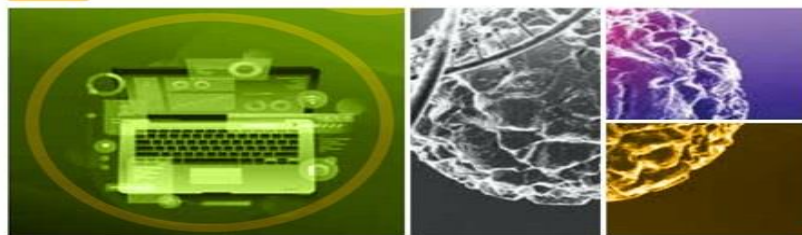


SCRECU

Scaling up of Capacity of Research Ethics Committees in Uganda



project partners



Scaling Up of Capacity of Research Ethics Committees in Uganda (SCRECU) Newsletter 5: SCRECU Develops Guidelines for the National Research Information Management System (NRIMS)

The Uganda National Council of Science and Technology, Busitema University and Mbale Regional Referral Hospital have been implementing an EDTCP supported project on Scaling up of Capacity of Research Ethics Committees in Uganda (SCRECU). SCRECU aimed at developing the NRIMS to implementable stage, rolling it out for research submission, registration, review and monitoring.

The project, which suffered interruptions by the Covid-19 pandemic, was granted a 3-month no-cost extension from September 2021 to 31st December 2021 by the EDTCP

Project achievements

The project has able to make the following achievements

1. Trained Research Ethics Committee personnel in Uganda and furnished them with IT equipment
2. Rolled out the National Clinical Trials Information Management System (NRIMS)

3. Participated SCRECU at the 10th EDTCP Forum and the 2021 Busitema University Exhibition
4. Developed Guidelines for the National Research Information Management System

The National Research Information Management System

The purpose of the guidelines is to provide a simple stepwise process that researchers; UNCST, other national regulatory authorities and the RECs can follow to leverage the NRIMS to improve the process of managing research in Uganda.

Through the NRIMS, UNCST, other national regulatory authorities and the RECs have been able to transition from a tiresome, lengthy process of physical and paper based submission, review and decision making to a supportive, robust, virtual, timely and electronic based review processes.

The process of developing the guidelines

Before considering the rollout of the NRIMS the project team carried out the following activities

- Administered specific questionnaires to identify strengths as well as gaps that the NRIMS would address.
- Assessed the interests of the RECs in web-based system to support the research ethics process
- Benchmarked successful models in the country especially the system developed by the National Drug Authority (NDA) AND RHInnO system developed in South Africa
- Conceptualized a web-based system which guided the development of a concept and algorithm by the SCRECU project IT officer

Upon developing and launching the guidelines, the project team undertook support supervision follow up visits were to ensure that the system was working well at institutional level.

Achievements

Since the launch of the guidelines the NRIMS has registered remarkable progress in the management of research in Uganda.

A total of 8,500 researchers were registered between 2019 and 2021. The system supported submission and clearance of 1,248 research proposals.

We are happy to note that the system provides research ethics committees with a secure, web-based solution for tracking research applications throughout the entire life cycle of the research project similar to the description of a similar to the RHInnO system in South Africa.

In terms of efficiency, NRIMS takes away the complex process of physical time consuming and paper-based process by using a supportive simple web system.

We note with satisfaction that through the NRIMS, other national regulatory authorities, UNCST and the RECs have now transitioned from a tiresome, lengthy process of physical and paper based research proposal submission, review and decision making to a supportive, robust, virtual, timely and electronic based review processes.

The NRIMS had revolutionized the management of research in Uganda.

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SCRECU project partners

