



Society of Neuroscientists of Africa

Society of Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA) 2017 Post Conference Report



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Event Summary

Event Name: 13th Meeting of Society of Neuroscientists of Africa

Theme: Neuroscience: A Tool for the Advancement of the African Scientific Community.

Date: 11–14 June 2017

Conference Organisers: SONA and TReND in Africa

Host Organisations: CHS-Makerere University Kampala and St Augustine International University,
Uganda

Venue: Imperial Resort Beach Hotel, Entebbe, Uganda

Number of Delegates: 329 delegates registered for the conference (208 attended and 121 did not attended)

Overview

The largest meeting of neuroscientists in the African continent took place in Entebbe, Uganda as Makerere University Kampala and St Augustine International University, hosted the 13th biannual meeting of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA). The Conference was held on June 11-14, 2017 at the Imperial Beach Resort Hotel, Entebbe, Uganda. The conference was built on the successes of the two previous conferences held in Morocco and South Africa in 2013, and 2015, respectively. This biennial international conference, attracted more than 300 scientists interested in the recent developments in the field of neuroscience.

As in previous meetings we have tried to bring together a set of internationally renowned plenary speakers and scheduled a series of symposia that represent the exciting work currently being done within the field of neuroscience with topics of particular relevance to Africa and its scientific development. The symposia were organized by local and international researchers, to create plenty of opportunities for discussions and establishment of collaborations. To encourage this type of interactions, every symposium featured talks selected from the submitted abstracts of African neuroscientists (if the symposia is organized by a scientist not resident in Africa) or from the abstracts submitted from western colleagues (if the symposia is organized by an African scientist).

In addition to the plenary and symposia sessions, we designed a social programme with plenty of time for poster presentations, and other fun activities designed to facilitate interaction across all participants of the meeting. During this meeting, we introduced for the first time a poster discussion format where the chair of each poster session reviewed posters of his/her interest and then invite the selected poster-authors to present 2-3 slides for 5 min.

Objectives of the Conference

The SONA 2017 conference was organized with the following objectives:

1. Provide a forum in which cutting edge research related to recent developments in the field of Neuroscience can be presented and discussed;
2. Develop and facilitate interdisciplinary interactions leading to collaborations among participants; and
3. Generate opportunities for young African students and scientists to present their work and get feedback from established members of the continent and international neuroscientists.

Conference Proceedings

Pre-Conference Workshops

The conference started with pre-conference workshops for students to equip themselves for a career in neuroscience research. The workshops include:

1. The *10th IBRO-ARC Teaching Tools Workshop* (June 5 – 10, 2017) organized by Prof. Sharon L. Juliano (USUHS, Bethesda MD, USA). This workshop was designed to equip participants (26 drawn from different universities in Africa) with stand-alone basic neuroscience modules that can be integrated into a variety of curricula and into various teaching contexts. The workshop covered the theory and practice of effective pedagogy in neuroscience, with goal of enhancing students' learning outcomes.
2. *IBRO-ARC School: From Wildlife to Laboratory: Basics Concepts for Behavioral Research* organizer by Prof Nilesh Patel (University of Nairobi, Kenya) from June 6-10, 2017. This workshop was designed to provide 20 participants drawn from different African Universities, a basic introduction and approach for conducting behavioral studies on wildlife and laboratory housed animals. The workshop emphasized the methods for observing, describing and recording behaviour under field and laboratory conditions and the use of behavioural analysis as a measure of sensory, motor and cognitive function.
3. *IBRO-ARC School: Writing Papers Workshop* organized by Prof. Marina Bentivoglio (University of Verona School of Medicine, Italy) from June 7-10, 2017. This workshop was conducted to enable young African investigators acquire skills and develop strategic means to communicate with the broad neuroscience community and, in particular to publish scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals.
4. *Neurobiology of Diseases Workshop* organized by Yunusa Mohammed Garba (University of Konstanz, Germany) and Mahmoud Bukar Maina (University of Sussex, UK) on June 10, 2017. The workshop was designed to introduce early-career scientists to the fundamentals of the neurobiology of diseases, with the hope that, regardless of their interest or knowledge in the

nervous system, they will be stimulated to think about fascinating scientific questions, and guided on how to approach these problems in their research.

5. *Lessons from Developing Neuropsychological Approaches to Challenges in Medical and Mental Health in Africa* organized by Prof Michael J. Boivin (Michigan State University, USA) and Prof Bruno Giordani, University of Michigan USA), June 10, 2017. This workshop presented an overview of the application of neuropsychology to evaluate public health factors related to risk and resilience in sub-Saharan African children in resource-limited settings.

Day one

The conference kicked off on 11th with an opening ceremony. The former Vice Chancellor of Makerere University (MUK) and the Chairman of St Augustine International University (SAIU) Governing Council, **Prof. Venancius Baryamureeba** was the guest of Honor. In his opening remarks, he spoke of plans by the East Africa Community to establish centers of excellence for science and technology in members states. The one to be established in Uganda will be a Center of excellence for neuroscience research and will be located either at MUK or SAIU.

This was followed by a plenary talk by **Prof Marina Bentivoglio** of University of Verona School of Medicine, Italy. She talked about investigations on human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) or sleeping sickness to synaptic plasticity phenomena in hypothalamic peptidergic neurons. Her research findings point out diurnal oscillation and lifetime changes in the wiring of orexinergic neurons in normal conditions and in models of neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration. **Dr. Noeline Nakasujja** of Makerere University Kampala gave the prestigious **James Kimani Lecture**. She spoke on the challenges in conducting neurocognitive assessments in Sub Saharan Africa's vulnerable population.

The venue of the meeting became bustling with activity as symposium sessions were conducted in two venues. In one venue Dr. Evelyn Sernagor (Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University, UK) chaired the **IBRO Alumni Symposium**. This symposium highlights the achievements of five African neuroscientists who have received substantial support from IBRO at early stages of their scientific career. Another symposium showcased research on Emerging Viral Infections in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Developing Nervous System: Ebola, West Nile, Zika and Other Viruses. Day one ended with the conference reception which featured both a cocktail and poster session.

Day Two

The second day started with two symposia (Parkinson's Disease: An Emerging Disorder in Africa and Neurodegenerative Diseases: Animal Models and Treatments) held in parallel sessions. Following which, **Prof. Pierre Magistretti** (Brain Mind Institute, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland) and **Prof. Andrea Brand** (University of Cambridge, UK) talked about *Neuron-Glia Metabolic Coupling: Role in Neuronal Plasticity and Neuroprotection* and *Awakening Neural Stem Cells in the Brain* respectively.

Amid serious scientific sessions that saw spirited scholarly discussions, junior faculty and undergraduate medical students from St Augustine International University were invited to attend the meeting for interaction with the scientists.

The afternoon session started with two symposia on **Metals, Alcohol and Neurotoxicity** and **Pathogenesis of Neuropsychiatric Disorders: Lessons from Serotonin Deficient Animal Models** organized by *Prof. James Olopade* from University of Ibadan, Nigeria and Prof. Michael Bader from Max-Delbrück-Center, Germany respectively. The evening session also saw plenary lecture from **Prof. Tim Bliss** (UCL and Francis Crick Institute, UK) who talked about LTP and the Neural Basis of Memory.

Day two ended with what was a special evening in which the conference gala dinner was held during which participants were treated to Uganda culture and food.

Day Three

On day three of the conference, there were three plenary lectures; **Prof. Larry Swanson** (University of Southern California, USA) talked about Macroconnectomics—and the Future of Systems Neuroscience, **Prof. Abdul H. Mohammed** (Karolinska Institutet and Linnaeus University, Sweden) on Running for your Brain: Exercise, Cognition and the Aging Brain and **Prof. Axel Borst** (Max Planck Institute for Neurobiology, Germany) on Neural Circuits for Elementary Motion Detection.

There were also four symposia on *Comparative Vertebrate Neurogenesis* organized by Prof. Amadi Ihunwo (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa); *The Hippocampus in Sense and Senility* organized by Prof. Raj Kalaria (University of Newcastle, UK); *Medicinal Plants Real or Placebo Properties* organized by Dr. Rigobert Espoir Ayissi Mbomo (University of Yaounde I, Cameroon) and *Drug Development and CNS Health* organized by Dr. Richard Idro (Makerere University Kampala, Uganda and Prof. Janis Weeks (University of Oregon, USA).

The SONA General Assembly which was held in the evening saw the election of new Executive Committee that will run SONA the next four years.

Day Four

The following symposia were held on the final day;

- Neurobiology of Circadian and Seasonal Rhythms organized by Prof. Lakhdar-Ghazal Nouria (Mohammed V University, Morocco).
- Sensory Systems in African Insect Diseases Vectors organized by Dr. Conor McMeniman (Johns Hopkins University) and Dr. Lucia Prieto (University of Lausanne, Switzerland).
- Adaptation and Degeneration of the Nervous System organized by Prof. Susan Sara (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France).
- Research and Ethics in Africa Organized by Prof. Sharon Juliano (USUHS, USA).

- Exposure to Psychological Trauma and Early Life Adversity: The Role of Social Environmental Factors in Promoting Resiliency and Brain Plasticity organized by Prof. Mustafa Al'absi (University of Minnesota, USA).
- Symposium of the International Society of Neuroimmunology (ISNI) organized by Prof. Roberto Furlan (San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Italy)

The meeting ended with talks on the *Forebrain Control of Action Over 500 Million Years– From Forebrain to Spinal Microcircuits* by **Prof. Sten Grillner** (Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden); *Cerebral Palsy in Africa: Challenges, Contradictions, and Chances* by **Dr. Angelina Kakooza** (Makerere University Kampala, Uganda) and recollection of the *History of Neuroscience in Africa* by **Prof. Vivienne Russell** (University of Cape Town, South Africa). The final day also saw competitions for the best poster presentations. The competition was open to young IBRO Alumni scientists from Africa and was hotly contested.

After four days of intense talks and activities, the students and scientists left the meeting looking forward to reuniting in 2019 in Lagos Nigeria for the next SONA meeting.

Conference Participants

A key factor in the success of the conference was the volume of attendees and the discussions and interactions during the conference. There were 208 participants representing 30 countries covering three continents. The attendees included a mix of students (undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral), basic science and clinical research scientists..

The participants were international.. A summary of the participants includes:

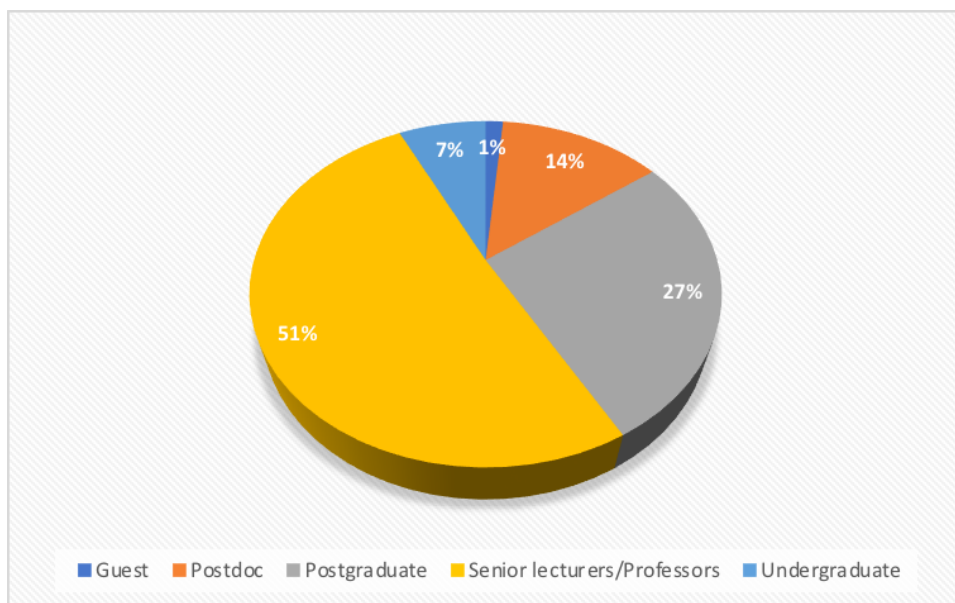
- 138 Paying Delegates
- 70 Complimentary Conference Delegates (including sponsors, keynote speakers, bursary recipients and staff)
- other people registered, but later cancelled and had their fees refunded.

Registrations by Country

SN	Country	Participants
1	Algeria	3
2	Australia	1
3	Cameroon	6
4	Canada	2
5	DRC	1
6	Ethiopia	3
7	France	2
8	Germany	6
9	Ghana	3
10	Hungary	1
11	India	1

12	Italy	4
13	Kenya	10
14	Kuwait	1
15	Malawi	1
16	Morocco	7
17	Nigeria	35
18	Senegal	2
19	South Africa	19
20	Spain	1
21	Sudan	3
22	Sweden	7
23	Switzerland	3
24	The Netherlands	3
25	Tunisia	1
26	Uganda	58
27	United Arab Emirates	1
28	United Kingdom	9
29	USA	12
30	Zambia	2
	Total Participants	208

Category of Participants



Conference Organising Committee

1	Prof. Sadiq Yusuf	St Augustine International University, Uganda	<i>SONA President and Chair, Organizing Committee</i>
2	Dr. Noeline Nakasujja	Makerere University Kampala, Uganda	<i>Co-Chair, Organizing Committee</i>
3	Dr. Lucia Prieto Godino	University of Lausanne, Switzerland	<i>TReND in Africa</i>
4	Prof. Nouria Lakhdar-Ghazal	Université Mohammed V-Agdal Rabat - Morocco	<i>Secretary-General, SONA</i>
5	Dr. Tom Baden	Sussex University, Uk	<i>TReND in Africa</i>
6	Prof. Abdul H. Mohammed	Karolinska Institutet and Linnaeus University, Sweden	<i>Member, SONA</i>
7	Dr. Paul Bangirana	Makerere University Kampala, Uganda	<i>SONA Memembr</i>
8	Dr. Angelina Kakooza	Makerere University Kampala, Uganda	<i>SONA Member</i>
9	Dr. Richard Idro	Makerere University Kampala, Uganda	<i>SONA Member</i>
10	Dr. Godfrey S. Bbosa	Makerere University Kampala, Uganda	<i>SONA Member</i>
11	Dr. Musa Mabandla	University Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa	<i>Assistant Secretary-General, SONA</i>
12	Dr. Samir Ahboucha	Université Hassan I, Morocco	<i>Treasurer, SONA</i>
13	Prof. Nilesh B. Patel	University of Nairobi, Kenya	<i>SONA Regional Secretary - Eastern Africa</i>
14	Dr. Daniel Münch	Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown, Portugal	<i>TReND in Africa</i>
15	Dr. Alberto Loche	Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research, Switzerland	<i>TReND in Africa</i>
16	Ms. Isabella J. Achokotho	Makerere University Kampala, Uganda	<i>Administrator, Organizing Committee</i>

Scientific Committee

1	Prof. Rajesh N Kalaria	University of Newcastle, UK
2	Prof. Abdul Mohammed	Karolinska Institutet and Linnaeus University, Sweden
3	Prof. Amadou Gallo Diop	Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal
4	Prof. Musa Mabandla	University Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa
5	Prof. Nouria Lakhdar-Ghazal	Université Mohammed V-Agdal Rabat - Morocco
6	Prof. Vivienne Russel	University of Cape Town, South Africa
7	Prof. Paul Manger	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
9	Dr. Samir Ahboucha	Université Hassan I, Morocco
10	Prof. Krister Kristensson	Karolinska Institute, Sweden
11	Prof. Adesola Oggunniyi	University of Ibadan, Nigeria

12	Prof. Amadi O. Ihunwo	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
15	Dr. Conor McMeniman	Johns Hopkins University, USA
16	Prof. Per Nilsson	Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
17	Dr. Gams Massi Daniel	Cheikh Anta DIOP Universit, Senegal
18	Prof. Francis Fakoya	Northumbria Universit, UK
19	Dr. Rigobert Espoir Ayissi Mbomo	University of Yaounde I, Cameroon
20	Prof. Michael Bader	Max-Delbrück-Cente, Germany
21	Dr. Insaaf Berkiks	University of Ibn Tofai, Morocco
22	Prof. James Olopade	University of Ibadan, Nigeria
25	Prof. Mustafa Al'absi	University of Minnesota, USA
26	Prof. Sharon Juliano	USUHS, USA
27	Prof Nilesh Patel	University of Nairobi, Kenya
28	Prof. Roberto Furlan	San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Italy

Abstract Submission and Review Process

The Scientific Committee made the selection of abstracts for symposium in October of 2016. Successful symposium organizers were incorporated into the conference scientific committee as every symposium featured at least one talk selected from the submitted abstracts of African neuroscientists (if the symposia is organized by a scientist residing outside Africa) or from the abstracts submitted from international participants (if the symposia is organized by an African scientist).

The call for abstract for oral and poster presentation opened in the last week of November 2016. Authors were requested to tag their abstracts to each symposium on submission. Presenting authors were noticed by e-mail with the result of the Scientific Committee's decision on the abstract by beginning of March 2017.

The following presentation formats were applicable:

1. **Oral presentation:** the abstracts were selected for oral presentation during the corresponding symposium session
2. **Poster presentation:** an abstract that has been selected for presentation in poster format were grouped by topics and displayed on the same day as the corresponding symposium.

The main criteria considered by the scientific committee when reviewing abstracts for acceptance included the quality of the written content and demonstration of originality and innovation. Abstracts accepted for oral or poster presentation were published in the Book of Proceedings irrespective of whether the authors registered as participant for the conference.

Abstract Submission Statistics

	Total Submitted	Accepted for Presentation
Symposium	20	16
Paper/Poster	260	241
Oral		87
Poster		154

SONA 2017 Sponsors

1. International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)
2. International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN)
3. Wellcome Trust (WT)
4. Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS)
5. The Company of Biologists (CoB)
6. Public Library of Science (PLOS)
7. Sutter Instrument Company
8. Teaching and Research in Natural Science Development in Africa (TReND)
9. IBRO 2019, Daegu, Korea
10. College of Health Sciences, Makerere University Kampala, Uganda
11. St Augustine International University, Uganda

Student Bursaries

The organizing Committee decided to award African investigators, research students and symposium participants some funds from the grants obtained from IBRO, ISN, WT and CoB to help defray the cost of the meeting registration, travel and living costs associated with attending the SONA meeting.

Postgraduate students/postdoctoral fellows who have submitted an abstract as first author, symposium organizers and speakers were eligible for support to attend the meeting.

Bursary Evaluations

A total of 135 applications were received. The committee used the following criteria to select the successful applicants

1. Students and postdoctoral students who were accepted in the IBRO/ISN sponsored pre-meeting schools and who submitted an abstract for the meeting.
2. Doctoral and postdoctoral students who were participating in the symposium as co-organizers or organizers or speakers.
3. Senior scientists who were organizing symposium but couldn't raise enough funds to attend the meeting.

Below is the distribution of the awards:

International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)

SN	Full Name	Country	Amount (USD)
1	Azeez Idris Ayodeji	Nigeria	500.00
2	Ladagu Amany Digal	Nigeria	300.00
3	Atiba Foluso Ayobami	Nigeria	300.00
4	Akinyemi Rufus Olusola	Nigeria	800.00
5	Fotsing David	Cameroon	400.00
6	Mahmoud Bukar Maina	UK	500.00
7	Ohunene Makoju Avidime	Nigeria	700.00
8	Ajagun-Ogunleye Olufemi Mulkah	Uganda	300.00
9	Folarin Oluwabusayo Racheal	Nigeria	500.00
10	Abdulazeez Rashidatu	Nigeria	800.00
11	Benson Otarigho	Nigeria	500.00
12	Abdu Adem	Sudan	500.00
13	Robert Peter Biney	South Africa	300.00
14	Joseph Ssenyonga	Kenya	500.00
	Total		6,900.00

International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) Awards

SN	Full Name	Gender	Country	Amount (USD)
1	Abass Safiriyu	Male	Nigeria	300.00
2	Agu Gladys	Female	Nigeria	300.00
3	Aminu Imam	Male	Nigeria	300.00
4	Augustine Agu	Male	Nigeria	300.00
5	Ayechew Getu	Male	Ethiopia	300.00
6	Benjamin Arko-Boham	Male	Ghana	300.00
7	Benson Wachira	Male	Kenya	300.00
8	Caroline Murithi	Female	Kenya	300.00

9	Christopher Musembi	Male	Kenya	300.00
10	Constant Anatole Pieme	Male	Cameroon	300.00
11	Daniel Gams Massi	Male	Senegal	300.00
12	Edem Edem	Male	Nigeria	300.00
13	Elizabeth Olonode	Female	Nigeria	300.00
14	Esaie Kindombe	Male	DRC	300.00
15	Fatoumata Ba	Female	Senegal	300.00
16	Fikirte Getachew Abate	Female	Ethiopia	300.00
17	Geoffrey Ndekha	Male	Malawi	300.00
18	Ghislain Loubano-Voumbi	Male	Congo	300.00
19	Girmay Fitiwi	Male	Ethiopia	300.00
20	Hellen Kinyi	Female	Uganda	300.00
21	Hicham Farsi	Male	Morocco	300.00
22	Ifukibot Usende	Male	Nigeria	300.00
23	Imaan F M Tamimi	Female	Kenya	300.00
24	James Mwanza	Male	Zambia	300.00
25	Joy Ikepeazu	Female	Nigeria	300.00
26	Lucie Josiane Ojong	Female	Cameroon	300.00
27	Lumbuka Kaunda	Female	Zambia	300.00
28	Lydia Boumansour	Female	Algeria	300.00
29	Lydia Ior	Female	Nigeria	300.00
30	Modeste Wankeu Nya	Male	Cameroon	300.00
31	Monsurat Gbadamosi	Female	Nigeria	300.00
32	Zelalem Petros Aniya	Male	Etiopia	300.00
33	Pamela Rosemary Akun	Female	Uganda	300.00
34	Momoh Ibrahim Joseph	Male	Nigeria	300.00
	TOTAL			10,200.00

Wellcome Trust

SN	Full Name	Gender	Country	Amount (USD)
1	Mosab Ali Awadelkareem	Male	Sudan	300.00
2	Mosunmola Oyeleke-Omotola	Female	Nigeria	300.00
3	Mutaz Amin Abdelgalil Mustafa	Male	Sudan	300.00
4	Nada Abdelrahim	Female	Sudan	300.00
5	Ngala Elvis Mbiyzenyuy	Male	Cameroon	300.00
6	Nkouonlack Duquesne Cyrille	Male	Cameroon	300.00
7	Olufunke Dosumu	Female	Nigeria	300.00
8	Oluwadamilola shallie	Female	Nigeria	300.00
9	Oritoke Aluko	Female	Nigeria	300.00
10	Osarume Omorogbe	Female	Nigeria	300.00
11	Rasheed Omotayo Adeyemo	Male	Nigeria	300.00
12	Rodney Ogwang	Male	Uganda	300.00
13	Saheed Akinola	Male	Nigeria	300.00
14	Salem Mamoun Issad	Male	Algeria	300.00
15	Samuel Dare	Male	Uganda	300.00
16	Samuel Nyaga	Male	Kenya	300.00
17	Selomon Assefa	Male	Ethiopia	300.00
18	Shathani Marobela	Female	Botswana	300.00
19	Sodiq Lawall	Male	Uganda	300.00
20	Solomon Merepa	Male	Ghana	300.00
21	Thabisile Mpofana	Female	South Africa	300.00
22	Thomas Tagoe	Male	Ghana	300.00
23	Trust Nyirenda	Male	Zimbabwe	300.00
24	Vaughan Perry	Male	South Africa	300.00
25	victor fischer	Male	Nigeria	300.00
26	Victor Kumbol	Male	Ghana	300.00

27	Wondimagegnehu Tekalign	Male	Ethiopia	300.00
28	Sanaa Mhamdi	Female	Tunisha	400.00
29	Gams Massi Daniel	Male	Senegal	400.00
30	Femi-Akinlosotu Omowumi Moromoke	Female	Nigeria	400.00
31	David Tchouassi	Male	Kenya	300.00
32	Ainamani Herbert Elvis	Male	Uganda	200.00
33	Rosaline Wanjiru Macharia	Female	Kenya	500.00
34	Pedzisai Mazenganya	Female	South Africa	500.00
35	Pilani Nkomozepe	Male	South Africa	500.00
36	Akor-Dewu Maryam Baraka	Female	Nigeria	700.00
	Total			12,000.00

The Company of Biologists (CoB)

SN	Full Name	Country	Amount (USD)
1	Akor-Dewu Maryam Baraka	Nigeria	700.00
2	Mohammed Yunusa Garba	Germany	1200.00
3	Pilani Nkomozepe	South Africa	500.00
4	Thomas Kwaku Karikari	Ghana	1200.00
5	Nombuso Pearl Valencia Mkhize	South Africa	500.00
	Total		4,100.00

Final Financial Report

Actual Revenue

Income	Amount (USD)
International Brain Research Organization	33,600.00
International Society of Neurochemistry	10,000.00
Welcome Trust	12,000.00
The Company of Biologists	3,540.00
Sutter Instrument Company	493.00
KBRI (Korea -IBRO 2019)	1,030.00
Conference Registration	18,075.00
Individual Donations and Contributions	3,470.00
Total Revenue	82,208.00

Actual Expenses

Expenditure	Amount (USD)
Ziba Hall – Plenary & Poster exhibition	10,000.00
Elgon Hall (Breakaway)	500.00
LCD Projector (x2)	800.00
Accommodation (Speakers and LoC)	6,500.00
Meals (Speakers and LoC)	960.00
Airport Transfer	180.00
Return Flights (invited speakers)	10,500.00
AM/PM Tea/Coffee/Lunch/Water/Soda with Snacks	15,285.00
Opening Cocktail	2,100.00
Conference Gala Dinner (food and drinks)	6,000.00

Name Tags	250.00
Conference Program	375.00
Poster Stands	2,200.00
Conference bags	2,000.00
Printing Papers	250.00
Printing Ink	300.00
Entertainment during Gala Dinner	600.00
Neurobiology of Disease Workshop	834.00
Scholarships (students, postdoc and Symposium speakers and organizers)	33,200.00
Local taxes including VAT	6,967.00
Conference Management	4,000
Total	103,801.00

Total Expense: \$103,801.00

Total Income: \$82,208.00

Loss: \$21,598.00

Outcomes, Achievements and Impact of the Conference

1. A conference website was created for the conference (www.sona2017.org) and went live in October 2016. The website included all relevant information on the conference venue, registration information, abstract and paper submission instructions, travel information, links to lodging for hotel reservation, biographical information on invited speakers and information for sponsors. The Final Abstract Book was made available at the conference website for download as a pdf file.
2. The conference provided a forum for learning, sharing information and data, identifying opportunities, and networking with new and old friends.
3. The best aspects of SONA 2017 included the high-quality talks and discussion from a wide range of speakers, ample opportunities to interact informally with others in the field, and to establish connections with new research collaborators.
4. The scientific content was excellent and participants found the discussions to be exciting and useful.
5. Student and young Africa neuroscientists participation was encouraging, thanks to funding from IBRO, ISN, WT and CoB. The conference provided a unique opportunity for the students to hone

their speaking skills and interact with senior neuroscientists in the continent and outside the continent.

Overall, the conference provided an excellent forum to discuss current trends in the field of neuroscience and the state of current status of particular research areas within the field. The next meeting will be held in Lagos, Nigeria in 2019.

sadiq yusuf

Sadiq Yusuf, PhD

SONA President and Chair LOC

Phone: 256-703 912 798

E-mail: sadiqyus@gmail.com; ysadiq@saiu.ac.ug