

THE FIRST NERCT SERIES EVENT 2021 “Between Fear, Bias and Reality”, April 7th

The first NERCT series event this year is scheduled online for Wednesday 7th April, 2021, 3:30pm (Lagos), 4:30pm (CET). The event will discuss pandemic disinformation and how it impacts the vaccination campaign in Nigeria. The theme “Between Fear, Bias and Reality” covers scientific breakthroughs on COVID-19 vaccines as well as governmental strategies to communicate total and partial lockdowns to their citizens.

Before the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, nations like Nigeria were already challenged by terrorism, organised crime and corruption. These security problems have now become exacerbated by additional weaknesses in the healthcare system and spreading disinformation.

This NERCT event seeks to shine a light on the available vaccine brands and inform the participants on potential pitfalls of communication and disinformation around COVID-19.

The panelists include:

Dr. Olayemi Dawodu (MD/CEO Clina-Lancet Lab, Nigeria). Dr. Dawodu is MD/CEO at Clina-Lancet Lab, Nigeria, a leading healthcare enterprise and part of the CERBA Healthcare group. She is specialised in anatomic and molecular pathology. Her career with the organisation started in 2015 as the country histopathologist, before attaining her current position in 2016.

Mr. David Ajikobi (Nigeria editor at Africa Check). Mr. Ajikobi was previously an editor/producer at Channels Television and one of the pioneer news editors/producers at 99.3 Nigeria Info, 96.9 Cool FM and 95.1 Wazobia FM in Lagos.

Earlier in his career, he was Metro Editor at NEXT Newspaper (234next.com).

Dr. Cheluchi Onyemelukwe (Managing Partner at Health Ethics and Law Consulting). Dr. Onyemelelukwe is also the founder of CHELD, a think tank, advocacy group on health policy. Her public health law work has included regulatory support for Nigeria during COVID-19, in-depth assessment of Nigeria's legal framework for public health and support for legislative development and law reform.

The event will be moderated by **Dr. Anthony Okeregbe**, a senior lecturer in Philosophy, affiliate of the Institute of African and Diaspora Studies, former Deputy Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Lagos, Nigeria.

The keynote introduction will be given by **Uzoma Ikechukwu Kingsley**, MD MOSECON Africa and CEO Eagle Rescue and Alarm Systems Ltd.

To register for this event, please contact us by e-mail at [info\(at\)nerct.com](mailto:info@nerct.com). You can also follow us on Twitter: @NERCT2021.