

**REPORT OF THE 10TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE
NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY OF NIGERIA HELD FROM MAY 14-17, 2012 IN
CALABAR, NIGERIA**

The meeting was the 10th Annual Scientific Conference of the Neuroscience Society of Nigeria (NSN), which took place from May 14-17, 2012 at the University of Calabar Conference Centre and the Planet Guest House, Calabar, Cross River State of Nigeria. The theme of the meeting was ‘Harnessing Available Potentials and Materials for Neuroscience Research in Nigeria’ with a sub-theme ‘Neuroscience Research Collaboration for National Development’. The conference was supported in part by the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN).

The conference had seventy (70) participants in attendance. Registration of participants marked the beginning of the meeting on May 14, 2012. Registration continued on May 15, 2012, with the opening ceremony at 10.00 am. The opening ceremony had in attendance; the Chief Host and Vice Chancellor of the University of Calabar, Prof James Epoke; Guest of Honour and Chief Medical Director of the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, Dr Thomas Agan; Host and Deputy Provost of College of Medical Sciences, University of Calabar, Prof Ann Asuquo; Keynote Speaker, Dr Philip Njemanze, as well as, other guests and participants.

The opening ceremony began with an opening address by the Chairperson, Local Organizing Committee (LOC), Dr Theresa Ekanem. This was followed by a keynote address by Dr Philip Njemanze titled ‘Harnessing Available Potentials and Materials for Neuroscience Research in Nigeria’. General speeches from the Chief Host, Deputy Provost, the Guest of Honour, and a Vote of Thanks by the Secretary, LOC, Mr Moses Ekong ended the ceremony.

Highlights of the days' programme for the conference included; the first scientific sessions which was a symposium on 'Adult neurogenesis' by Prof Amadi Ihunwo, Dr Moyosore Ajao, and Dr Mathew Olude; A Plenary Talk on Herbal Application in Neuroscience by Prof Eme Osim ended the day.

May 16, 2012 featured the ISN symposium: Basic to Clinical Neurochemistry with speakers from South Africa. The speakers were Professors, Paul Manger and Laurie Kellaway. There was an IBRO Alumni symposium, and a symposium on Movement Disorders, Primary Headache, Epilepsy and Stroke. On the last day, May 17, 2012, there was a symposium on 'Bipolar, and substance use disorders. This was followed by an Annual Business Meeting which culminated in the dissolution of previous executive council and the election of a new executive council.

The following officers were elected to pilot the affairs of NSN for the next two years:

Dr. (Mrs.) Theresa B Ekanem-	President	-*University of Calabar, Calabar
Dr. Gabriel Oze	- Vice President	-*Imo State University, Owerri
Dr. Moyosore S Ajao	- Secretary Gen.	-*University of Ilorin, Ilorin
Mr. Moses B Ekong	- Asst. Sec. Gen.	-*University of Uyo, Uyo
Dr Ben Chindo	- Treasurer	-*National Institute of Pharmaceutical Research and Development, Abuja
Prof Eme E Osim	- Ex-Officio	-*University of Calabar, Calabar

*All the institutions are located in Nigeria.

The University of Ibadan, and the University of Ilorin bided and were awarded to host the next conferences in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

There was a tour to selected sites in Calabar. These included; Tinapa Business Resort, Old Residency Museum, and the Slave Trade Museum in Marina Resort. The conference came to an end with a conference dinner later in the evening. During the dinner, cash prizes were awarded for the best poster presenters on Days 2 and 3 of the conference. These went respectively to Dr Funmi Olopade of the University of Ibadan and Mr Moses Ekong of the University of Uyo.

Please see below the programme of events.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Monday, May 14

12.00 Arrival and On-site Registration Begins (University of Calabar Conference Centre/ Planet Guest House, 1 Clement Ebri Close, Calabar)

Tuesday, May 15

8.00 On-site Registration Continues
(University of Calabar Conference Centre)

10.00-12.00 Opening Ceremony
(University of Calabar Conference Centre)

12.00-13.30 Transit to Planet Guest House (1 Clement Ebri Close), venue for scientific sessions

13.30-14.00 *Lunch break/Advert*

14.00-16.00 **Symposium 1** (Adult Neurogenesis)

Prof Amadi Ihunwo, South Africa

Adult Neurogenesis: From the beginning till now

Dr Salihu M. Ajao, Nigeria

Modulation of adult neurogenesis: Key factors that are responsible

Dr Matthew A. Olude, Nigeria

Adult neurogenesis in African giant rat: preliminary findings

16.00-16.30 **Poster Session 1**

16.30-17.30 **Plenary Session 1**

Prof Eme Osim, Nigeria

Herbal application in neuroscience

18.00-20.00 *Cocktail*

(University of Calabar Conference Centre)

20.00 Recess

Wednesday, May 16

9.00-12.00 **Symposium 2** (ISN Symposium on Basic and Clinical Neurochemistry)

Prof Paul Manger, South Africa

Brain and neurochemistry - an evolutionary and comparative approach

Prof Morten Møller, Denmark

Circadian expression of genes in the vertebrate pineal gland

Prof Laurie Kellaway, South Africa

Neuroinflammatory conditions of the brain: From Alzheimer's disease to anxiety disorders

- 12.00-12.15 **Talk** (Funding opportunities from ISN for Neuroscientists)
Prof Amadi Ihunwo, South Africa
- 12.15-12.30 *Advert/Tea break*
- 12.30-14.15 **Symposium 3** (IBRO Alumni symposium)
- 14.15-14.45 *Lunch Break/Advert*
- 14.45-15.15 **Poster Session 2**
- 15.15-16.15 **Plenary Session 2** (Progress of Neuroscience/Neurochemistry in Nigeria)
- 15.15-15.45 **Talk 1**
Dr Alphonsus Ekwerike, Nigeria
Techniques and protocol in neuroscience education
- 15.45-16.15 **Talk 2**
Prof Karniyus S. Gamaniel, Nigeria
The future and benefits of Neuroscience in Nigeria
- 16.15-18.15 **Symposium 4** (Movement Disorders, Primary Headache, Epilepsy and Stroke)
Dr Sidney Oparah, Nigeria
Special issues in epilepsy
Dr Uduak Williams, Nigeria
Overview of movement disorders
Dr Rufus Akinyemi, Nigeria
Epidemiology of stroke in Nigeria
Dr Sidney Oparah, Nigeria
Primary headaches
- 18.15- Recess

Thursday, May 17

- 9.00-11.00 **Symposium 5** (Bipolar, and substance use disorders)
Dr Basseyy Edet, Nigeria
Substance use disorder among in-patients
Dr Basseyy Edet, Nigeria
Pattern of Psychiatric disorders among elderly patients
Dr Ekanem Philip-Ephraim, Nigeria
Neurological admissions in the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital
Tea Break/Advert
Dr Basseyy Edet/Dr Ekpe Essien, Nigeria
Medication adherence among in patients of the Psychiatric Hospital
Dr Ekpe Essien, Nigeria
College sexuality among IV year medical students in the South-South
- 11.00-12.00 AGM
- 12.00-13.00 *Lunch*
- 13.00-17.00 Guided Tours
Marina Resort, Old Residency Museum, Tinapa Business Resort
- 18.00 Dinner party and closing ceremony (University of Calabar Conference Centre)

Please see below some pictures at the opening ceremony and at the dinner.

Opening Ceremony

Members of NSN, together with the Chief Host



The Vice Chancellor, University of Calabar, Prof James Epoke (Centre) with participants at the conference

Opening Ceremony

Members of NSN, together with the Chief Host, Deputy Provost of College of Medical Sciences, Members of University of Calabar Community, International Speakers, Keynote Speaker and ISN Council member.



Left to right: Dr Moyosore Ajao, Prof Laurie Kellaway, Prof Paul Manger, Prof Amadi Ihunwo, Prof Eme Osim, Prof James Epoke, Prof Ann Asuquo, Dr Philip Njemanze, Dr Theresa Ekanem, Prof Essien Essien

Opening Ceremony

Members of NSN, together with the, International Speakers and ISN Council member.



Left to right: Dr Mokutima Eluwa, Dr Funmi Olopade, Daniel Ikpi, Prof Eme Osim, Prof Laurie Kellaway, Prof Amadi Ihunwo, Dr Theresa Ekanem, Dr Ben Chindo, Olaitan Asuquo, Dr Moyosore Ajao, Dr Paul Udoh, Prof Paul Manger, Anozeng Igiri

Dinner Night

Newly elected executive council of NSN. Together with the Host of the conference who also represented the Chief Host, International Speakers and ISN Council member.



Left to right: Prof Paul Manger, Dr Theresa Ekanem, Dr Gabriel Oze, Dr Moyosore Ajao, Prof Saturday Etuk, Moses Ekong, Dr Ben Chindo, Prof Amadi Ihunwo, Prof Laurie Kellaway

We received funding from the International Society for Neurochemistry to organize the ISN Symposium. The amount involved was \$6,000 (Six Thousand US Dollars).

The following are the breakdown of the expenditure:

International Air tickets for 3 speakers:	-	\$3933
Local Air tickets for the 3 speakers:	-	\$1000
Accommodation for the 3 speakers for 5 days:-		\$1200 (\$400 x 3)
Feeding of the 3 speakers for 5 days:	-	\$450 (\$150 x 3)
Conference Registration for 3 Speakers:	-	\$600 (\$200 x 3)
Total:	-	\$7,183

Dr. Theresa B Ekanem
Chairperson, LOC



Mr. Moses B Ekong
Secretary, LOC

