

REPORT ON A THREE MONTH RESEARCH VISIT TO ANOTHER LABORATORY – CATEGORY 1A

This report is hereby written and submitted with a deep sense of gratitude to the Committee for Aid and Education in Neurochemistry (CAEN) of the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) following the successful completion and utilisation of the award given me to visit another laboratory.

The Host Institution for my visit was the Institute of Veterinary Anatomy, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Leipzig, Germany under the gracious supervision of Jun.-Prof. Dr. Dr. Simone Fietz.

I arrived Germany on December 4, 2017 and settled in to my apartment. I was introduced to the management, staff and students (both undergraduates and doctoral) working in the laboratory of the Institute. A copy of the laboratory keys was handed over to me and I was provided with all necessary support and assistance towards a smooth settling, learning and research.

Prior the commencement of my research work, I took some sessions on laboratory safety and biosecurity tips observed in the Institute. I received hands-on training on histological techniques including cryosectioning, immunohistochemistry (double, triple and quadruple immunofluorescence labelling), confocal imaging techniques and stereology/image analysis procedures. I started out with a complete coronal sectioning of all my tissue-tek embedded brain tissues using the cryostat machine. After which I processed them for Immunohistochemical staining using some biomarkers: mitotic markers (PCNA, PH3), neuronal progenitor cell markers (pVim, Pax6 and Tbr2) and deep and upper layer neurogenesis markers (Tbr1 & Brn2) to elucidate the prenatal neocortical developmental profile of the brain of a unique African rodent – the Greater Cane rat.

During my stay, I had the opportunity to take a short guided tour around the available research facilities and equipment in the faculty. I attended seminar presentations delivered by staff of the Institute and also gave a short talk/presentation of my research findings at the end of my stay.

This research visit has broadened my scope of science, and depth in the understanding of the field of developmental neuroscience. It has equally empowered me significantly in better understanding of my chosen field of neuroscience research. My research work yielded some interesting results and holds a promise of future collaborations with my host. I departed Germany for Nigeria on the 28th of February, 2018, and reported to my workplace on the 2nd of March, 2018.

I whole-heartedly express my sincere appreciation to the CAEN and ISN once again for the grant and, the significant and indelible mark this visit has made in my career path. I pledge to acknowledge the ISN in all proceeding journal articles that may arise from this visit in the nearest future.



Figure 1 - At the microscopy room



Figure 2 - Head of Institute of Veterinary Anatomy (Prof. Seeger) and I.



Figure 3 – During my short talk on my last day at the laboratory.



Figure 4 - My host (Jun-Prof. Simone Fietz) and I