



RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CONNECTING RECs IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Title of Report	Chairperson Report: 2 nd General Meeting
Report compiled by REASA chair	Retha Visagie
Report presented by REASA chair	Retha Visagie
Persons/Bodies Consulted	Members of the Executive Committee/Board: REASA
Reporting Period	May 2017 – March 2019
Purpose	For noting – 4 April 2019 General Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Cape Town
Date compiled	28 Feb 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Purpose of the report

For the period of reporting (2017 – 2019), the Research Ethics Committee of Southern Africa (REASA) obtained expression for its mission and goals through the REASA Constitution. The report provides an overview of the operations of REASA in fulfilling its mandate of promoting “sustainable networks between RECs in Southern Africa and the African continent” since the first General Meeting, held on 11 May 2017, Vineyard Hotel, Cape Town.

1.2 Background

REASA was launched on 17 September 2015 as an initiative arising from the Advancing Research Ethics Training in Southern Africa (ARESA) programme at the 4th Annual ARESA Research Ethics Seminar. The establishment of this independent membership association marked a commitment to bring members of research ethics committees across Southern Africa together to exchange ideas, knowledge and experience relating to the theory and practice of research ethics. The ARESA programme, funded by the Fogarty International Centre of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), was founded on a collaboration between the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Stellenbosch University and the Center for Bioethics, University of North Carolina (2010 – 2015). Even though REASA is an initiative that originated from the ARESA programme, the association is not affiliated to any tertiary academic institution.

During the first two years of REASA’s existence, a Steering Committee was responsible to lay the groundwork to register REASA as a formal structure and to grow the membership. The Steering Committee engaged with members to clarify REASA’s vision and to contemplate the association’s mission. The new Executive Committee of REASA was introduced during the General Meeting that took place on 11 May 2017, as a satellite event during the Advancing Research Ethics Training in Southern Africa (ARESA) conference held at the Vineyard Hotel, Newlands, Cape Town. At this meeting, a clarion call was made to extend REASA’s service beyond the Southern African context, and to open membership to those residing in the rest of Africa. The meeting was furthermore an opportunity to

introduce the updated goals and vision of REASA to the members of REASA. Since then the Executive Committee focused their attention on growing REASA's membership and delivering on its key objectives in spite of capacity constraints.

REASA currently functions as a formal company incorporated not for gain (NPC) and is as such registered by the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) of South Africa (registration no 2017/145504/08). However, the Executive Board resolved in November 2018 that REASA must be re-registered as a Not for Profit Organisation. The process of re-registration is in progress. The National Institutes for Health (US) provided seed funding to kick off REASA's activities in 2015. However, the financial support ended in May 2018, thus necessitating REASA to become financially sustainable as an association. The REASA membership grew from 11 members in September 2016 to 80 paid up members on 28 February 2019.

1.3 Some key deliverables achieved during the reporting period include:

- The chairperson and co-chairperson sent a communique to the National Health Research Ethics Council as a way of role clarification on 2 November 2017.
- The REASA website went live at the end of February 2018.
- REASA re-branded during 2018 with the approval of a new logo by the REASA Executive Committee members.
- REASA hosted its first formal event in the form of a pre-ARESA seminar workshop on 'Research ethics leadership in Africa' on 23 May 2018 at the SPIER Conference Centre in Stellenbosch.
- REASA collaborated with the organisers of the 6th International Association for Education in Ethics (6IAEE) Conference and facilitated a master class on the intersection between Human and Animal research ethics education on 3 October 2018 at the SPIER Conference Centre, Stellenbosch.
- REASA facilitated a two day Research Ethics Course for the Nano Team of the Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI) on 13 & 14 September 2018.

2. STRATEGIC INTENT

The next section reports on the strategic alignment of the activities in respect of REASA's constitution, vision, mission and strategic objectives. As stated above, until its formal establishment in May 2017, REASA was led by a Steering Committee. In May 2017 an Executive Committee was elected through a formal online voting process. The membership of the newly elected Executive Committee was confirmed during the first REASA General Meeting on 11 May 2017. Since then, the Executive Committee has engaged in critical activities to ensure that REASA fulfils its promise of being an independent multidisciplinary Membership Association that serves as a platform for 'Connecting research ethics committees in Southern Africa', indicative of the Association's commitment to co-construct lasting research ethics committee (REC) networks in Southern Africa.

The objectives of REASA is set out in the REASA constitution (Section 3) as follows:

- 3.1 Seeking out and establishing mutually beneficial connections between research ethics committees in Southern Africa.
- 3.2 Promoting the philosophy and practice of ethical human and animal research in Southern Africa.
- 3.3 Providing information, support and training to its membership, by (amongst other activities):
 - a. Dissemination of a Newsletter.
 - b. Organizing scientific meetings and discussions in the field.

c. To work in partnership with external agencies, where appropriate, to promote sound ethical standards for research.

3.4 Establishing local, national and international networks for the discussion of research ethics-related topics of mutual interest.

3.5 Facilitating co-operation and communication amongst its membership.

3.6 Developing regional policies on research ethics based on the collective view from the regions.

3.7 Providing a mentoring, consultative and advocacy service for its members.

3.8 Providing capacity development courses and other interventions to build the capacity and capabilities of research ethics committees in Southern Africa.

3. COMPOSITION OF THE OUTGOING REASA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In total, 13 members compose the outgoing REASA Executive Committee/Board (including the Ex-Officio members). The formal online voting of the outgoing REASA Executive Committee members commenced on 30 March and ended 4 May 2017. All paid-up members were invited to submit nominations for the Executive Committee and to vote. A simple majority of the members participated in the election process. The Executive Committee was introduced at the first General Meeting (11 May 2017). The Directors of this Not for Profit Company are Prof K Moodley, Dr. RG Visagie and Ms. T Coetzee. The treasurer, Dr. N Briers resigned in January 2019. She was replaced by another member on the Executive Committee, Prof Lizeth Roets to deal with this key responsibility as an interim arrangement.

The Executive Committee met the composition criteria set out in the Constitution:

- Chair/President
- Vice-chair/President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Communication and marketing officer
- Education and training officer
- Animal ethics representative
- Ex-officio members, including the principal investigators of the ARESA Programme and the directors responsible for overseeing the governance of REASA as a Non-Profit Organisation.
- Up to five additional co-opted members can be included to provide additional representation or to provide specific skills or expertise.

Regional Branch Chairs have not yet been established as stipulated in point 6.4.8 (6.4.8 “Regional Branch Chairs (once established) to ensure effective communication between the executive and regional committees”) due to insufficient capacity to drive this process. Members of the Executive Committee provides their service to REASA on a voluntary basis.

To achieve the objectives stated in section 2, the Association functions through workgroups. The work group leaders are indicated with * in the table 3.1 below.

Only three of the current members availed themselves for re-nomination for the next term (2019 – 2021): A/Prof Wayne Towers, Prof Lizeth Roets and Ms Tanya Coetzee.

Table 3.1 REASA OUTGOING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ex Officio	Prof K Moodley	Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Stellenbosch University	Principal investigator: ARESA programme Director: REASA Will remain on the EXCO (see constitution)
Ex Officio	Prof Stuart Rennie	Center for Bioethics, University of North Carolina	Principal investigator: ARESA Programme Will remain on the EXCO (see constitution)
Chair	Dr R Visagie	University of South Africa	ARESA alumnus (2015), Director: REASA Will remain on the EXCO (see constitution)
Deputy chair	Prof B Morrow	University of Cape Town	ARESA alumnus (2014)
Treasurer & membership registration	Dr N Briers	University of the Witwatersrand	ARESA alumnus (2015) – resigned in January 2019
Treasurer & membership registration (interim arrangement – Feb 2019 – April 2019)	Prof L Roets	University of South Africa	Deputy chair, Department of Health REC, Unisa
Communication and Marketing	Prof W Towers *	North-West University (Potchefstroom campus)	ARESA alumnus (2015)
	Dr D Jankie (DJ)	University of Botswana	ARESA alumnus (2015)
Education and training	Dr A Temane	University of Johannesburg	HREC, University of Johannesburg
	Ms M Hendricks*	Stellenbosch University	Head of Clinical Psychology at Stikland Hospital
Ad hoc	Dr M Molapo	University of South Africa	Chairperson of the Professional Research Ethics Committee Research Ethics Workgroup, Unisa
Animal ethics	Dr B Mohr (BM)	University of Cape Town	Advisor to REASA representing ARECs
Secretary	Ms T Coetzee (TC)	Project manager: Language-Inc	ARESA alumnus (2013)Member of TUT ethics review committee; Director: REASA
Supporting Secretary/not an official member	Ms Busiwe Sibiya	University of South Africa	Research Integrity Officer



Some of the elected Executive Committee members during the Biennial General meeting on 11 May 2017. From left to right: Prof Wayne Towers, Dr Matsheliso Molapo, Dr Retha Visagie, Prof Stuart Rennie, Mrs Tanya Coetzee, Prof Lizeth Roets and Prof Keymantri Moodley. Absent in photo: Dr Dudu Jankies and Dr Nanette Briers.

4. OPERATIONS OF THE PORTFOLIO/WORKGROUPS

4.1 Number of meetings held/deliberations

The REASA Executive Committee had six formal meetings since the first General Meeting on 11 May 2017.

- 26 June 2017
- 20 September 2017
- 2 March 2018
- 23 May 2018
- 24 October 2018
- 7 February 2019

The meeting scheduled for 15 November 2017 was cancelled due to a quorum concern.

The chairperson and treasurer met on 17 February 2018 at 10:00 at Brooklyn Mall to sort out the REASA internet challenges experienced by the treasurer.

4.2 Progress on strategic deliverables

The table below provides a summary report of progress made with respect to REASA's key deliverables.

Table 4.1 Summary report: Progress on REASA strategic deliverables

Strategic objective	Proposed activities	Progress reporting
3.1 Seeking out and establishing mutually beneficial connections between research ethics committees in Southern Africa.	Grew membership from REC members across Africa.	Membership include 17 members from African countries (not all paid up).
	Disseminate mutually beneficial information guided by the principle of care.	Shared information on the REASA network on behalf of a local HREC (UFS) and a REASA member from Kenya relating to an ethics conference.
	Development of an electronic advisory service for RECs by REASA in the form of an interactive forum.	Pending (due to capacity constraints).
3.2 Promoting the philosophy and practice of ethical human and animal research in Southern Africa.	Dissemination of relevant information and resources.	Available on the REASA website – www.REASA.africa CIOMS guidelines DOH Guidelines
	Capacity strengthening through training and academic discourse.	See 3.8 below.
	Develop a Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Research Ethics Committees in Africa.	No formal action taken to execute this proposed activity
3.3 Providing information, support and training to its membership, by (amongst other activities)	Dissemination of a Newsletter. Each newsletter addressed a focal point of high relevance for members of Research Ethics Committees (RECs) in Africa in general.	Four (4) Newsletters issued since REASA's formal establishment (February & October 2017 & April & July 2018). The newsletters are available on the website. https://www.reasa.africa/education/
	Organizing scientific meetings and discussions in the field.	First scientific discussion in the field – Master Class as part of the 6 th International Association for Education in Ethics (6IAEE), 3 October 2018.
	To work in partnership with external agencies, where appropriate, to promote sound ethical standards for research.	National Health Research Ethics Council – letter clarifying the role and functions of REASA submitted to the chairperson (2 November 2017).

	Proposed research – training needs analysis.	Proposal submitted to the EXCO for consideration and further action during the latter part of 2018. No formal activity due to capacity constraints.
3.4 Establishing local, national and international networks for the discussion of research ethics-related topics of mutual interest.	Engagement with local, national and international networks.	Dr. R Visagie attended a Research Misconduct workshop in Nairobi, Kenya during February 2019 and discussed the possible establishment of a regional REASA chapter with Dr. Lillian Omutuko.
		Potential for future collaboration – African Research Integrity Network
		Information session with the ARESA bioethics leadership programme graduates to discuss their engagement in REASA (16 August 2017) as part of the strategy to strengthen the existing ARESA network.
3.5 Facilitating co-operation and communication amongst its membership (See appendix A: Communication and Marketing Report)	Website	Live on 26 Feb 2018 http://www.reasa.africa
3.6 Developing regional policies on research ethics based on the collective view from the regions.	No specific activities set yet, however, the development of a Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Research Ethics Committees in Africa is proposed.	No activity yet.
3.7 Providing a mentoring, consultative and advocacy service for its members.	Mentoring, consulting & guidance offered on an ad hoc basis	Total number of formal enquiries resolved: 2
	Interactive online forum	Delayed due to capacity constraints
3.8 Providing capacity development courses and other interventions to build the capacity and capabilities of research ethics committees in Southern Africa.	Capacity development and training courses presented – Total number trained: 84 (excluding the number of boot camp participants, 3 April 2019)	REASA Pre-ARESA seminar workshop on 'Research Ethics Leadership in Africa', 23 May 2018 attended by 37 delegates.
		Two day Research Ethics Course attended by 30 Nano Team members of the Botswana Institute

		for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI) on 13 & 14 September 2018.
		Master Class as part of the 6IAEE on 3 October 2018 attended by 17 delegates.
		REASA boot camp workshop – 3 April 2019. Number of registrations: 37
<p>3.9 Sound governance and day-to- day operations of REASA:</p> <p>Establishing sound working relationships between the different REASA work groups and the members of the EXCO as a whole</p>	De-registration of REASA as an NPC and re-registering REASA as an NPO	REASA was erroneously registered as an NPC by a service provider in 2017. The REASA directors, at a special board meeting on 16 October 2018, resolved that REASA should be de-registered as a NPC and re-registered as an NPO. The Executive Committee approved the resolution on 24 October 2018. An external service provider was appointed to execute the resolution. To limit operational issues relating to payments of annual fees and the boot camp, finalisation of this matter was postponed until mid-April 2019.
	2019 Nomination and election of new Executive Committee under the leadership of Prof Brenda Morrow, Deputy Chairperson.	The process commenced on 20 February 2019 and the online voting poll was disseminated to members on 20 March 2019. Ten completed nominations were received by the due date (8 March 2019). Nominations for the following positions were absent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy chairperson • Secretary • Treasurer • Animal Research Ethics representative
	Amendment of the Constitution to ensure the election of a new Chairperson, 18 March 2019. Amendments to be approved by the members at the General Meeting, 4 April 2019.	The Executive Committee resolved during a round robin process (special meeting) to amend the constitution on 18 March 2019. The constitution stipulated that the chairperson must have been an EXCO member in order to be eligible for the position. However, no one on the EXCO wanted to

		take on the responsibility. Other amendments include refinement of the membership criteria, changing the reference to the Annual General Meeting to a General Meeting to allow the EXCO flexibility bases on time and financial resources in terms of the frequency of meetings and extending the responsibilities of the chairperson.
	Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Executive Committee	Approved (20 September 2017)
	Workgroup coordinators/leaders to engage with the members in their workgroup to finalise their respective plans, including budget requirements for 2018.	Proposed plan & budget received from the Education and Training workgroup. No Marketing and Communication plan submitted.
	Appointment letters - REASA Executive Members, accompanied by a conflict of interest and confidentiality agreement.	Letters issued to the members.
	Tax compliance.	An accountant was appointed as an external service provider to assist with the submissions of annual returns.
	Up to date database and member register.	Ongoing and regularly updated by the treasurer and secretary.
	Re-branding of REASA.	The Executive Committee embarked on a re-branding initiative in 2017. The Boabab tree on the new logo represents REASA's intention to grow into a far-reaching and robust association that deeply cares about the wellbeing of the research ethics community of Africa.
	REASA Training policy and cost model developed.	Final Executive Committee approval pending.

4 RISKS

4.1 Potential risks that could compromise REASA's sustainability

- Sustainability, referring to arrangements to assure organisational continuity, could be impaired in the absence of a fully functional and dedicated leadership collective. Operational requirements absorbed significant time and energies from the Executive Committee, in particular from the chairperson, secretary and treasurer. There was an over-reliance on non-EXCO members to offer additional administrative support, in particular to deal with registrations, issue invoices, member certificates and workshop registrations. Mobilising these resources may not be possible in a different organisational context. In addition, the virtual meetings via the tele-conference or Skype mode also posed some technical problems at times that interfered with the quality of engagements during EXCO meetings.
- Financial constraints.

4.2 Risk mitigation strategies

- Improved synergy between the Executive Committee members, the Workgroups and the Executive Committee as a whole. I suggest that the members of the incoming Executive Committee participate in a strategic session to create a clear future direction aligned to the REASA vision (due to financial constraints this was not possible during the current term).
- Ad hoc support was mobilised from staff members in the office of the chairperson to assist with administrative tasks. These individuals, Ms. Kgomotso Gill during 2017 and Ms Busisiwe Sibiyi during 2018, were generous with their time. They provided voluntary support to REASA as part of their professional citizenship responsibilities. Similarly, Ms. Leatitia Romero, a language practitioner and REASA member, proofread and edited the REASA newsletters free of charge. However, as stated above, this approach may not be sustainable in a different organisational setting and over time.
- In addition, it is also recommended that the incoming Executive Committee invest time and resources in an active marketing campaign to get broader exposure and to grow the membership.
- Mentorship of new members is important to support them in meeting their role responsibilities.
- It will be imperative to identify and apply for external funding sources.
- Quality assurance measures should be put in place, i.e. clear training policy guidelines, etc.

5 BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPACT

The National Institutes for Health (US) provided seed funding to kick off REASA's activities in 2015. However, the financial support ended in May 2018, thus necessitating REASA to become financially sustainable. REASA's financial sustainability is currently dependent on membership fees (R250/person) and training events. These sources of income were adequate for the work undertaken during the reporting period but may not be sufficient to sustain quality operations.

Refer to the treasurer report submitted for noting at the General Meeting, 4 April 2019.

6 FURURE DIRECTIONS

- 4.1 Extending training opportunities for members through the development of accredited training courses and webinars.
- 4.2 Registration by the education and training workgroup for CPD points.
- 4.3 Development of a formal strategy and business plan.
- 4.4 Identify and apply for external funding.
- 4.5 Ensuring a sound succession plan for REASA's organisational sustainability.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- REASA MEMBERS – On behalf of the outgoing REASA Executive Committee I want to acknowledge and thank the REASA members for supporting this young membership Association since its inception in 2015.
- REASA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – I am sincerely grateful for the time and energy that each one of you invested in the achievement of REASA's strategic deliverables. A special word of appreciation to Ms. Tanya Coetzee for her continued efforts to take REASA to the next level.
- VOLUNTEERS - Ms Kgomotso Gill, Ms Busisiwe Sibiyi and Ms Leatitia Romero you contributed to REASA without expecting anything in return. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your selflessness.
- University of South Africa – I want to thank Mr. Harry Bopape, Director: Research Support for supporting REASA activities undertaken by myself and the staff in my office as a critical component of our professional citizenship and personal development.

8 ATTACHMENTS

- 8.1 COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING REPORT.....p.12
- 8.2 EVALUATION REPORT – BITRI 2-DAY RESEARCH ETHICS COURSE.....p.15
- 8.3 REPORT ON REASA'S FIRST MASTER CLASS.....p.22



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Signature: Chairperson RG Visagie

Attachment 8.1

COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING REPORT

Title of Report	Report on activities of the Communication and Marketing Workgroup
Workgroup	Communication and Marketing
Report compiled by	Prof Wayne Towers
Report presented by	Prof Wayne Towers
Persons/Bodies Consulted	Dr. Retha Visagie, Ms. Tanya Coetzee
Reporting Period	1 Mar 2018 to 1 Mar 2019
Purpose	Annual report
Date	15 arch 2019

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / DISCUSSION / CONTENTS

The purpose of the report is to inform the larger REASA membership of the activities occurring within the Communication and Marketing Workgroup over the last year for notification, as well as providing the plans of the workgroup for inputs from the membership. Key deliverables include the distribution of two newsletters during 2018 (and two during 2017), as well as successfully re-branding REASA.

2. STRATEGIC INTENT

This report directly addresses the following strategic objectives of REASA:

- a. To provide information, support and training to its membership, by (amongst other activities):
 - Dissemination of an annual/biannual Newsletter.
 - Organizing scientific meetings and discussions in the field
- b. To establish local, national and international regional networks for the discussion of research ethics- related topics of mutual interest.
- c. To facilitate co-operation and communication amongst its membership.

3. COMPOSITION OF THE WORKGROUP

Prof Wayne Towers

Dr Dudu Jankie

Ms. Tanya Coetzee (provided support relating to her role as the secretary of REASA)

4. OPERATIONS OF THE PORTFOLIO/WORKGROUP

a. Number of meetings held, portfolio members involved and deliberations

Participated in the three Executive Committee meetings held during the reporting period at which discussions were tabled. Most communication between workgroup members was handled via e-mail due to the collaborative nature of setting up newsletters.

b. Brief discussion/Activities/Outcomes Achieved/Challenges

Two newsletters were setup and distributed to the members of REASA during 2018. The first was sent out in April 2018 and focused on “Leadership in Ethics”. The second newsletter was sent out in July 2018 with the main focus on “The ethics of research data”. A third newsletter was set up for distribution in October 2018 but due to a lack of content related specifically to events of interest to REASA members, it was decided that the content generated for this newsletter would rather be formally published and thus a third newsletter was not distributed. Appreciation is given to Prof Brenda Morrow, Dr. Tanya Coetzee and Dr. Dudu Jankie for their hard work in getting these newsletters out in time as well as the various members that contributed content.

The group has been reviewing options to develop a members’ forum on the website for REASA members to be able to converse about topics relevant to them. This project has been delayed due to capacity constraints of the Workgroup members.

The workgroup has received a request from the secretariat to update the REASA flyer. Prof Wayne Towers is in the process of assisting with this and will communicate the updated flyer by the end of March 2019.

The future goals of the group are mainly focussed on applying for funding to support the development of a stronger social media strategy as well as developing strategies to increase the membership of REASA through more direct and interactive services between research team members such as the previously mentioned “members-only” website. The Workgroup would also like to begin looking at establishing webinar events presented by REASA members on topics of importance to the association.

5. RISKS

- a. Not getting the newsletters or flyers out in time or not establishing a social media strategy may result in current members losing interest in REASA and lapsing on their membership. Not getting external funding for the portfolio may result in there not being sufficient funding to achieve the goals set.

b. Risk mitigation strategies

Delegating of responsibilities effectively to ensure content is submitted timeously.
Good communication between Workgroup members to get goals completed.

6. BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPACT

The social media strategy should not require funding as most social media sites are freely available. Setting up of the newsletter should also not require funding but these all have time implications. Undertaking larger projects such as the establishment of a members-only area or the establishment of webinars will have greater financial implications.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The main request of the Communication and Marketing committee of the REASA membership is to provide suggestions of the types of aspects that they would like the workgroup to address in future and to share relevant discussion points for use in the Newsletters.

APPENDIX B

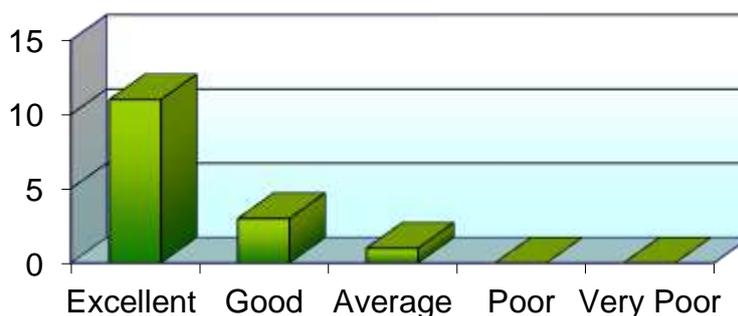
EVALUATION REPORT – BITRI 2-DAY RESEARCH ETHICS COURSE

Title of Report	Evaluation Report – BITRI training
Workgroup	Education and Training
Report compiled by	Ms Corline van Rooyen
Report presented by	Dr Retha Visagie
Persons/Bodies Consulted	Dr Retha Visagie, Ms Tanya Coetzee
Reporting Period	13 & 14 September 2018
Purpose	Appendix to Annual report
Date	October 2018

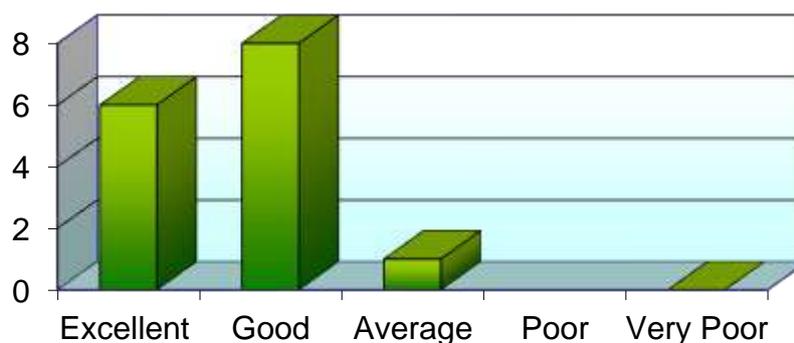
1. EVALUATION OF WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE

Upon completion of the two-day workshop the 30 delegates were asked to complete a course assessment commenting on the facilitators, the course content and general issues.

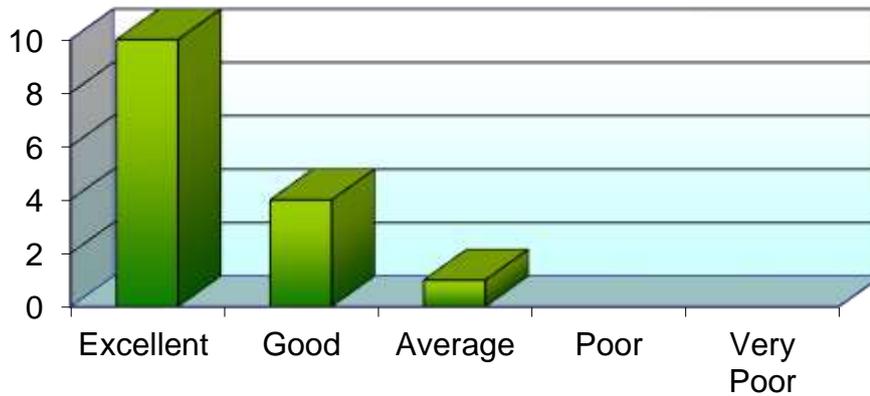
Number 1 - How would you rate the session on "Ethics, Moralities, Research Ethics and the Law"?



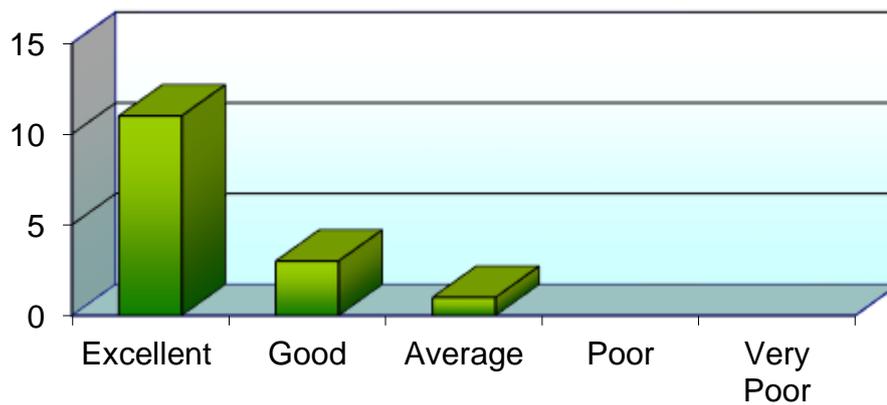
Number 2 - How would you rate the session on research integrity - Concepts, principles and responsibilities of researchers?



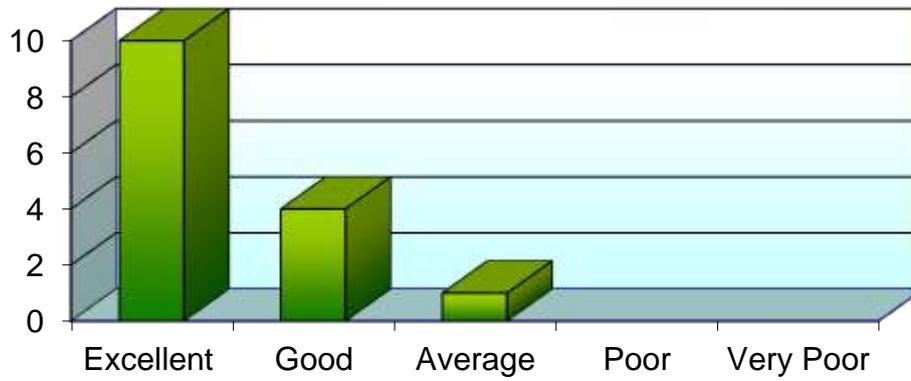
Number 3 - How would you rate the session on the principles of "Green Research"?



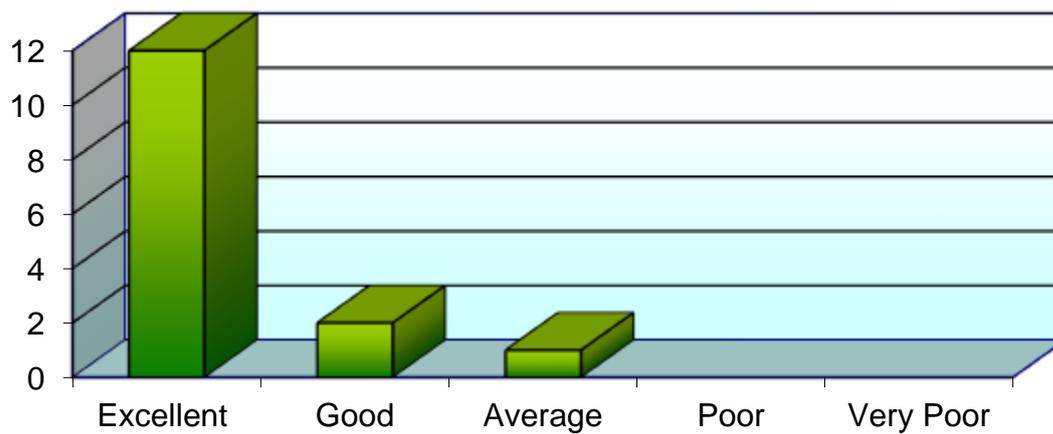
Number 4 - How would you rate the session on plagiarism?



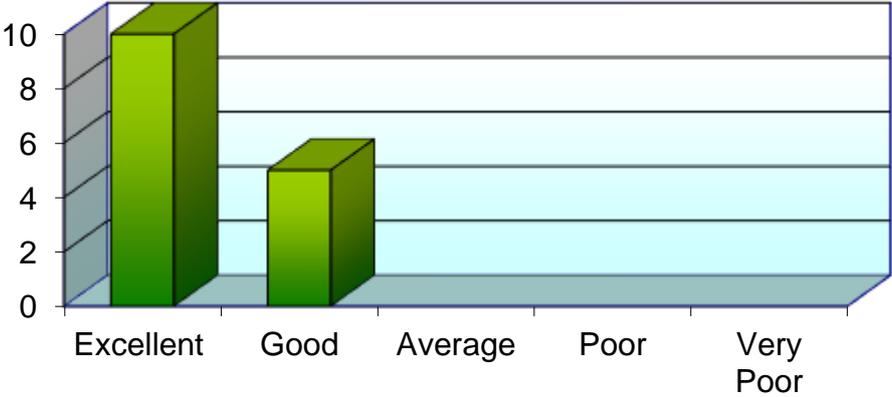
Number 5 - How would you rate the session on a research integrity framework - promotion, prevention and management?



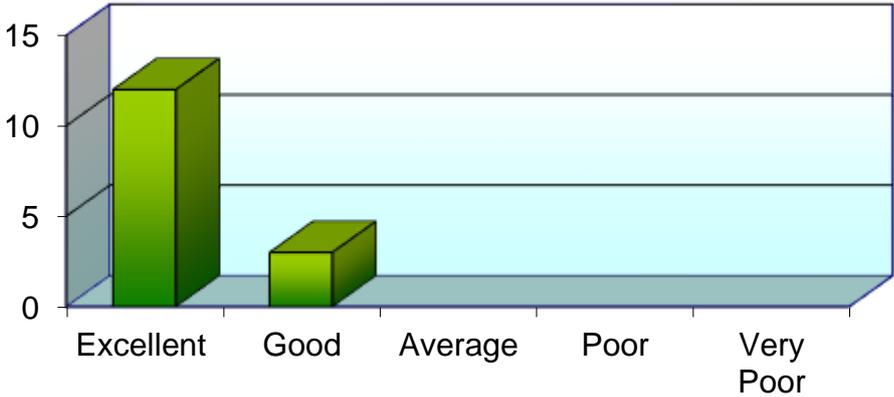
Number 6 - Did you enjoy the open question session?



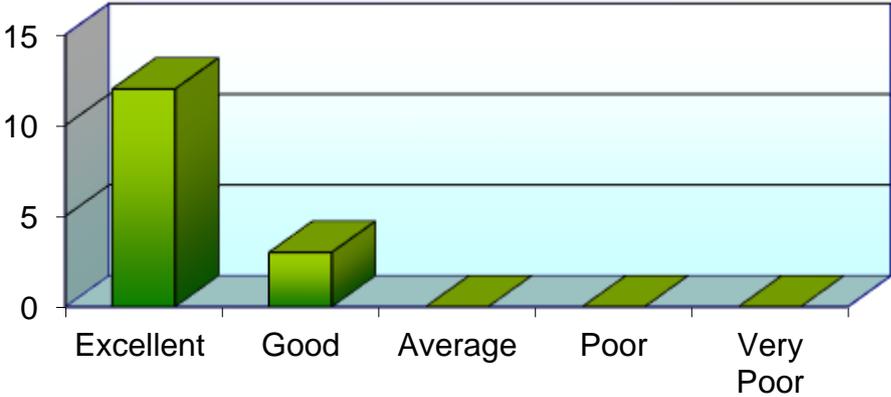
Number 7 - How would you rate Prof Hoffmann's knowledge on the topics that he addressed?



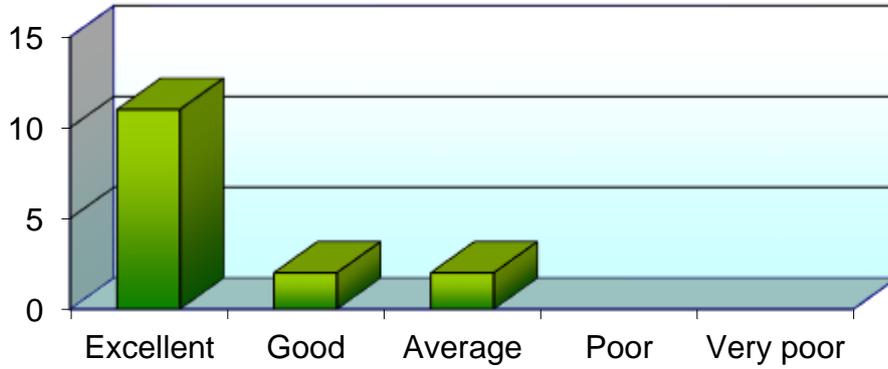
Number 8 - How would you rate Dr. Visagie's overall knowledge on the topics that she addressed?



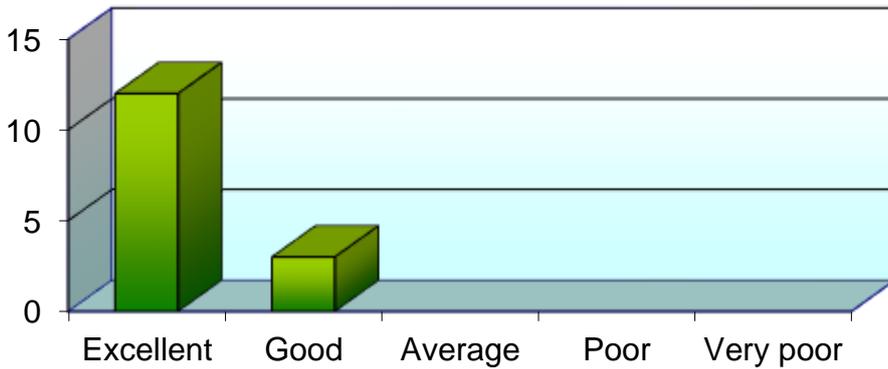
Number 9 - Would you say the workshop was time well invested?



Number 10 - How would you rate your overall experience over the past two days?



Number 11- How likely are you to recommend this workshop to others?



2. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- All the delegates said **yes** they've learned how to make ethical decisions.
- 98% of the delegates indicated that they are able to use the Ethics Decision Making Tool. The remaining 2% indicated that they are unsure.
- All the delegates said **yes** they've learned something new from "Good" authorship practices.

Tell us more about your overall experience and what would you like to bring to our attention:

- "Quite an eye opener and intriguing course on ethics and research conduct relevant to what we do as BITRI."
- "The clear explanation and differences between morality, law and ethics. How to make ethical decisions."
- "I would like to know more on exactly how to come up with Green Research, eg. Life Cycle Assessment."
- "Learnt a lot about research ethics, policies that will act as a tool to equip me to do my research with integrity."
- "More group work to improve participation."
- "I questioned myself about my whole career. I wish I had been exposed to this many years ago."
- "My request is that we have a system in place to frequently reflect on the lessons learnt over the past two days to make sure that there is implementation and this becomes a way of life. These principals are not only applicable to research but also to life."
- "The workshop was informative."
- "I suggest that this training have refresher courses annually."
- "Was my first of its kind and I really appreciated it. I was happy to have taken part."
- "Well structured and interactive workshop with lots of new knowledge and ideas worth discussing further as an organisation."
- "Enlightening and informative."
- "Excellent! Pitched at the right level and also not too technical so people could relate to their specific experiences."
- "I was informed and got aware of the things I overlooked and took for granted. Overall ethics is serious!"
- "Great, I think as researchers we tend to focus on science and forget the other subject that feed into science and this is a great reminder."
- "An organisation should be encouraged to workshop its staff on its policies prior to such training."
- "I under estimated the importance of ethics in Scientific Research but after this course I realised that it is an integral part of research."
- "I have been sensitized about two main crucial ethical conducts namely authorship and plagiarism."
- "Probably make it more interactive than listening for a long time."
- "How to make ethical decisions; authorship; plagiarism."
- "Awesome!"

- “I am more aware of issues of ethics, plagiarism of research integrity and looking forward to apply the knowledge in my research.”
- “The workshop was an enlightening experience for me and I learnt quite a lot.”
- “Writing papers in form of authorship; Ethics is the person’s contribution.”
- “Excellent time management. Well packed material.”
- “Awareness of research ethics even the nitty gritty I didn’t know about.”
- “Please encourage research institutes like BITRI to let their employees know about these policies at the beginning of contract not when contracts are towards the end like it is the case now.”
- “Very informative, it covered other aspects of ethics that I did not know.”
- “It was enlightening and good.”
- “Refresher on topics of Ethics, Authorship, Plagiarism and Green Research.”
- “I have learnt a lot – integrity and ethics are now firmly engraved into my mind.”

3. CONCLUSION

It is clear from the information provided in this report that the delegates had a positive experience. REASA would like to thank BITRI for the opportunity to could have added value not only to the institution but also to the individual participants. It was a pleasure to work with BITRI and we hope that REASA could be of assistance soon again.

APPENDIX C

REPORT ON REASA'S FIRST MASTER CLASS

Title of Report	Report on Reasa's First Master Class: Intersection Between Animal and Human Ethics Education: Is REC Training Adequate?
Workgroup	Education and Training
Report compiled by	Prof Lizeth Roets
Report presented by	Dr. Retha Visagie
Persons/Bodies Consulted	Dr Retha Visagie, Ms Tanya Coetzee & Ms Melany Hendricks
Reporting Period	Master class, 3 October 2019
Purpose	Appendix to Annual report
Date	October 2019

As part of the 6th International Conference on Ethics Education, REASA hosted its first masterclass, which was attended by seventeen participants, to address the critical intersection between animal and human ethics education. RECs reviewing clinical trials must be competent in critically appraising preclinical data from animal studies submitted in the Investigator's Brochure (IB). Researchers and members of human and animal research ethics committees, need to be educated on the complexities of animal studies and their relationship with clinical trials. The commonalities between researchers regarding their ethical obligations and expectations, with an emphasis on the difference between good practice training and research ethics familiarisation and deliberation, was discussed. Important documents such as the Health Research Policy, National Health Act 61 of 2003, NHREC Department of Health Policy guidelines (2015), Singapore statement, Good Clinical Practice (GCP) guidelines to support Department of Health (DOH) policy guidelines, South African National Standard (SANS) 10386 (2008) and the Animal Research: Reporting of *In Vivo* Experiments (ARRIVE) guidelines, came to the forefront and were mentioned in the deliberations.

The facilitators each provided an in-depth reflection on the topic to ensure a lively discussion.

Prof Anne Pope, Associate Professor (Emeritus) who is associated with the Department of Private Law at the University of Cape Town, the current Chair of the National Health Research Ethics Council and Deputy Chair of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) Research Ethics Committee, started the discussion with her presentation on "Ethical obligations and expectations of researchers and REC members". She emphasised that the tendency to have an "us" or "them" attitude towards Human Research Ethics Committees (HRECs) and Animal Research Ethics Committees (ARECs) is most unfortunate and fails to appreciate that the research enterprise is dependent on collaboration, collegiality, professionalism and integrity. Researchers and all research ethics committee members need to take responsibility for their own training and refrain from passively expecting to be taught in bite-size pieces for easy digestion. An ethics review should not focus on "yes" and "no" answers, but should instead include the reviewer's thoughts and deliberations on the values and principles that inform ethical research. Reviewers and researchers must be humble, open-minded, brave, willing to read and learn, and ponder the points that need deliberation.

Prof. Keymanthri Moodley, Professor in the Department of Medicine and Director of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University, provided insightful information on the relationships between animal data and human data in five documented clinical trials. She specifically raised questions about the use of animal data in research and the expertise of RECs to review the animal data. The studies she highlighted were (1) the Fialuridine study in 1993 where 5 human participants died; (2) the Jesse Gelsinger (1999) study, where he died after a gene infusion; (3) the TGN 1412 study of 2006 where all 6 human respondents who received the experimental drug had adverse side effects; (4) the Oxford TB vaccine study where the monkeys that were part of the animal studies for this vaccine had a higher mortality rate. The vaccine was nevertheless given to 2800 infants in South Africa, (5) and the recent Viagra study where 11 babies died. In all the aforementioned studies, animal studies were conducted, but the questions that need to be raised are:

1. Was a suitable model used in animal testing?
2. Did the animals experience adverse events?
3. Was it necessary to euthanise any animals?
4. What was the duration of follow-up in the animal studies?

She ended with recommendations for RECs' reviews of animal studies, which included a specific focus on the questions raised above.

Dr Bert Mohr (BVSc, MMedVet, DPhil, Diplomate ECVIM-CA) has worked in the field of animal and laboratory research for 20+ years. He is a registered veterinary specialist, actively involved in AREC matters. He emphasised the AREC's role in achieving the right balance between maintaining public confidence, safeguarding animal welfare and enabling high-quality science. The core ethical principles to foster in animal studies are the 5 R's: Replace, Reduce, Refine, Respect and Responsibility. It is thus essential to avoid the use of animals where possible, minimise the number of sentient animals used, limit the lifetime harms to each individual animal, respect animals as sentient beings, and take appropriate responsibility during the design, conduct, monitoring and reporting of animal studies according to accepted ethical and scientific norms. HRECs should be aware of the poor reproducibility of a large proportion of preclinical animal studies, as well as the low success rate in translating animal studies to the human clinical arena. This has led to the publication of the broadly endorsed NC3Rs ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) guidelines, which are aimed at improving the reproducibility, design and reporting of animal studies, including basic aspects such as randomisation, blinding and statistical calculation of sample sizes.

In terms of the acceptance of animal studies for extrapolation to humans, HRECs should be aware that:

- ARECs that evaluate health research in animals in South Africa must be registered with the NHREC;
- the facilities wherein animal research is taking place must be registered with the South African Veterinary Council to ensure clinical standards;

- the competence of researchers and students who perform animal procedures must be formally confirmed by a veterinarian;
- and ARECs are required to ensure that post-approval monitoring is performed to ensure appropriate adherence to approved conditions.

This has implications for ethics training, which should emphasise the adherence to best-practice guidelines to enhance high-quality animal studies, as well as closer communication between HRECs and ARECs in terms of recognising mutual expectations, concerns and challenges. This is vital in order to ensure the highest possible rate of translatability and safety of preclinical animal studies into the human clinical environment.

“It seems as if there might be a skill missing in the armour of researchers and research ethics committee members, namely the ability to do a critical reflection, a self-examination and an honest scrutiny of their own responsibility towards ethics training and ethics review that incorporate both human and animal ethics” (Lizeth Roets)

.....//**end**
(if there are no attachments)

