



Implementation of Egyptian Network of Research Ethics Committees (ENREC)



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Introduction and Aim

There has been an increase in the numbers and complexity of health research studies being performed in Egypt. Egypt has established many Research Ethics Committees (RECs) during the last few years. This burden on RECs resulting in inadequate variability among their reviews. Lack of uniformity creates uneven human subjects' protection.

To facilitate exchanges of knowledge, know-how and information regarding the different systems of review in multi-centre-trials.

To establish & foster communication and coordination between ethics committees in Egypt.

To enhance

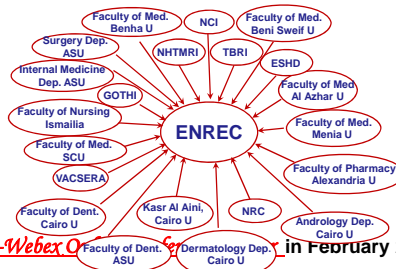
- efficiency and consistency in the review of research,
 - Dissemination of teaching material and awareness-raising activities.
- To enhance harmonization of REC practices by establishment of a [Virtual Collaboratory Network \(VCN\)](#).

Methods

- Survey for Identifying resources and needs of RECs in Egypt.
- Face-to-face meeting to discuss the creation of the Network (4 meetings have been conducted till present)
- Implementation of a website (www.enrec.org)
- Implementation of [two internet collaboratory tools](#):
 - [Blackboard](#) (Learner management system)
 - [WebEx](#) (Web-conferencing center)

Results

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2- [Webex](#) in February 2008 to broadcast

a live session of an educational workshop for the REC members at [Theodor Bilharz Research Institute](#) to individuals in different countries in the [Eastern Mediterranean Region \(Egypt, Jordan, and Pakistan\)](#). The online conference tool has also been used to broadcast continuing educational presentations to different members of RECs across Egypt.

3- [Blackboard LMS](#) as an Electronic Resource Center consisting of teaching of teaching materials, such as: background resource documents, research ethics codes, landmark articles in research ethics, links to other websites and forms and templates for investigators and REC members to use in the review process. We have given several individuals in Egypt passwords to gain access to the Blackboard LMS.

Expectations

To decide to work together in order to maintain and develop high quality standards in the protection of human subjects in Egypt.