Establishment of a Diploma Program in Research Methodology and Ethics in Sudan
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**Submission Type:** Programmatic  
**Topic Area:** Education and Training  
**Poster Number:** 11

**Problem statement:** Developing countries urgently need research to help relieve the burden of disease. However, the performance of research has lagged behind in developing countries. Many factors have contributed to the problem, including the lack of research funds and the lack of well-trained investigators in research methodology, research ethics, and practical skills that include scholarly writing.

**Description of the Program:** Our University has taken the lead in designing a Diploma in Research Methodology and Ethics to increase competency of investigators regarding research and research ethics. The course targets all the post-graduate candidates from various disciplines, including medicine, public health, laboratory, nursing, social, and veterinary sciences. The pedagogy of this diploma consists of a blended learning format consisting of an initial face-to-face three-day workshop followed by online learning to meet the needs of busy academic professionals. The course is composed of 11 modules, which are designed to encourage discussion and reflection on the research process and central issues of research methodology and research ethics. The curriculum includes the following topics: Introduction to research methodology, systematic review and meta-analysis, descriptive and analytical study designs, experimental study designs and clinical trials, management of data and analysis, sampling techniques and computerized statistical packages, proposal and report writing and reference citation, introduction to research ethics, and public health ethics. The diploma can be completed in six months and the candidates must take a total of 25 credit hours. In addition the candidates are required to prepare and submit a review article for publication in one of the regional peer-reviewed journals before their final examinations. This diploma program represents an international collaboration between an international university and a US-based university and will draw upon the resources and experiences of the faculty of both universities. The faculty from the international university will consist of past trainees of the Fogarty/National Institutes of Health sponsored Middle East Research Ethics Training Initiative.

**Next Steps:** The first class of candidates was admitted to the program in February 2014. Assessment and feedback from these candidates will be collected and analysed, and needed changes will be made to the existing program.