

**Report of Visit to Dr. James Connor Laboratory at the Department of Neurosurgery,  
PennState College of Medicine, Hershey, Pennsylvania, USA.**

*By: Edem Edem*

I left Lagos, Nigeria on January 15, 2019 and arrived Hershey, Pennsylvania, on January 16, 2019. I attended the Employees' Orientation Exercise on January 20. From there I moved to the J1 Scholar Office for documentation, after which I reported to the department for subsequent documentation on January 21.

Ethical, animal care training and other trainings from the Institution were done for me to enable me have access to animal for research use and access to facilities in the University. While waiting for protocol approval, I was trained on all techniques used in the lab ranging from cell culturing, histochemical/immunohistochemical staining, immunoblotting, fluorescence labelling, stereotaxic micro-intracerebral injection, etc.

My protocol approval came in the last week of February and project commenced by third week of March after delivery of necessary materials. Treatment was done for two weeks and I was able to demonstrate all techniques exposed to during the training period in execution of the project work. The remaining part of my stay was used to process tissue and analyse data

During my stay, I was able to participate in the weekly Neuroscience Group Meeting of the Lab, Neuroscience Seminar of the College, Journal Club Meeting, where I was opportune to listen to presentations from faculties in the department, of other departments and of different universities. There was constraint of time as I couldn't complete all that I proposed to accomplish during my visit, especially electron microscopy. My stay was a short one of 3 months. In as much as I would have loved to extend my stay, which my visa type allowed, I could not, due to shortage of funds. However, I gathered substantial data from the study, which I am putting together for publication.

In all, my stay was very fruitful. I learnt so much! And I am very positive that my research career future will not be the same. I made new friends, wrought new partnerships, visited beautiful places and enjoyed the warmth of families there.

I left USA for Nigeria on April 20, 2019 and arrived Nigeria on April 21 2019 and resumed to work on April 23 2019.

A summary of the award expenditure is presented below:

International travel: 1350 USD

Local travel: 650 USD

Accommodation: 900 USD

Health Insurance: 184 USD

SEVIS fee: 180 USD

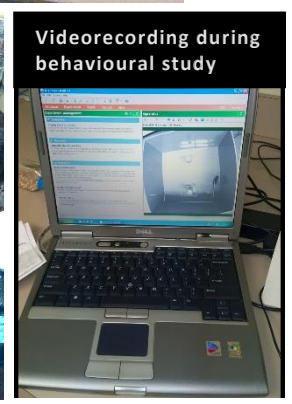
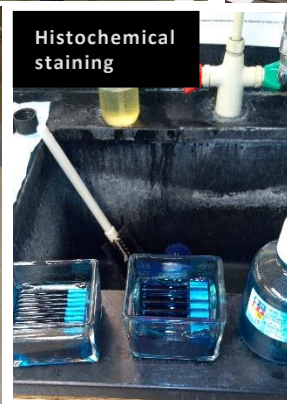
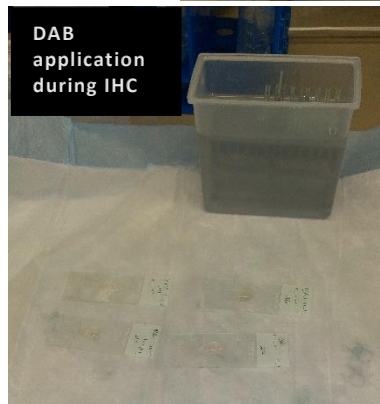
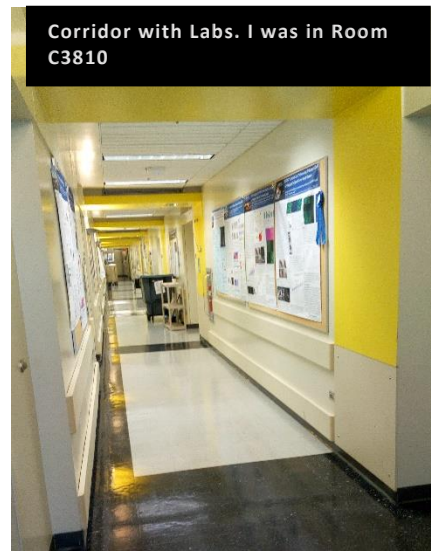
The remaining fund was used for American visa application and to support living expenses.

Below are some pictures taken during my visit.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank the CAEN team for this opportunity to learn and research in an international and a multicultural setting. It has indeed made a better and sensitive scientist of me.

Sincerely,

Edem Edem.







Send-off Lunch  
in my honour by  
the Lab



Giving a brief  
presentation about  
my country, Nigeria  
during the Lunch



Gifts from the Lab at  
the Lunch



A group photo with Lab members



Dinner in my honour at my  
Host's (Dr Connor) home on the  
eve of my departure



At my residence at No.965  
Greenlea Rd, 17033, Hershey, PA



With Dr Thomas Davis (my  
landlord) at the Dinner



A photo with third-graders of the Milton Hershey School and their  
class teacher after a presentation on Nigeria to the pupils. A  
community service endeavor courtesy of Dr Thomas Davis.



Photo with my Host, Dr Connor and his  
wife, Judy

**ISN-CAEN, THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN  
FOR THESE LIFE-TRANSFORMING  
EXPERIENCES.**

**YOU MADE THEM ALL POSSIBLE.**

**YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY DOING  
SOMETHING RIGHT!**