



# Strengthening Global Research Integrity:

Cooperative Pathways between ARIN and the US ORI

**Date:** Thursday, 20 March 2025

**Time:** 15:00 - 17:30 SAST

## *Programme*

This webinar, hosted by the African Research Integrity Network and the U.S. Office of Research Integrity (ORI), will explore key avenues for collaboration in advancing research integrity across continents. With a shared commitment to ethical research standards, this session aims to address common challenges, best practices, and innovative strategies for enhancing the integrity of research in both African and U.S. contexts.

Participants will engage in discussions on strengthening ethical guidelines, capacity building, and the role of cultural context in research practices. This webinar offers a unique opportunity for stakeholders to explore pathways to build trust, support responsible conduct, and establish sustainable cooperative frameworks for the future.

**Join us as we work together to uphold research integrity on a global scale.**

**REGISTRATION LINK:** [shorturl.at/IPxBH](https://shorturl.at/IPxBH)

## Programme Directors

Ms Eleni Flack-Davison & Ms Tanya Coetzee

Time	Topic	Presenter
15:00 - 15:10	Opening and Welcome	Prof. Lynn Morris
15:10 - 15:20	Overview and Journey of ARIN	Francis Kombe
15:20 - 15:35	ORI/ARIN Engagement: Opportunities and Plans for Cooperation	Sheila Garrity, JD, MPH, MBA Director of ORI
15:35 - 16:25	Upholding Truth: The Evolving Landscape of Research Integrity in Africa	
1. Northern Africa:	Prof Alaa A. Youssef Abouefetouh	
2. Southern Africa:	Dr Retha Visagie	
3. Central Africa:	Dr Solange Swiri Tumasang	
4. West Africa:	Dr Fred Yao Gbagbo	
5. East Africa:	Ms. Teresia Nyawira	
16:25 - 16:55	Panel Discussion	Eleni Flack-Davison
16:55 - 17:10	Opportunities for Collaboration	1. Sheila Garrity, JD, MPH, MBA, Director of ORI 2. Loc NguyenKhoa Deputy Director of ORI 3. Francis Kombe
17:10 - 17:15	Closure	Tanya Coetzee

### WHO:

Offices of Research Integrity, Integrity Officers and Managers, Research Ethics Committee (REC) Professionals, Chairs and Members, including Research Management Professionals, Administrators, Research Compliance Managers and Advisers, Researchers and Research Directors in Africa and beyond are invited to attend.



## FACILITATORS:



**Francis Kombe** is a Public Health and community engagement practitioner and bioethicist, with a passion for Research Integrity. He has a wealth of experience working in international health research institutions, where he has held various leadership positions. Kombe holds an MSocSc (research ethics) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), South Africa; Master of Public Health (MPH) and Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (PGDPH) from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine-UK (LSHTM) and is currently pursuing a Wellcome Trust funded PhD in bioethics at UKZN. Before joining EthiXPERT, Kombe worked as a training coordinator at the KWTRP where he was involved in the strategic development and planning of health research fieldworkers. He has published widely in the field of community engagement, frontline staff, research integrity, fair study benefits and informed consent, among others. He is a co-founder of the African Research Integrity Network (ARIN) and was recently elected as the chairperson of the ARIN inaugural executive committee. He served as a member of the planning committee for the 6 and 7th World Conference on Research Integrity held in Hong Kong and Cape Town respectively.



**Sheila Garrity** is the Director of the Office of Research Integrity.

Before coming to ORI, Ms. Garrity served as Associate Vice President of Research Integrity at George Washington University (GW) from 2014 to 2023 where she oversaw operations of the Office of Laboratory and Radiation Safety, Office of Human Research, Office of Animal Research, Office of Research Integrity and Regulatory Affairs and served as the institutional Research Integrity Officer (RIO). At GW Garrity was responsible for policy development, informational sessions, and development of educational modules to assist investigators with understanding their ethical and fiduciary responsibilities regarding their research.

Prior to that, Ms. Garrity spent more than 20 years at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine where she served as the director of the Division of Research Integrity and Research Integrity Officer (RIO). She is a founding member and first president of the Association for Research Integrity Officers (ARIO, founded 2013). Ms. Garrity was in the first group of teaching RIOs when ORI launched its first series of RIO Bootcamps in the early 2000's.

Ms. Garrity earned her JD from the University of Maryland School of Law and her MBA and MPH at Johns Hopkins where she also received a certificate in Health and Human Rights.





**Loc Nguyen-Khoa** serves as Deputy Director of the Office of Research Integrity.

He joined ORI in 2002, holding leadership roles in the development of training on handling research misconduct allegations and promoting the responsible conduct of research. During his tenure at ORI, he has served as an education specialist, health science administrator, contracting officer representative, and Acting Director of the Division of Education and Integrity. As the deputy director, he focuses on operational management, strategic

planning, program development and evaluation, and outreach.

He earned a master's degree in occupational therapy from Duquesne University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.



**Alaa Abouelfetouh** is a pharmacist by training, with a Master's and PhD in pharmaceutical microbiology from Alexandria University, Egypt. She is a Professor at Alexandria University and Alamein International University where she co-founded AIU's Technology Transfer Office. She was a bioVision.Nxt fellow in Lyon, 2011, conducted 2 post-doctoral fellowships 2012-2014 at Loyola University Chicago and Medical College of Wisconsin, and was a visiting researcher at the Helmholtz Institute for Pharmaceutical Research Saarland 2018, on a project funded by Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation. She was a Fulbright scholar in 2012, a Newton-Mosharafa

fellow in 2017 and received a USAID Graduate Scholarship for Professionals Activity in 2019. She is a fellow in Responsible Conduct of Research from the Fogarty International Center JORDAN Program, and speaks about RCR issues in the Arab region, in regional and international meetings. She recently participated in the discussions leading to the drafting of the Global Ethics Charter for the Protection of Healthy volunteers in Clinical Trials (the VolREthics INSERM initiative) and the preparation of the Wellcome Trust critical questions related to the ethical, legal and social contexts of genomics. Dr Abouelfetouh's research uses genomics to study population structure and antimicrobial resistance mechanisms in clinical isolates from LMICs. She also studies the ethical and social aspects of biomedical research.

Throughout her research career, she is/has co-advised 13 postgraduate students, has over 80 publications and presentations, is a member of International Society of Infectious Diseases, American Society of Microbiology and Society for Applied



Microbiology and serves on the editorial board of Infectious Diseases-Drug Targets and Venoms & Toxins and is an Associate Editor for Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control. She is a reviewer for MDR, JMM, Frontiers in Microbiology, Microbiology Spectrum, Current Microbiology, International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents, and other journals and funding agents.

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**Dr Retha G. Visagie** is prominent in Africa's research ethics governance community. In 2014, she established the Research Integrity Office at the University of South Africa, catalysing research ethics reform on both national and international levels. Over the past five years, she has been dedicated to indigenising research ethics governance. Dr Visagie has championed policy changes, conducted research, initiated capacity-building programmes for academic staff and research ethics committees, and facilitated social dialogues to challenge research practices that may disadvantage Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

As the co-editor of "Social Sciences Research Ethics in Africa" (Springer, 2019), she has made significant contributions to the discourse on ethical considerations in research. She provides advisory services to several African higher education institutions, focusing on responsible research and ethical conduct. She is dedicated to advancing the position of Research Management in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. She holds a position as a Committee member of the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA).

Additionally, Dr Visagie is a co-founder and chair of the SARIMA Northern Regions Community of Practice for Research Ethics and Integrity. She serves as a Non-Executive Director and chairs the Executive Board of EthiXPERT, a non-profit organisation dedicated to strengthening responsible and ethical research capabilities in and for Africa.

Her professional achievements include holding a Senior Professional Research Management certification from the International Professional Recognition Council. In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Dr Visagie received the 2023 Research Excellence Award from the University of South Africa (Unisa) and the 2023 Departmental Mentor Excellence Award for promoting research management and mentoring the next generation of managers. She continues to supervise doctoral candidates, and her research niche area focuses on indigenising research management.





**Dr Solange Swiri Tumasang** is a distinguished scholar and educator, currently serving as a Lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Maroua, Cameroon. She holds a PhD in English Language with a specialization in Discourse Analysis. Dr Tumasang's research interests span across several domains, including Religious Discourse, Rhetoric, Gender and Leadership, and Research Ethics. Her research in Religious Discourse has extensively explored the intersection of language, religion, and culture, examining how religious discourse shapes and reflects societal values. In the area of Rhetoric, her work focuses on the strategic use of language in persuasive communication, with a particular emphasis on the role of rhetoric in shaping public opinion. Dr Tumasang's research in Gender and Leadership investigates the complex relationships between gender, power, and leadership, highlighting the ways in which language and discourse contribute to the construction and reinforcement of gender roles. In addition to her research expertise, Dr Tumasang is committed to upholding the highest standards of research integrity. She has presented at the World Conference on Research Integrity 2024 in Greece and is involved in various initiatives promoting ethical research practices. As a sought-after conference presenter, Dr Tumasang has delivered papers at numerous national and international conferences. She also serves as a reviewer for several reputable academic journals, ensuring the rigor and quality of published research. Dr Tumasang's academic engagement extends to mentorship, where she actively guides junior scholars on research design, methodology, and academic writing. She also contributes to the development of curricula for English language and literature programs, ensuring that courses remain relevant and responsive to the needs of students. Dr Swiri Tumasang is also a multiple award winning leader, women's rights advocate and philanthropist. Dr Tumasang's outstanding contributions to her community have been recognized through several awards, including the 2024 Impact Woman in Leadership Award and recognition among the 50 Most Influential Women in Africa, recognised as one of the 15 African Female Leaders of impact 2024. She has published numerous articles in reputable academic journals and is currently working on several research projects. Dr Solange Swiri Tumasang is a highly respected scholar, educator, and leader, known for her groundbreaking research, commitment to academic excellence, and dedication to empowering women and girls. Her work continues to inspire many across Africa.







**Dr Fred Yao Gbagbo** is a Public Health Consultant with specialization in Population and Health, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Bioethics, Health Policy Analysis and Policy Reviews with 25 years of cumulative work experience in Maternal Health, Child Health, Bioethics, Sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights, Family Planning and Comprehensive Abortion Care, Health Research, Clinical Quality Assurance, Curricula Development, Clinical Training, Project Management, Grant and Research Proposal Development, Project/donor Report Writing, Health Policy Formulation and analysis within public,

private and NGO Health sectors in Ghana and internationally. I have served on several boards/committees in various capacities and collaborated with various institutions and teams on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights projects. My areas of research interests include Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Induced abortion, Commercial Sex Work, Maternal and Child Health, Adolescents' Reproductive Health and Rights, Family Planning/Contraception, Gender-Based Violence, Quality Assurance in Health Care Service Delivery, Human Rights in Health and Bioethics. My research has contributed significantly to understanding and addressing the challenges in sexual and reproductive health in resource-limited settings which have also informed policy and program development, particularly in services delivery, information, communication and education in areas involving Sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights. I am currently a senior lecturer at the University of Education Winneba, Ghana.



**Ms Teresia Nyawira** currently serves as a Principal Scientist in the Health and Biological Sciences Department of the National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation, Kenya. Ms Nyawira has a Masters in Immunology from Kenyatta University (Kenya), a second Masters in Global Bioethics from Anahuac University (Mexico) and is currently pursuing a PhD in Molecular Medicine. She is involved in regulation of research activities through promotion of quality and related standards. She has been instrumental in the development of regulatory frameworks for ethical review of research as well as capacity development of ethics review

committees in the country.





**Eleni Flack-Davison**, BA LLB LLM, Admitted attorney of the High Court of the Republic of South Africa, Legal Adviser, Research Compliance Manager, Head: Office of Research Integrity and the Research Data Protection Officer at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (Wits University), South Africa. As the legal adviser for the Research Office: Legal Services, she provides legal services and legal advice to the Senior Management of the University as well as to academics / researchers, that enables research and innovation through research contracts as well as the management and operation of the Research Office: Legal Services. She is one of the founding fellows of the Wits MIND institute. She is the Head: Research Integrity Office and Research Compliance Manager. She encourages high quality research integrity as well as ethics in the sphere of research. This includes but is not limited to supervision, management, and oversight of the University Research Ethics Committees and management of the Ethics administrative personnel. Wits has 5 University Research Ethics Committees that deal with Non-Medical, Medical, Animal Ethics Screening and Control, Biobanks, Clinical Drug Trials, and Institutional Biosafety.

Eleni sits on a number of University Management, Senate and Advisory Committees internal to Wits University. Eleni was a special adviser to the LOC for the 7th World Conference on Research Integrity (WRCI) which was held in Cape Town. Eleni is a Certified VIRT2UE Research Integrity Trainer with the Embassy of Good Science under the EU and Amsterdam UMC. She is part of the Research Ethics Associations of Southern Africa (REASA) Executive Committee and heads up the Marketing and Communications sub-Committee. Eleni is a member of the African Research Integrity Network. She has been part of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) drafting Committee in relation to the POPIA Code of Conduct for Research in South Africa and more recently the Assaf Framework. She has co-Chaired the Northern Regions Research Ethics and Integrity Community of Practice (CoP) under the auspices of the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) and co-Chairs the Steering Committee for the CoPs for Research Ethics and Integrity. The CoP took on the mammoth task of drafting ethics guidelines and toolkit for the SADC Region in terms of the Nagoya Protocol. Eleni is part of the SARIMA Research Management Portfolio Committee. In 2024, Eleni and her colleagues from the Sarima Northern Regions CoP were awarded the Anderson-Kleinert Diversity Award. For their presentation titled: "Indigenizing Research Management: What Does it Mean for Research Integrity." Eleni further was awarded the joint award for the SARIMA Excellence Award for Professional Excellence in Research Management.







**Tanya Coetzee** is a research ethics officer in the Research and Innovation Directorate at WITS. She has 15 years' experience in research ethics review and advocates for the importance of addressing local needs and contextualising research in Africa within global research policies and procedures. She is a former executive committee member of the Research Ethics Committee Association of Southern Africa. She is currently part of the executive committee of the Community of Practice for Research Ethics and Integrity Professionals under the auspices of SARIMA.

She is involved in various projects, including the Indigenising Research Management and Administration initiative and the Mentorship Programme. She is a co-opted member of the SARIMA Research Management Portfolio Committee (2024) and also serves on the South African Medical Association Research Ethics Committee (SAMAREC).

