

Strengthening Research and Innovation Management (SRIM) II

2023 Symposia, 10-11 August 2023, Phakalane Golf Estate, Gaborone, Botswana



All info can be found at: www.srim.info **BOTSWANA**



PRE-SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOPS

THEME: Research and Innovation Management for Impact on Driving National Economies

VENUE: BITRI – MARANYANE HOUSE

DATE: 9 AUGUST 2023

PROGRAM

Time	Topic	Facilitators
08:00	Welcome Remarks	Dr. Tlamele Sekambo: Vice Chair, LOC for SRIM II Botswana
08:10- 10:40	Responsible Conduct of Research: Promoting Integrity and Ethical Practice	Session Chair: Ms Julia Gaorekwe, Presenters: Dr. Dimpho Ralefala, Mr Francis Kombe, Ms Basutli Ramontshonyana and Dr. Marks Ditlhogo
10:40-11:00	TEA BREAK	
11:00-13:30	Research, Innovation and Development Funding Management in the Changing Development Environment	Session Chair: Ms Anikie Mathoma Presenters: Mr Olebile Bolobilwe, Ms Akanyang Motlhanka, Mr. Ari Ho-Foster, Ms. Sithembile Dingake and Prof. Mosepele Mosepele
13:30-14:30	LUNCH BREAK	
14:30-17:25	Technology Transfer – Building a Strong Foundation	Session Chair: Dr. Kereilemang Khana Nthoiwa Presenter: Dr. Andrew Bailey
17:25-17:30	Vote of Thanks	Member of Audience

WORKSHOPS DETAILS

WORKSHOP 1

Topic: Responsible Conduct of Research: Promoting Integrity and Ethical Practice

Time: 08:10 – 10:40

SUMMARY:

Research ethics plays a crucial role in safeguarding the rights and welfare of research participants, ensuring responsible conduct of research, and promoting the credibility and integrity of scientific investigations. In Botswana, as the field of research expands and diversifies, it is imperative to strengthen the capacity of policy makers, researchers, and Research Ethics Committee (RECs) members to navigate complex ethical challenges and make informed decisions. This workshop is aimed at enhancing ethical understanding, knowledge, and decision-making skills among participants. The workshop objectives include the following:

- To enhance the understanding of research ethics principles and their importance in promoting responsible and ethical research practices.
- To equip policy makers, researchers, and Research Ethics Committee members with the knowledge and tools necessary for effective ethical decision-making.
- To foster collaboration and dialogue among participants to address common ethical challenges faced in research.

SESSION CHAIR:

Ms. Julia Gaorekwe, Research Officer, Office of Research and Development, University of Botswana

Ms. Julia Gaorekwe holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology and currently pursuing her Masters in Demography. She has completed various trainings in research ethics locally and internationally, including the Western Institutional Review Board (WIRB) fellowship program in the USA. She has over 9 years working in the research ethics and integrity unit where she is currently coordinating the Socio-behavioral Institutional Review Board for the University of Botswana. Julia is an award winner of the 2018 Early Career Excellence in Research Management award from the Department of Science and Technology, South Africa and Southern Africa Research Management Association (SARIMA). In 2019, she received the University of Botswana Vice chancellor Excellence award in research administration.

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Dimpho Ralefala, Assistant Director: Research Ethics and Integrity, Office of Research and Development at the University of Botswana

Dr Dimpho Ralefala holds a PhD in Medicine, specializing in Bioethics from the University of Cape Town. She has participated in several bioethics training initiatives including the year-long Bioethics Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University, USA, and a UNESCO Ethics Teacher Training Course. She is the Assistant Director for Research Ethics at the Office of Research and Development, University of Botswana and has 15 years of research ethics administration at the University. She serves as a member of the Ethics Working Group of the Human Heredity for Health in Africa (H3Africa) Consortium, African Research Integrity Network and she is a co-founding member of the African Bioethics Consortium. In 2017, she received an award in Professional Excellence in Research Management from the South African Department of Science and

Technology in partnership with the Southern African Research Management Association (SARIMA). She was recently awarded the Golden Key Membership by the Golden Key International Honor Society in recognition of her outstanding PhD thesis. She has also published bioethics articles in reputable journals and has presented at international conferences.

Ms. Basutli Ramontshonyana, Research Officer, Office of Research and Development University of Botswana

Ms. Basutli Ramontshonyana holds a Masters in Research and Evaluation from the University of Botswana. She has participated in several research ethics trainings including the Western Institutional Review Board in the USA and a bioethics fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University, USA. She is an experienced Research Ethics Administrator with over 11 years of service. As Secretariat to the Biomedical Research Ethics Committee at the University of Botswana, she is responsible for overseeing the review and approval process of all biomedical research proposals within the University. She serves as a community representative for the Bamalete Lutheran Hospital Ethics Committee. She is experienced in training students and researchers on research ethics issues and has participated in local and international conferences. She is a certified Research Administration Professional (RAP) by the International Professional Recognition Council (IPRC).

Dr. Marks Ditlhogo, Senior Lecturer (Ecology), Department of Biological Sciences, University of Botswana

Dr Marks Ditlhogo is a lecturer and researcher with over 20 years at the University of Botswana for more than 20 years and served as Head of the Department of Biological Sciences from 2002 – 2008. He has been a member of the Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) since its inception in 2009. He has reviewed many research proposals that involve animals. His research interests are in natural resources (biodiversity) conservation and invasive alien species, more especially on how this impact the livelihoods of communities. He has been involved in the development of the Botswana Indigenous Knowledge Systems Policy. He has also been a part of the team that developed the Botswana Apiculture Policy. He is the Chairman of the National Biological Diversity Authority (NBDA) of Botswana, a member of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, Botswana Climate Change Committee and a Board member of BirdLife Botswana. He has presented a number of papers at workshops and conferences both nationally and internationally. He also has several publications in journals and conference proceedings.

Mr Francis Kombe, Chief Executive Officer, EthixPERT, South Africa,
<https://www.ethixpert.org.za/ceo/>

Francis Kombe is a Public Health practitioner and bioethicist, with a passion in 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). He is currently pursuing a PhD in Bioethics at UKZN, focusing on the Implications of fieldworkers' institutional support systems for research integrity practices in Africa. He is a founding and steering committee member of the African Research Integrity Network (ARIN) and a member of the program committee for the 6th and 7th World Conferences on Research Integrity. He has published widely in the field of community engagement, frontline staff, research integrity, fair study benefits and informed consent, among others.

WORKSHOP 2

Topic: Research, Innovation and Development Funding Management in the Changing Development Environment

Time: 11:00 – 13:30

SUMMARY:

Winning research funding takes more than great proposals and excellent researchers. A well organized and mature environment to implement and manage research, innovation and development funding is central to successful RID funding management. This workshop aims to highlight the key issues around the management of research, innovation and development (RID) funding, and to raise awareness amongst R&I funding stakeholders. The workshop will provide new researchers and research managers with insights and experiences from established researchers and research managers, and share tips on how to navigate the ever-changing research funding landscape around the following key areas (among others):

- An overview of the RID funding landscape and funding trends
- Funders expectations and requirements versus funding recipients/What it takes to attract and retain good research funding
- The implications of international regulations in research funding management and compliance
- Building capacities for RID funding management

SESSION CHAIR:

Ms. Anikie Mathoma, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Enterprise, University of Botswana

Ms. Anikie Mathoma has a background in nursing education, public health, and broad research implementation experience. Prior to her current role, she was a Research Manager in the Office of Research and Graduate studies (RGS), Faculty of Medicine (FOM) where she contributed to the setting up of the RGS office, including the establishment of pre-award and post-award research management processes. She has served as a co-investigator in various studies at the FOM and HIV and tuberculosis (TB) division at the Centers for Disease control and Prevention where she worked for about 13 years. Her current research is focused on cancer epidemiology, HPV screening and cervical cancer prevention.

PRESENTERS:

Mr Olebile Bolobilwe, Assistant Director: Grants & Contracts Management, Office of Research and Development, University of Botswana

Mr. Olebile Bolobilwe is an experienced research manager with over 10 years' experience in higher education research management. He holds a BA in Social Sciences, Secondary Education Higher Diploma, MSc in Project Planning & Management, and Postgraduate Certificate in Enterprise Risk Management and several leadership trainings. Mr. Bolobilwe has previously worked in the public, intergovernmental partnerships, and non-governmental organizations. His career started in Monitoring and Evaluation before transitioning to Project Management, and eventually research administration management. His funded research management experience includes managing major collaborative projects with Harvard School of Public Health, University of Pennsylvania and nine other African Medical Schools. He has managed big funded projects including the Medical Education Partnership Initiative and the Consortium of Southern African medical Schools. His current portfolio involves overall coordination of the research funding portfolio in the Office of Research and Development, where he oversees research funding applications and awards management for institutional and funder requirements compliance. Mr. Bolobilwe enjoys hiking during his spare time, and has participated in the 3-day, 116km Annual Moshoeshoe Walk and four Desert Bush Walks.

Prof. Mosepele Mosepele, Associate Professor of Medicine & Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, University of Botswana

Dr. Mosepele is a former Deputy Dean of Research and Graduate Studies and a current Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Botswana. His research has been focused on the epidemiology of HIV-associated complications (infectious and non-infectious) as well as HIV treatment and care. Among many other engagements, Dr Mosepele served as the National COVID-19 Task Force's deputy coordinator since March 2020 under the Leadership of The President of the Republic of Botswana. In this role, he led in the development of a national pandemic response plan, fully costed COVID-19 vaccine roll-out plan and was the chief negotiator for COVID19 vaccines for Botswana. Under his leadership, Botswana attained one of the highest COVID-19 vaccination status in Africa and discovered the Omicron variant in late 2021. He has been engaged in more than 15 research grants funded by the NIH, MRC-UK and EDCTP. Most of these epidemiologic research projects focused on non-communicable disease among people living with HIV. His most recent work supported by NIH-NHLBI is an implementation trial that will assess integration of cardiovascular care cascade within existing HIV services in Botswana (InterCARE). Currently across 14 communities in Botswana, InterCARE is a 5-year project with the scope to reach a significant number of patients living with HIV and NCDs. Finally, Dr Mosepele has authored/co-authored more than 50 peer reviewed publications., mentored more than 8 Master of Medicine candidates at University of Botswana, and several other residents/clinical & research fellows from Europe and the USA. He is a Research Associate at Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, USA.

Mr. Ari Ho-Foster, Senior Research Fellow (Epidemiology), Research and Graduate Studies Office, Faculty of medicine, University of Botswana

Ari is an International Scholar for the Penn Center for Global Health. He holds Bachelor's degree in Biology from McMaster and MSc in Applied Epidemiology from CIET-UAGro. Before joining UB, Ari studied gender-based violence while with the CIETgroup (1998-2010) while serving as a Country Coordinator for CIET offices in South Africa and Botswana. He then joined the Botswana-UPenn Partnership (BUP), as an epidemiologist, before his appointment as Country Operations Officer from 2012-2019. Since 2019, he has contributed to the development of the UBFOM Research and Graduate Studies office, including the establishment of pre-award and post-award research management processes. He has participated as an investigator and research manager in clinical and community-level epidemiological and intervention studies in Canada, Pakistan, and Southern Africa. His research currently focuses on intimate partner violence, stigma, mental health, and access to care.

Ms. Sithembile Thembi Dingake, Coordinator, Botswana Innovation Fund, Botswana Digital Innovation Hub

Ms. Sithembile Thembi Dingake is the coordinator of Botswana's first innovation fund playing a leading role in all aspects of its operationalization. Thembi has a long track record in the Financial Services sector within the SADC region, working with AON Botswana, Barclays Bank Botswana, ABSA South Africa, Enablis South Africa, and Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa. Concurrent with her Innovation Fund Manager work at IDC, she was appointed by the South African Minister of Science and Technology in 2009 as an Investment Committee member for the Innovation Fund. Thembi advocates for the development of solutions which address local challenges with a potential to scale globally. This approach, she believes will result in accelerated success.

Ms. Akanyang Motlhanka, Senior Grants Officer, Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute

Ms. Akanyang Thando Motlhanka is a highly skilled finance professional with a passion for research and public policy. Akanyang graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Finance from the University of Botswana in 2018. With a natural acumen for financial management, she swiftly climbed to the position of Senior Grants Officer at Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute (BHP). During the 5 years of financial accounting and grants management, Akanyang has honed an array of skills essential for effective financial administration. She is currently responsible for managing more

than 25 sponsored research grants. Her portfolio includes providing expert advice on cost allocations, payroll and common/shared costs, as well as overseeing the procurement of goods and services in line with funding regulations. She collaborates closely with study Principal Investigators, program managers, stakeholders, and external partners to develop comprehensive grant proposals and budgets. Akanyang is also responsible for conducting due diligence, assessing financial viability, and conducting site visits to ensure that the grantee organizations are in compliance with funding requirements. She maintains regular communication with grant recipients, providing guidance and support throughout the grant lifecycle. Akanyang is currently pursuing a postgraduate degree in Research and Public Policy at University of Botswana. She has also pursued ongoing professional development in grants management.

WORKSHOP 3

Topic: Technology Transfer – Building a Strong Foundation

Time: 14:30 – 17:30

SUMMARY:

This workshop will explore three key areas to establish strength in technology transfer:

- Intellectual Property Policy development and implementation – the increased importance of data and online learning
- The “hierarchy of needs” in establishing a Technology Transfer Office function
- Nurturing University-Industry Collaboration and Partnerships

SESSION CHAIR:

Dr. Kereilemang Khana Nthoiwa, Assistant Director: Commercialization & Consultancies, Office of Research and Development, University of Botswana

Dr Nthoiwa has over 26 years working in higher education, both as an academic and as an innovation management professional. She has a global experience, having worked in different universities and research institutions in Botswana (Botswana College of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, National Food Technology Research Center) and the United States (University of Wisconsin-Stout in Wisconsin and Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York State). Her current role at the University of Botswana involves managing and promoting the University’s research output as well as managing consultancy contracts, a role that places her at the nexus between the university, industry and community to ensure mutually beneficial linkages, partnerships, and networks. She has published widely and presented at numerous international conferences.

PRESENTER:

Dr. Andrew Bailey, President: SARIMA, Senior Manager: Innovation, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Dr Andrew Bailey is the Senior Manager: Innovation in the Research Contracts & Innovation Department at the University of Cape Town. In this position, he is responsible for the protection of IP, implementation of the institutional IP policy, raising awareness of IP, as well as commercialization of IP and technology transfer. RC&I manages several seed and early stage “VC-type” funds that support the creation of spin-off companies. In the past he also worked for Science Councils: Mintek and the CSIR, as well as corporates AECI and the Dialogue Group. He received his PhD in Chemical Engineering from UCT and has completed courses in financial management through UNISA. He is a member of Southern African Research and Innovation Managers Association (SARIMA) where he is President, AUTM (International Strategy Committee: Africa Co-Chair) and LES. Andrew represents SARIMA on the European Patent Office’s Standing Advisory Committee (SACEPO Working Party on Quality, Africa/Middle East countries) for a three-year term of office for 2021-2023; the DTIC-led Technology Commercialization Forum as well as on the Geneva-based Innovation Council.