



UGANDA NATIONAL COUNCIL
FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

12th ANREC

ANNUAL NATIONAL RESEARCH ETHICS CONFERENCE

THEME

COMMUNITIES AS PARTNERS: STRENGTHENING
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH

21-22 October
2025



Hotel Africana
Kampala, Uganda

Background

The ANREC has been organized by UNCST as a platform for interaction and exchange among various actors involved with human and animal research. It brings together researchers, regulators, policy makers, members of research ethics committees and Institutional animal care and use committees members, students, civil society groups, participants, opinion leaders, institutional officials and research communities. The previous ANREC focused on Fostering Research Integrity and Promoting Responsible Conduct of Research in Uganda and the Region. Conference participants shared ideas and experiences on how researchers can integrate ethical considerations in the design and implementation of their research projects and how research institutions and universities can build credible, reliable and predictable systems for scientific and ethical research.

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Rationale

Globally, there is an increasing need for community engagement in research. In the context of research, community engagement involves a range of activities and interaction between researchers, members of the research community and other stakeholders that are affected by or can affect the success of the research. Community engagement provides an opportunity for communities to participate in the entire research process, from identification of the research problem to implementation of the findings. Such collaborations and engagements are fundamental, in any research process. To a great extent, they ensure that research is in line with the needs, priorities and expectations of the community thus enhancing the relevance, social value, ownership, and applicability of research findings.

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In addition, conducting research in low-income countries raises concerns of fairness when it comes to post research responsibilities (PRR) and obligations specifically Post Trial Access (PTA). Yet the principle of justice holds that particular individuals, groups or communities should neither bear unfair share of the direct burdens of participating in research, nor should they be unfairly excluded from the potential benefits of research participation. In principle participants and their communities ought to receive fair benefits from participating in research. Benefits can take many forms, including but not limited to access to interventions proven safe and effective in the research. Issues related to PTA are complex, with number of gaps and challenges in its implementation. The existing guidelines, both international and local guidelines, are inconsistent and ambiguous, making PTA one of the major unresolved issues in international research ethics.

Conference participants will share ideas and experiences on how to engage communities effectively in a research process and what it means for research to be responsive to the needs of the communities.

The theme for the 12th ANREC Event is **“Communities as Partners: Strengthening Community Engagement in Research”**. Conference participants will share ideas and experiences on how to engage communities effectively in a research process and what it means for research to be responsive to the needs of the communities. In addition, the 2025 ANREC event will examine issues related to post research responsibilities, obligations and PTA particularly the un-settled areas, which include but not limited to; Who is responsible for what in regard to PRR? Who should provide PTA? What counts as a reasonable plan or effort? What is the appropriate duration of provision? The role of the Research Ethics Committee and other regulators. Pre-trial/study planning for responsiveness; Negotiations with relevant stakeholders for infrastructure improvements and reasonable availability and transitional responsibilities.

Moreso, the 12th ANREC comes at a time when the World Medical Association has amended the Declaration of Helsinki for the tenth time since its initial publication in 1964. Uganda has amended for the fourth time the national guidelines for research involving humans as research participants. Uganda has also developed and issued National Guidelines for Community Engagement in Research and National Guidelines for Joint scientific and ethical review of research. The 2025 ANREC event will provide an opportunity to examine these developments and their implications on research ethics in Uganda and the region.

CONFERENCE SUB THEMES

**GLOBAL AND NATIONAL OUTLOOK:
THE CHANGING REGULATORY LANDSCAPE FOR RESEARCH ETHICS**

ETHICS OF NOVEL INNOVATIONS AND EMERGING RESEARCH DESIGNS

ETHICAL ISSUES IN DISEASE OUTBREAKS AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

ETHICAL ISSUES IN ANIMAL RESEARCH AND WELFARE

RESEARCH ETHICS AND TRADITIONAL-ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE RESEARCH



HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2025 ANREC EVENT

-  Keynote addresses by renown global thought leaders in research ethics.
-  Interactive oral talks.
-  Strategic discussions on overcoming ethical challenges in Research.
-  Networking opportunities with regional & international research regulators and professionals from academia, industry, civil society, government.

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CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENT

The conference will have keynote addresses, plenary sessions, parallel sessions, case studies and panel discussions and Networking cocktail.

EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

REC/IACUC MEMBERS
INVESTIGATORS
RESEARCH REGULATORS
POLICY MAKERS
STUDENTS
OPINION LEADERS
RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS
CAB MEMBERS

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CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

UGX **100,000**

[For Masters & Undergraduate Students]

UGX **200,000**

[For others before 1 Oct, 2025]

UGX **300,000**

[After 1 Oct, 2025]

PAYMENT DETAILS

Bank: **Standard Chartered Bank**

Account Name: **Uganda National Council
for Science & Technology (UNCST)**

Account number: **0105610632101**

SCAN TO REGISTER



<https://bit.ly/ANREC12th>

CONFERENCE SCIENTIFIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (SPC)

1	DR. JOSEPH KAGAAYI	MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (CHAIRPERSON-SPC)
2	DR. GRACE NDEEZI	JOINT CLINICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REC (VICE CHAIRPERSON-SPC)
3	DR. VICTORIA NAMUGGALA	MAKERERE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES REC
4	DR. FRED BULAMBA	MBALE REGIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL REC
5	DR. SLYVIA BALUKA	MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, ANIMAL RESOURCES AND BIO-SECURITY
6	MS. TEOPISTA NAKYANZI	MUJHU RESEARCH COLLABORATION
7	DR. ASHABA SCHOLASTIC	MBARARA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
8	DR. SAM OKECH	MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, ANIMAL RESOURCES AND BIO-SECURITY
9	DR. YAHAYA GAVAMUKULYA	BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES REC
10	DR. JULAINA OBIKA	GULU UNIVERSITY REC
11	DR. NOAH KIWANUKA	MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH
12	MS. EVA MAGAMBO	MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES REC
13	DR. HELEN NDAGIJE	NATIONAL DRUG AUTHORITY
14	DR. SAM OKWARE	UGANDA NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

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PARTNERS



NATIONAL DRUG AUTHORITY



UNHRO
Uganda National Health
Research Organisation



**MAKING
UGANDA
THE BEST**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE, CONTACT:

Ms. WINFRED NAZZIWA

**TEL: +256 414 705 500/414 705 526,
0705 860 522**

**EMAIL: winnfry@gmail.com
w.badanga@uncst.go.ug
info@uncst.go.ug**