I can recall TETFund contacting me in collaboration with Dr. Owoaje to organise consensus building workshops for principal officers and deans in selected Nigerian universities for the development of research administrative infrastructure, based on our experience from the operation of the RMO at the University of Ibadan. It was not until the tail end of last year and early this year that TETFund finally organized a training workshop for all the directors of existing RMOs in our public universities. TETFund is now committed to the development of RMOs in our universities towards increasing their capacity to perform the above assigned functions, most especially, their capacity to attract grants and also help researchers to operate the grants properly. There have been few embarrassing cases of mismanagement of grants awarded under the TETFund National Research Fund.

GOING FORWARD

Going forward into the increasingly challenging environments for applying for and winning research grants, the university may wish to address the following two critical elements of successful RMOs: one, Capacity building; and two, Institutional strengthening.

Capacity Building

The University has been very active in the operation of WARIMA. WARIMA was established in November 2006 as a professional body for research management in the West African sub-region. It operates at institutional and international levels, as well as across the research value chain, from research management to commercialisation of research results. Worthy of note is the WARIMA's continuing professional development (CPD) programmes aimed at improving the competence and performance of Research Managers, Research Administrators, Academic staff working in research management capacity, Institutional heads and Business managers.

The University should continue to play active role in the activities of WARIMA as it has been doing over the years, while serving as the Headquarters of the regional body.

Furthermore, the University, as a well-recognised institution for postgraduate studies, may wish to explore the possibility of promoting the establishment of Masters in Research Management programme, as being operated by the University of Central Florida, USA. Such programme will be geared towards the production of graduates with deep understanding of organizational development, financial management, contract negotiation, proposal development, and legal, ethical and regulatory compliance.

Institutional Strengthening

A cursory examination of research management and administration system at the University of Ibadan shows that the university has three distinct platforms: one, the Research Management Office, with all the functions earlier identified; two, the new office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships) DVC (RISP); and three, the UI-Research Foundation. Of interest is the fact that some of the key functions of the DVC (RISP) and the UI-Research Foundation also relates to research management and administration under the RMO. For example, the statutory functions of the DVC (RISP), among others, are:

- Facilitating and maintaining local and international linkage and exchange programmes;
- Evolving innovative need-driven university-wide academic and research projects;
- Aggressive fund generation by attracting aids, grants, endowments, etc., and through the provision of the relevant services and products to the general public;
- Networking with relevant governmental, non-governmental and private-sector organisations;
- Facilitating and exploiting industrial relations between the university and the industrial sector;

In the case of the UI-Research Foundation, its primary mission is to award and manage research grants funded by the University as a novel initiative to sustain the research base and strengthen the scholastic standards at the University. It is a gown-town affair with members of the Board drawn from: Private Sector; Academic Staff of the University; Federal and State Governments; and International Agencies and Institutions. The main programmes of the Foundation are:

- Collaborative Research Grants and Awards for research leaders at the University of Ibadan
- Award of Research Career Development Grants to nurture talented Early Career Researchers
- Creation of a 'Think Tank' for translating research results to innovations.
- Access to novel competencies by Early Career Researchers.

The UI-Research Foundation in collaboration with the Office of the DVC(RISP) and the RMO can be used as a platform for the much-desired dedicated involvement of our universities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for our nation state. Nigeria did not really achieve the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and our universities hardly made any direct contribution towards their attainment due largely to the apparent disconnect between government and academia.

The SDGs, however, are different. They are well-articulated and are better attuned to participation by our higher education sector. There are also specific targets under each goal and a development-oriented university can easily relate to all of them, and not only to SDG4 on provision of quality education. UI will be providing the needed leadership if it mainstreams the SDGs into its primary functions – teaching, research and community engagement with the Foundation leading.

Suffice it to note that while these three platforms are indeed laudable, there is a dire need to harmonise their functions towards greater effectiveness. As we tinker with institutional model of research management and administration, it is pertinent to note that there is no single international model. Even in the developed world, different approaches have been adopted – for example, in the degree of centralisation in the structures; in the extent to which 'pre-award' and 'post-award' support activities are integrated into a single office; and in the location of research and innovation management within the central reporting structure.

Finally, going forward, I wish Prof Dele Jegede, the staff of UI RMO and the entire university community success in using the RMO as a platform for enhancing our national and global relevance through research, development and innovation.

GOODWILL MESSAGES

FELICITATIONS WITH THE RMO AT 10!



Prof. O. Olapade-Olaopa

The College of Medicine is very pleased to felicitate with the University of Ibadan Research Management Office as it celebrates its 10th Anniversary.

Current trends demand that a high-ranking University (Ivy league) in the 21st century is well versed in cutting edge research and innovations. The Research Management Office (RMO) has placed the University of Ibadan on this path by contributing immensely to the growth of research and excellence at the University, demystifying research and creating a collaborative environment which nurtures young researchers

RMO's quest, over the years, to ensure a collaborative research culture in all units of the University of Ibadan is truly commendable, and this has been indispensable to the continued improvement of our University's worldwide ranking. The College Research Innovation and Management (CRIM) unit has benefited from the RMO's inclusive character, and is pleased to be a part of the RMO's growth and success.

Signed:

E.Oluwabunmi Olapade-Olaopa Esq., FAS
Professor and 11th Provost
College of Medicine, University of Ibadan.



Prof. J.O. Babalola

TANTI AUGURI: RESEARCH MANAGEMENT OFFICE

It is heartwarming to know that it is a decade already since the Research Management Office, University of Ibadan was created. The University Management established the trio of the Research Management Office (RMO), Office of International Programmes (OIP) and Centre for Sustainable Development (CESDEV) about 10 years ago and requested the Postgraduate School (now the Postgraduate College) to support these establishments, since they would also be rendering services to the School. It has been a time of great partnership.

It gives me a great pleasure to congratulate Professor S. A. Jegede, the present Director, former directors, and staff of the Research Management Office on their laudable achievements within these 10 years. In the same vein, I heartily congratulate the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships), Professor Olanike Adeyemo who has been performing an oversight function on the RMO since the creation of her office. The coordination and management of funded researches conducted in the university have steadily and significantly improved over time. The University now has a well-defined research policy, well-trained research managers and a well-established structure for research management. As the pioneer research management outfit in the West Africa sub-region, the RMO has become a highly recognised hub for research management and administration not only in the University, but also in Nigeria and beyond. This anniversary should mark the beginning of better things.

The Postgraduate College (formerly PG School) has jointly organized many trainings and workshops with the RMO. The feedback received from participants at these programmes such as training workshops on Thesis Writing, Ethics in Research, Conduct of Research and Grants Writing have been very encouraging. The RMO has always been involved in the award of research grants by the Postgraduate College to students or staff. These activities justify our annual subvention to the RMO. The Office has been providing information on research opportunities, fellowships and grants to staff and students in the University. The Postgraduate College looks forward to a fruitful continuing partnership with the Research Management Office. On behalf of the management, staff and students of the Postgraduate College, I wish the RMO more conquests.

Signed
Professor J.O. Babalola



Prof. R.A. Oderinde

Congratulatory Message

BY THE MACARTHUR GRANT LIAISON OFFICER

It gives me great joy to celebrate with the Research Management Office (RMO) on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of their establishment in the University of Ibadan. As the MacArthur Grant Liaison Officer, it is rewarding to see the progress and achievements of the RMO, especially because the Office was seeded by the MacArthur Foundation Grants.

The Research Management Office was birthed from the MacArthur Foundation's support through the then academic linkage grant, a subset of the Institutional grant to the University and capacity building grants for Academic Research Management to the University from 2007 to 2010 when it became a full-fledged organ of the University. The Liaison Office has continued to support the Office till date. The Office has come to stay in the University, and has earned her independence as a major hub for research administration in the University of Ibadan and has performed optimally over the years despite dwindling financial resources.

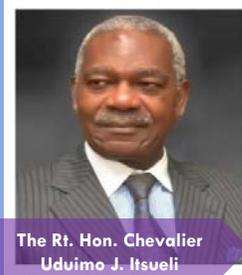
I wish to once again commend the visionary leadership of the University of Ibadan Management team, led by our forward-looking Vice-Chancellors and admirable personnel who provided support to the Directors of RMO since inception. It is my earnest prayer that the Leadership of the incumbent Director of the Research Management Office, Professor A. S. Jegede, will bring to bear additional strides in Research and Development to the praise and betterment of the University of Ibadan.

I commend the many novel initiative of Professor Jegede, for his efforts in providing direction on research management in the University and taking the Office to the next level. I wish to especially congratulate him on the continuous release of the highly educative monthly official newsletter- "UI-Research News" pioneered by his administration.

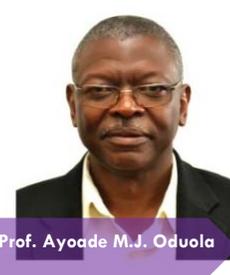
The Liaison Office of the MacArthur Foundation felicitates with the RMO on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. The Liaison Office shall continue to partner with the RMO for the good of the University. Once again Congratulations!

Signed
Professor R. A. Oderinde
MacArthur Grant Liaison Officer

RMO-Ten Years of Achievement, Shaping Research Landscape at the University of Ibadan



The Rt. Hon. Chevalier Uduimo J. Itsuelli



Prof. Ayoade M.J. Oduola

We celebrate the Research Management Office (RMO), University of Ibadan as it marks ten years of achievement creating a landscape and framework to make research of the

leaders at the University of Ibadan relevant to national development. The University of Ibadan Research Foundation commends the efforts of the RMO in delivering on its cardinal functions for the central coordination and management of research conducted at the University of Ibadan.

The commitment to the improvement of access to research opportunities, international ethical standards and competencies of Research Leaders, Early Career Research Fellows, Research Managers and Postgraduate Scholars is commendable. There is no doubt that the RMO, since its creation, has become a valuable platform to the University of Ibadan in her mission as the pioneer institution facilitating knowledge economy for Nigeria through research, high academic standards and generation of innovations. These particular efforts resonate with the vision of the UI-Research Foundation to make research count for socioeconomic development of Nigeria, especially through its Research for National Development (R4ND) initiatives.

The UI-Research Foundation is proud to associate with RMO on this memorable milestone. We congratulate the present and past leaders who have taken RMO through this laudable journey for the University of Ibadan. The Board, the Academic Working Group and the Management Team of the UI-Research Foundation celebrate and look forward to greater productive collaborations with the Research Management Office (RMO) as we embark on a glorious future for the University of Ibadan and Nigeria. Congratulations!!

Signed
University of Ibadan Research Foundation



Prof. Eme T. Owoaje

I am delighted to write this goodwill message on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Research Management Office. It seems like only yesterday that I was summoned from my office in the Department of Community Medicine in the College of Medicine by Professor A. Adesomju at the request of Professor O. Bamiro who was the Vice Chancellor at that time. I wondered what could have warranted the summons and rushed to the Vice Chancellor's Office on the main campus.

I was informed of the intention of the administration to establish a research management office in line with international best practices, and the vision and mission of the University. That was how I was drafted into the team of people who had the privilege to develop the research policy and framework for the establishment of the University of Ibadan Research Management Office under the eagle-eyed supervision of Professor A.O. Adigun who was the Deputy Vice Chancellor then. I was later privileged to be appointed as the first Director of the Research Management Office between 2010 and 2015.

The appointment came with tremendous challenges but by the grace of God we succeeded. From the humble beginnings of having very few staff who had little or no knowledge about research management and administration, we were able to setup the RMO literally from scratch. We created a database of all the academic staff at the University of Ibadan and frequently sent out calls for proposals and supported interested applicants to apply for research funding from national and international funding organizations. We also conducted grantsmanship and research methodology workshops for researchers in the University. The resultant effect was an increased number of grant application submissions to national and international research funding organizations such as the TETFUND, Wellcome Trust, United Kingdom Medical Research Council, National Institutes of Health and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The RMO staff also applied for and were awarded two five-year institutional capacity building grants. These were the UK Aid sponsored Development for Research Utilization in Sub-Saharan Africa (DRUSSA) and the DFID sponsored Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE) Programme in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The subsequent directors have continued to build on the foundation that was established. I must commend Professor Oyeronke Odunola, my immediate successor and the current Director, RMO Professor S.A. Jegede for their contributions towards the sustenance and expansion of the Office. I pray that the RMO will continue to provide the valuable support for researchers at the University of Ibadan thereby ensuring that grantsmanship remains a major part of the academic culture of the University of Ibadan. We look forward to seeing the RMO expand further and its impact being evidenced by increase in the University of Ibadan research grant portfolio.

Signed

Professor Eme T. Owoaje



Prof. Oyeronke A. Odunola

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the entire staff of the University of Ibadan and in a special way our Research Administrators and Communicators, and postgraduate students on the 10th anniversary of the Research Management Office (RMO).

Over the last one decade, the endeavours made by the past and present directors and staff of RMO, alongside the unflinching support from the University Management, have admirably resulted into a highly referenced hub for fostering and rendering research support services. The University's research community, her collaborators, external partners and stakeholders have tapped into RMO competencies

for multidisciplinary Innovative Translational Research Outputs (ITRO) for policy formulation, uptake and transformation of the society. These have been showcased in the University's research reports and validated by accomplishments in several communities that have been engaged. All taken together, the University of Ibadan is more visible and webometrically top-ranked globally than was the case before RMO was established.

RMO through consistent training and hands-on workshops for early-career-researchers and graduate students has also intensified its efforts in building up the next generation of researchers that would approach societal problems from an interdisciplinary translational research perspective. We need to strengthen capacity building, promote synergies across disciplines and faculties, as well as facilitate factual innovations with policy. We must also deepen partnerships with international organisations, government, business and local communities. **Research is not complete until the outputs are successfully translated and utilized.**

I wish to express my appreciation to all our researchers, non-teaching staff in the audit, bursary and registry units, research administrators and communicators, and graduate students. I also thank our partners from international organisations, government, industry and sister institutions that we have worked with over the years. I wish our research office continued success in the years ahead.

Signed

Professor Oyeronke Odunola

HONOURS AND DISTINCTIONS



Professor Isaac Adewole

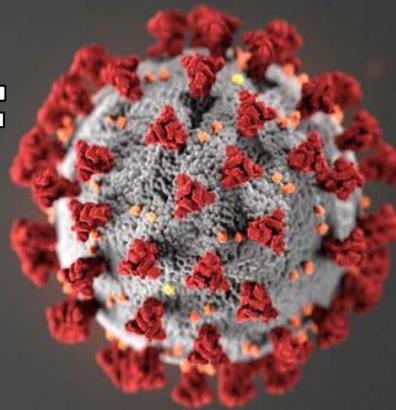
Professor Isaac Adewole, Former Vice Chancellor University of Ibadan and former Minister of Health, Federal Republic of Nigeria has been appointment member, Board of Trustees of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). Congratulations sir on this well-deserved appointment.



Professor Olanike K. Adeyemo

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships), University of Ibadan, Professor Olanike K. Adeyemo, has added another feather to her cap as she has won the Scientist of the Year 2020 Award. The award, which is from the International Achievements Research Centre, Chicago, Illinois, USA, is in the Natural Sciences/Earth and related Environmental Sciences competition category.

PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF COVID-19



The novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is a new strain of the virus that has not been previously identified in humans. SARS-CoV-2 is the virus that causes coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The Federal Ministry of Health, through the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), has activated a national Emergency Operations Centre at the highest level and is leading the national response. A National Rapid Response Team has been deployed to support affected State Governments with response activities.

As at 1st of May 2020 there were 18 laboratories in NCDC's molecular laboratory network with the capacity to test for COVID-19 in Nigeria, more are still being added. These laboratories were sufficiently equipped with reagents and supplies for testing.

On the 27th of April, President Muhammadu Buhari announced that there would be a phased and gradual easing of the lockdown in these locations. He added that, however, the following additional preventive measures would be enforced:

- Mandatory use of non-medical face mask/covering for all persons while in public spaces. Use of medical latex hand gloves are prohibited
- Mandatory provision of handwashing facilities/sanitizers and extensive temperature checks in all public spaces. Anyone with temperature above 38 degrees Celsius will not be allowed into public spaces and should be told to return home
- Mandatory temperature checks in public spaces
- Prohibition of interstate travel except for essential travels and services
- Prohibition of gatherings of more than twenty (20) persons outside of a workplace
- Prohibition of gatherings of more than twenty (20) persons at a funeral; all infection prevention and control measures and physical distancing of 2 metres must be adhered to
- Controlled access to markets and locations of economic activities
- Physical distancing of 2 metres between people in workplaces and other public spaces

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Members of the University Community should undertake simple measures to prevent the spread of the virus, by following these measures:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap under running water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based sanitiser if water is not available
- Cover your mouth and nose properly with a tissue paper when sneezing and/or coughing. Dispose of the tissue properly immediately after use. You may also cough into your elbow if a tissue is not available
- Maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing repeatedly
- Maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance with other people when in public places
- Wear a non-medical face mask/covering when leaving the house
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Ensure routine cleaning of high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles, telephones, light switches etc.
- Consciously distance yourself at least two (2) meters to the next person. Stay 6 feet away, especially if the person around is coughing or sneezing.
- Do not shake hands or hug any person.
- Unnecessary visitors should not be allowed
- An ill person should be asked to stay away from the office
- Offices can practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example tables, desk, light switch, sinks, electronics, door handles, toilets, etc.
- If you have recently returned from a place or area within the last 14 days with widespread of transmission and have a fever, cough, or breathing difficulty, stay at home and call your state hotline or the NCDC on 080097000010.
- Self-isolate if you returned from any place or area within the last 14 days with widespread transmission of COVID-19

ABOUT CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

COVID-19 appears to cause mild to severe respiratory symptoms like fever, cough and difficulty breathing. From current evidence, about 80 persons out of 100 persons with the disease will recover. In about 10- 15% of cases, it will cause severe illness. It appears that death is not a common outcome and occurs mostly in patients with underlying health issues.

There is no specific treatment yet for COVID-19. However, many of the symptoms can be treated. Treatment is based on the patient's clinical condition, but supportive care for infected persons can be highly effective.

The above are precautionary measures to guide and protect us as individuals and entire system at large. Therefore, we are encouraged to kindly observe the prevention measures conscientiously.

STAY SAFE: USE HERBS TO COMBAT COVID-19 INFECTION



Dr. Idayat T, Gbadamosi

Dr. Idayat T, Gbadamosi an Associate Professor and a botanist working on various herbal remedies based on findings from her research argues in favour of the benefits of medicinal plants as immune boosters and anti-infectives in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 infection.

According to her, traditionally, prevention of infectious diseases relies on the use of botanical detoxifiers, immune boosting remedies, natural antioxidants, plant haematinics and spices. Some herbal immune boosters are guava (*Psidium guajava*) leaf, mango (*Mangifera indica*) stem bark and leaf, lemon grass (*Cymbopogon citratus*) leaf, ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) rhizome, garlic (*Allium sativum*) bulb and cinnamon (*Cinnamomum zeylanicum*) stem bark. Medicinal plants with antiviral activity are *Cassia fistula* (purging cassia), *Phyllanthus amarus* (stonebreaker), *Lagenaria breviflorus* (wild colocynth), *Citrullus colocynthis* (bitter apple) and *Syzygium aromatic* (clove).

She called on the government to fund research in ethnobotany with a view to exploring the therapeutic uses and economic importance of medicinal plants. She clearly stated that her article is targeted towards boosting the immune system to help fight the coronavirus and not by any means a cure for COVID-19 infection.

- These research sub-teams have developed short-term research proposals towards containment of COVID-19. These proposals are being processed for selection. Currently, the sub-teams are also sourcing for various external grants for long-term COVID-19 proposals that have been developed.
- The committee with the support of the University Management executed the production and distribution of locally made face masks (fitted with filters) for the Low-income communities within the University and environs. Mobile applications were developed for follow-up tracking which makes subsequent communication and research possible.
- The case tracking and management sub-team is represented in the Oyo State Government COVID-19 task force to ensure we have correct and up to date data on COVID-19 in Oyo State.
- The Environmental sanitation, biosafety and biosecurity team members who are technical experts from the Departments of Environmental Health and Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Ibadan are members of the Oyo State COVID-19 containment team, ably led by Prof. Olanike O. Adeyemo, the Deputy Vice Chancellor-RISP, University of Ibadan. This team has commenced providing technical, support for the decontamination of identified high risk areas which started with the Oyo State secretariat, Oyo Government house and annexes. University of Ibadan, students served as volunteers for this exercise. The team very recently had started decontaminating the University Ibadan, starting with the Administrative block, Trenchard Hall, Senate and Council Chambers and offices in preparation for resumption.
- The Information, Education and Communication subcommittee has been publicising the activities of the University of Ibadan with reference to COVID-19 in the form of news stories. This sub-team has published four such stories dealing with production of hand sanitisers, closure of two of four gates of the University, the need to go beyond social to physical distancing, and the designation of the UI virology laboratory as test center for Covid-19. Many online news outlets have picked these stories and published them on their sites. The plans to produce jingles, interviews etc. are on hold pending budget approval
- The Data management and analysis committee collects data for weekly surveillance, mapping, modelling, situational assessment and future projections on COVID-19.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE



Prof. Victoria O. Adetunji

The COVID-19 Emergency Response Research Committee was convened by the University Management earlier in March 2020 in response to the global novel SARS-COV-2 infection, with Professor Victoria O. Adetunji of the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine as the Coordinator. The Committee's terms of reference were to provide action towards mitigation and research on COVID-19. The Committee has the following sub-teams:

- Information, communication and education
- Environmental sanitation, biosafety and biosecurity
- Data management and analysis (modelling)
- Behavioural studies and community engagement
- Case tracking and management
- Economic implication of covid-19
- Research;
 - Surveillance
 - Laboratory/Diagnosis
 - Applied studies
 - Ecology of Corona virus

NBL DONATES EQUIPMENTS TO THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



The Managing Director/CEO, Nigerian Breweries PLC, Jordi Borrut Bel presented various medical training equipment valued at N42 million donated by the Nigerian Breweries-Felix Ohiwerei Education Trust Fund to the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan and received by the Provost, Prof. E. Oluwabunmi Olapade-Olaopa. The equipment donated are: a Lung Sound and Auscultation Trainer, a Blood Pressure Measurement Trainer, a Lumbar Puncture & Epidural Simulator, a Paediatric IV Hand Simulator, a Paediatric Lumbar Puncture Simulator II, a Rectal Examination Trainer MK, Keele & Staff Episiotomy Repair Trainer, a Chest Drain & Needle Decompression Trainer, Airway Suction Trainer, Abdominal Ultrasound Examination Trainer, Ultrasound Vascular Access Trainer and a SimMom Birth Simulator.

GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES

Apply to switch your existing UKRI GCRF grant to Covid-19 priority areas

UKRI has put in place the following process to allow researchers to repurpose existing UKRI GCRF grants to address COVID-19 research priorities. Unfortunately, this is process is not available for either:

- Companies and organisations being funded by Innovate UK
- Applicants holding a Newton Fund grant.

[Who can apply](#)

[How to apply](#)

[How we will assess your application](#)

[Contact](#)

International COVID-19 call opens to support world's most vulnerable people

07/05/2020

UK Research and Innovation is inviting funding proposals through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and the Newton Fund which will directly address the negative impacts of COVID-19 across developing countries where communities are already vulnerable due to long-term conflict, food and water shortages and crowded living conditions.

This new call, which builds on the multidisciplinary partnerships formed through the two global funds to address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, will consider proposals of up to 18 months for new funding as well as requests to repurpose existing UKRI award funding on active GCRF grants.

Professor Andrew Thompson, UKRI's International Champion, said: "There is an urgent need to understand the specific challenges faced by some of the world's poorest people in the face of this global health crisis.

"The agile nature of the Global Challenges Research Fund in particular means that we are well placed to harness the skills of the international development research community quickly to help tackle this pandemic.

"This call will bring together researchers, policy makers and experts with local knowledge to understand and develop solutions to mitigate the short and long-term health, social and economic consequences of COVID-19, helping to make our most vulnerable communities more resilient."

[View the call page here.](#)

About GCRF

GCRF is a £1.5 billion fund supporting cutting-edge research and innovation that addresses the global issues faced by developing countries, and forms part of the UK Government's ODA commitment.

It harnesses the strengths of the UK's world-leading researchers enabling them to collaborate with experts in developing countries through equitable partnerships. GCRF focuses on funding challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research; strengthening capability for research, innovation and knowledge exchange; and providing an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research or on-the-ground need. The fund is managed by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and delivered through nine partners.

About the Newton Fund

The Newton Fund builds research and innovation partnerships with 17 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to support economic development and social welfare, tackle global challenges and develop talent and careers. It has a total UK Government investment of £735 million up until 2021. The fund is managed by BEIS and delivered by UK and international partners.

UKRI GCRF/Newton Fund Agile Response call to address COVID-19

Proposals are invited for short-term projects addressing and mitigating the health, social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak in Low and Middle Income Countries¹.

This call is funded through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and the Newton Fund. These Funds address global challenges through disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and strengthen capability for research and innovation within both the UK and developing countries, providing an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need. These Funds form part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment.

Researchers holding existing UKRI GCRF grants should in the first instance consider whether they could repurpose that funding to address the objectives of this call. You can [apply to switch your existing funding here](#). Repurposing your existing grant is the quickest way to start the research.

Apply to switch your existing UKRI GCRF grant to Covid-19 priority areas

- **Project length:** up to 18 months
- **Eligibility:** UK applicants must be eligible to receive Research Council funding. **Additional eligibility rules** apply for international applicants, please see below
- **Closing date:** none – apply at any time
- **Funding:** 80% of the full economic cost (FEC) for Research Council funding. **Additional funding rules** apply for international applicants, please see below
- **The primary benefit** of proposals should be to any Low and Middle income Countries (LMICs) likely to be negatively impacted by COVID-19.
- **Award range:** there is no specific budget for this call. We are interested in funding research of any scale that can demonstrate it will deliver impact during the lifetime of the project.

COVID-19 is fundamentally a global crisis. The pandemic presents an unprecedented challenge, threatening the lives and livelihoods of millions of people around the world. While the epicentre of the pandemic is currently focused around Europe and the US, a growing number of cases are reported in Africa, the Middle East, and Central, South America and Asia with potentially serious social, economic and political consequences for these regions. Some of the poorest societies in the world will be the least prepared and most vulnerable to the effects of the virus. Other Low and Middle Income Countries may however have experiences, for example from TB / HIV / Ebola, of responding to epidemics from which they and the rest of the world can learn.

UKRI will support excellent proposals which meet at least one of the following:

- New research or innovation with a clear pathway to impact on policy or practice that has the potential (within the period of the award) to deliver a significant contribution to the understanding of, response to, and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in a developing country context.
- Supports the manufacture and/or wide scale adoption of an intervention with significant potential for impact in developing countries.
- Gathers critical data and resources quickly for future research use.

Applications for funding that do not, as their primary objective, benefit the welfare of low or middle income countries should apply instead to the [UKRI open call for funding to address the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak](#).

See our regularly updated list of [research and innovation projects and other awards supported by UKRI](#)

¹All Countries identified on the [OECD DAC list of ODA recipients](#). This includes Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories.

[Who can apply](#)

[What we're looking for](#)

[ODA compliance](#)

[Gender Equality](#)

[How to apply](#)

Grant Opportunities for improving Educational Outcomes in Disadvantaged Communities

[Education](#) has always been one of the most powerful tools in the overall development of an individual. Non-governmental [Organizations \(NGOs\)](#) through their campaigns and programs are spearheading the movement of quality education to the most remote and marginalized areas. They have been working at the sheer grass root levels to extend education to underprivileged [children](#). They are also connecting with

the masses and spreading the importance of good education in their life.

Therefore, keeping this in mind we have listed some of the vital opportunities for the NGOs working in the field of education. Check the list below:

The Futures Project announces Call for Innovators for the Future
As the world lives through a crisis unprecedented in recent history, IFP launch their first Global Open Call to Action for Innovators for the Future. They solicit your help to turn this severe global challenge into an opportunity – an opportunity to address the urgencies of the moment and the problems of their futures....[\[more\]](#)

Spencer Foundation's Research Grants on Education: COVID-19 Related Special Grant Cycle
The COVID-19 Related Research Grants support education research projects that will contribute to understanding the rapid shifts in education in this time of crisis and change....[\[more\]](#)

WLF Ambassador Program inviting Individuals from all over the World
The World Literacy Foundation (WLF) Ambassador Program aims to bring together individuals from all over the world to be a local voice and fundraiser for literacy in their schools, universities, communities or social groups....[\[more\]](#)

Spencer Foundation accepting Applications for Large Research Grants on Education Program
The Spencer Foundation is inviting applications for Large Research Grants to support education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived....[\[more\]](#)

Spencer Foundation's Small Research Grants Program on Education
The Spencer Foundation is seeking applications for Small Research Grants Program to support education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived, with budgets up to \$50,000 for projects ranging from one to five years....[\[more\]](#)

Call for Applications for the 2020 UNESCO International Literacy Prizes
UNESCO has announced the call for applications for the 2020 UNESCO International Literacy Prizes. This year UNESCO will reward five individuals or organizations around the world for their outstanding projects that promote literacy within the theme 'Teaching and learning literacy: the role of educators and changing pedagogies'....[\[more\]](#)

IMPACT EdTech European Incubator-Accelerator Programme
Applications are now open for the IMPACT EdTech European Incubator-Accelerator programme that helps EdTech start-ups/SMEs turn ideas into market-ready products....[\[more\]](#)

Applications Open for Orange Knowledge Programme – Round 2
The Orange Knowledge Programme aims to advance the development of the capacity, knowledge and quality of both individuals as well as organisations in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and [Training](#) and Higher Education and in other fields related to priority themes in the OKP partner countries....[\[more\]](#)

Applications Open for Canada Fund for Local Initiatives – ASEAN
The Mission of Canada to ASEAN is pleased to launch its annual call for proposals for the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)...[\[more\]](#)

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

The following deadlines are for upcoming competitions, so they may differ from those listed in currently posted funding opportunity descriptions. Before applying for SSHRC funding, [consult the specific funding opportunity description](#) to confirm the deadline, as well as all application criteria and regulations, policies and information related to the specific competition.

Note: If a deadline falls on a weekend or a Canadian public holiday, the online application system will remain open until 8 p.m. (eastern) on the next business day.

 [Subscribe to Upcoming Deadlines](#)

By date | [By funding opportunity](#)

Upcoming Deadline	Funding Opportunity
June 2020	
June 10, 2020	CGS Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements
June 15, 2020	Partnership Engage Grants
July 2020	
July 15, 2020 (Letter of intent to apply)	New Frontiers in Research Fund—2020 Transformation Competition
August 2020	
August 1, 2020	Connection Grants
August 27, 2020	Healthy Cities Research Training Platform
September 2020	
September 15, 2020	Partnership Engage Grants
September 16, 2020	SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships
October 2020	
October 1, 2020	Insight Grants
October 10, 2020	CGS Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements
October 17, 2020	SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships (direct applications)
October 29, 2020	Partnership Grants - Stage 2
November 2020	
November 1, 2020	Connection Grants
November 15, 2020	Partnership Development Grants
November 18, 2020 (Full application)	New Frontiers in Research Fund—2020 Transformation Competition
November 21, 2020	SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships (institution applications)
December 2020	
December 1, 2020	Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's Program
December 15, 2020	Partnership Engage Grants
February 2021	
February 1, 2021	Connection Grants
February 2, 2021	Insight Development Grants
February 15, 2021	Partnership Grants - Stage 1
March 2021	
March 15, 2021	Partnership Engage Grants
May 2021	
May 1, 2021	Connection Grants
August 2021	
August 1, 2021	Connection Grants

OUR MOTTO

Advancing translational research output and uptake to meet societal needs

OUR VISION

To support researchers with information on funding opportunities, encourage collaboration and provide adequate training/services for the acquisition of knowledge and skills in grantsmanship that will enable carrying out of cutting-edge research

OUR MISSION

To be the flagship of innovative research administration and management in Sub-Saharan Africa, a catalyst for doing and up taking cutting edge research in the society

WHAT WE DO?

Pre-grant application services

- Funding opportunities: disseminate research funding opportunities
- Confirm eligibility of researchers according to sponsor guidelines
- Liaise with funding agencies on behalf of the university
- Interpret sponsor guidelines & regulations
- Register & assist with agency submission websites

Proposal Writing

- Review Request for Applications (RFAs) and Request for Proposals (RFPs)
- Proposal development
- Ensure compliance with submission guidelines
- Institutional support documentation for grants application
- Edit and format grants applications for readability
- Review and sign research proposals on behalf of the University or as a delegate of the University

Budgeting

- Budget templates
- Cost sharing
- Routing and approval

Training

- Provide training opportunities relating to grantsmanship for early career researchers.

Award Services Communication

- Identify and communicate proactively and effectively award parameters and sponsor terms and conditions to researchers and other administrative staff.
- Network with researchers to share and obtain information for effective scientific communication.

Project management

- Provide assistance to researchers and staff on post-award administrative processes
- Liaise with sponsors to ensure compliance with guidelines and to resolve conflicts and concerns (where applicable)
- Initiate and manage partnership agreements, sub-awards and sub-contracts with external collaborators

Fiscal Stewardship

- Provide support to researchers to facilitate the management of research funds and ensure financial management and control on behalf of external Sponsors.
- Ensure the preparation and submission of financial reports to sponsors according to set deadlines
- Coordinate and respond to audits and monitoring visits requested by sponsors in collaboration with other units such as bursary, procurement services and the researcher.

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