

## **The Chair**

### **CAEN of ISN**

#### **REPORT ON RESEARCH VISIT TO ANOTHER LABORATORY – CATEGORY 1A.**

**This report is hereby submitted with all sense of gratitude to the Committee for Aid and Education in Neurochemistry (CAEN) of the International Society For Neurochemistry (ISN) upon my successful completion and utilisation of the award to visit another laboratory.**

**The Host Institution was the School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa under the able supervision of Dr. Amadi O. Ihunwo (Head, Morphological Anatomy Division and Principal Investigator, Adult Neurogenesis Research Group) at the same school.**

I arrived in South Africa on October 24, 2010 and settled in to my apartment. I was introduced to the management, staff and some students of the School of Anatomical Sciences at the University of Witwatersrand and given my appropriate access cards and keys to the laboratories and my office space.

I received hands-on training on techniques in Histochemistry, Immunohistochemistry and electron microscopy using brain tissue samples. I began with sectioning using the freezing microtome to make free floating sections at 40µm and paraffin embedded tissues before processing them through a series of Immunohistochemistry experimental runs using the neuronal markers Ki-67 and doublecortin X (DCX) to investigate cell proliferation. I also undertook procedures for Haematoxylin and Eosin, Nissl and Giemsa staining on brain tissues.

I was privileged to also learn some electron microscopy techniques from fixation to the level of ultra thin sections using the ultracut machine on brain samples in preparation for electron microscopy. I also took lessons on photomicrography and live cell imaging.

During my stay, I attended a presentation of postgraduate dissertations by some students of the University where one student presented on Adult neurogenesis in the brain of the common mole rat (*C hottentotus*). I was exposed to the available research facilities and equipment available in the school with lessons on their functions and i was opporteduned to try my hands on several of them.

This research visit broadened my scope of science and has empowered me significantly to better undertake neuroscience research and fast track my PhD programme. I returned to Nigeria on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January and i resumed work on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January. I therefore, express my sincere appreciation to the CAEN and ISN once again for the grant and the significant and indelible mark this visit has made on my sense of research. I pledge to acknowledge the ISN all proceeding journal articles that may arise from this visit in the nearest future.

Long live CAEN! Long live ISN!!

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Please find attached some pictures of me and my supervisor during the course of my stay in the laboratory.