



Sickle Pan Africa Research Consortium TRAINING (SPARC-TRAIN)

PRESENTS

INSTRUCTION IN RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT IN RESEARCH

(2-Day Workshop)

📅 09/01/2025 - 10/01/2025

🕒 08:30am daily

ZOOM LINKS:

DAY 1 <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83172381171?pwd=W3CaNm2tic39HS05SflYgm2fZlhbCu.1>

DAY 2 <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/hCq8eK3OQ3mMlrridwF1lw>



SPARC-TRAIN Hosts Comprehensive Workshop on Responsible Conduct in Research

The Sickle Pan Africa Research Consortium TRAINING (SPARC-TRAIN), supported by a Fogarty Institute grant, successfully conducted a two-day Instruction in Responsible Conduct in Research Workshop on January 9-10, 2025. Hosted by CESRTA, this hybrid event brought together researchers and scholars from across all twenty-five SPARC-NET sites. The comprehensive two-day workshop ran daily from 08:30 am in

a hybrid format (physical and online) and featured an exceptional lineup of distinguished speakers and experts in research ethics and conduct. This training was important for demonstrating the necessary commitment to research integrity and ethical scientific practices. The workshop saw remarkable participation, with an average of 15 participants attending physically at

each of the 25 SPARC-NET sites, and an even greater number joining online. Mandated by the NIH for Training Grant holders, the event was universally praised by participants for its depth, relevance, and practical insights. Both days of the workshop covered critical aspects of research integrity, featuring presentations by leading experts including:

- Introduction to Scientific Integrity by *Dr. Helen Mamven*

- Data Presentation and Ownership presented by *Dr. Samuel Blay Nguah*
- Community-engaged Research by *Professor Oladosu Ojengbede*
- Conflicts of Interest in Research and Industry discussed by *Professor Obiageli Nnodu*
- Mentoring Insights shared by *Dr. Akinyemi Ofakunrin*
- Ethics of Clinical Research in Developing Countries explored by *Prof. Ayanniyi Abdulkadir*
- Case Studies on Re-

- sponsible Conduct of Research by *Prof. Prisca Adejumo*
 - Ethical Treatment of Animals in Research presented by *Prof. Mustapha Jamda*
 - Academic Fraud and Research Misconduct discussed by *Professor Oladosu Ojengbede*
 - Publications and Authorship by *Prof. Dike Ojji*
 - Grantsmanship and K Awards explored by *Prof. Funmi Olopade*
- The program concluded with a panel dis-

ussion coordinated by Prof. Maxwell Nwegbu, and featured distinguished panelists including Danladi Ado from NHREC, Prof. Ike Ajayi (Director of IMRAT), Prof. Adebayo Adejumo, and Dr. Helen Mamven. Highlights of the training can be found on our YouTube channel.

SPARC-TRAIN remains committed to promoting ethical research practices, fostering scientific integrity, and supporting the professional development of researchers across Africa.

MARCH



ACCELERATE Implementation Strategy and Stakeholders Workshop

CESRTA successfully hosted the Implementation Strategy and Stakeholders

Workshop for ACCELERATE (mAnaging siCKle CELL disEase through inCreased AdopTion of

hydroxyurEa) on March 11-12, 2025. This critical gathering brought together key stakehold-

ers from across Nigeria's healthcare system to advance the national implementation of evidence-based hydroxyurea therapy for sickle cell disease management.

The ACCELERATE initiative is a natural evolution from the groundbreaking work of the NIH-funded SPARC-NET grant which established 25 clinical sites across Nigeria and created the largest sickle cell disease registry in Africa – over 10,700 Nigerian patients with sickle cell disease. This foundational infrastructure has provided unprecedented insights into the disease burden and treatment patterns across the country. One such insight was that inadequate knowledge and lack of awareness of treatment guidelines were the major barriers preventing healthcare providers from prescribing hydroxyurea to patients with sickle cell disease.

ACCELERATE will conduct Nigeria's first large-scale implementation research study specifically focused on

hydroxyurea adoption, utilizing selected SPARC-NET clinical sites as the implementation platform. This culturally appropriate, provider-level intervention will be delivered through a practice facilitation strategy across 16 strategically selected SPARC-NET sites throughout Nigeria, encompassing tertiary, secondary, and primary healthcare sectors. The multi-tiered approach ensures comprehensive coverage of the Nigerian healthcare system and maximizes the potential for sustainable impact.

The two-day stakeholder workshop, held at the ASUU Facility on the University of Abuja Main Campus, served multiple critical functions in the ACCELERATE implementation strategy. The primary objective was to provide all stakeholders with a comprehensive understanding of the ACCELERATE program's goals, methodology, and expected outcomes. Participants engaged in detailed review sessions covering the program's theoretical framework, im-

plementation strategies, and evaluation methods. Special attention was given to the Case Report Forms (CRFs) that will be utilized throughout the study, ensuring that all stakeholders understand data collection procedures and requirements. A significant portion of the workshop was dedicated to Focus Group Discussions, providing stakeholders with opportunities to share insights, concerns, and recommendations. These sessions explored potential facilitators and barriers to program implementation, drawing on participants' diverse experiences across Nigeria's healthcare system.

The discussions revealed valuable perspectives on contextual factors that could influence program success, including institutional readiness, provider attitudes, patient acceptance, and system-level supports. This stakeholder input is being incor-

porated into the final implementation strategy to enhance the likelihood of successful adoption and sustainment.

The success of this stakeholder workshop demonstrates

the strong commitment across Nigeria's health-care system to improving sickle cell disease outcomes and the readiness of providers, policymakers, and institutions to embrace evidence-based approach-

es to care improvement. This foundation of stakeholder engagement bodes well for ACCELERATE's potential to achieve its ambitious goals of transforming sickle cell disease care across Nigeria.

SPARC-TRAIN Implementation Science Training: Bridging the Research-to-Practice Gap **First Cohort Successfully Completes Intensive Program**

The inaugural cohort of the Implementation Science Training under SPARC-TRAIN (Sickle Pan Africa Research Consortium TRAINing Program) has officially concluded. The training program addresses a fundamental challenge in global health research: the notorious "implementation gap." Current evidence suggests that only 14% of research findings ever translate into real-world applications, with an average timeline of 17 years from discovery to implementation. This statistic represents countless missed opportunities to improve patient outcomes and public health interventions,

particularly in resource-limited settings where innovative solutions are urgently needed.

SPARC-TRAIN's Implementation Science Training was designed to equip researchers, clinicians, and program managers with the tools and frameworks necessary to bridge this gap, ensuring that valuable research findings reach the communities and patients who need them most.

The training program, expertly led by Dr. Emmanuel Peprah and his adjunct Dr. John Pateña, employed a comprehensive two-module approach – the first module introduced participants to established Implementation Science frameworks. This provided

the theoretical foundation necessary for understanding how interventions can be successfully adapted, implemented, and sustained in diverse contexts. In the second module, participants worked intensively to develop and refine their own Implementation Science research proposals. This hands-on approach allowed participants to apply the theoretical frameworks they had learned to real-world challenges they had identified in their own respective contexts. The transformation witnessed throughout the program was remarkable. Participants began with varying levels of familiarity with implementation science concepts and

concluded with fully developed, fundable research proposals. This progression from theoretical understanding to practical application represents exactly the kind of capacity building that SPARC-TRAIN was designed to achieve. Furthermore, the participants in this inaugural cohort are

positioned to become champions of implementation science within their respective institutions and networks, multiplying the program's impact through mentorship and collaboration with future researchers and practitioners. As we await the execution of the promising proposals developed during this training, we

are optimistic about the potential for these projects to demonstrate the real-world value of implementation science in improving health outcomes across Africa. The Centre will continue to provide updates on participant successes and the broader impact of SPARC-TRAIN as these initiatives move forward.

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