

# **Promoting Research Integrity In Africa:** *a call to build capacity, create awareness and empower research stakeholders*

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**The Oxford Global Health and Bioethics International Conference 2019**



# Introduction

The Fair and responsible Research Partnership Video

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/>

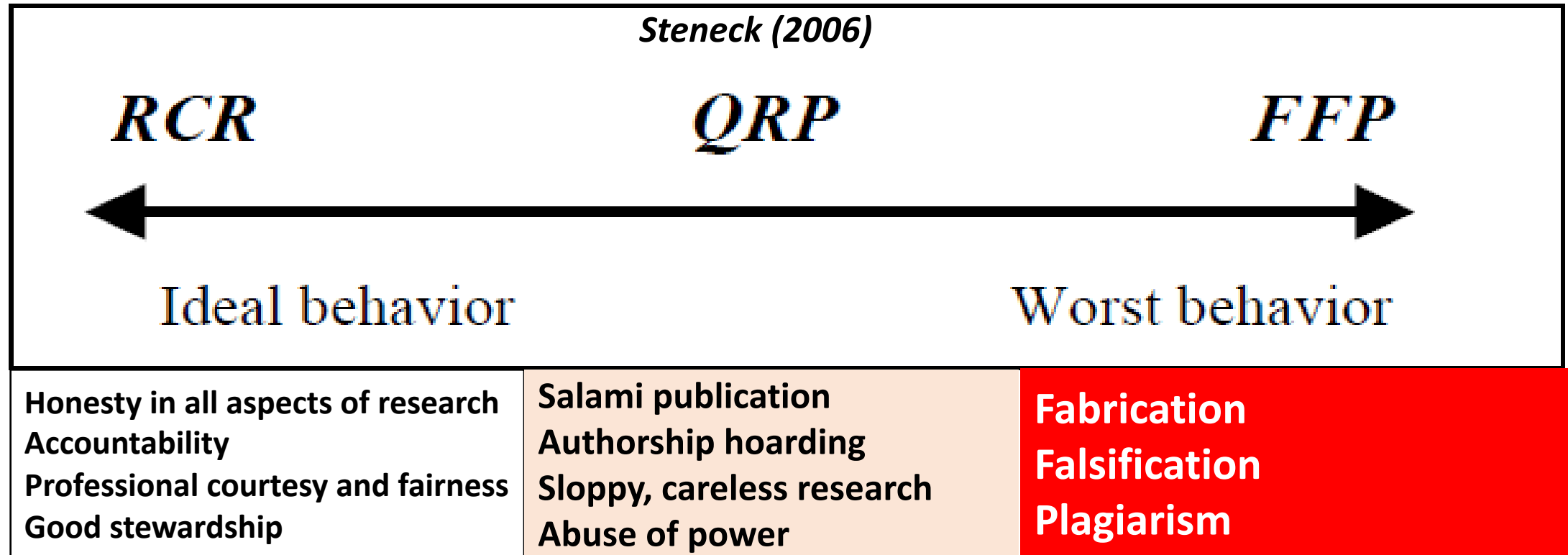
# What Does Research Integrity Mean?



- The use of honest and verifiable methods in proposing, performing, and evaluating research
- Reporting research results with particular attention to adherence to rules, regulations, guidelines, and following commonly accepted professional codes or norms
- Includes shared values in scientific research
  - **Honesty**- Share info truthfully and honor commitment
  - **Accuracy**- Avoid errors-report precisely
  - **Efficiency**- avoid waste-use resources wisely
  - **Objectivity**- Let facts speak, avoid bias

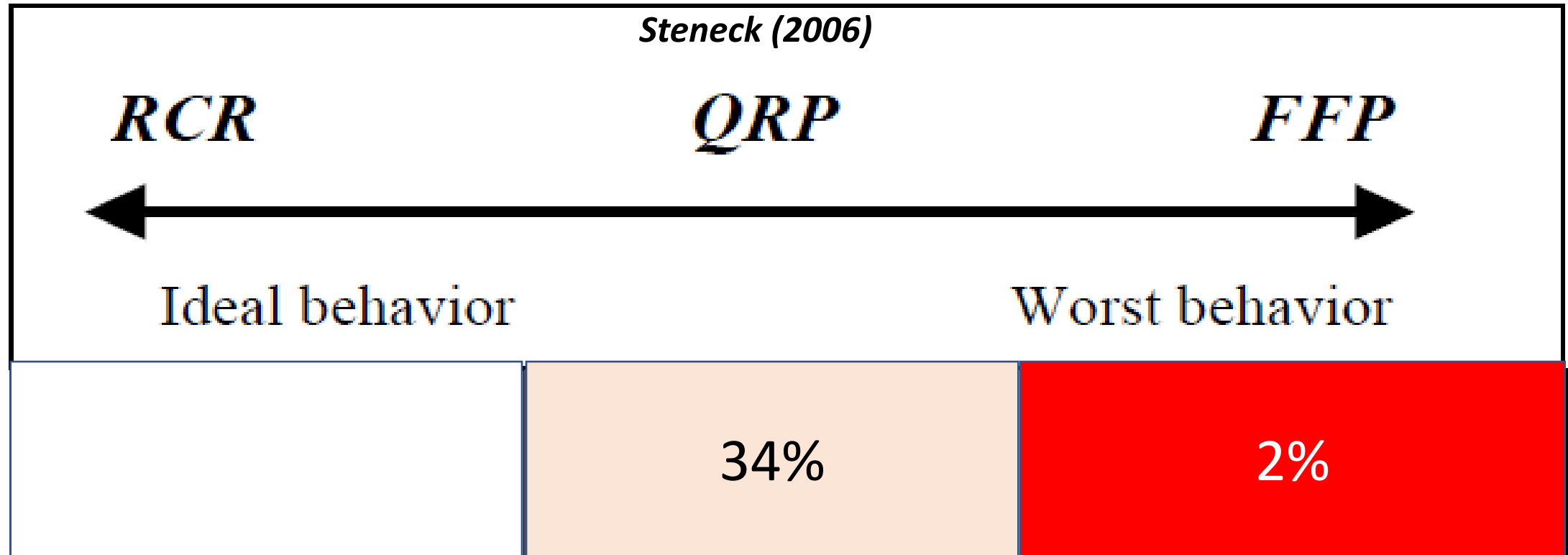
*Steneck, 20017*

# Research Integrity as a spectral



**Singapore statement in research Integrity**  
**Montreal Statement on Research Integrity**

# Research Integrity as a spectral



(Fanelli D. How Many Scientists Fabricate and Falsify Research-A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Survey Data. PLoS ONE 2009; 4(5): e5738)

# The Singapore and Montreal statements of RI

- Individual researchers' professional conduct- **Singapore statement on Research Integrity**
- Responsibilities of Individual and Institutional Partners in Cross-Boundary Research Collaborations- **Montreal Statement**

**BUT**

- They are global guides for RCR NOT regulatory frameworks
- Countries have to domesticate them and develop national/regional frameworks

# Where is the rest of the world?

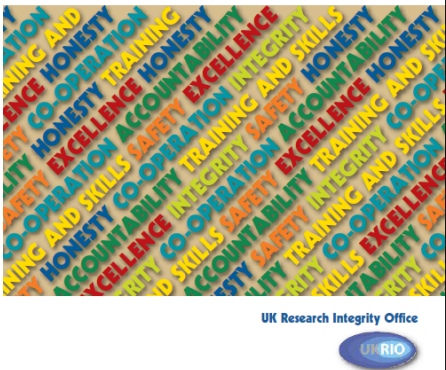
- World Conference on Research Integrity Foundation (2007)

**CODE OF PRACTICE  
FOR RESEARCH**  
Promoting good practice  
and preventing misconduct  
September 2009

- Singapore statement on RI (2010)
- Montreal statement on RI (2013)



- *Office of Research Integrity-(ORI) USA*
- *UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO)- UK*
- *Canada Panel of Responsible Conduct of Research*
- *Australian Council Policies and codes on Research Integrity*



- *Asian Pacific Research Integrity Network (APRIN)*
- *European Network Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO)*
- *Netherlands Research Integrity Network (NRIN)*
- *Asia Pacific Research Integrity Network-Japan*



Context – the concordat

Universities UK

» "All those engaged with research have a duty to consider how the work they undertake, host or support impacts on the research community and on wider society"

» Published in 2012.

» Five commitments.

» One of the most downloaded documents on the UUK website.

# Where is Africa?

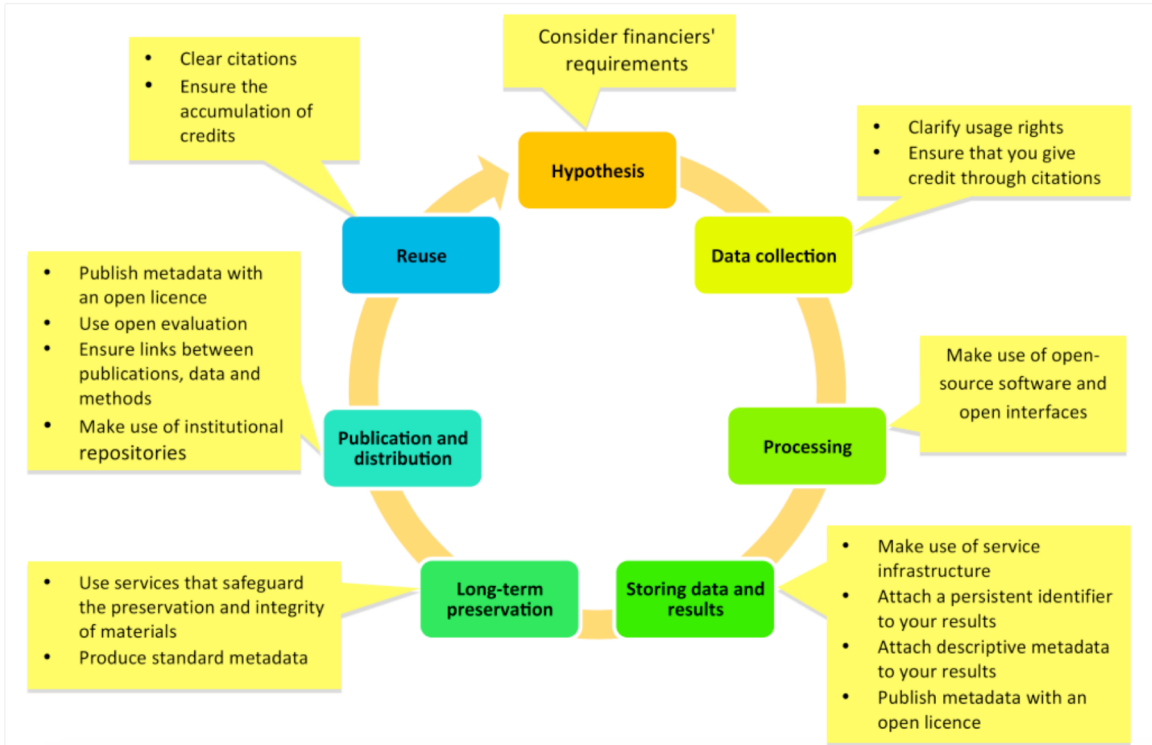




Thou shalt not swim against the wave!



# The Open Science Wave



- Overdependency of donor funding
- African PI vulnerability
- Avoid “Ethics dumping”
- From “tokenistic” CE to community empowerment and participation?
- Role of African governments
- Investing in research Frontline staff
- Responsible data sharing and stewardship

# The African Research Integrity Network-ARIN



# ARIN's Specific objectives

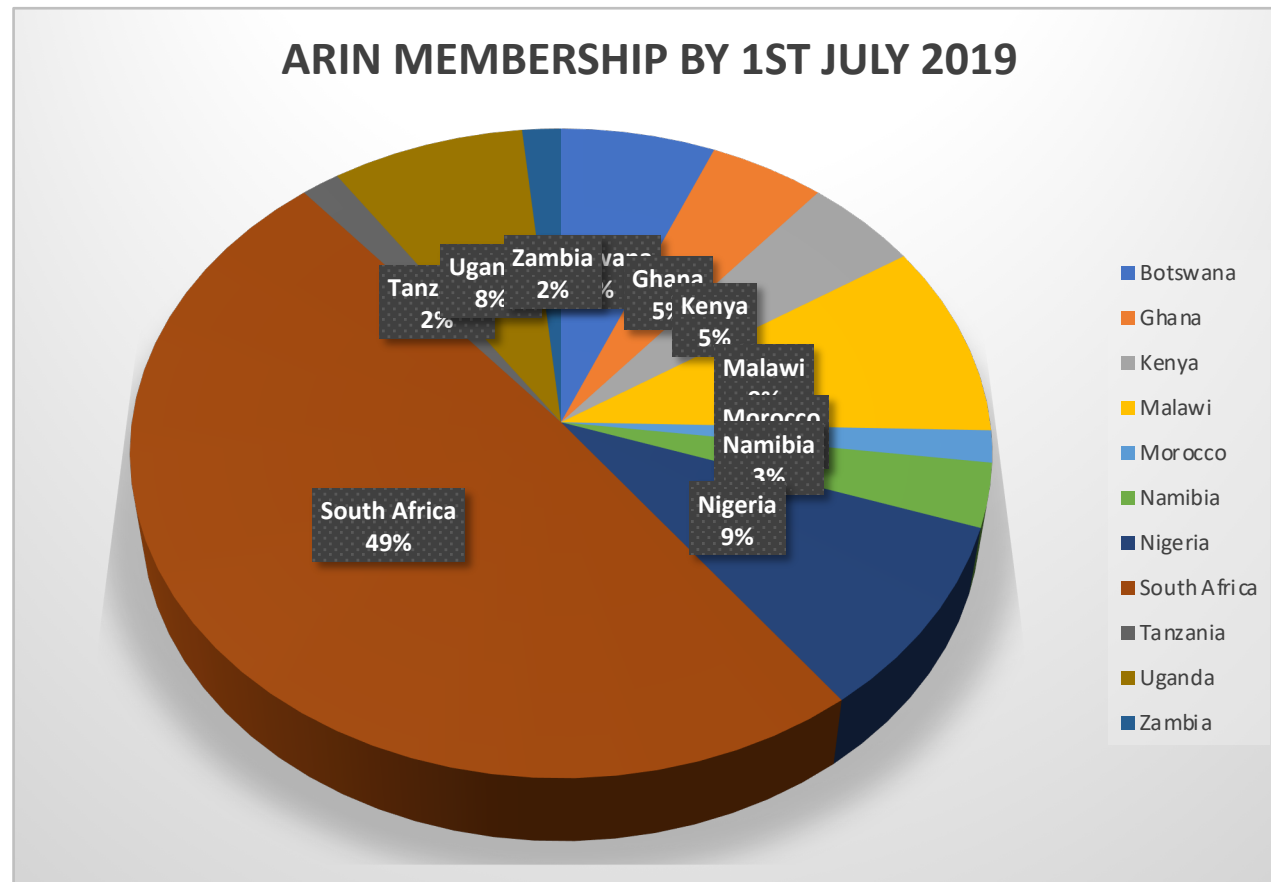
- **MAIN AIM:** To promote RI and RCR in Africa through sharing, aligning and leveraging of available resources and ideas and engaging of individuals, institutions, governments as well as policy makers in Africa

## Specific Objectives

- To develop a better understanding of – and sensitise people about – the local environment, conditions and context that affect Africa's RI practices
- To create awareness and improve access to relevant information and resources
- To create and nurture leadership in responsible conduct of research in Africa.
- To enhance dialogue, engagement and networking among African policy makers, stakeholders and practitioners of RI.

# Current Membership

- 70 members, 63 from 11 African countries
- Friends of ARIN from USA and Europe (7)
- Partnered with UC and successfully bid for 7WCRC 2021



# Members of the Steering Committee



**Ms Limbanazo Matandika,  
Research Fellow  
Centre for Bioethics in Eastern SA (CEBESA)  
College of Medicine (CoM)  
The University of Malawi,  
MALAWI**



**Dr Christa van Zyl  
Office of the DCEO: Research  
Human Sciences Research Council  
South Africa**



**Francis Kombe  
Bioethicist  
PhD student  
University of KwaZulu-Natal-SA  
KENYA**



# The Future Ahead



**RESEARCH MISCONDUCT**

## *In Nigeria, a battle against plagiarism heats up*

Young researchers champion good conduct and push for offenders to be punished

Downloaded from [http](http://www.sarima.org.za)

### SARIMA Annual Conference Heads to Namibia

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The annual conference of the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) is set to take place in Windhoek, Namibia, from 22-25 May 2017. [Image credit: SARIMA/Eastern Sun Events]

Published on 10. May. 2017

### 5th WCRI 2017 5th World Conference on Research Integrity Program at a Glance

#### Monday May 29, 2017

| Time  | Aula   | KC-07 | Auditorium | 2A-00 | 5A-00 |
|-------|--|-------|------------|-------|-------|
| 08:00 | Registration open (08:00-19:30)  |       |            |       |       |
| 09:00 | <b>Plenary B: Transparency and accountability (chair: Tony Mayer)</b><br>Boris Barbour: <i>The PubPeer community and research quality</i><br>Stephan Lewandowsky: <i>Being open but not naked: Balancing transparency with resilience in science</i><br>Helga Nowotny: <i>Locating ambiguity and making the invisible visible - what is really going on?</i> |       |            |       |       |
| 10:30 | Break  |       |            |       |       |
| 11:00 | <b>Plenary C: The role of governments (chair: Tony Mayer)</b><br>Jet Bussemaker: <i>The importance of independent research in today's society</i><br>Naledi Pandor: <i>Implementing a Transformed Research Agenda in post-apartheid South Africa</i><br>Robert-Jan Smits: <i>Research integrity: a responsibility for us all</i>                             |       |            |       |       |

## WHITE PAPER- SOUTH AFRICA

| THE  | DIAMOND   | RUBY  | EMERALD  | AMBER 1   | AMBER 2  | JADE  | CRYSTAL  | NIH 1                                     | NIH 2   | GARNET                            | ONYX   |
|------|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 7/12 | Science Journalism: Maximising Outreach, Impact and Understanding | The Essence of Frontier Science for Inclusive Developme | Research Integrity: A Matter of Global African Concern | Policy Innovations for Scientists and Engineers | The Future of Africa: Today's Challenges and Opportunities for Economies | Singularity and the Horizon: Research Management in | The Vitality and Effectiveness of TWAS Young Scientists' | Can Inclusive Development Be Transformed? | Towards an Open Science Framework for African Countries | The Importance of the Living Wage | Dr. Gileads Academy of Science of South Africa |

MU-RIO Project

RIO Botswana

RIO Malawi

NCST-Uganda

UCT-South Africa.

# Conclusion

- Research Integrity is an integral part of bioethics
- Stakeholder Engagement- Creating awareness on RCR
- Africa should participate in shaping global discourse in RI
- The debate on RI and bioethics remains incomplete without the voice and contribution from Africa



**A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step...**



# 7<sup>th</sup> WCRI video





Thank you



Asante

