

**Report of the International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN) International
Brain Research Organization (IBRO)-sponsored 36th IBRO Africa Region
Neuroscience School,
December 2-7, 2013 University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria**

The International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN) in partnership with IBRO have again paved the way for the highly successful and memorable second Regional Neuroscience School in Ibadan, Nigeria from December 2nd to 7th, 2013. The theme was "Salvaging neurons: blending basic and clinical neuroscience" The school was held on the pleasant campus of the University of Ibadan conference centre. It was declared open by the Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Prof. E. O. Farombi, who represented the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic). The organisers in Ibadan and Abeokuta crafted a most instructive programme. The School was stimulating and received with great enthusiasm: a student declared "my career in neuroscience will be an amazing experience" Another student noted "the experience gotten from the school has given me deeper insight into what and how I am going to organize my research in the future".

The 31 students from Cameroon, Morocco, South Africa and Nigeria were convened by IBRO alumni Drs. James Olopade (Ibadan) and Rufus Akinyemi (Abeokuta) and Professors Adesola Ogunniyi (Nigeria) and Raj Kalaria (UK-Kenya). Students were mainly postgraduates and trainees in the neurosciences and neurology.

Eleven international and local teaching faculty with wide experience in basic and clinical neurosciences instructed at the school. They were Phil Beart (Australia), Amadi Ihunwo (South Africa), Sharon Juliano (USA), Evelyne Sernagor (UK), Raj Kalaria (UK-Kenya), James Olopade (Nigeria), Mohammed Bello Sanusi (UK-Nigeria), Moyo Ajao (Nigeria), Rufus Akinyemi (Nigeria), Funmi Olopade (Nigeria), and Adesola Ogunniyi (Nigeria). Drs Olumayowa Igado, Omowunmi Femi-Akinlosotu along with Bukky Adeola Onifade managed the ground logistics and local organisation of the school.

The day schedules involved didactic lectures on structure and functions of the CNS, cell death mechanisms, neurodegenerative disorders, stem cells, vanadium neurotoxicity, traumatic brain injury and neurogenesis in mammals. During one of the afternoons, students were instructed in immunocytochemistry, Neuron-in-action demo, brain perfusion in laboratory animals, neuroanatomy with plasticised brains, neuropathology, and simple animal behaviour assessment methods. Students had an opportunity to present short oral communications on their research projects and case reports which involved a range of topics including effects of plant extracts on parts of the brain, neurotoxicity, pain modulation, electroencephalography, and neurogenesis. The faculty commented on the quality of the submitted abstracts and student presentations and encouraged them to pursue focused research of relevance to African neurological and mental health problems.

In the evenings, students participated in interactive discussions on survival skills including scientific writing, publishing and ethics in animal research. The faculty and students along with 300 others in the audience enjoyed a special colloquium on Ibadan's contribution to Neurosciences on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at the College of Medicine located on the University College Hospital, a satellite campus of the University.

Students completed school evaluation forms in which they commended the faculty for high quality teaching and showed their appreciation for this exceptional experience. Several said the school had opened their eyes to achieving excellence in brain research and found the friendly interaction with senior scientists as one of their favourite experiences. *They urged ISN and IBRO to continue this exciting programme.* The quality of the lectures by the faculty was reflected in the mean score of 4 (of 5). In accord with IBRO schools guidelines, alumni of this 36th IBRO School in Africa elected Folajimi Otubogun (otubogun_folajimi@yahoo.com) as class President and Gisele Claudine Nkantchoua Nkamguie (nkantchouagisele@yahoo.fr) as the Secretary, who will keep the school group informed of all the future neuroscience activities in Africa.

School diplomas and adorable gifts were distributed during the final social evening held at the Foyer of the Conference Centre. A delicious dinner and light music were enjoyed by the faculty and students with some senior members from the University.

The International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) CAEN committee in collaboration with IBRO have achieved another milestone in the growth of neuroscience in Africa. A big thank you was conveyed to the organisers and all the local team for their excellent hospitality and help in making a great success of the week. Support from the ISN, IBRO and University of Ibadan was gratefully acknowledged.

Reported by Profs Adesola Ogunniyi (School Organiser) and Raj Kalaria (School Co-ordinator), January 2014

Pictures: 1) School Group, 2) Some of the lecturers 3) Workshop session with demonstration by Amadi Ihunwo