Ethical Considerations in HIV Research: Supporting role of Research & Academic Institutions

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Outline

- Introduction
- Scholarship that counts: Focus of Research & Academic Institutions (RAIs)
- Roles of RAIs in advancing ethical issues in HIV
- A case study/institutional reflection
- Conclusion
Introduction

- HIV continues to challenge the status quo in research ethics in many SSA countries and other low & middle income countries (LMIC).

- Efforts to addressing existing gap in health & HIV research ethics must draw on the strength & potentials of various stakeholders to be more effective & achieve optimal results.
Research & Academic Institutions: Scholarship that Counts

Academic & Research Institutions

Scholarship of Teaching

Scholarship of Discovery

Scholarship of Application

Scholarship of Integration

Boyer E: The professorate revisited
The supporting role of research & academic institutions - 1

- Scholarship of discovery
  - High impact research answers real-life questions & provides platform for action: Need to address challenges in research ethics regarding HIV:
    - What is the state of Clinical & HIV research?
    - What is the state of ethics in HIV research? Spectrum, level of challenges & underlying causes?
    - What are the solutions and how do we effect them?
The supporting role of research & academic institutions - 2

- Scholarship of Teaching: Human Capacity Development
  - Development of appropriate training curricula in HIV research ethics & clinical research for various cadres & different levels

- Delivery of curricula in responsive, cost-effective & efficient manner
  - Innovativeness in settings
  - Use of technology
The supporting role of research & academic institutions - 3

- Scholarship of Application: Movements within and beyond the “Ivory Tower”
  - Engagement with research funders & other stakeholders
  - Promotion of evidence-informed policy advocacy
  - Institutional structure to address & promote research ethics (HREC etc)
The supporting role of research & academic institutions - 4

- Scholarship of Integration:
  - Standard-setting and active promotion of ethical research across board
  - Role-modeling of ethics in HIV & other research
  - Surveillance of practice across partners
Scanning of the university & external environment to understand the situation & identify opportunities

Initiated annual institutional-based course in biomedical research ethics in 2012 in partnership with NHVMAS

Established an active Health Research Ethics Committee

Developed & promoted low-cost training in ethics for community level civil society organisations

Increasing engagements with other partners & off-site capacity building & application
Conclusion

- Existing gaps in health & HIV research ethics & practice need to be vigorously addressed.

- Research and Academic Institutions (RAIs) have key roles to play through their direct activities & in partnership with others.

- A new vision of “Scholarship for Impact” is critical to enabling RAIs fulfill their roles.
Thank You