



Global Health
Bioethics Network
**CELEBRATING
10 YEARS**





OUR MEMBERS SAY THE GHBN HAS HELPED US TO:

- Develop new tools for addressing ethical issues we've been struggling with for some time.
- Be in a position (and have the confidence) to take a leadership role in international discussions about ethics and community engagement.
- Build and be part of a larger network of people working on the practical ethical issues in research.
- Expand our ethics expertise and capacity so that we are more able to identify and pay attention to the ethical aspects of research.
- Find new ways to discuss ethics and ethical issues in our regions (beyond the sites of the AAPs) and run events at the regional level.
- Share ideas about what counts as good practice.
- And, perhaps most importantly, sow the seeds of sustainability. When you read the reports of our partners, you'll see that the GHBN has changed internal ethics capacity in all our sites so radically that things can never go back to being the same.

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INTRODUCTION



As we pause to celebrate 10 years of the Global Health Bioethics Network, it is important to remember why we came together in the first place.

The Network, fondly known to us all as ‘the GHBN’, is a partnership between six institutions from very different parts of the world: the Wellcome Africa and Asia Research Programmes in Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Thailand, and Vietnam, and the Ethox Centre at the University of Oxford in the UK. In reality, the Network is much broader, and more complex and inclusive than this. Each of the partners in GHBN is in fact itself the hub of an intricate set of collaborations and connections and GHBN has been enriched and illuminated by these wider links. A nice illustration of this is provided by the list of home countries of our summer annual school attendees: Laos, Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Cameroon, Bangladesh, South Africa, Malawi, Ghana, Malaysia, Finland, Myanmar, United Kingdom, New Zealand, and the United States.

The GHBN has had three main aims. The first of these has been to raise awareness among scientists at the Wellcome Africa and Asia Programmes of the importance of the ethical aspects of collaborative global health research, and to help them to identify and address ethical questions presented by their work. The second and closely linked aim has been to work with the individual partners and across the Network to build, train, and support in-house ethics and engagement research groups to enable them to address the ethical dimensions of their work locally in a sustainable and internationally collaborative way. Our third aim has been to undertake locally relevant research

of international importance in global health bioethics and community engagement. As can be seen across the pages of this report, the GHBN has made impressive progress in relation to all three of these aims.

We chose to focus on collaborative global health research in part because it provided the opportunity to learn from experience across different settings through the sharing of good practice but also, and perhaps primarily, because we believed there was a pressing need for global health bioethics to pay attention to these emerging forms of research. At the time of our initial application for funding, it was becoming apparent that for a range of technological and scientific reasons global health research was increasingly going to involve very large numbers of participants and collaborations between research groups in many countries across high, middle and low-income settings. It was also apparent that these forms of collaborative global health research were leading to the parallel emergence of complex ethical issues arising out of the interplay between globalised research and the ways in which it was manifested locally. In this changing context, we took the view that a bioethics capable of making sense of these emerging and interdependent phenomena would itself need to be collaborative and multi-sited in order to be adequate to the task of grasping the implications of both global collaboration and the manifestation of the global in the local.

We are very grateful to the Wellcome Trust funding committee and the reviewers of our proposal for seeing the value in these ideas and the potential of the collaboration and for being willing to take on the risks involved in providing funding for an initiative that, in reality, had as much chance at the outset of failing as succeeding¹. I am personally also eternally grateful to the Directors of what were at the time called the Wellcome Major Overseas Programmes for their support and enthusiasm for the initial idea and for the sustained support they and their successors have provided for GHBN throughout its first 10 years.

Ultimately of course, the success and the vitality of the GHBN is down to the wonderful people who have participated in its projects and other activities on a daily basis: those who were

¹ The core funding for GHBN has been through a Wellcome Strategic Award (096527).

there at the start and those who have joined along the way. The energy, enthusiasm, curiosity, openness, willingness to share, to learn, to listen, and to support each other that everyone has brought to the project has been inspiring and life-affirming. It has gone well beyond what any of us could have reasonably expected or foreseen when we started out. Over the pages of this short report you will read their stories and hear about the impact they have had.

The past ten years haven't always been easy. We've struggled with issues such as lack of time, juggling multiple tasks, a lack of staffing, and the fact that we cannot always or often give easy answers. We've often had to work hard to overcome a common view that ethics is about stopping or controlling science rather than facilitating ethical science. We have always wanted to help researchers see that discussing and thinking carefully about the ethical aspects of their work can help them achieve their goals. Another challenge we've dealt with is how to support the development of ethics expertise at a distance? Can we forge and maintain effective research relationships across the large distances between partners? Can we build a resilient ethics community? The GHBN has shown that all of these things are possible. Of course, the biggest challenge of all to this – and clearest illustration of its value – has been the work that GHBN has successfully undertaken, and the mutual support and encouragement it has provided, over the COVID-19 pandemic. Over this period GHBN has shown itself to be an incredibly resilient and powerful bioethics resource².

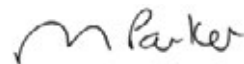
There are some people it is particularly important to mention by name. I would like to begin by thanking the members of the GHBN project management group: Phaik Yeong Cheah, Mary Chambers, Evelyn Kestelyn, Janet Seeley, Dorcas Kamuya, Jennifer van Nuil, Nothando Ngwenya, Nicola Desmond, Deborah Nyirenda, Busi Nkosi, Primus Che Chi, Sassy Molyneux, Susan Bull, and Vicki Marsh. The GHBN has been very much a team effort from the beginning. It has been hard work for everyone, but it has also been such fun working together on this! At the very heart of all of this has been Dina Rippon. Dina's contribution to the success of GHBN – as Network Coordinator,

and so much more – to the unfolding of the many personal and professional stories you'll read about in the pages of this report has been immense. No words can thank her enough.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Bobbie Farsides of Brighton and Sussex Medical School. In the fourth year of its life, Bobbie very kindly agreed to conduct an external evaluation of GHBN as a critical friend and to provide us with advice about its future development. Bobbie's input and the wise advice she gave us at that time came at a key moment in the Network's development and has been transformative of the ways in which we worked together. We are all delighted that Bobbie has since become a much-loved and highly-respected core member of the GHBN team.

Finally, we are all deeply grateful to Dan O'Connor and the Humanities and Social Sciences team at the Wellcome Trust for support for GHBN and wise advice over the years. We very much feel that we have worked on this together and developed an approach that has the potential to provide a model (albeit a work in progress) for more equitable international collaboration in bioethics. We'd particularly like to thank our dear former colleague, Paul Woodgate, who, from our earliest days was a staunch supporter of the GHBN and our key contact at the Wellcome Trust. Paul encouraged us, attended every Summer School that he could, and always made time to meet with our members to advise on grant funding and share his insights. He was a warm, kind-hearted and devoted friend of the GHBN, and it's hard to believe he's not with us to celebrate our tenth anniversary. Paul, in case you're listening – thank you for everything!

We very much hope that you will enjoy reading this report and looking at the images that capture so well the spirit of GHBN. Here's to the next 10 years!



On behalf of the GHBN

²Ngwenya N, Ilo Van Nuil J, Nyirenda D et al. A network of empirical ethics teams embedded in research programmes across multiple sites: opportunities and challenges in contributing to COVID-19 research and responses [version 1; peer review: 1 approved with reservations]. Wellcome Open Res 2022, 7:48 (<https://doi.org/10.12688/wellcomeopenres.17548.1>)



2012

- 1st Summer School, Oxford, UK
- 5 Bursaries awarded
- 5,000 GBP in extra funding leveraged for one of our Bursary Fellows
- 17 publications (in first 9 months)



2013

- 2nd Summer School, Bangkok, Thailand
- 4 Bursaries awarded
- Ethics-training workshops in Vietnam, Malawi, Laos, Cambodia, UK
- GHBN hosts: Consent & CE in diverse research contexts – workshop in Kenya
- Public health & data-sharing project meeting arranged by GHBN
- Mapping the range of Community Engagement across the AAPs – Dorcas Kamuya
- Developing ethical data-sharing processes: views of stakeholders in LMICs (Cross-site project) – led by Susan Bull
- 25 publications



2014

- 3rd Summer School, Blantyre, Malawi
- 5 Bursaries awarded
- Deborah Nyirenda awarded a WT PhD studentship
- Ethics training workshops in Cambodia, Malawi, Vietnam, Thailand
- Phaik Yeong Cheah awarded a grant by WT to create a CE & Ethics Coordinator post at MORU
- Evaluation of GHBN carried out by Bobbie Farsides
- 36 publications





2015

- GHBN granted 1 yr extension
- 4th Summer School, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 3 Bursaries awarded
- Ethics training workshops at all sites
- GHBN contributes to creation of MSc in International Health & Tropical Medicine at Univ of Oxford
- Francis Kombe's Bursary project on fieldworkers leads to development of training programme for fieldworkers at KWTRP & to a 2nd international fieldworker's workshop at MRC in Gambia
- WT enhancement award for cross-site project: Understanding the enduring ethical complexity of obtaining valid consent to research in low-income settings – led by Susan Bull, 98,000 GBP
- GHBN leads to formation of a new Dept at MORU: Dept of Bioethics & Engagement, with Phaik Yeong Cheah as Head
- 15 other Network members (around the world) receive promotions at work
- Publications from the cross-site project on data-sharing are published in a special issue in the J of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics. Within 6 weeks of publication, almost 4,000 copies are downloaded.
- 32 publications

2016

- GHBN renewed for 5 more yrs
- 5th Summer School, Kilifi, Kenya
- 7 Bursaries awarded (plus 4 additional 'consent project fellowships' awarded)
- GHBN-led ethics training workshops in Vietnam, Ghana,
- Ethox receives Wellcome Centre grant – 4m GBP
- REACH project is launched (cross-site project) – 1.3 million GBP, WT Collaborator Award, led by Maureen Kelley
- Upwards of 1m GBP to other Network members in funding awards for projects & PhD studentships
- 28 publications





2017

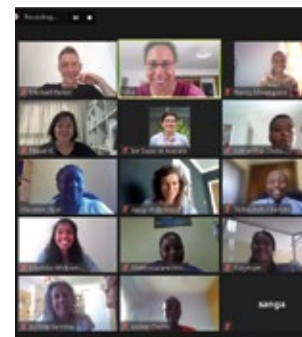
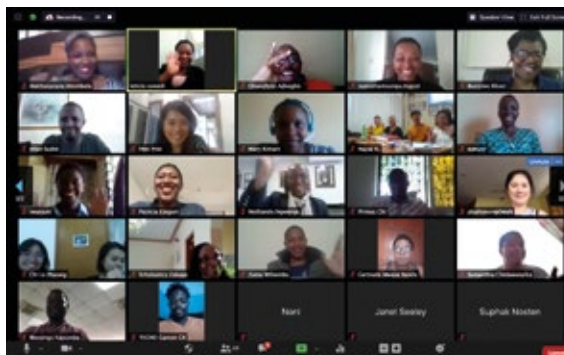
- 6th Summer School, Durban, S. Africa
- 7 Bursaries awarded
- Ethics training sessions in UK, Malawi, Thailand, Myanmar,
- Asia Regional Meeting on bioethics & engagement in health research, Bangkok, Thailand
- Evaluation of Engagement meeting in Naivasha, Kenya
- Realist review of CE project launched (cross-site) 260,000 GBP
- 40 publications



2018

- 7th Summer School, Oxford, UK
- Wellcome Centre for Ethics & Humanities is launched
- 5 GHBN Senior Fellowships awarded
- Africa Regional Meeting, Blantyre, Malawi
- 6 Bursaries awarded
- 1 PhD studentship awarded
- Ethics training sessions in all partner sites
- Dorcas Kamuya (the only participant from Africa), selected to attend Wellcome Trust Research Leadership Development Programme for leaders in Humanities and Social Science, London, UK
- Community engagement in biobanks & genomics collaborative centre grant launched, based in Ghana, NIH 1.8m USD award
- Pump-priming grant to Hic-Vac to develop ethical framework for the conduct of Controlled Human Infection Models in LMICs. (Cross-site) 88,000 GBP
- REACH project supplemented by WT PE award, 150,000 GBP
- 20 publications





2019

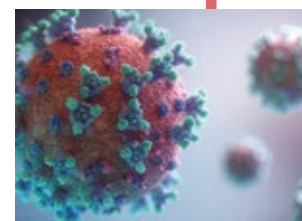
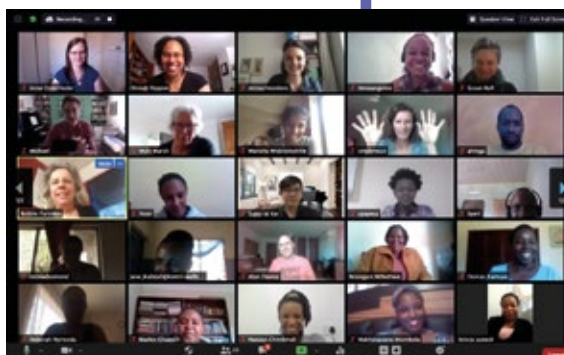
- 8th Summer School, Vientiane, Laos
- 2 PhD studentships awarded
- 3 Bursaries awarded
- Sassy Molyneux promoted to Full Professor at Oxford University
- 2nd Asia Regional Meeting on bioethics & engagement in health research, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Phaik Yeong Cheah & VDAM win the University of Oxford Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards and the Vice-Chancellor's Choice Award for Public Engagement with Research 2019
- KWTRP School Engagement Programme wins project prize at the University of Oxford Vice Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards
- 37 publications

2020

- COVID-19 has enormous impact on all our work & lives
- 9th Summer School, Zoom (Virtual)
- WEH awarded 2 yrs of extra funding
- 4 bursaries awarded (two on an urgent basis to focus on COVID-related work)
- Primus Che Chi, former Senior Fellow, awarded EDCTP Career Development Fellowship
- Mike Parker, chairs the Nuffield Council report: Research in Global Health Emergencies
- Oxford-Berman Institute Collaborative Disease Platform Launched – Mike Parker & Jeff Khan
- CONNECT – a platform to support frontline research staff launched (involves multiple GHBN partners)
- Epidemics Ethics project launched – 567,000 GBP
- Many GHBN members invited to provide high-level policy advice & to sit on ethics committees, including WHO, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 41 publications

2021

- 10th Summer School (virtual, again)
- (Global Infectious Disease Ethics Collaborative) GLIDE launched
- 8 bursaries awarded (including 6 for special ethics projects at AHRI)
- Patricia Kingori and Phaik Yeong Cheah promoted to Full Professors at University of Oxford.
- 73 publications



FUSION MEDICAL ANIMATION

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? OUR FIRST COHORT OF PHD STUDENTS



BINH NGUYEN CAM

1 What are you doing now?

I'm a Clinical Research Manager and Representative of Woolcock's office in Ho Chi Minh City.

2 What's a key highlight of your career?

Working with the Ethox team and receiving my PhD. I had a unique chance to learn a lot about ethics from lovely and kind colleagues and supervisors in the UK and Vietnam. A second moment was coming back to Vietnam after completing my PhD. OUCRU was like a second home for me, where I met wonderful colleagues and learned about ethics in my daily work. Finally, the COVID outbreak in Vietnam forced me to reflect and widen my experiences in conducting clinical research during rapidly evolving pandemics which was the focus of my PhD.

3 Has being part of the GHBN helped you in your career?

Being part of the GHBN helped me a lot when I did my PhD, but it's also useful to my current work and even to our staff in clinical research management. We learn from a wide range of training resources provided by the GHBN group via its website, and I feel that I can stay up-to-date with the knowledge and experiences shared by members of the Network.

4 Anything else you'd like to share?

There's a lack of proper training in medical ethics and research ethics in Vietnam. When I started my PhD in ethics, I wanted to help build the foundation of ethics discipline in Vietnam by providing training and instruction to the next generation and collaborating with medical universities in Vietnam. I hope the GHBN can support Vietnamese people to build a strong foundation for the discipline of ethics, and that I can be a part of these endeavours.

"Being part of the GHBN helped me a lot when I did my PhD, but it's also useful to my current work and even to our staff in clinical research management."



JANTINA DE VRIES

1 What are you doing now?

I run my own research group in ethics at the University of Cape Town. Initially, the work was focused very much on thinking about African genomics and bio-banking but our focus is now more

broadly on the ethics of new and emerging health technologies with a specific focus on African philosophy and issues of (epistemic) justice and equity.

2 What's a key highlight of your career?

Sometimes it's the little things that matter. I remember Michael Parker sending a celebratory tweet to the GHBN when I was made associate professor and that made me feel so empowered. Graduating students is a recurring highlight – I'm so proud when they receive their degrees. Together, we're making a difference and that knowledge sustains me even when the going is tough.

3 Has being part of the GHBN helped you in your career?

I love the values that the GHBN is built on – the spirit of collaboration, togetherness and mutual support is very inspiring and something I have sought to introduce to my own research group as well. The connections and network have helped too – from being able to identify potential peer reviewers for papers, to identifying future members of staff and collaborators.

"I love the values that the GHBN is built on – the spirit of collaboration, togetherness and mutual support is very inspiring and something I have sought to introduce to my own research group as well."

4 Anything else you'd like to share?

The developments in science are fascinating, not just in what they reveal about life but also in our increasing ability to manipulate our biology. And yet substantive African reflections are largely missing in the ethics discourses around technological innovations in fields such as genetics, AI, nano- and mechano-biology and others. I encourage young African ethics scholars to engage with these innovations to ensure they're developed in ways that are inclusive and just.



JOHN GANLE

1 What are you doing now?

I'm a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, School of Public Health, University of Ghana.

2 What's a key highlight of your career?

My transition from being a mentee to a mentor – being in a position to provide mentorship to many Master's and PhD students, and see them succeed in their studies/research

has been particularly fulfilling. Second, I have built a relatively good research portfolio, which has allowed me to set my own research agenda and to source research funding. Third, I have so far succeeded

“Apart from the many networking opportunities that I have benefitted from, the conversations and knowledge exchanges that occur within the GHBN have helped shape my own research agenda tremendously.”

in maintaining a balance between family life and my academic life – we have had 2 children during this period. They often ask me what kind of research I do, and why I do it. This has forced me to reflect on the practical and ethical implications of my research, which has made me a better researcher.

3 Has being part of the GHBN helped you in your career?

Apart from the many networking opportunities that I have benefitted from, the conversations and knowledge exchanges that occur within the GHBN have helped shape my own research agenda tremendously. Inequalities in several spheres – knowledge, power, and resources – are at the heart of many global health bioethical challenges including research misconduct, and inequitable healthcare access. My research around understanding and developing solutions to address the sexual and reproductive healthcare needs of vulnerable populations to promote universal healthcare, is therefore often grounded in the moral, ethical, scientific and practical goodness of doing so.

4 Anything else you'd like to share?

I am committed to a long-term research and mentorship career in Africa, with a particular focus on reducing inequities in healthcare access for underserved groups. I welcome collaborations in this regard.



PAULINA TINDANA

1 What are you doing now?

I'm a Senior Lecturer and Bioethicist at the University of Ghana School of Public Health, where I teach courses on Public Health Ethics, Health Legislation and Ethics in Monitoring and Evaluation.

I'm also a Principal Investigator of

the H3Africa CEBioGen Collaborative project which seeks to identify best practices for community engagement in genomics and biobanking in Africa.

2 What's a key highlight of your career?

First, receiving the Global Health Bioethics Studentship award and getting a DPhil in 2013 from the University of Oxford under the supervision of Michael Parker, Sassy Molyneux and Susan Bull. Second, receiving a U54 research grant from the NIH in 2018. Winning the inaugural Global Forum on Bioethics

“GHBN provided a great platform for networking which has sustained my career over the years.”

Research (GFBR) paper award in 2020 was also a key highlight.

Finally, making the transition from a research centre to the University of Ghana School of Public Health – a move that has

allowed me to build a research team and mentor so many young medical and social scientists.

3 Has being part of the GHBN helped you in your career?

GHBN provided a great platform for networking which has sustained my career over the years. Participating in the summer schools and collaborating with several amazing social scientists across Africa, Asia and the United Kingdom enabled me to 'think globally while acting locally'. I have been able to apply lessons learned to other initiatives I am involved in, particularly the H3Africa Consortium.

4 Anything else you'd like to share?

'The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few'. So much has happened in the last decade in embedding ethics and engagement in scientific projects but a lot more can be done. Mentorship remains a big challenge in many African institutions and a few of us in this field can sometimes feel overwhelmed. I think the GHBN is a great platform to mentor young social scientists to develop their careers and I do hope that these gains will be sustained for more decades to come.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? OUR EARLIEST BURSARY FELLOWS



CLAUDIA TURNER

1 What are you doing now?

I am the CEO of Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC) in Siem Reap, Cambodia as well as a senior clinical researcher at the University of Oxford.

2 Has being part of the GHBN

helped you in your career?

In 2014 I was fortunate enough to be awarded a GHBN bursary to undertake a piece of work looking at the health practices and beliefs around the neonatal period (babies from birth to 28 days of life). It would not be an over-exaggeration to say that this was a transformative episode in my career! I found myself being welcomed into a large network of remarkable people. The support and different viewpoints I was exposed to fostered my curiosity and gave me the skills to move away from research that asked "what" to research that asked "why". The project itself revealed important information about practices and beliefs in the neonatal period that were prevalent in the Cambodian community. In addition, the mentorship and support I received while conducting the study gave me the skills I needed to diversify my career and move into the field of implementation research: practically that meant becoming the CEO of AHC in 2015.

3 Anything else you'd like to share?

The foundations built by the studies I conducted with the partnership of GHBN researchers allowed the development of a large transformative implementation programme to reduce neonatal mortality in rural Cambodia – Saving Babies Lives. This is a five-year step wedge randomized control trial,

conducted in one of Cambodia's poorest, most rural provinces, which aims to reduce neonatal mortality by a third. I continue to be in touch with many from the GHBN and have undertaken many collaborative studies and projects over the years. My hope is that these partnerships will continue for many years to come!



FRANCIS KOMBE

1 What are you doing now?

Pursuing a PhD in Bioethics – focusing on assessing the implications of fieldworkers' institutional support systems for research integrity practices in Africa.

2 What's a key highlight of your career?

No human is limited! And indeed, nothing is impossible. I come from a very humble background and started working as a fieldworker in one of Kenya's poorest counties. The only weapon I had was determination, focus and a passion for what I do. Nothing can stop you from achieving your dream if you are determined and passionate about it.

3 Has being part of the GHBN helped you in your career?

My PhD is essentially a continuation of what I started as part of my GHBN bursary in 2014. To many, this might have seemed like a small grant that wouldn't go anywhere, but my colleagues and other members of the GHBN saw the gem in that small grant and encouraged me. I also met one of my PhD supervisors, Dr Patricia Kingori, through the GHBN. I owe my career and my PhD to GHBN and my former colleagues at KWRTP. Come August 2022, I would like to dedicate this PhD to the GHBN.

"I owe my career and my PhD to GHBN and my former colleagues at KWRTP"

4 Anything else you'd like to share?

If you ever do a PhD, chose something you love doing. I am enjoying and learning a lot in my PhD journey. Having supportive supervisors and family is also critical. The GHBN feels like family. Thank you, Dinnah, thank you, Prof Mike Parker, for running this initiative in a very inclusive and caring way. I belong here!



KHIN MAUNG LWIN

1 What are you doing now?

I am still based at the Shoklo Malaria Research Unit, but am doing slightly different work now as a result of having to adapt to the current political context in Myanmar. I'm travelling more, and

carrying out more interactions with new stakeholders. At the moment I'm supervising two COVID centres along the Thai-Myanmar border. I'm also coordinating the emergency health needs for people across Myanmar who've been affected by the recent conflict.

2 What's a key highlight of your career?

Being part of a team that helped to eliminate malaria in most of the Karen villages – mainly through intensive community engagement with local people. That was incredibly rewarding.

3 Has being part of the GHBN helped you in your career?

The financial and technical guidance I've received from the GHBN has helped me tremendously in my career. Now, however, we need everyone's help in Myanmar – please do what you can to provide or contribute to humanitarian assistance for the people of Myanmar.

"The financial and technical guidance I've received from the GHBN has helped me tremendously in my career."



MAUREEN NJUE

1 What are you doing now?

I'm a PhD fellow at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp in Belgium and the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. My PhD study seeks to qualitatively explore the ethical issues

around the involvement of pregnant women in clinical research in low resource settings.

2 What's a key highlight of your career?

Getting awarded the Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate, TransGlobal Health (EMJD-TGH) PhD Fellowship to study a topic on research ethics in Sub-Saharan Africa.

3 Has being part of the GHBN helped you in your career?

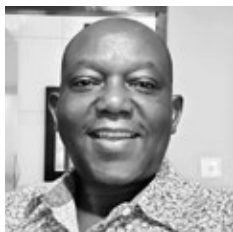
The Global Health Bioethics Network has been part of my career journey in research ethics which started with receiving

"I particularly cherished the friendly learning spaces created for the younger researchers to learn and express themselves."

a bursary to study benefits and payments within the Kilifi Community. GHBN provided numerous opportunities to bursary

holders to engage with both peers and mentors from diverse backgrounds and countries. I particularly cherished the friendly learning spaces created for the younger researchers to learn and express themselves.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW CONTINUED



RODRICK SAMBAKUNSI

1 What are you doing now?

I work for the Mucosal Pathogen Research Unit (MPRU) as a Public Engagement Manager. I also manage a vaccine engagement project called “One for All: All for One” based at the

Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme (MLW), in Blantyre Malawi. I’m also in the final stage of my Master’s course in Communication of Science and Innovation.

2 What’s a key highlight of your career?

There are several! Attending my first GHBN summer school in 2012 at the Ethox Centre, Oxford UK.

Also, getting my first GHBN bursary of £10,000 to implement a project. The process of applying for a grant, receiving the award, and then becoming a principal investigator for the first time was such a milestone. Another highlight was, in 2015, being given the opportunity to spearhead the science communication and public engagement strategy as its head.

“The GHBN remains my number one source of inspiration and support. It’s my sincere hope that the network will continue to exist for the next 20 years in order to continue support newcomers into the industry.”

3 Has being part of the GHBN helped you in your career?

The GHBN has helped to shape my career. The summer schools and international conferences that I attended exposed me to new ideas and insights in research ethics. The GHBN facilitated the establishment of a large network full of different experts, which is now a major source of knowledge and experience.

4 Anything else you’d like to share?

The GHBN remains my number one source of inspiration and support. It’s my sincere hope that the network will continue to exist for the next 20 years in order to continue to support newcomers into the industry.

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS



ALEX HINGA

I’m a postdoctoral social scientist at the KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme in Kenya.

I coordinate a study investigating ethical and social issues around the COVID-19 research agenda at KWTRP.

Earning a PhD in 2020 was a key highlight of my career. The GHBN has played a significant role in my career development. In 2016, I was awarded with a £10,000 GHBN ethics bursary, which supported my research project on ethical issues in health and demographic surveillance systems across Africa. The project involved conducting field work in Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Malawi and Uganda. In each of these countries, I met GHBN members who gave me valuable support and encouragement. Besides my bursary and PhD project, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with GHBN members on various projects that have strengthened my skills in writing grant applications and in carrying out community engagement and empirical ethics research.

Being a member of the GHBN has been a really fulfilling experience: I have learned about realist review, vulnerability and participatory visual methods. Also, I have danced to real reggae music in Durban, experienced equal measures of joy and anxiety while punting in Oxford, and I have meditated and sung with fellow GHBN members over Zoom.

“Being a member of the GHBN has been a really fulfilling experience: I have learned about realist review, vulnerability and participatory visual methods. Also, I have danced to real reggae music in Durban, experienced equal measures of joy and anxiety while punting in Oxford, and I have meditated and sung with fellow GHBN members over Zoom.”

ALUN DAVIES



I lead/co-lead a range of engagement and research initiatives at KWTRP, which include the School Engagement Programme, and the evaluation of KWTRP's engagement strategy.

In 2018 we hosted the first ever international school engagement workshop with researchers/

practitioners representing 21 institutions from 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia and the UK. Many of the participants were drawn directly from links established through the GHBN. In 2019, the KWTRP School Engagement Programme won the University of Oxford's Vice Chancellors award for public engagement with research – a key highlight. I've also been very proud to witness the spectacular development of some of our students who've gone through the school Engagement Programme.

Over the years, the GHBN has provided opportunities to: pitch, critique and discuss ideas in a non-threatening, trusting and enabling environment; share challenges and brainstorm potential solutions; and deepen our understanding of research ethics and how we relate it to our practice. While these inputs are somewhat hard to quantify, they've definitely contributed to strengthening my engagement and research practice, and views shared during network meetings have undoubtedly fed into ongoing work over the years.

A unique feature of the GHBN is that the vast field experience and diversity of skills held by engagement practitioner members, places them on an equal footing with the academic members of the network. This has really contributed to an amazing richness in discussions and feedback, and a deeper understanding of engagement and ethics from a range of viewpoints.

"A unique feature of the GHBN is that the vast field experience and diversity of skills held by engagement practitioner members, places them on an equal footing with the academic members of the network."

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

ANNE OSTERRIEDER



I work as Public Engagement Coordinator in MORU's Department for Bioethics and Engagement. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, sadly I haven't been able to travel to Thailand for face-to-face activities. Instead, I support our online engagement sessions, which includes planning, facilitation and evaluation, and I coordinate the MORU Public Engagement Bursary Scheme. We also ran a mixed-methods

COVID-19 study last year ('SEBCOV'), which involved a lot of data analysis and writing up our findings.

I moved from my academic position as Senior Lecturer in Biology and Science Communication to my current role in 2019. I decided that I wanted

to focus full-time on public engagement rather than trying to juggle it with lots of other plates, and I've never regretted my decision. Being a part of the GHBN made me feel like being a part of a wider, global, diverse community, where members share similar values and interests. Attending the summer schools and meetings has been hugely rewarding, and it's so interesting to learn about how other countries and cultures approach public engagement.

"Being a part of the GHBN made me feel like being a part of a wider, global, diverse community, where members share similar values and interests."

BETTY KALAMA



I Chair KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme's (KWTRP) Communication and Consent Committee. I also coordinate translation of information and consent forms (ICFs) into local languages of Swahili and Giriama. In addition, I support study teams to navigate ethical issues they encounter in the course of research conduct in the community.

Being appointed the CCC chairperson greatly strengthened my skills in leadership, communication, writing, and presenting. This is a role I never dreamt of and it has been very fulfilling, thanks to the support of my supervisor and the department at large. To be in a position where I can lead the development and review of important guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and templates within KWTRP, all linked to communication and ethics feels incredibly rewarding. And to think it all started with my being awarded with a GHBN bursary that enabled me to undertake a critical evaluation of KWTRP's ICF translation process. I cannot underestimate the learning gained from undertaking the process this far.

After successfully completing my bursary project, I further developed my skills in social science research – specifically in data collection, analysis, presentation, and writing. The network has helped me grow, and, in addition to learning from more experienced researchers, I've become better able to advise and support others.

"The network has helped me grow, and, in addition to learning from more experienced researchers, I've become better able to advise and support others."

BOBBIE FARSIDES



My job is as Professor of Clinical and Biomedical Ethics at Brighton and Sussex Medical School on the south coast of England. I lead a small and very enthusiastic team involved in teaching, research, public policy, and patient involvement/engagement.

One of the joys of the last ten years is to have gotten to the stage in my career where I can start offering useful support, guidance and opportunities to others. I had a few very important mentors and advocates in my earlier career and I really want to pay that forward. I love hearing about the successes of ex-students, colleagues and friends. Another big thing for me is the way in which my discipline of bioethics has moved further and further away from its abstract beginnings in departments of philosophy, right into where things are happening in society. As I get older and grumpier, I relish the fact that my professional role allows me to sit round the table and call powerful people to account.

I love being part of GHBN, it has broadened my horizons, introduced me to so many interesting and fun people, and the summer schools have taken me to parts of the world I could

never have imagined visiting. These personal benefits have also helped me in my work, especially in terms of building an excellent and genuinely global network of friends and colleagues.

It is an important task in life to appreciate and celebrate the good times. Alongside all the interesting and stimulating

academic sessions, conversations, and debates, GHBN has given me so many happy (often hilarious) memories which I treasure.

BUSI NKOSI



I'm a GHBN Senior Fellow based at the Department of Social Science & Research Ethics, at the Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI). My research focuses on the ethical and legal challenges in adolescent research. I also lead a study looking at the ethical challenges of using telephones and online platforms during informed

consent and data collection procedures in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

The GHBN Bursary I was awarded in 2018–2019, played a key role in helping me identify my interest area – exploring issues around autonomy, privacy and confidentiality and adolescent participation in research. This work led to my role as the Principal Investigator for two further studies looking at adolescents and privacy, and remote consent. The GHBN has been an invaluable resource for personal and professional development and growth.

I often draw on the expertise of GHBN colleagues, mentors and peers for critiques, reviews and feedback for scholarly and academic work such as manuscript writing and grant applications. My long-term goal is to become a leader in the field of research ethics in adolescents, and I will continue to draw on the support and resources of the GHBN, using both public (webinars, seminars, conferences, Summer School) and private platforms.

“The GHBN has been an invaluable resource for personal and professional development and growth.”

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

CHI PHUONG LE



I am a research assistant at OUCRU, Vietnam. Since December 2017, I have been working for a human challenge project - RESHAPE - Research in humans: attitudes and perceptions. The RESHAPE project aims to engage with local senior stakeholders with a wide range of expertise

and young generations of Vietnamese society to explore their perceptions and views on clinical and public health aspects relevant to dengue research.

As a junior researcher in social science and public health, being a member of the GHBN is vital to my career growth. In April 2019, I was awarded a GHBN Bursary to study stakeholders' experiences and perspectives of integrating qualitative research into clinical settings. I got an excellent opportunity to collaborate with experts from the Ministry of Health to provide suggestions of regulations and requirements for studies using qualitative research methods.

The GHBN is also an excellent source of new perspectives and ideas to help me in my job. During the Summer school, I gain not only new skills from senior researchers and colleagues but also new insights from collective experiences by exchanging information on challenges and best practices. Career advice and mentoring from seniors are also valuable benefits. Furthermore, I really appreciate Dinnah Rippon's devotion. Thanks to her regular newsletter and updates, I can access articles, webinars, and contacts relevant to my working interests. Also, by putting myself in the network and meeting new people, I step outside my comfort zone to build invaluable social skills and self-confidence and learn how to make lasting connections.

"The GHBN is also an excellent source of new perspectives and ideas to help me in my job. During the Summer school, I gain not only new skills from senior researchers and colleagues but also new insights from collective experiences by exchanging information on challenges and best practices."

DEBORAH NYIRENDA



I'm a Post-doctoral Social Scientist funded by the GHBN and based at the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme. Currently, I'm conducting a narrative review of community engagement practices in medical research and a digital story telling project about community

experiences of engagement activities in medical research.

Over the past ten years, there have been many memorable moments: graduating with a PhD in 2018; being awarded Post-doctoral funding from the GHBN immediately after my PhD; and getting the opportunity to influence change in community engagement practices, while offering support to

"The GHBN offers a platform for mentorship, networking and collaboration with community engagement practitioners, bioethicists & social scientists from various institutions/countries."

enhance meaningful engagement of communities in research. The GHBN offers a platform for mentorship, networking and collaboration with community engagement practitioners, bioethicists & social scientists from various institutions/countries. I have benefited from advice, mentorship & other useful resources from several GHBN members throughout my career.

DINNAH (DINA) RIPPON



I coordinate the Global Health Bioethics Network and the Epidemic Ethics Network. I've been with the GHBN since the very beginning. To me, the GHBN is so much more than a bioethics network – it's my career and my family all wrapped up into one! I've watched the network flourish and grow over the past ten years and am bursting with pride when I think of what we've achieved.

It's difficult to name one moment in the last decade that stands out as a highlight as there are so many. I remember our very first Summer School in Oxford where I was so nervous and wondered if anyone would want to come and whether it would work at all! I remember our first crop of PhD students and Bursary Fellows and our hopes that we could truly build a useful resource together. Today, those first graduates and fellows are supervising new PhD students and fellows. They have all found excellent positions or have been promoted and are an

enormous inspiration to all of us. Coming into this position from a background of human rights law, I thought I'd already have a good grasp of ethics – but quickly saw that I have so much to learn. The complexities and intricacies of the ethical challenges that crop up in the work we do in our different sites require true multi-level thinking and (often) collaborative effort to brainstorm solutions. I'm constantly impressed by the quality, scope and rigour of the work being done by all the Network partners, and have learned (and continue to learn) so much every day.

The people I've met through the GHBN are some of the best people on the planet. I keep wondering if I'm just incredibly lucky to have a job where all my colleagues are so wonderful, or if this is just what happens when you launch a bioethics network! My boss, Mike, is an exceptional leader, and I've been greatly inspired by his wisdom, kindness, and humility. The GHBN would not exist if not for Mike's vision and ability to bring people together. From the most senior experts in the network to those just starting on their careers, the members of this network have shown themselves to be incredibly supportive of others and generous with their time and resources. I have made friends that will last a lifetime and am constantly inspired to be the best that I can be. I hope that this Network continues to thrive and learn and provide support for many years to come.

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NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

DORCAS KAMUYA



I'm a social science researcher, an Associate Professor at Oxford University, and the Head of the Health Systems and Research Ethics Department at KWTRP. When I first joined the network ten years ago, the GHBN supported me in my post-doc work and gave me the opportunity to learn about engagement across

different countries, as well as the tools I needed to become an independent researcher. Today, one of the highlights for me is

"During this period of COVID-19, the GHBN has kept us going."

to see how the GHBN has brought practitioners and researchers together in a common platform, and provided us with easy access to very senior researchers - experts in

their field - whom we would otherwise not have had access to. I draw inspiration from all these different people who make up the GHBN.

The network has been very supportive of all my career choices, including in gaining my first independent research funding, and now in my current role, heading a scientific department. I have received incredible mentorship and support from within the group.

During this period of COVID-19, the GHBN has kept us going. It's become a forum where we virtually meet with familiar people, share our plans, achievements, frustrations, fears, concerns etc. and where we can also socialise virtually (that cup of tea). For a moment, we forget all that is going on around us. Hearing experiences from other sites, and knowing that we are all coping (in whatever form) has been rejuvenating.

We also receive incredible support from Dina, who has become the glue that ensures we're all working together; and from Mike, who is an incomparable leader, and who gives the GHBN the opportunity to grow and expand in ways that the members are happy with, rather than 'telling us how it should grow'. That is the perspective needed for such a diverse group, for all of us to feel valued and to know that our contributions matter. We are learning and hoping we can become such leaders. I hope that the next 10 years will see GHBN grow in exciting ways,

²⁰ and I look forward to being a part of this journey.

ELVIS MOYO



I work at MLW as a Community Engagement Coordinator and a Fieldwork Services Coordinator. I got the second position after successfully completing a GHBN bursary project.

My first career highlight has been collaborating with other GHBN members during summer schools since 2013. I developed a strong interest to grow my career practicing

community engagement when I met other members sharing their experiences.

My second career highlight has been an outcome of my bursary project; the project has influenced practice within MLW. We now have a Fieldworkers Initiative which is focusing on management of the group. Recently we held our first Fieldworkers Day celebration - this was possible because of the outcome of my GHBN bursary project.

"The GHBN changed my perceptions about research ethics and how it relates to community engagement practice."

The GHBN changed my perceptions about research ethics and how it relates to community engagement practice. I am currently leading a group of 170 Fieldworkers, and my future plan is to continue improving standards within MLW. I would like us to cultivate and stimulate a discussion about research ethics among Fieldworkers.

EVELYNE KESTELYN



I am currently the Head of the Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

I have worked many years in Africa, more specifically Rwanda, where I dedicated my career to researching new HIV prevention methods for women. One of the highlights of

my career was the WHO recommendation and addition to the prequalified medicines list (as well as European Medicine Agency positive scientific

opinion) of the dapivirine ring. The dapivirine ring is a microbicide (meaning a substance or biomedical product being developed to protect healthy people from becoming infected with HIV via sexual exposure.) The monthly dapivirine ring could provide women with the first discreet,

long-acting HIV prevention option. (www.ipmglobal.org/about-ipm and www.avac.org/prevention-option/microbicides)

A second highlight is the impactful work of the recently developed social science team within the CTU. As head of the CTU, I wanted to develop in house social science expertise to have the capacity to explore ethical, pragmatic and operational issues emerging from our day-to-day work. With support from GHBN I was able to attract a senior post-doc as well as bursary fellows. Since 2017 this group has steadily evolved and grown into the independent team it is today, counting over 10 team members with a wide range of expertise.

Being part of the GHBN has helped me start up and grow the amazing group of social scientists we have today. It has allowed for collaborations and networks to grow and flourish. Being part of GHBN for me has meant being part of an open, truly collaborative, like-minded group of researchers from all over the world. GHBN has supported through funding as well as in kind, a real building and strengthening of capacity in our region.

“Being part of the GHBN has helped me start up and grow the amazing group of social scientists we have today. It has allowed for collaborations and networks to grow and flourish”

FARINA KARIM



I am currently a Clinical Programme Manager at the Africa Health Research Institute in South Africa. I am working on a big COVID-19 project and the highlight so far has been this opportunity to work on cutting edge pandemic research.

Being part of the GHBN has given me the opportunity to be a member of an amazing network and has provided me with a means to engage with others on important ethical issues. I have gotten new insights and discussed challenges – this has improved my skills when conducting my daily functions, which include ethics and regulatory oversight.

“Being part of the GHBN has given me the opportunity to be a member of an amazing network and has provided me with a means to engage with others on important ethical issues.”

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

GERTRUDE BANDA



I work as a social scientist at Malawi Liverpool Wellcome trust. I've been a GHBN Bursary Fellow since 2020. My study explores what research participants understand as their roles and responsibilities in clinical research.

I feel privileged to have received a competitive research fellowship which has helped me

to grow my career. Through the GHBN fellowship, I have had opportunities to work with renowned and experienced social scientists and bioethics experts who are always ready to impart their knowledge and skills to help young researchers attain their career prospects. I have sat in conferences where I have been taken through meaningful discussions which have had

"There is no other platform that is as open and helpful as this network. For me, GHBN is not only a network, but it is a family which has always been available to hold my hand as I journey through my research career..."

GHBN is not only a network, but it is a family which has always been available to hold my hand as I journey through my research career. I feel very lucky to be part of this big successful family.

major positive impacts on my career as a bioethics researcher. I have had immeasurable support, mentorship advice and input from experienced researchers and colleagues in the network.

There is no other platform that is as open and helpful as this network. For me,

GLADYS SANGA



I'm currently involved in Monitoring and Evaluation of the Community and Public Engagement approaches at KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme (KWTRP) in Kilifi, Kenya. I'm also the Secretary to KWTRP's Communication and Consent Committee, which reviews communication/consent and engagement aspects in

protocols prior to submission to the national ERC.

"As a member of the GBHN, I've gained a lot from the summer schools. The presentations and discussions have been eye opening, educative and relevant in addressing ethical issues for research conducted in LMICs."

I joined KWTRP in March 2003 as a field worker and have steadily grown into my current role of Assistant Research Officer. I've been involved in various research ethics studies and have gained extensive experience and skills in qualitative research work and community engagement. My involvement in M&E of community and public engagement approaches has highlighted the complexities of communicating complex (and sometimes novel) research to the communities where research is conducted and the broader public in general. My interests are in the ethics of involving vulnerable groups, the value of community and public engagement in health research and the emerging global health issues.

As a member of the GBHN, I've gained a lot from the summer schools. The presentations and discussions have been eye opening, educative and relevant in addressing ethical issues for research conducted in LMICs. I have learnt a lot from network members through our interactions which have contributed to my growth in research, writing of publications and in my career. Network members have inspired me and this led me to enrolling for a Master's Degree Programme in Global Health at LSTM.

HALINA SUWALOWSKA



I'm a Researcher in Global Health Bioethics at the Ethox Centre and the Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities, University of Oxford. I work with the Oxford-Johns Hopkins Global Infectious Disease Ethics Collaborative (GLIDE) and Epidemic Ethics network led by the WHO. My particular focus is on the ethical and

social issues emerging in managing dead bodies during natural disasters and epidemics and the challenges experienced by frontline staff and 'last responders' when caring for the dead. A highlight for me in recent years was completing my DPhil in Population Health at the Ethox Centre in 2020. My doctoral research focused on the ethics and politics of implementing Minimally Invasive Autopsy (MIA) in low-income settings. The

"I value being part of the GHBN and truly appreciate the collaboration opportunities created by the network and the friends for life I have made there!"

a portrait of autopsy' that has been shown in the UK and internationally. I value being part of the GHBN and truly appreciate the collaboration opportunities created by the network and the friends for life I have made there!

findings of my study inspired an art exhibition - 'Beyond the body:

HA NGUYEN THANH



I'm a second year DPhil student based at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Vietnam.

The two key highlights of my career would be: the day I received my fellowship offer to pursue a PhD degree at Oxford University, which opened a

whole new door for me; and the GHBN Summer School in Durban, South Africa in 2017. The trip meant so much to me because I got to know a wonderful network, while also fulfilling a lifelong wish to travel to South Africa.

"I'm an introvert so I often find it difficult to be in a group, but after getting to know people at the GHBN, I've always felt comfortable and supported at Summer Schools or any other GHBN meetings."

felt comfortable and supported at Summer Schools or any other GHBN meetings. I've learned a lot from GHBN members, both in terms of ethics expertise, and in terms of professionalism.

I feel blessed to be part of the GHBN. I'm an introvert so I often find it difficult to be in a group, but after getting to know people at the GHBN, I've always

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

HELEN MANGOCHI



I am a senior research nurse at the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme, and I lead the social science research on implementing infection prevention and control measures in a neonatal unit at Queen Elizabeth central hospital in Blantyre, Malawi.

My greatest career achievement was in 2016, when I was awarded a bursary grant from the GHBN to conduct empirical research that investigated views on the best way to invite children to participate in different research studies, especially in low-income settings. This work was part of GBHN's multi

“My greatest career achievement was in 2016, when I was awarded a bursary grant from the GHBN to conduct empirical research that investigated views on the best way to invite children to participate in different research studies, especially in low-income settings.”

country project on challenges in consent. Through the support and expertise of the other GHBN fellows from all over the network, this project was a success as it contributed to the

formulation of Assent guidelines in some institutions. Further to that, I also gained a lot of qualitative research skills as well as skills in academic writing through training and support from experts from different academic backgrounds, existing within the network.

Being part of the GHBN family has been an amazing and informative experience that I will always cherish. I am always grateful for the opportunity accorded by being part of this wonderful network, and intend to use the knowledge I acquired to impact health research and also to share it with other colleagues working in clinical settings.

GHBN is indeed inspirational as it accommodates individuals from different backgrounds and cultures.

HTET HTET AUNG



I have been working as a Clinical Research Assistant at the Myanmar Oxford Clinical Research Unit, Myanmar since 2017. I'm currently involved in a qualitative – zoonotic project analysis, as well as other social science studies in MOCRU. I've also

started looking at data for my systematic review on 'Ethical considerations around conducting placebo-controlled trials during pregnancy in low and middle income countries'.

My research interests include research ethics, qualitative and social science research methods. In 2018, I won a GHBN bursary award and became a GHBN Bursary Fellow. Being part of the GHBN gave me new opportunities to learn about ethics, gain new experiences and paved the way for me to pursue my interest in my current research field. In July 2021, I contributed to the COVID treatment response program when Myanmar was hit by the third wave of COVID-19 and the health system collapsed due to the unexpected political events that happened in Myanmar.

“Being part of the GHBN gave me new opportunities to learn about ethics, gain new experiences and paved the way for me to pursue my interest in my current research field.”

IRENE JAO



I have just started my PhD at the Australian Catholic University; based in Brisbane, Australia. My research work is within the Bioethics field, specifically on 'Epistemic Injustice in Global Health Ethics.'

I previously worked at KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme (KWTRP) in Kilifi, Kenya where I first got to know about the Global Health

Bioethics Network. I joined KWTRP in 2014 as a Research Officer in the Health Systems and Research Ethics Department. During this time, I was involved in the Public Health Research Data Sharing project and the Nuffield Council consultations around involving children in research. I re-joined the institution in August 2017 when I was involved in the Malaria Human Infection Study, and later led the monitoring and evaluation of community and public engagement approaches. I gained extensive skills in empirical ethics research and got to appreciate the difficulties of communicating complex (and sometimes novel) research ideas to the research communities and the broader public in general.

As a member of the GBHN I have benefitted from summer school trainings which have addressed ethical issues in research conducted in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). I have learned from networking, conference presentations and publications by fellow members at various levels including bursary fellows, PhD students, post docs and senior researchers. Through these interactions I have gained insights which have helped inform my research work and have particularly appreciated how this has shaped my thinking about bioethics. Most significantly, I got to discover my research interests in the ethical implications of implementing complex research involving new technology in LMICs. It was also through the GBHN that I learnt about the PhD opportunity at Australian Catholic University and was elated when my application was successful. I am excited about the new journey I am starting, and above all, about what the future holds. I believe I will contribute meaningfully to the ongoing discourses around epistemic injustices in global health ethics. I also hope to inspire and mentor other upcoming bioethics researchers the same way I have been. Long live the GBHN!

"I have learned from conference presentations and publications by fellow network members at various levels including bursary fellows, PhD students, post docs and senior researchers"

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

JANE KAHINDI KALUME



I'm an Assistant Research officer at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme in Kenya. I'm working on the Biobank project in the Health Systems and Research Ethics department. Some of my roles and responsibilities include: conducting research using qualitative and quantitative methodologies, project management and

coordination, data management, analysis, and interpretation, manuscript development, and data publication.

A key highlight of my career so far is being awarded a GHBN Bursary to develop and evaluate an animation video to engage

"I am truly grateful to have been awarded the GHBN bursary which helped me gain skills on how to develop a proposal, and how to manage a project from its initiation to its final implementation."

local communities about biobanking. I'm currently in the final stages of this project.

I am truly grateful to have been awarded the GHBN bursary which helped me gain skills on how to develop a proposal,

and how to manage a project from its initiation to its final implementation. Through the bursary award, I also learned how to develop visual tools to engage local communities. I hope to do a Master's course in Global Health in September 2022.

JANET SEELEY



I'm working at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where I am Professor of Anthropology and Health. I'm also a faculty member at the Africa Health Research Institute, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and am a programme head at the MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit, Entebbe, Uganda.

Over the past decade, a major highlight for me is seeing the social science expertise grow within the groups I work with, which is down to their hard work rather than mine!

"Being part of the GHBN has given us in AHRI (where the link for me is based) access to a wonderful group of colleagues and collaborators."

JENNIFER ILO VAN NUIL



I lead a team of social scientists at OUCRU in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Together, we design and implement social science studies to complement ongoing clinical research, as well as conduct stand-alone research on a variety of health-related topics within the hospital and community. Since I started this role, as a GHBN senior fellow, the team has grown dramatically and the range of studies we are working on

“Having this network of scholars has been crucial for idea development, formation of cross site projects, and overall support.”

has expanded in many directions both within the clinical trials setting and also within the community.

Through the GHBN, I have expanded my network to include a variety of researchers from similar disciplines who are working on a range of related topics around the world. These connections are extremely useful as the OUCRU social science team is based at a site where the majority of the research is clinic or laboratory focused. Having this network of scholars has been crucial for idea development, formation of cross site projects, and overall support.

KATE GOODING



I’m working on health systems research and evaluations for an international development consultancy. This involves working to support organisations such as UNICEF or the Gates Foundation as well as national governments, on areas such as district health systems management, community health workers and resilience to shocks.

One of my top career highlights was being based in Malawi. This was wonderful for opportunities to work directly with government and with early career researchers. I’ve continued links with several of the early career researchers at MLW, and it’s been great learning from them and seeing them grow in

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NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

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skills and confidence. More recent highlights include some really interesting projects - including opportunities to work with knowledgeable and engaged government or donor partners, and to interview and meet senior officials involved in UK aid.

Another highlight has been meeting really nice, wise and interesting people - GHBN has been key here. I've met people who are fun to be with, provide useful advice and support or who I always have interesting conversations with.

GHBN funding covered part of my post in Malawi - without this, I may not have had the experience of working there. The GHBN also provided an opportunity to share and build evaluation skills, which helped the move to my current position.

"GHBN funding covered part of my post in Malawi - without this, I may not have had the experience of working there. The GHBN also provided an opportunity to share and build evaluation skills, which helped the move to my current position."

LINDIWE MAFULEKA



I currently lead communications and public engagement at MLW to promote ethical research practices in communities in order to achieve MLW's core objective - to conduct excellent research that benefits health. My experience is in development communications and I have worked in communications and advocacy roles in several international

development communication implementing programs in sexual & reproductive health, nutrition, and adolescent girls education and protection.

One of my career highlights was meeting Prince Harry and facilitating a discussion between him and a group of young Malawian men and

"One of my career highlights was meeting Prince Harry and facilitating a discussion between him and a group of young Malawian men and women."

women. The Malawian youth shared their experiences about growing up in rural Malawi and in turn heard from the Prince about his own experiences growing up.

LINDSEY REYNOLDS



I lead a non-profit organisation called the Pivot Collective, focused on improving knowledge translation between research, engagement, policy, and practice. Our collective work aims to support people experiencing marginalization or living in contexts of adversity to tell their own stories, define what matters to them, and communicate these learnings to wider audiences of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.

“The GHBN helped grow and shape my interest in bioethics and public engagement, which has become core to all the work I do. It created a space for me to explore these areas critically, learning from colleagues and collaborators working in the sub-Saharan African region and more broadly.”

Key highlights of my career in the last ten years include:

1. Leaving the traditional academic path to found my own organisation to experiment and innovate around more just ways of working in global health and development;
2. Mentoring an amazing group of early career researchers in South Africa as social science advisor on the HPTN071/PopART trial. The intellectual relationships I’ve cultivated through these collaborative projects have been so fulfilling, and have reinforced my commitment of collaborative forms of knowledge production.
3. Publishing a special issue and edited volume with other GHBN colleagues called “The Ethics and Politics of Community Engagement in Global Health Research.” Lessons learned through this project helped to inform the approach my organisation has taken to try to shift where ‘engagement’ is positioned in the knowledge production process, focusing on genuine co-ownership and co-production of knowledge.

The GHBN helped grow and shape my interest in bioethics and public engagement, which has become core to all the work I do. It created a space for me to explore these areas critically, learning from colleagues and collaborators working in the sub-Saharan African region and more broadly.

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

MACKWELLINGS PHIRI



Being part of the Global Health Bioethics Network has expanded the horizons of my research career in a much deeper sense than I am able to articulate. The highpoint of my journey with GHBN was receiving an education scholarship to do an online Master's Degree in Global Health with Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Besides deepening my research skills, undergoing the course opens more opportunities for me, including prospects for PhD studies. My entry into GHBN was through a bursary that I received from the network to do research on data sharing. The project was a defining moment in my qualitative research career. It offered me the capacity building challenge of taking on a much bigger research role of managing a study. A manuscript of the study findings is almost complete. Attending the GHBN summer schools has been a great opportunity to learn from and network with experts from various disciplinary backgrounds.

"My entry into GHBN was through a bursary that I received from the network to do research on data sharing. The project was a defining moment in my qualitative research career."

Currently, in addition to my Master's course, I am also working on a project on antimicrobial resistance (AMR Responsive Dialogues). The project is a public engagement initiative

to improve public awareness on AMR in Malawi. Responsive Dialogues is a participatory tool developed by the Wellcome Trust Public Engagement Team, and we are piloting it to see how effective it is in facilitating dialogue and co-creating solutions between communities and key stakeholders.

MARISHA WICKREMSINHE



I'm currently a Research Fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. I recently completed my doctoral studies at the Ethox Centre, where I was granted the incredible opportunity to join the GHBN network! One of the highlights of my career has been getting to know incredible

scholars and thinkers through initiatives like GHBN. Some of my favorite memories from the past several years are of thoughtful discussions with GHBN members (who I'm lucky

"I am grateful to GHBN for linking me with outstanding and innovative researchers who challenge me and support me to develop my ideas and perspective."

enough to also call dear friends!) about everything from what decolonisation in global health should entail to whether academia as it currently stands can sustain itself into the future. I am grateful to GHBN for linking

me with outstanding and innovative researchers who challenge me and support me to develop my ideas and perspective.

MARY CHAMBERS



I have led the public and community teams at OUCRU across 5 sites in Vietnam, Indonesia and Nepal for over a decade. I am incredibly proud of the dynamic and motivated PCE teams who drive this work, many of whom have directly benefited from the training and support given through the GHBN.

Our engagement is varied, and we work with a wide range of communities such as school children and youth, patients and health care workers and the general public in our sites. I have particularly enjoyed using participatory visual methods that enable people, sometimes those who are marginalised and less heard, to share their experiences and perspectives more openly. Collaborating with colleagues in the GHBN has enabled me to consider and research the deeper ethical issues of using these methods, and we have gone on to lead workshops together and publish on the topic. Another highlight has been developing a research and engagement programme to better understand

and respond to challenges that ethnic minority communities in Vietnam face in accessing vaccines. The GHBN has supported my DPhil student (Nguyen Thanh Ha) with a bursary, which then enabled her to win a highly competitive DPhil scholarship to conduct research on the topic. The findings from her studies inform the design of engagement activities that we conduct with the local clinics to help encourage people to access vaccines for themselves and their children.

The GHBN has made a huge contribution to my practice. The individuals who make up the network have been a source of encouragement, opportunities, new knowledge and inspiration, and most of all – friendship. Many of these individuals are now my professional collaborators and many more are friends. The people-first ethos of the network leaders, Professor Mike Parker and Dinnah Rippon, set the tone for the whole network, which is what makes it such a powerful body to empower its members and beyond, and makes it so unique. I'm very grateful to them for this!

“The GHBN has supported my DPhil student (Nguyen Thanh Ha) with a bursary, which then enabled her to win a highly competitive DPhil scholarship to conduct research on the topic. The findings from her studies inform the design of engagement activities that we conduct with the local clinics to help encourage people to access vaccines for themselves and their children.”

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

MAUREEN KELLEY



“The relationships with so many talented, interesting people across the network have been incredible. I have learned so much from others and have been gently challenged to think in different ways about ethics.”

I’ve recently moved from Oxford to Portland, Oregon to be the Madeline Brill Nelson Chair in Ethics Education at the Center for Ethics in Health Care at Oregon Health Sciences University. Prior to my move, I taught and led a research programme in ethics and women’s and children’s health at the University of Oxford. We started two new exciting projects, one focused on gender equity in biomedical research and another looking at how we might leverage infectious disease networks to engage environmental drivers of health.

Two really memorable moments from my time working with colleagues across the GHBN were: learning about the cycles of the rice harvest, and how NOT to walk in mud, from Suphak on our early morning photography walks in Mae Sot; and, the day I learned that two of the junior researchers from our REACH study in Kenya had been accepted into the DPhil programme at Oxford. It has been so exciting and gratifying to see so many young researchers across the network blossoming in their careers. The relationships with so many talented, interesting people across the network have been incredible. I have learned so much from others and have been gently challenged to think in different ways about ethics.

Thank you to everyone for being so kind-hearted and generous in sharing your insights, ideas, and work across the network and with me, personally. This is such a remarkable group of people and I feel really lucky to have played a small part in the GHBN story!

MIKE PARKER



I am a philosopher who works in the field of ethics, and the Director of the Ethox Centre at the University of Oxford. The photograph is of me working on a draft of the original grant application to Wellcome. Each of us will have our own memories of the earliest days of GHBN. For me, the story begins with a conversation in Bangkok with Khin Maung Lwin and Phaik Yeong Cheah about their idea to

establish a community advisory board on the Thai-Myanmar Border to help the Shoklo Malaria Research Unit think through the practical ethical issues arising in its research with refugees and migrant workers. I was very, very excited to be asked to be involved and immediately began to see opportunities for connections with other projects.

Knowing that similar work was being undertaken by colleagues in Kenya and Vietnam, it also struck me that there might be value in creating a space for conversations about the practical ethical dimensions of collaborative global health research between people working in different low and middle-income countries. The idea was that, despite the very different contexts in which people were likely to be working, the implementation of global health research ‘on the ground’ might present some similar kinds of ethical problems. I thought that even if the problems and contexts turned out to be very different, conversations between people with a shared interest in thinking about ethics across such differences would be fascinating and hopefully useful. Shortly after this, and having received encouragement from Wellcome, I contacted the teams at the four other Wellcome Major Overseas Programmes – in Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, and Vietnam – and we all started

working together on the application to Wellcome to create the Global Health Bioethics Network.

It really is difficult to single out highlights from the first 10 years of GHBN – the whole thing genuinely has been a highlight! But one of the most enjoyable, and life-enhancing experiences for me has been to feel a part of such a wonderfully joyous, collaborative, and supportive group of people. It has been fun. This is not at all to say that it hasn’t been hard work – it has. However, it has always been tremendously rewarding and enjoyable. Despite the fact that we all come from very different settings, inevitably have different views, experiences, and values, and have been discussing some difficult and controversial topics, our conversations have always been respectful, serious, supportive, productive, friendly, and fun. This really is something to be celebrated and treasured.

So, against that backdrop I’ll briefly pick out two personal highlights.

My first has to be the annual summer school. The opportunity to see everyone in person, to witness first-hand the important ethics and social science research, capacity building, and community engagement activities being undertaken, to share meals together, and learn from each other has been wonderful. And the Thai group’s annual ‘ice-breaker’ activities really have broken the ice!

Another highlight for me has been having the opportunity to enjoy and celebrate the successes of the many bursary holders, PhD students, and post-doctoral researchers the Network has supported over the first 10 years of its existence. Many of them and their stories are illustrated elsewhere in this book, so I won’t repeat them here. Enough to say, they are all incredible. I have learnt a huge amount about ethics and about the world more broadly from my conversations with you and from the projects you have undertaken.

“I have learned from networking, conference presentations and publications by fellow members at various levels including bursary fellows, PhD students, post docs and senior researchers.”

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

MIRA SCHNEIDERS



I recently started working for the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium. Prior to that, I was a GHBN Senior Fellow, based in the Bioethics & Engagement Department at the Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU). In that role, I conducted research and supported

teaching and training on ethics and community engagement. Key moments of my career have been working at the World Health Organization in Geneva and then starting (and actually finishing!) my DPhil at Oxford... and then starting my postdoc at MORU.

Being part of the GHBN has really helped my career in several ways. Firstly, through the network, I found a collaborative partner for conducting my DPhil research in Cambodia (Angkor Hospital for Children; COMRU). Secondly, because of the network (conferences, site visits, summer schools, connections with colleagues from across the Wellcome Centres etc.) I was introduced to the work at MORU, which inspired me to apply for a Postdoc there. Finally, through the network I have met many great and inspiring

individuals whom I hope to continue working with for many years to come. The GHBN is a great and fruitful place for advancing thinking and debates on Global Health Bioethics. If it didn't exist

"The GHBN is a great and fruitful place for advancing thinking and debates on Global Health Bioethics. If it didn't exist yet, I think someone would need to invent it!"

yet, I think someone would need to invent it! I want to give a shout out to Dina, who I feel has played a key part in creating a really friendly, familial and connected atmosphere within GHBN, despite its global (and often virtual) nature– this is something I have really valued over the years! Thank you!

NANCY MWANGOME



I am a 2nd year PhD student at The Open University, UK. My research project aims to explore school re-entry strategies for adolescent mothers in Kenya. The implementation

of this project is hosted by the Initiative to Develop African Research Leaders (IDeAL), based at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya.

I consider myself blessed to have won two competitive training fellowships; firstly, I was awarded a 30-month Wellcome Trust

"By fully funding my PhD studies, the GHBN has provided me a capacity building opportunity of a lifetime!"

Master's fellowship in 2015. Secondly, I was selected for a GHBN-funded PhD fellowship in 2019.

By fully funding my PhD studies, the GHBN has provided me a capacity building opportunity of a lifetime! The annual summer schools provide opportunities to nurture mentorship and collaborative relationships with social scientists from different parts of the world. Additionally, the summer schools provide a forum for research dissemination and critical input for research development. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the network has been hosting a series of skill- building seminars for early career researchers, which I have benefited from.

Thank you Dinnah and the GHBN community for the virtual teas since COVID-19 hit. Availing an informal platform to catch up and chat away with colleagues has demonstrated your concern for our wellbeing.

NAPAT KHIRIKOEKKONG



I am a facilitator of the Tak Province Community Advisory Board (T-CAB), with 14 members coming from different communities along the Thai-Myanmar border. I facilitate and organize meetings between CABs and researchers and doctors here at the Shoklo Malaria Research Unit (SMRU). I also support the SMRU Public Engagement Department (PE).

In the last decade, I changed my career path, moving from the humanitarian field to the field of research and healthcare. I've learned new skills, and was privileged to be part of the REACH project, where we explored vulnerability in specific contexts. My five years of being part of the REACH study gave me opportunities to work with many experts in the field of research ethics, and are an enduring highlight of my career.

My first summer school was in Kilifi, Kenya in 2016. I met and connected with some members and learned so much from that experience. I also had the opportunity to meet with CAB members in Kilifi and that experience helped prepare me to facilitate the CAB here in Thailand. Participating in

"I also had the opportunity to meet with CAB members in Kilifi and that experience helped prepare me to facilitate the CAB here in Thailand."

many discussions and exchanges on research ethics helped me understand the importance of my

role as CAB facilitator, and the need to bridge gaps between researchers and the research community.

I have been in discussions with Plan International to explore the possibility of establishing a Young Person's Advisory Group (Y-PAG) with Myanmar migrant youth networks along the Thai-Myanmar border area. This idea sparked from having attended summer schools and listening to discussions on how we can get children involved in research and how their voices matter. I hope we can establish the Y-PAG and provide a platform for young persons to express their views that will support research which will benefit them.

NICOLA DESMOND



I'm a Reader in medical anthropology and global health at the LSTM. Having relocated to the UK in the middle of the pandemic in 2020, I continue to support the team in Malawi with work ranging from health systems improvement to vaccine evaluations and HIV prevention in key populations. I remain committed to

building capacity for ethical research practice and equitable partnerships, as well as teaching.

One of my highlights of the past decade is setting up social science within the MLW programme – from the platform of a WT fellowship, I established a large research group and brought the value of social science to a clinical research programme, including a programme on ethics and engagement.

Being part of the GHBN has been incredibly rewarding – to be establishing a strong equitable network with like-minded individuals who are all aiming to improve a decolonised global health agenda. The GHBN has also allowed me to meet new people, exchange ideas, and the network has strongly supported the work I've been doing in Malawi.

"Being part of the GHBN has been incredibly rewarding – to be establishing a strong equitable network with like-minded individuals who are all aiming to improve a decolonised global health agenda."

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

NIPAPHAN KANTHAWANG



I'm a research nurse and project coordinator in the Bioethics Engagement Department at the Chiang Rai site of MORU. I have mainly been involved in engaging communities on the topic of scrub typhus, a tropical disease that is common in Chiang Rai, Thailand. In addition, as part of the GHBN bursary scheme, I'm leading a project to improve research understanding among community members, including hill tribes, the

elderly, and those who are illiterate, by co-creating clearer informative materials for clinical research projects.

In the last 5 years of my career, I have been working in research in the area where I grew up, and I have the opportunity to

"I think it is important to focus our work not only on our needs as researchers but also on the needs of the community."

but also on the needs of the community. I love to see how much unity and resources the community has. I work in a great environment, with nice co-workers and superiors who always support me, let me work at my best and encourage me to push myself.

Being part of the GHBN has given me the opportunity to learn more about bioethics issues, and apply to do the projects that I'm interested in, in order to help my community. The GHBN has helped me to adapt and improve the work in my area and I hope that I will have the chance to support the GHBN and its members in the future.

NONI MUMBA



I am Head of Engagement at the KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme in Kenya.

One memorable moment of the last decade was winning the best poster presentations in one of the GHBN summer schools (held in Oxford). I was still pretty new to the network (at least that is how I considered myself), and it came as such a pleasant surprise for my poster to get a vote from the participants.

A second highlight is getting promoted to Head of Engagement at KWTRP.

The GHBN has significantly impacted my career. I came into KWTRP from the development world of NGOs and while I had a

"The GHBN has significantly impacted my career."

very good grasp of communication and multi stakeholder involvement from my previous work, I needed to learn a lot in terms of engagement in relation to Health Research, which I was not previously familiar with.

Interacting with experienced colleagues at the GHBN has greatly built my ethics and engagement skills.

NOTHANDO NGWENYA



I lead a team as Director of Science: Social Sciences at AHRI, in South Africa. The team has grown within a short space of time from a small unit to a large department working across disciplines with a focus on intervention development and evaluation of clinical interventions.

Being part of the network has been a rollercoaster ride for me and I am glad to say that the learning process has extended to many members of my team and other people at the Institute who have also gone on to join GHBN and flourished in their careers. I say a rollercoaster ride as I struggled initially to grasp the idea and ideologies of bioethics and empirical ethics. Ethics seems like a given or a logical concept when discussed in social settings but when you dig deeper in the conduct and practice of many academics, you can be left wanting. An example for me was doing my research funded by the GHBN as a bursary fellow looking into Post Trial Access to care for research participants in international research. One would immediately assume that this is not an ethics question worthy of debate as post trial access to care should always be provided. However, as I engaged with previous research participants of a major trial in our setting, government colleagues from the Department of Health and funders as well as principal researchers, I was faced

with a mountain of data that was not as simple to decipher as I thought it would be. This gave me a newfound respect for ethics and the need to engage in these philosophical debates and arguments that expose the variations and intersection of moral beliefs, and obligations in different settings and from different people based on background and positions of power.

One of my top career highlights was meeting the senior researchers conducting ethics research at a global scale. This has intrigued me, and I have been impressed at how individuals are able to switch from thinking of issues in Asia to those in Africa and then Europe (because for me ethics is usually grounded within the context and setting as it relates to morality norms of a place). This exposure to a diverse group of experts has been instrumental in how I have developed as a postdoctoral researcher to a research leader working to develop capacity of the next generation of African scientists at AHRI.

It has not all been work, work, work in the network – we have had lots of fun with people I now count among my friends and believe these will be lifelong relationships that we have formed. I am grateful for having had the experience and opportunity to cross paths with the GHBN in the lifetime of my career.

“One of my top career highlights was meeting the senior researchers conducting ethics research at a global scale. This has intrigued me, and I have been impressed at how individuals are able to switch from thinking of issues in Asia to those in Africa and then Europe (because for me ethics is usually grounded within the context and setting as it relates to morality norms of a place). This exposure to a diverse group of experts has been instrumental in how I have developed as a postdoctoral researcher to a research leader working to develop capacity of the next generation of African scientists at AHRI. ”

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

PATRICIA KINGORI



I'm Professor of Global Health Ethics at Oxford University, and am currently leading a team of researchers exploring concerns around Fakes, Fabrications and Falsehoods in Global Health. This is a four-year Wellcome-funded Senior Investigator award which seeks to understand the people, places, and processes involved in contemporary concerns about fakes in global health.

A career highlight for me has been my time at the Ethox

Centre in Oxford. Over the last ten years I have been involved in so many fascinating projects and collaborations, and have grown incredibly and met so many inspiring people.

One of the key aspects of the GHBN for me has been the way in which learning has flowed in both directions. Often, in partnerships that include northern and southern partners, one assumes that learning happens in one direction – from North to South. But the GHBN is different. Those of us based in the UK/ at Oxford have learned enormously and gained so much insight from our partners in Africa and Asia. They have learned from us too, but the knowledge gained has definitely gone both ways. This is what makes the GHBN so special.

I'm also especially grateful to Paul Woodgate at the Wellcome Trust who was such a strong supporter of both my own work, and the GHBN.

"One of the key aspects of the GHBN for me has been the way in which learning has flowed in both directions."

PEARSON NKHOMA



I'm a postdoc at MLW and co-investigator of the Malaria Health Utilization Study (HUS), a qualitative component of the Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme (MVIP) which is being implemented in three sub-Saharan African countries (Malawi, Kenya & Ghana). In this study, I'm exploring

accessibility, behavioural impact and acceptability of the malaria vaccine at community level and how it's impacting acceptability of other (both new and old) vaccines – a timely study in the face of vaccine accessibility and hesitancy as well as Covid-19 vaccine and associated structural challenges in the low-income countries like Malawi.

My biggest highlight has been offering regular input and real-time feedback grounded on emerging results from the study to WHO where I have been able to influence policy and practice

"My biggest highlight has been offering regular input and real-time feedback grounded on emerging results from the study to WHO where I have been able to influence policy and practice across the three implementing countries and in preparation for the vaccine's scale up."

across the three implementing countries and in preparation for the vaccine's scale up. I am delighted to say that my drive is always a personal

commitment to social justice and health equality, one the reasons why I find fulfilment in exploring contextual specificities that could ensure the marginalized and the hard-to-reach are able to lead a dignified life with equal access to quality health services and practice interventions such as the COVID vaccine.

PHAIK YEONG CHEAH



I am Professor of Global Health at Oxford University, and Head of Bioethics & Engagement at MORU. I conduct my own ethics and engagement research and also lead the ethics/engagement work packages in large clinical trials run by MORU.

In the last decade, the highlight for me, to put in as few words as possible was: realising that I wanted to do research in ethics and engagement, deciding to apply for funding to make it

happen, and hosting the 2nd GHBN summer school in Bangkok.

The GHBN has helped me realize that there is a research gap in ethics and engagement in the part of the world I work in, and I now do this research full time. My GHBN bursary (on assent) helped kick-start my research on paediatric research ethics. The work resulted in a few published papers, symposiums (e.g. IAB) and informed a funding application (REACH).

“My GHBN bursary (on assent) helped kick-start my research on paediatric research ethics.”

PRIMUS CHE CHI



I'm a GHBN senior fellow based at the Department of Health Systems and Research Ethics, at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme (KWTRP) in Kilifi, Kenya. I'm also Coordinator for the HSRE Kilifi senior management group. My current research is focused on understanding the social and ethical implications of human infection studies (HIS) in low resource settings like Kenya.

Some memorable moments in the last decade are being awarded a Marie Curie fellowship in 2011 that allowed me to complete my PhD in International Health at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, Norway, and being granted a GHBN fellowship in 2018 that allowed me to return and serve

“Going forward, I see the GHBN as an important forum/platform for my career development through continuous advice, mentorship and research collaboration.”

on the African continent, and gave me the opportunity to receive support and mentorship from colleagues within the GHBN. The GHBN has played and continues to play a significant role in my career. My GHBN fellowship ushered me into a new and interesting research interest – the ethics of human infection studies. Additionally, my most recent EDCTP Career Development fellowship was obtained thanks to the support and mentorship of senior colleagues from the GHBN, who carefully reviewed my draft application and provided critical feedback prior to submission. Going forward, I see the GHBN as an important forum/platform for my career development through continuous advice, mentorship and research collaboration.

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

RITA NJERU



I'm a Nuffield Department of Population Health funded Dphil student at the Ethox Centre. I'm studying the ethics and implementation of human milk banks in sub-Saharan Africa, with an eye towards equitable access to human milk for vulnerable infants.

I have worked in a large multi-country, multidisciplinary ethics study- REACH- and got to understand the various dimensions of vulnerability and agency. In this work, we looked into people's own accounts of vulnerability as well as the various ethical dilemmas that are faced by researchers, especially at the frontline, after ethics approval. This work led to various publications led by my very talented senior colleagues, including the beginnings of an approach to address ethical dilemmas for

frontline research and clinical staff in studies, though reflection meetings and discussions. I learned how open and supportive conversations between frontline staff and senior study team members can lead to real changes in ethical research practices at various levels, as well as address and reduce moral distress for staff.

I joined GHBN when I was a total ethics novice. I met an incredibly supportive 'family', with members at various career levels who were ready to interact with and mentor me (and continue to do so). It is amazing how during summer schools you interact with people from various disciplines and career levels and get to learn and be challenged, without judgment! I have participated in discussions, debates and various other exercises. And the amazing Dina is always quick to support and share knowledge and opportunities across the network which provides so much more insights. I hope to remain a member wherever my career takes me. I have interests in maternal and child health interventions and their implementation in ways that promote equity and respect. After you learn ethics, you can never go back, you always see things in multiple dimensions and first and foremost, recognise the importance of listening and learning from the people you mean to serve.

"After you learn ethics, you can never go back, you always see things in multiple dimensions and first and foremost, recognise the importance of listening and learning from the people you mean to serve."

ROBIN VINCENT



I am finalising work on REAL – a realist review of community engagement with health research, distilling evidence around how Community Engagement works in different settings. I'm also involved in various other projects – such as work on asset-based approaches to health and well-being, and have a senior advisory role on evaluation and learning in 'placed-based' and 'whole system approaches' to encouraging physical activity throughout people's lives in the UK.

"The GHBN wonderfully models a kind of distributed leadership, where people are able to make their contribution at a range of levels based on their own distinctive set of skills and concerns. This is very much facilitated by the core team, but also rests on the commitment of those within the networks – proving it takes many to tango!"

Memorable moments of my recent work include being part of the Wellcome and GHBN Community of Practice around Community Engagement – both the GHBN network and the 5 or 6 international learning forums that I have been part of designing and facilitating over the last 10 years. It's a fantastic, committed, inspiring group of people who have been lovely to work with.

Also, working at the community level in the UK to gather stories of significant change, in which people tell their stories of what makes a difference to their lives, health, wellbeing and experience of disability. This work shows for me how people have insights ideas and initiative to tackle real world problems but are often hampered by the wider political and economic environment.

The GHBN has helped me to develop a stronger 'ethical' lens. The work of GHBN scholars has also proved vital in the REAL review I have led with Sassy Molyneux, since GHBN work has made a major contribution to opening up the black box of something like community engagement, to better understand what is at stake.

The GHBN wonderfully models a kind of distributed leadership, where people are able to make their contribution at a range of levels based on their own distinctive set of skills and concerns. This is very much facilitated by the core team, but also rests on the commitment of those within the networks – proving it takes many to tango!

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

SASSY MOLYNEUX



Having been based at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Programme in Kenya for 28 years, I've just shifted back to the UK with my family. I've been employed by the University of Oxford since graduating, but in 2019 was promoted to Professor in Global Health in the Nuffield Department of Medicine in Oxford. I support the strategic development of health systems/social science research within the department, alongside continuing to conduct health system and empirical ethics research, and support capacity strengthening initiatives in KWTRP and Oxford. I'm co-leading the Health Systems Collaborative with Mike English.

Over the past few years, I've been delighted to see close colleagues at KWTRP take on senior leadership positions, including my long term friend and colleague Dorcas Kamuya, who's doing a fantastic job as Head of the – what is now very large – Health Systems and Research Ethics Department. Such a fully deserved achievement!

Being part of the GHBN has offered me the opportunity to meet many inspiring people working in many different ways in diverse settings. Interacting with network members has given me new perspectives and insights on important issues and introduced me to new ways of working, collaborating, teaching and supporting others. The network has hugely helped me in my career and work. It's not only been an opportunity for learning, but also a platform to hear about new research initiatives, build new research collaborations, find new role models, mentors and advisors, and make new friends. Overall I've learned how much more there is to learn, and that doing so is enriching and can be FUN! Long may the spirit continue, and huge thanks to Mike Parker and Dina Rippon for the incredible leadership and coordination throughout.

“Interacting with network members has given me new perspectives and insights on important issues and introduced me to new ways of working, collaborating, teaching and supporting others.”

SCHOLAR ZAKAYO



I'm currently undertaking a DPhil in Population Health at the University of Oxford.

The GHBN has been a space for personal and professional growth. It has been fundamental in opening up networking (and knowledge sharing) opportunities for myself, translating to collaborations and lifetime friendships. I am deeply honoured to be part of the GHBN network.

"The GHBN has been a space for personal and professional growth."

SREYMOM POL



I'm a researcher at the Cambodia Oxford Medical Research Unit, Siem Reap Cambodia.

I'm writing up a qualitative study that explores community attitudes towards stillbirths and neonatal deaths, and am preparing

for a new study looking at the frequency and characteristics of antibiotic consumption in children in Cambodia.

Recent highlights for me include joining the summer schools and getting to see different projects done around the world. These meetings have inspired me to do projects that matter to me. Receiving a GHBN bursary to conduct a study on community perspectives toward research ethics was also a great achievement. I was able to run the study and was mentored by a lot of incredible people.

"One thing I would like to share with younger researchers is, even if you don't know if your idea is any good, don't be scared to share it with others."

In addition, the chance to work in community engagement activities, such as the YPAG (Young Person's advisory group) has been amazing.

Creating a platform that empowers young people to express their views to their peers and to those in positions of authority is a wonderful feeling.

I feel so lucky to be part of the GHBN because through this network I've gotten to know many amazing people who try their best to make the world a better place. With my bursary, I received support from all the mentors, and was always able to access help and advice from supervisors and friends.

One thing I would like to share with younger researchers is, even if you don't know if your idea is any good, don't be scared to share it with others. There may be others out there with the same goals as you who would love to support you. Work hard and don't forget to be grateful for every little step you take and everyone you meet. We learn more than we realise from others.

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

SUMMITA UDAS SHAKYA



I work as a Public and Community Engagement officer at OUCRU-Nepal. I lead and co lead various engagement projects in the areas of AMR, Typhoid studies, mental health, altitude sickness, and Journalist meets science. In addition, our team also engages with COVID -19 Media

monitoring (Debunking Corona virus myth) and the COVID Vaccine hesitancy program.

In 2020, we received The International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases award, presented to Oxford University Clinical Research Unit Nepal, Public and Communication Engagement as a winner of the ISNTD festival 2020 Photo Award. This

“My first GHBN summer School in 2016 was hosted by KEMRI in Kilifi. It was my stepping stone towards my new career of public and community engagement.”

was in recognition for our outstanding contribution to photo-reporting, advocacy and awareness raising of public health and the communities affected. My first GHBN summer School in 2016 was hosted by KEMRI in Kilifi. It was my stepping stone towards my new career of public and community engagement. I met with a diverse group of people and with our shared experience and learning, I have always been motivated to do more. This is an expert’s platform and I find people very humble and encouraging. This really pushes me to do better.

I’ve learned and am still learning and looking forward to learn more. Thank you GHBN for giving me such a great opportunity.

SUPA-AT ASARATH



I’m a research and engagement assistant at MORU, and my main responsibility is on the REACH project for the Mae Sot site, Thailand. Apart from REACH, I provide support to other studies from the unit or within the department, for example AMR projects and COVID-19 related projects. In most cases, I provide assistance on media development

for usage in that specific project and engagement.

In the last 10 years, I’ve experienced many pivotal moments, some of which have changed my life. One example is an internship on the border - it broadened my perspective of the world and made me realize that I can be more, and do more, for the path towards sustainability and improved quality of life, especially for marginalized populations. Another true highlight has been my involvement in the very meaningful international project, REACH.

Being here at MORU and being part of the GHBN are major milestones achieved and truly are highlights of my life. Though I am new in the network, and still early in my career, I’ve connected to academics and researchers.

Also everyone in the network is supportive, nice, kind, and enthusiastic. Often, I receive information on many learning opportunities from the network. The workshops, webinars, online courses, etc. have helped me build up my own capabilities to support my projects and the work of my department. The people in the network share common goals in their hearts, which include fostering and advocating for ethical research, conducting research with the aim to improve the quality of life, and encouraging equity and equality. I’d like to thank everyone in the network, for this great-warm-big family.

“The people in the network share common goals in their hearts, which include fostering and advocating for ethical research, conducting research with the aim to improve the quality of life, and encouraging equity and equality!”

SUSAN BULL



By day I am the programme manager for Epidemic Ethics at Ethox and by night (at least in European and African time zones) I am the Associate Professor of Medical Ethics at the University of Auckland.

“I have loved being involved in the growth and evolution of the GHBN over the past decade and look forward to future developments.”

have always been enjoyable and thought-provoking, particularly the opportunities to meet, visit and learn more about the range of research and engagement activities at all of the sites. Involvement in the GHBN has provided me with the opportunity to collaborate in, and lead, a range of multi-site and context specific empirical ethics projects. These have been such a pleasure and so interesting to be involved in, and it's great to see the impact of the outputs. I have loved being involved in the growth and evolution of the GHBN over the past decade and look forward to future developments.

The GHBN has played a key role in my career over the past ten years. In particular the summer schools

VICKI MARSH



I recently retired, but prior to that, I lived and worked in Kenya at the KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme (KWTRP) for 28 years, and after that, split my time between Kilifi in Kenya, and Oxford in the UK. In Kenya I worked on global health research ethics, including two main programmes on the ethics of Human Infection Studies, and as part of the REACH consortium. In Oxford, I was based in the Oxford Centre for Global Health Research in the Nuffield Department of Medicine (NDM).

For me, the most memorable moments of the last ten years include: successfully completing a DPhil in Public Health/Global Health Ethics at Oxford University, supervised by Mike Parker, Ray Fitzpatrick and Sassy Molyneux, in 2011. Mike often talks about ethics training as being a type of ‘moral apprenticeship’, that is, that there is a practical wisdom at its heart. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to learn as an apprentice to Mike and Sassy in particular – who I also count as very important friends. In addition, being awarded a Teaching Excellence Award by the Medical Sciences Division at Oxford University for contributions to teaching on the MSc IHTM in 2019, and being given the Senior Lecturer award by the students on this course three times in the past six years has meant a great deal to me!

continued overleaf...

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS CONTINUED

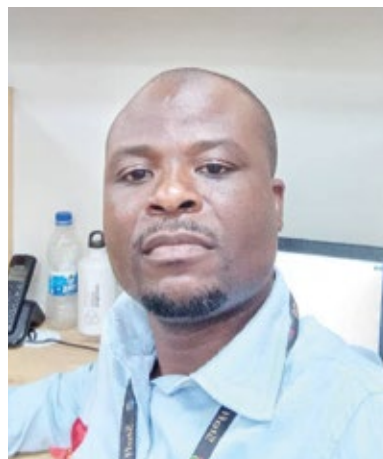
VICKI MARSH ...continued

To me, collaboration is an instinctively good way to work, partly based on what I enjoy and partly on what has worked well in my experience. The GHBN members hold in common an ethos of learning through sharing knowledge, experience and friendship. Diversity across research and wider contexts within the GHBN underpins opportunities for learning. I've gained directly by being involved in several international collaborative research projects set up through or drawing strongly on the GHBN –but in fact, all the studies I've led or been involved in

“The GHBN members hold in common an ethos of learning through sharing knowledge, experience and friendship. Diversity across research and wider contexts within the GHBN underpins opportunities for learning.”

over the past 10 years have drawn on experience and expertise within the GHBN, as a practical and intellectual touchstone. Many early and some mid-career researchers I have supported have taken up GHBN bursary awards or fellowships that have provided both practical opportunities and intellectual support, strengthening the credibility and influence of their work. The annual summer schools have been an inspiring demonstration of collaboration in action, from which I've observed the way that members have expanded their academic, creative and cultural horizons.

WEZZIE NYAPIGOTI



I am a Junior Research Assistant for the Adapted Microplanning Eliminating Transmissible HIV in Sex Transactions (AMETHIST) Study. The study is being implemented in three countries – Malawi, Zimbabwe and South Africa and aims to understand i) the sexual risk across and along the sex work life-course, including during sex

work transitions into and out of sex work; ii) the prevalence and pattern of sex-work, including how FSW are defined/ define themselves, patterns of sex work, and types of sexual partnerships; iii) assess the unmet needs of FSW and finally iv) determine how to deliver the AMETHIST intervention in Malawi.

I have been working as a Field worker at MLW for almost 7 yrs. The most memorable moment in my career was in 2018 when I was awarded the Global Health Bioethics Network Bursary Fellowship, which enabled me to design and implement my own

“I have progressed in my career because of the peer support and senior mentorship provided by the GHBN.”

research on the topic of research benefits and compensation, and also gave me the opportunity to network with members of the GHBN at summer schools in Oxford, Vientiane, and online summer schools.

I have progressed in my career because of the peer support and senior mentorship provided by the GHBN. The network has allowed me to grow personally and professionally by expanding my professional networks with various people from different professions. This exposure has opened up my eyes and challenged me to think big in my career.

YEMISRACH ZEWDIE



I work as a Co-investigator for the Post-trial Access Africa Project at Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI) in Ethiopia, sponsored by EDTCP.

I was fortunate to be awarded a Bursary by the GHBN in 2018 to conduct a study on the composition and capacity of Institutional Review Boards, and explore the challenges experienced by members in ethics review processes in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Global Health Bioethics Network paved my initial career journey to conduct a study in IRB members. It provided me with a great opportunity to communicate with mentors who have ample expertise and experience from different perspectives.

I hope the Global Health Bioethics Network initiative and support will continue strongly to contribute to the career development of its members.

“It provided me with a great opportunity to communicate with mentors who have ample expertise and experience from different perspectives.”

YEN NGUYEN THI HONG



I'm based at Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Vietnam. I'm currently a PhD student at Oxford University, studying the issues of antimicrobial resistance in Vietnam.

I started three years ago in OUCRU with a GHBN bursary project that focused on the perceptions and practices of informed consent in clinical trials. During the conduct of the study, I received enormous support from not only my direct supervisors, but also experts from the Network. Being a novice in bioethics research, I found the annual Summer Schools and

“Being a novice in bioethics research, I found the annual Summer Schools and workshops organized by GHBN were greatly beneficial for me to engage in discussions, exchange ideas and experiences in research, and explore various topics in-depth.”

workshops organized by GHBN were greatly beneficial for me to engage in discussions, exchange ideas and experiences in research, and explore various topics in-depth. It has been a long road for me to become a PhD candidate and I am

grateful to the GHBN for giving me a chance a few years ago to start my career in this field. Although I have finished my bursary project and changed my research focus, I wish to continue to be a member of the Network.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR PARTNERS

AFRICA HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AHRI)

The GHBN has raised the profile and importance of bioethics work within the research conducted at AHRI. This has been reflected in many ways namely:

1. The awarding of the bursary scheme made it possible for one of the bursary holders to conduct a piece of research on Post Trial Access to treatment – a very important consideration in the field of Global Health. We have also worked within a large cross-sectional population-based multi-morbidity programme to understand how members of our community understand the consenting process especially in large programmes of work which may be perceived as a health care service. This has inevitably led to a lot of discussions and proposed changes to the consenting process in our rural setting with low levels of literacy.
2. Following on the theme of the consenting process, another GHBN bursary holder has had the opportunity to develop their academic interest and skills in bioethics leading to other research funding including the AHRI-UCL Early career Development Fellowship, on a study that is focusing on the “Ethical and Legal tensions in adolescent research: Looking at adolescents’ autonomy, privacy and confidentiality in a rural district, South Africa” and another grant looking at “The acceptability and ethical implications of using telephones and online platforms for informed consent and data collection during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa”. These experiences have all used the GHBN as a springboard to a career in bioethics as well as the bursary holder helping the Institute by developing the capacity of junior researchers and leadership within the Institute.
3. GHBN members were instrumental in the development of the GCP training conducted at AHRI using the



learning points from the GHBN summer school where an ethics clinic was conducted which brought ethical issues to the forefront of all the research work and practice done. Members of GHBN at AHRI developed the Child Protection Policy and SOP which has led to Institutional training of all fieldworkers at AHRI and also led to the creation of a Child Protection Nurse position to ensure the protection and safety of children and young people that take part in our research. Considering the new

strategy at AHRI which involves extending our work from observational to intervention and implementation through a new purpose-built Clinical Trials Unit, these initiatives will contribute and strengthen the clinical practice training and work done by all involved in the Unit. Being involved in the GHBN has given us better insight to the integration of social science studies into clinical trials as we have worked alongside colleagues

4. We have also used this opportunity to build better relations across departments and disciplines, leading to multi-disciplinary work and projects. One such example is a project by Khadija Khan, a Biorepository Manager at AHRI who conducted a project within the laboratory science space looking at consent procedures when taking lung tissue from patients in hospitals for exploratory research. Learning from other partners with more developed public engagement programmes, GHBN members at AHRI have informed the evolution of our unit to invest in the monitoring and evaluation aspects of our engagement activities.
5. We have collaborated with the University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN), School of Law to:
 - a. Develop the CABS' ethics capacity- we have facilitated workshops with the AHRI CAB, working with Public Engagement Unit (PEU). We are also engaging with the PEU at the South African Medical Research Council, Durban campus to provide ethical capacity development;
 - b. Facilitate a bioethics seminar focusing on the ethical, legal, and social issues arising in consent process involving minor adolescents;
 - c. Network with a team of medical and legal ethicists and academics focusing on a range of health, research, legal and ethical issues affecting the well-being of children in SA.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR PARTNERS CONTINUED

ETHOX, OXFORD

Our focus has changed: The GHBN has had a profound impact on the Ethox Centre. Over the past decade, our attentions have shifted from being a broad-based bioethics centre with a small but significant interest in global health ethics, to being a centre in which global health ethics and questions of global justice are central. The experience we have gained from this and our links with the GHBN have enabled us to foster a number of other new relationship in global bioethics. We have partnered with international organizations like the WHO and initiatives like the **Global Forum for Bioethics Research**, and have played a leading role in establishing others such as **Epidemic Ethics** and **GLIDE**. We also played an important role in the Nuffield Council on Bioethics working group on the **ethics of research in global health emergencies**. Members of the Ethox team sit on national and international advisory boards relating to policy in global health.

Our team has grown: Over the life of GHBN, Ethox has grown to become one of the largest bioethics centres internationally. We currently have a team of over fifty researchers, doctoral students, and admin staff. A key factor in this growth has been the development of our programmes in global health bioethics.

One of the fastest-growing groups at Ethox has been the doctoral students. We currently have 15 doctoral students 6 of whom are doing projects in global bioethics. Several brilliant PhD students have actually come through the ranks of the GHBN. For example, Scholar Zakayo, who started off as a research officer at KWTRP, moved to a competitive sponsored place on the MSc in International Health and Tropical Medicine at the Nuffield Department of Medicine, Oxford, and is now a PhD student at Ethox. Rita Njeru, also from KWTRP, and Sreymom Pol from COMRU (a GHBN former Bursary Fellow), both did the MSc course at Oxford, and followed it with PhDs. Other

Ethox doctoral students coming from GHBN include: Thi Cam Binh Nguyen from Vietnam, Paulina Tindana from Ghana, and Geoffrey Lairumbi from Kenya.

Our research & funding has expanded: In the course of the last ten years, Ethox staff members, including Patricia Kingori, Susan Bull, Maureen Kelley, Frances Butcher, Gabriela Pavarini, and Mike Parker have attracted a significant amount of extra funding in the area of global bioethics. Much of this funding has been obtained from Wellcome. In the area of global bioethics this has included a Wellcome Centre Award, two Investigator Awards, a Collaborator Award, and a number of discretionary grants to pursue collaborative research across a range of issues including:

- Ethics of research in global health emergencies
- Infectious disease ethics
- Fake, fabrications and falsehoods in global health
- Resilience, empowerment, and advocacy, in women's and children's health research
- Good and bad research collaborations
- Ethics and data sharing in global health
- Ethics and global health security

Our training programs have grown: The GHBN allowed Ethox and the AAPs to work together to create strong ethics training programs. Throughout the decades-long lifespan of the GHBN, Ethox and AAP staff travelled to different sites to lead ethics training sessions, and then expanded to teach qualitative research training sessions, academic writing, participatory community engagement methods, and various other types of training. **Our online resources also grew as we collectively produced an immense range of online ethics training courses.**

The Oxford Global Health and Bioethics International Conference:

In 2015, Ethox hosted the first biennial Oxford Global Health and Bioethics International Conference. The Conference addressed critically important ethical issues in the conception and implementation of Global Health and was an enormous success, attracting over 120 participants from a wide range of disciplines, and from 31 countries in its first year. Since then, the Oxford Global Conference has continued to grow and has become well-established as the leading conference in global health bioethics bringing together experts from high, and low and middle-income countries. GHBN members often share their most important research at this conference.

All in all, thanks to the support and the strengthened capacity provided by being part of the GHBN, Ethox has been able to establish a reputation as a centre of global excellence in the field of global health ethics.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR PARTNERS CONTINUED

KEMRI WELLCOME TRUST RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The GHBN has been an invaluable network for KEMRI-Wellcome Trust in many different ways over the past decade.

Perhaps the two key inter-related highlights are:

1) the enrichment of our community engagement and ethics research and practice with ideas, inputs and advice from colleagues working in very different contexts but facing very similar issues and concerns (it's felt like we've gained a network of highly valued critical friends); and 2) the network's contribution to capacity strengthening for KEMRI-Wellcome Trust individuals at all levels, and the institution as a whole. For individual capacity strengthening we have valued early post-doctoral support, support to PhD students, and bursaries.

The bursaries have been particularly valuable in providing a number of young researchers in the programme an opportunity to write a proposal, compete for funding, and receive mentorship and support in implementing their study. Overall the network has contributed to skills-building and mentorship, and to strong relationships being built between individuals and institutions across the GHBN, enabling strong collaborations and great working relationships in research and engagement initiatives. In this way, being part of the network has really strengthened the credibility/status of KEMRI-WT on a global scale. Examples of these include:

- **REACH** www.ethox.ox.ac.uk/Our-research/major-programmes/reach
- **AAS funding on Social Science and ethics around COVID19:** role of ethics review and research regulatory in preparedness and response to global health pandemics (involving KWTRP, AHRI - and University of Ghana)

- Dorcas Kamuya's biobanking project - involving KWTRP, AHRI and UVRI Uganda
- **2018 International school engagement workshop and MESH resource theme** <https://mesh.tghn.org/themes/main-school-engagement/>
- **Youth Against Antimicrobial Resistance initiative and Learning Framework** <https://www.youthagainstamr.com/yaar-activities>
- **WHO Task Force and Technical Advisory Group on Covid-19 Vaccine research**
- **International research collaborations** – eg on consent.

There have been many special achievements linked to the GHBN. A few to highlight are members – including those funded as GHBN fellows – being invited to sit on a diverse range of international and national decision-making and advisory committees, and our first fellow – Dorcas Kamuya – being appointed as a departmental head in KEMRI-WT and as an Associate Professor in Oxford. Equally important and memorable are members giving their first public presentation, getting their first papers published, receiving a first grant, and being selected for competitive PhD funding. It's been exciting to be involved in setting up international platforms, including the International Fieldworkers' network, which was initiated through a GHBN Bursary. And for us all, having the opportunity to meet face-to-face with others in our annual summer schools has always been a special event – full of fun and learning.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR PARTNERS CONTINUED

MALAWI-LIVERPOOL WELLCOME TRUST CLINICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME (MLW)

The GHBN has impacted MLW in many ways, including through:

- **Individual capacity strengthening and building careers.** For example – 9 junior GHBN fellowships supported (all currently still working within MLW), 2 PhD studentships supported (1 complete, and 1 ongoing), and 1 post-doc fellow supported (ongoing). The GHBN has also supported the establishment of an Associate Group (led by GHBN Senior Fellow Deborah Nyirenda), and has supported the development and training of various fellows, including by providing funding to attend international meetings and conferences.
- **MLW strategy and policy change.** Elvis Moyo's bursary award raised the profile of frontline fieldworkers within MLW, which led to the establishment of a management and career development structure for fieldworkers and a new core funded post of Fieldwork Service Coordinator. Thirty workspaces were set up for fieldworker planning and team building, and a new Fieldworker training curriculum has been accepted and will be mandatory for all fieldworkers from June 2021. Furthermore, the GHBN bursaries awarded to Neema Mtunthama, Mitsunge Gondwe and Helen Mangochi to study issues around consent/assent contributed to revised consent processes at MLW through the Clinical Research Support Unit.
- **Raising the priority of ethical conduct of research and the importance of community engagement.** Community engagement research (both stand alone and collaborative) is now increasingly recognized as valuable within MLW's core strategy, and as a component of multi-disciplinary research.



- **Collaborative support to a range of projects** – such as co-funding a COVID risk study.

Overall, the GHBN has contributed to the sustainability of the social science programme and post Behaviour and Health Group at MLW.



The GHBN has put MLW on the map for organisations working in community engagement/ethics and contributed hugely to the social science platform of research at MLW as well as strengthening practice.

MORU TROPICAL HEALTH NETWORK

As a result of the GHBN, we:

- Conducted our first empirical bioethics and engagement research in Myanmar (MOCRU), Laos (LOMWRU) and Cambodia (COMRU) and published the results in international peer-reviewed journals. (Note: Engagement has been conducted for years, but not engagement research, and not published);
- Formalized a programme of bioethics and engagement research at MORU, and established a new department called “Bioethics & Engagement” in 2015. (Note: The academic study of bioethics and engagement is relatively new in Southeast Asia - with the exception of Singapore- and “bioethics” or “ethics” is often narrowly understood and undervalued as “getting ethics committee approval”. We can be pretty sure that the number of empirical ethics papers coming out of Southeast Asia has increased over the years because of GHBN.)
- Embedded ethics and engagement work in many projects. In many cases ethics/engagement has become a specific work package (led by the Bioethics & Engagement team) with its own ring-fenced budget e.g. the “Malaria Infection Studies Thailand” project (MIST) has an engagement work package; the “Deploying triple artemisinin-based combination therapy (TACT) for malaria treatment in Africa” has an ethics work package; mass drug administration (MDA) of antimalarials in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thai-Myanmar border has an engagement work package, and so forth.
- Obtained new funding based on preliminary work conducted with GHBN-supported bursary projects or other work. e.g. funding on data sharing from WHO, REACH from Wellcome.



In addition to the above outputs, GHBN Senior Fellow, Mira Schneiders, coordinated a four-country qualitative study on the social, ethical and behavioural aspects of COVID-19 and public health measures. The fact that she was in post and did not require additional funding to do this work meant that we were able to conduct this study in a timely manner, and without having to depend on new funding.

Furthermore, Bipin Adhikari’s DPhil project is on ethics/engagement around MDA in Laos, and supervised by Phaik Yeong.

And Phaik Yeong Cheah is on various international committees related to bioethics and engagement.

Overall, the impact of the GHBN on MORU and its partners has been massive. Things will never be the same again...in a good way!



From Claudia Turner in COMRU –

“I would say that the main impact from GHBN is that we have been able to understand better the community attitudes and beliefs to neonatal care and towards research, thus giving a strong foundation for further studies to reduce neonatal death”

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR PARTNERS CONTINUED

OXFORD UNIVERSITY CLINICAL RESEARCH UNIT VIETNAM (OUCRU)

The GHBN has been instrumental in raising the profile of research ethics and ethical engagement at OUCRU. It has done so by championing these to OUCRU leaders, and by encouraging and strengthening the capacity of our CTU, social science and engagement teams. The GHBN has done this in two ways:

I. Supporting people

- 5 Bursary fellowships: Nguyen Thi Thanh Thuy, Tran Thi Thanh Phuong, Nguyen Thanh Ha, Nguyen Thi Hong Yen, Le Phuong Chi,
- 2 DPhil fellowships: Nguyen Thi Cam Binh (2012–15), and Nguyen Thanh Ha (2020–)
- 1 Senior research fellowship: Dr Jennifer Van Nuil (2018–2020)
- 3 members of the Programme Management Group: Dr Mary Chambers, Dr Jennifer Van Nuil, Evelyne Kestelyn.

Through these 1-year bursaries and the 3-year DPhil projects we have explored issues pertinent to OUCRU's clinical practice in Vietnam such as: exploring informed consent, acceptability of treatments, attitudes towards maternal and infant vaccines, perceptions of ethics committees regarding qualitative studies, and the ethics of rapidly evolving pandemics. Funding and support for a senior research fellow (Dr Jennifer Van Nuil) has enabled the creation of an OUCRU social science team, giving direction, training and support to the growing group.

II. Supporting practice

The annual GHBN Summer Schools have been key in helping the OUCRU teams learn about ethics and engagement from others in the network, stimulating new research questions and promoting good practice. The GHBN has also supported two Regional workshops on Bioethics and Engagement in Health Research. These were hosted by the Oxford University Tropical Network (OUCRU and MORU) with support from the Global Health Bioethics Network senior members with the aim of supporting IRB members from regional partner institutes in South and Southeast Asia. Each workshop hosted 45 IRB and CTU members from 7 countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam).

- June 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand
- January 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are deeply grateful to the over two hundred individuals who make up the Global Health Bioethics Network, as well as the amazing GHBN Project Management Group who have devoted countless hours towards building and leading the Network. Your journeys and successes inspire us to continue sharing, learning, and collaborating. Whatever shape the next phase of the GHBN takes, we know that the foundations we've already built will take us further than we ever imagined.

