



11 August, 2014

Prof. Alessandro Prinetti,  
Chair of ISN-CC,  
Professor of Biochemistry  
Department of Medical Biotechnology  
and Translational Medicine  
The Medical School, University of Milano,  
Italy

Dear Prof. Prinetti,

#### **REPORT OF 5<sup>TH</sup> INBR 2014 INTERNATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE CONFERENCE, OWERRI, NIGERIA**

The 5<sup>th</sup> biennial conference of the Institute of Neuroscience and Biomedical Research (INBR) held in Global Towers Hotels and Tourism Ltd, Owerri, Nigeria, from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014, and dwelt on the theme **“Nervous System in Health and Disease: Nutritional Supplements”**. The Meeting was very successful in many respects. It started on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014, with a very scintillating pre-Conference Workshop held in the Histology Auditorium of the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology of the Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria. The interaction centered on techniques of writing research papers, neuroimaging with emphasis on PET techniques, and neurobehavioural tests. Resource persons were Peter Brust (Germany), Polycarp Nwoha, Meashack Ijomone (Nigeria). Participants were diverse, undergraduate students, graduate students, science teachers, researchers in universities and other higher institutions. There was general appreciation of all the information provided by the resource persons, including the round table that provided open lively and spirited discussion.

On Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> July, the Conference proper began with the 1st plenary lecture **“The Light Theory of Brain Function and Gender Complementarity”** delivered by Academician Dr. Philip Njemanze; this was followed by discussions. The next plenary lecture **“Health Hazards of Polluted Environment”** was delivered by Professor Polycarp Nwoha, and thereafter discussions. The third plenary lecture **“Onchocerciasis and Nervous System In Africa: The Present Appraisal”** was delivered by Professor BEB Nwoke, the former Vice-Chancellor, Imo State university, followed by discussions. Poster presentation by the undergraduate medical students followed suit and day was rounded off with visits and social gathering.

On Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, the 1<sup>st</sup> plenary lecture **“Frameworks for Ethical Conduct of Research in Nigeria: The Agenda of ENREF to Promote Health Research Ethics and Animal Use and Care Committees”** was delivered by Dr. Maduabuchi John-Moses Uwanduoma, followed by discussions. The next plenary lecture **“Molecular Imaging of Neurodegeneration”** was by Peter Brust, followed by discussions. Poster presentations by graduate and regular researchers and discussions followed. Next was short oral communications picked from those who made posters. The day was rounded off with socials and visits. Thursday, the 1<sup>st</sup> August, was sight-seeing day,

and people moved around to appreciate the beauty of Owerri and environ. Those interested in post-Conference satellite Meeting on techniques of PET Neuroimaging diagnosis and Blood-Brain Barrier attended the Session which held in Imo State university on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> August. Besides the techniques as thoroughly discussed by Peter Brust, teaching on writing research grant was given by Polycarp Nwoha.

Attendance to the Conference was enormous and diverse. There were many undergraduate students numbering 90, and coming from Obafemi Awolowow University, Ile-Ife, Imo State University, Owerri, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. There were 30 graduate students at various stages of their academic work; there were 40 others including regular researchers, most are lecturers in various universities, there were medical personnel, the private industry, government personnel and the media, including print and electronic. Outstanding was the presence of secondary school students who came to partake in the Championship of the International Brain Bee Quiz contest for Nigeria. The winners of this championship were presented at the Conference.

Expenses of ISN USD 7000 support: Most of the expenses were on the care of the undergraduate and the secondary school students as follows:

Traveling: USD 1,500

Accommodation: USD 2,500

Feeding: USD 1,200

Registration: USD 1,000 (highly subsidised)

Conference organisation: USD 800

The support of the ISN-CC went a long way in financing the Conference. ISN was acknowledged in all publications of the Conference, including posters, banners, Book of abstracts, and President's address. Membership of the ISN was also solicited at the Meeting.

A Survey of participants on various issues relating the Conference showed overwhelming commendation on the ideals of the Conference and its organization. People were particularly happy that undergraduate students were introduced to play active part in such high intellectual gathering. There was further commendation on the continued organization of the INBR Conference since 2006, despite dearth financial support. All were happy at the venue, participation and outcome of the Conference and many pledged to do more to take future Conference to greater heights.

Reproduced below are some responses of the participants after the Conference and some photos.

I thank you sincerely for your interest and the support of the ISN-CC in the actualization of this Conference.

Kind regards,



Polycarp Nwoha,

INBR 2014 Congress President.

## RESPONSES TO 5<sup>TH</sup> INBR 2014 CONFERENCE

On Sat, 8/2/14, aarinola blessing <aarinolablessing@gmail.com> wrote:

Subject: INBR conference was great!

To: "Polycarp Nwoha" <polycarpnwoha@yahoo.com>

Date: Saturday, August 2, 2014, 11:49 PM

Sir, I would like to say a big Thank you for the INBR conference. It was an exciting experience, I really gained a lot and I hope to use the knowledge I have acquired to follow my dreams. Thanks for the wonderful accommodation, I personally like the place. God bless you and your family Sir.

Olaiya Aarinola Blessing, Part V undergraduate medical student, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

On Sat, 8/2/14, alex.ioparaugo@gmail.com <alex.ioparaugo@gmail.com> wrote:

Subject: Thank you

To: "Prof. Nwoha" <polycarpnwoha@yahoo.com>

Date: Saturday, August 2, 2014, 8:43 AM

Good evening Prof. I have been thinking about how I spent this passing week and have come to realize that it is one of the most precious moments of my life. I simply want to thank you for the privileged and opportunity you gave us especially me in taking part in a meeting as the INBR Conference. I have been moved and inspired. As a matter of fact, I have once again realized that I'm not a dull but a lazy student who can achieve so much more with hard work. Once again, I say thank you. I pray God to bless and strengthen you and your family and continue to prosper you in all your endeavours- Amen.

Alexi Oparaugo, Part IV undergraduate medical student, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria

On Tue, 8/5/14, Peter Brust <p.brust@HZDR.de> wrote:

Subject: Re: IMPORTANT: mobile phone

To: "Polycarp Nwoha" <polycarpnwoha@yahoo.com>

Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2014, 1:05 PM

Dear Polycarp,

I arrived home at 1 a.m. today. Had a long stay in Paris. I am happy that you liked my contributions and thank you again for all your support in the various aspects of my stay. It was a great experience for me.

Best regards

Peter Brust, Professor and guest participant from Leipzig, Germany

From Gab Oze, PhD, Vice-Dean, IMSU College of Medicine  
Text Message, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014.

Thank you again. Thank you again. Thank you for taking me along.

From Corper Emmanuel, Dept of Medical Biochemistry, OAU, Ile-Ife  
Text message sent 02/08/14

Dear Sir,

I thank God for the wisdom he gave to you to organize INBR conference. It was amazing, wonderful and educative. It is an eye-opener for me to see areas I can be good in research. Thank you, sir. And God will continue to bless you and reward you abundantly.

Youth Corper Yusuf Emmanuel

07063594658

On Wed, 8/6/14, angelglory76@nokiamail.com <angelglory76@nokiamail.com> wrote:

Subject: DIBIA NNEOMA GLORY

To: polycarpnwoha@yahoo.com

Date: Wednesday, August 6, 2014, 2:56 PM

Please sir, accept my thanks for giving me the opportunity to be in such a distinguished forum like that of the INBR conference. It proved to be a most interesting, well attended and enlightening event. It was a

great experience for me and it exposed me to many things. The Profs, lectures and the white man were very innovative. It was tremendous to be with them and meet with a number of colleagues. Thanks for the excellent, very well organized and run conference. I wish you very success and look forward to the next INBR conference in 2018! GOD BLESS YOU!!!

Nneoma Glory, Undergraduate medical student, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria

On Tue, 8/5/14, kolajay007@yahoo.com <kolajay007@yahoo.com> wrote:

Subject: Re: INBR 2014, A BIG SUCCESS

To: "Polycarp Nwoha" <polycarpnwoha@yahoo.com>

Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2014, 9:38 PM

I appreciate you sir! May God bless you for all you did for us at Owerri, the Conference was an eye opener! It made me know how to go about research and the plenary session was expository.

Olajide Kolawole, Ppart IV medical student, OAU Ile-Ife, Nigeria

On Sun, 8/10/14, Ebuka Prince Okoroafor <ebukaprinceokoroafor@yahoo.com> wrote:

Subject: appreciation

To: polycarpnwoha@yahoo.com

Date: Sunday, August 10, 2014, 5:13 PM

Dear sir,

I want to thank you for giving me the chance to participate in the 2014 INBR conference, and more so for always believing in me and my colleagues. There are so many challenges to be faced, but we'll always try to make you proud. Thank you once again Sir, it was indeed an overwhelming experience.

Ebuka p. Okoroafor

Student-IMSU

On Sat, 8/9/14, ezinne.ugenyi <ezinne.ugenyi@yahoo.com> wrote:

Subject: Re:

To: "Polycarp Nwoha" <polycarpnwoha@yahoo.com>

Date: Saturday, August 9, 2014, 8:50 PM

Though this mail is coming in late, but I still thank you for allowing me to participate in the INBR 2014 conference. I learnt a lot and was really inspired and informed about things I didn't know. May God guide and strengthen you as you help to enlighten his people.

Thank you sir.

Ugenyi ezinne, Medical student, Imo state university.

#### Photo Legends:

1. Champion of Nigeria IBB 2014, Master Ihediohanna Valentine UK, receiving certificate from Professor BEB Nwoke, former Vice-Chancellor, Imo State University, Owerri
2. IBB Championship contestants, parents, teachers, and Conference participants
3. Undergraduate students in joyful mood after their poster presentations
4. Some participants at the INBR 2014 Conference
5. Some participants displaying their neuron dress
6. Professor Polycarp Nwoha, Congress President, in his neuron dress, addressing participants
7. More of the undergraduate student participants in happy mood
8. Tea break is important

#### Future plans:

To sustain and expand participation of more young ones

To include laboratory experience for the young ones