

Africa Regional Learning Session on Scientific Corrections & Retractions

Date: Thursday, 18 September 2025

Time: 14:00–17:00 EAT / 13:00–16:00 SAST / 11:00–14:00 GMT / 07:00–10:00 US ET / 04:00–07:00 PDT

Duration: 3 hours

Moderator: **Francis Kombe**, Research Integrity & Ethics Specialist; CEO, EhtiXPERT; Committee Member

1. Welcome and Introductions (10 minutes)

- **Randy W. Schekman**, Nobel Laureate in Physiology/Medicine; Chair, NASEM Study Committee
 - *Opening remarks: introduction to the study, process and moderator.*
- Karla Hagan, Study Director, U.S National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
- **Francis Kombe** (Moderator)
 - *Framing the session, objectives, and flow, and introduction of panelists.*

2. Keynote Framing (15min)

- **Dr. Lyn Horn**, Director (retired), Office of Research Integrity, University of Cape Town (South Africa).
 - *Research Integrity and Retractions in Africa: Institutional Systems, Culture, and Global Connections.*

3. Panel 1: Institutional and National Perspectives (30 min, 10 mins each)

Focus: *How universities, ethics committees, and national systems handle misconduct and corrections*

- **Dr. Solomon Benor** (Tentative), Flagship Programme Coordinator, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa; Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (Ethiopia).
 - *National Research Governance and Journal Standards: Insights from Ethiopia and Beyond.*
- **Mr. Enock Kipchirchir Kebenei**, Senior Research Scientist & Head, Scientific and Ethics Review Unit (SERU), Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).
 - *Research Ethics Review and Misconduct Resolution: Institutional Practices from Kenya.*
- **Dr. Brandford Bervell**, Deputy Director, Directorate of Research, Innovation & Consultancy, University of Cape Coast (Ghana).
 - *Plagiarism in Higher Education: Regional Trends and Institutional Responses.*

4. Panel 2: Journals and Publishing Systems (30 min)

Focus: *Journals and Publishing System*

- **Dr. Doniwen Pietersen**, Editor-in-Chief Mentee, and Former Deputy Editor, South African Journal of Science; Associate Professor, University of South Africa.
 - *Editorial Perspectives on Retractions: Incentives, Barriers, and Practical Realities.*
- **Dr. Rahma Menshawey**, *Independent researcher*, affiliated with Ochsner Health Center, New Orleans, Louisiana (previous affiliated with Cairo University Kasr Al Ainy, Egypt).
 - *Themes in Retracted Research in Egypt and the MENA Region: An In-Depth Analysis of Plagiarism, Root Causes, and Responsibilities*
- **Dr. Susan Veldsman**, Director, Scholarly Publishing Programme, Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf).
 - *Open Science, Open Access, and Predatory Journals: Building Trust in Scholarly Publishing.*

5. Panel 3: Funders and Research Assessment (20 min)

Focus: *How funding agencies and assessment bodies create incentives for correction and integrity*

- **Ms. Nosisa Dube**, Director of Evaluations and Impact Assessments, National Research Foundation (South Africa).
 - The role of NRF as a Funder in Advancing Research Integrity.

6. Q&A with Committee Members (45 minutes)

- Committee members engage directly with panelists around the study's guiding questions:
 - Common challenges and capacity constraints.
 - Incentives/barriers shaping correction processes.
 - Regional innovations and promising practices.
 - Cultural/legal/social norms influencing retraction practices.

7. Public Comments (20 minutes)

- Open floor for participants to share perspectives, regional practices, or recommendations.

8. Closing Reflections (10 minutes)

- **Each speaker (1–2 min)**: One key recommendation for strengthening corrections and retractions in Africa.
- **Moderator (Francis Kombe)**: Summarize main takeaways, link to global study, and thank participants.

Speaker Profiles



Lyn Horn MBBch, PhD was the Director of the Office of Research Integrity (01.02.2017-31.07.2025) at the University of Cape Town, South Africa (recently retired) and is an Extraordinary [Honorary] Associate Professor in the Centre for Applied Ethics, Department of Philosophy, at Stellenbosch University. She is a governing board member of the World Conferences on Research Integrity Foundation. Lyn is a medical doctor with a PhD in Bioethics and worked as a clinician in the public health sector for the first twenty years of her career before transitioning to an academic work environment in 2004. She has been working in the fields of research ethics for the last twenty plus years and research integrity since 2011 and has extensive leadership experience in this field. This includes research misconduct investigations, teaching and supervision at both

Masters and PhD level as well as Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training, research management and IRB/REC management, membership and Chairperson. She was the South African Co-Chair for the 7th World Congress on Research Integrity in 2022 and lead author of the “Cape Town Statement on Fostering Research Integrity through fairness, equity and diversity”. She has served as an independent ethics advisor for five EDCTP funded HIV/TB clinical trials, over the last decade. Current projects include serving as independent ethics advisor for a EU-AU multi-country collaborative food safety project (UPRISE) <https://uprisefoodsafety.org/> and contributing to a forthcoming book on Research Integrity with a chapter focusing on equity and diversity.



Solomon Benor (PhD) serves as the Flagship Programme Coordinator and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Secondee to the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture. He is an associate professor of plant biotechnology, based at the Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, and holds adjunct positions at both Addis Ababa University and Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa. Benor has played a pivotal role in advancing science and research leadership in Ethiopia, notably during a stint at the ministry of education, where he led key initiatives in research development, research ethics, university-industry linkages, community engagement, and the accreditation of national academic journals. Has written on the subject, including, [Stronger ethical standards can turn the tide on retractions](#). Profile

source: <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20250424070107596>



Doniwen Pietersen is Professor at the University of South Africa (Unisa). He is a Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and is Editor-in-Chief Mentee, and Former Deputy Editor, *South African Journal of Science*. He holds doctoral degrees in Philosophy and in Policy Studies in Education. His research interests lie in the philosophy of education, especially in issues of Freirean frameworks, critical pedagogy, feminist theory, pedagogy of care, social justice, and education policy, with a particular focus on how these disciplines inform transformative pedagogies and equity-driven policy reform. He is committed to ethical scholarship, inclusive knowledge production, and expanding access to academic research. <https://sajs.co.za/editorial-team-profiles>



Kebenei Enock Kipchirchir: Mr. Kebenei is the Head of the Scientific and Ethics Review Unit (SERU) and a Senior Research Scientist (Research Regulations) at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). He has trained in Bioethics, Biosafety, Clinical Trials Authorization, Research Integrity, Monitoring and Evaluation, Leadership & Management in Health. He is currently pursuing PhD (Research Ethics & Integrity) at the University of Maastricht, The Netherlands. His research interests are Bioethics, Research Integrity & Health Research Data Management and has published in these areas. He is a member of Bioethics Society of Kenya (BSK), African Research Integrity Network (ARIN) and Human Infection Challenge

Bioethics Network (ABN), African Vaccines (HIC-Vac) Network.



Dr. Susan Veldsman has been the Director of the Scholarly Publication Programme at the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) since 2009. As Director she contributes to, among other things, driving the South African Open Science agenda; raising the visibility, discoverability, and accessibility of South African (SA) scholarly journals (including SciELO SA); improving the quality of SA research output; and supporting the development of policy frameworks to facilitate optimal use and access to publicly funded research. Following the publishing of the ASSAf Report on Strategic Approach on Scholarly Publishing in 2006, recommending an open access repository of South African journals, she was responsible for

implementing the SciELO South Africa collection in 2009 which now hosts 105 open access journals. She has also championed the government's recognition, accreditation, and sustained funding for SciELO SA. Susan was one the first Open Access advocates in South Africa. At the University of Johannesburg Library, she started the first institutional repository in 1996. She worked at EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries) before joining ASSAf. In 2013, she received the Electronic Publishing Trust (EPT) award for her

outstanding contribution to the promotion of Open Access in Developing Countries. Recently, she was the Co-chair of the IAP Report on Combatting Predatory Journals and Conferences, which was launched on 16 March 2022. She holds a master's degree in science and technologies from the Stellenbosch University, South Africa. She has played a vital role in high-level OA and OS policy development and implementation initiatives and the Open Science Framework in South Africa.



Ms. Nosisa Dube, NRF Director: Reviews and Evaluations. I am a Director at the National Research Foundation with 21 years' experience in the research and innovation sector – 14 in the management of research assessment practices, and seven in scientific research. I currently specialise in the management of peer review processes for transboundary multilateral calls shared between the NRF, global funders and multisectoral communities. Ahead of joining the NRF, I worked as a researcher at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. I have two Master's degrees, and my developing passion is on the evidence research assessment reform. I have recently produced a concept note to

develop a research assessment framework for the NRF with the aim of expanding the framework to a national level. Over the years, I have gained considerable knowledge in change management, research assessment practices, project management, performance evaluation and leadership at both strategic and operational levels. In 2016, I was invited to join the working group that developed the NRF Strategy 2025. I currently hold a position as the Deputy Chairperson of the Research-on-Research Institute (RoRI) Consortium Global Observatory on Responsible Research Assessment (AGORRA) project. The goal of the AGORRA project is to generate comparative data, evidence and analysis to support and accelerate the evidence of research assessment reform/transformation across national assessment systems. I am an observer in the Research-on-Research Institute consortium board (comprising 17 partners from multiple sectors). I am also a member of the Global Research Council's Responsible Research Assessment (GRC RRA) Committee, promoting Responsible Research Assessment at national, regional and international platforms and engaging transnational stakeholders at various levels. Within the group, I am the co-lead of the Task and Finish Group 1. I represent the NRF and the sub-Saharan Africa Region in the GRC RRA Working Group. I have significantly contributed to the development of the soon-to-be-published 11 Responsible Research Assessment Dimensions. I am also a member of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment Discussion Group – providing insights on how the NRF implements the DORA principles. I play a significant role as a member of the NRF Impact Advancement Committee in translating the implementation of the impact framework into peer review practices. I was recently invited to join the Namibian National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) to pilot the NRF Rating System for public universities in Namibia.



Brandford Bervell (PostDoc., PhD.), Dr. Brandford Bervell - Deputy Director of the Directorate of Research Innovation and Consultancy (DRIC, [University of Cape Coast](#) (Ghana).



Rahma Menshawey, *Independent researcher* focused on analysis of retracted medical research and plagiarism. Currently affiliated with Ochsner Health Center, New Orleans, Louisiana.