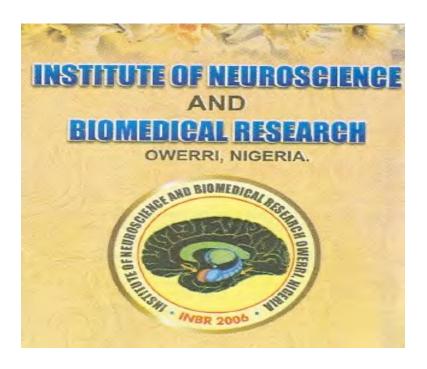
Report for the Committee for Aid and Education in Neurochemistry (CAEN), International Society for Neurochemistry

CATEGORY 2E: Support for the implementation of scientific / educational workshops and small schools, April 2012 Round.



24TH July, 2012

To ISN-CAEN

REPORT OF THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE CONFERENCE OF THE INBR HELD IN OWERRI, NIGERIA, 1-5 JULY 2012

The 4th international neuroscience conference of the Institute of Neuroscience and Biomedical Research (INBR), otherwise known as INBR 2012, was held in Owerri, Nigeria, from 1st to 5th July 2012, as scheduled. The Conference's general theme was "REPAIRING THE DAMAGED NERVOUS SYSTEM" and subthemes were "NANOTECHNOLOGY IN NEUROSCIENCE; STEM CELL IN NEUROSCIENCE; and ENVIRONMENTAL NEUROTOXICOLOGY". The Conference started with an Advanced School, with theme "KNOW THE BASICS OF RESEARCH IN NEURODEGENERATION AND NEUROREGENERATION", was held in Imo State University, Owerri. Topics such as Making Good Poster Presentations; How to Write Research Papers; How to Make Successful Grant Proposals; How to Write for Proposals for Higher Degrees; How to Establish Successful Collaborations; were presented by resource persons: Polycarp Nwoha (Nigeria), Eme Osim

(Nigeria), Thomas Nathaniel (USA), and Al Ekwerike (USA). Participants were mostly junior lecturers, and postgraduate students from different Higher Institutions within and outside Nigeria. The activities of the Advanced School continued on Monday 2nd July 2012, with a lot of enthusiasm shown by the participants.

The Conference proper started Monday with 1st plenary lecture delivered by Polycarp Nwoha. It was entitled "Environmental Neurotoxicity: The Nigeria Experience"; and in it he showed how exposure of Wistar rats to refuse dump site resulted in massive destruction of their livers and lungs. Cognition of the rats was seriously impaired, and anxiety level was raised. It was suggested that more research attention be focused in this area to reveal more hazardous effects, and the major elements responsible. The population around the dump site should also be studied for markers of degenerative diseases. The effects of another now-common environmental nuisance in Nigeria, location of telephone masts in neighbourhoods and high density areas, were reported to be worrisome. Rats exposed for long period to telephone mast showed rupture of skin, and reduction in reproductive performance. The other plenary lectures followed in the order and days scheduled: Eme Osim talked on "Herbal Applications in Neuroscience", and showed how some herbal products of some Nigerian plants have been used successfully in treating cognitive disorders, pain and anxiety disorders. Thomas Nathaniel talked about hypoxia-tolerating species in Alaska and how knowledge gained from their central control metabolic mechanisms could lead to better understanding of how to manage stroke in man. Philip Njemanze discussed how nanoparticles can be harnessed as micelles for the purpose of drug delivery, particularly in hyperlipidemia, and also to improve diagnostic imaging. Chuba Okoye discussed the Umueje paralytic epidemic, in which many people in the Umueje community of Anambra state were afflicted with a progressive paralytic condition that was fatal. He and his group identified the cause of the paralytic condition to be beri beri and decided to incoroporate vitamin B1 in the diets of the people while also conducting physiotherapy. As a result of their intervention, the affliction was reversed. Al Ekwerike discussed innovative and creative thinking in research and industry and did hands-on experience with the participants.

Other activities included Poster presentations, which formed a very important aspect of the Conference. Presenters also had opportunity to make summary of their work on a platform format. All enjoyed the presentations and made meaningful contributions that would improve the research careers of the presenters. A highlight of the Conference was the presentation of the 2012 Champion of the Brain Bee quiz contest for secondary schools in Nigeria, Miss Chidera Okehie. She was an SS2 student of Imperial Secondary School, Ubomiri, Imo State. She was

presented with an award and allowed to take part in all activities of the Conference. The other students who participated with her were also allowed to participate in the Conference. Miss Okehie and her chaperone, Dr Augustin Obi were later in the month to travel to Cape Town, South Africa, where she would join contestants from other countries of the world in the 14th International Brain Bee quiz, and the 2012 International Congress of Psychology taking place in same venue at the same time. The Conference proper ran for two days in Concorde hotel, Owerri, Nigeria.

There were refreshing social activities as well as visits to places of interest.

Participants at the conference cut across students in Secondary schools, undergraduates, graduates and regular scientists. The INBR 2012 participants also took time off to make courtesy calls on the Vice Chancellor, Imo State University, Prof B.E.B Nwoke, the Commissioner for Education, Imo State, Professor Adaobi Obasi.

The overall feeling was that the Conference was worth the effort. The next biennial Conference of the INBR holds in 2014. Major support for hosting this conference came from the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN), and the INBR is highly grateful for this.

FINANCIAL REPORT IN RESPECT OF OF \$5,000 ISN-CAEN SUPPORT TO 4TH INBR 2012 CONFERENCE, OWERRI, NIGERIA

Please note the \$5,000 support from the ISN –CAEN to the hosting of the 4^{th} INBR International Neuroscience Conference, held 1^{st} - 5^{th} , July 2012 at Concorde Hotel, Owerri, Nigeria, was spent in providing accommodation to participants from outside and within Nigeria, and for registration of students.

The following benefitted from free accommodation and registration. Cost was \$2,145

Dr. Alphonsus Ekwerike, Director, Science Medicine Research Institute, Dallax, Texas, USA

Dr. Philip Njemanze, Director International Institutes of Advanced Research and Training, Owerri, Nigeria

Dr. Thomas I. Nathaniel, Center for Natural and Health Sciences,

Marywood University, Scranton, Pennsylvania USA

Dr. Adebayo Buraimoh, Department of Physiology, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria

Professor Chuba Okoye,
Department of Medical Rehabilitation,
University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, Nigeria

Dr. Austin Obi, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria

Prof. Eme Osim,
Department of Physiology,
University of Calabar,
Calabar, Nigeria

Dr. Gilbert Waritimi, Department of Anatomy, Niger Delta University, Bayelsa state, Nigeria

Dr. Taofik Sunmonu, Federal Medical Centre, Owo, Ondo State, Nigeria

Dr. Johnbull Tammy Department of Anatomy, Niger Delta University, Bayelsa state, Nigeria

Dr. Gabriel Oze, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria Mrs Beatrice Egejuru, School of Health Technology, Amaigbo, Im State, Nigeria

Dr. Polycarp Nwoha,
Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology,
Obafemi Awolowo University,
Ile-Ife, Nigeria

The following undergraduate students benefitted from free accommodation, registration and feeding. Cost was \$2,400

1. Students of Imo State University, Owerri

Christiana Achoro

Prisca Ekegbu

Josephat Ihiaha

Juliet Njima

Charles Ibiba

Chimbueze Ndimako

Olachi Aririatu

Munachi Arinze

Dibia Nneoma

Mayor Chikwe

Chinwendu Alakwe

Nnamdi Nkemakola

Deborah Ngozi Eluwa

Queen Esther Ohanaka

Nwogu Noble

Anthony Paulinus

Iheanacho Kingsley

Ani Favour

Nwachukwu Blessing Chinenye

Ebuka Okoroafor

2. Students of Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Adeniran Iyanu Aduragba

Olajide Seinde

Nwoha Peace Ngozi

Olaseinde Oludolapo
Fagbayimu Michael
Abimbola Taiwo
Mbakwe Favour
Eigbe Solomon
Olowookere Oluwapelumi
Olaiya Aarinola Blessing

3. 2012 Nigeria Brain Bee Champion, Miss Chidera Okehie, her teachers and colleagues from Imperial College, Ubomiri, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria

Hiring of audiovisual equipment - \$455

Total \$2145 + \$2400 + \$455 = \$5,000

Report compiled by Dr. Gabrile Oze, Dr. Augustine Obi and Professor Polycarp Nwoha

Thank you.

Dr. Polycarp Nwoha,

Chairman, INBR 2012 Conference.

Pictures

Legends:

Fig 1: Cross-section of participants at INBR 2012, Concorde Hotel, Owerri, Nigeria

Fig 2: The Nigeria Champion of Brain Bee Quiz for Secondary Schools, Miss Okehie Chidera, with some members of the INBR Board during the Conference.

Fig 3: Award being made by the INBR to the Brain Bee Champion. R to L: Augustine Obi, chaperone to the brain Bee Champion and staff of Imo State University, Owerri; Okehie Chioma Chidera, Brain Bee Champion and SS2 student of Imperial Secondary School Ubomiri, Imo State; Polycarp Nwoha, President of INBR and Chairman of 2012 Congress, staff of Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

Fig 4: Some participants at the INBR 2012 pose with the winner of Brain Bee quiz, Nigeria

Fig. 5: Dr. Taofik Sunmonu making a poster presentation, while Professor Chuba Okoye listens.









