

IBRO-MENA/ IPDGC-Africa/ISN neuroscience school

Theme: Bridging the disparity gap in genetic research of Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative conditions

25-30 August, 2021

Organized by the Institute of Global Health and Human Ecology (I-GHHE) at the American University in Cairo (AUC)

The meeting was organized in a hybrid format, around 60 students and part of the faculty had a F2F lecturing, while around 150 online attendees alongside, part of the international faculty and discussion sessions were broadcasted through zoom channels in collaboration with the IPDGC-Africa.

The organizing committee decided to have two cohorts of F2F students to allow for a low density meeting.

The program was as follows:

Cohort 1: 25-27th August:

Day 1 (25th August):

Introduction and welcome speech: Dr. Hassan El-Fawal

Coffee and refreshments will be available on site.

10:00-10:45	Environment, genes and ND; towards defining the exposome	Hassan El-Fawal (Egypt)/Mohamed Salama (Egypt) [L]
11:00-11:45	GBA mutations and PD/LBD risk	Per Sevenningsson (Sweden) [R]
12:00-12:45	Alpha-synuclein as a therapeutic target in Parkinson's disease: where do we stand?	Tiago Fleming Outeiro (Germany) [R]
13:00-13:45	Break	
14:00-15:00	NILVAD Clinical trial: a European multicentre double-blind placebo-controlled trial of nilvadipine in mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease	Brian Lawlor (Ireland) [Live Online]
15:00-15:45	Heterogeneity of LRRK2 PD and gene- environment interaction	Lorraine Kaila (Canada) [Live Online]
16:00- 18:00	MDS-BS-SIG live discussion	MDS BS Steering committee [Live online]

Day 2 (26th August): Welcome and announcements: Dr. Hassan El-Fawal

10:00-10:45	Genetic architecture of Parkinson's disease: what did we achieve and where we are heading?	Andy Singleton (USA) [R]
11:00-11:45	Genetics of Alzheimer's disease	John Hardy (UK) [R]
12:00-12:45	Bridging Parkinson's disease genome and phenome: recommendation for the practicing clinician	Kathrin Brockmann (Germany) [R]
13:00-13:45	IPDGC Africa: filling the disparity gap in Parkinson's disease research	Mie Rizig (UCL) [Live online]
14:00-15:00	IPDGC-Africa Live discussion and Coffee Break	IPDGC-Africa Steering Committee [Live online]
15:00-15:45	Neuroproteomics applications in neurodegenerative diseases	Firas Kobeissy (Lebanon) [R]
16:00-16:45	What is like to be a black African living with PD? a patient's perspective	Omotola Thomas (speaker, blogger and Parkinson's disease advocate) [Live online]

Day 3 (27th August): Welcome and announcements: Dr. Hassan El-Fawal

10:00-10:45	PD studies in Nigeria: success, turbulences and plans for the future	Njideka Okubadejo (Nigeria) [R]
11:00-11:45	Cognitive decline in early metabolic dysfunction; treating the hippocampus by targeting your tummy	Ahmed El-Yazbi (EG) [L]
12:00-12:45	Nrf2 and neurodegenerative diseases	Anwar Abdelnaser (Egypt) [L]
13:00-13:45	Coffee Break	
14:00-16:00	Organotypic brain slices as a new model to study progressive a-syn pathology	Sara El-Farrash and Mariam Gamal El-Din
16:00-17:00	Dementia research in Africa (towards an African consortium for Dementia) Live discussion	

Capacity Building Sessions: 8-9 pm; Voluntary (sign up required)

- 1- Grants hunting: Regional to Global: Team leader: MS
- 2- Your future career in Neuroscience: Team Leader: HE
- 3- Community engagement: The Longitudinal Studies: Normative Aging and Risk: Team Leader: MS

[R]: Recorded

[L]: Live

Cohort 2: 28-30th August:

Day 1 (28th August):

Introduction and welcome speech: Dr. Hassan El-Fawal

Coffee and refreshments will be available on site.

10:30-11:15	Environment, genes and ND; towards defining the exposome	Hassan El-Fawal (Egypt)/Mohamed Salama (Egypt) [L]
11:15-12:15	What is like to be a black African living with PD? a patient's perspective	Omotola Thomas (speaker, blogger and Parkinson's disease advocate) [R]
12:15-13:15	Break	
13:15-14:00	Heterogeneity of LRRK2 PD and gene- environment interaction	Lorraine Kaila (Canada) [R]
14:00-15:00	Alpha-synuclein as a therapeutic target in Parkinson's disease: where do we stand?	Tiago Fleming Outeiro (Germany) [R]
15:00-16:00	GBA mutations and PD/LBD risk	Per Seveningsson (Sweden) [R]
16:00- 18:00	MDS-Young Specialty Interest Group.	Open discussion

Day 2 (29th August): Welcome and announcements: Dr. Hassan El-Fawal

10:00-10:45	Genetic architecture of Parkinson's disease: what did we achieve and where we are heading?	Andy Singleton (USA) [R]
11:00-11:45	Genetics of Alzheimer's disease	John Hardy (UK) [R]
12:00-12:45	Bridging Parkinson's disease genome and phenome: recommendation for the practicing clinician	Kathrin Brockmann (Germany) [R]
13:00-13:45	IPDGC Africa: filling the disparity gap in Parkinson's disease research	Mie Rizig (UCL) [R]
14:00-15:00	IPDGC-Africa Live discussion and Coffee Break	
15:00-15:45	NILVAD Clinical trial: a European multicentre double-blind placebo-controlled trial of nilvadipine in mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease	Brian Lawlor (Ireland) [R]
16:00-16:45	Gene-Environment Interaction in Parkinson's Disease	Mohamed Salama (Egypt) [L]

Day 3 (30th August): Welcome and announcements: Dr. Hassan El-Fawal

10:00-10:45	PD studies in Nigeria: success, turbulences and plans for the future	Njideka Okubadejo (Nigeria) [R]
11:00-11:45	Cognitive decline in early metabolic dysfunction; treating the hippocampus by targeting your tummy	Ahmed El-Yazbi (LE/EG) [L]
12:00-12:45	Detection of epigenetics changes in a murine transgenic Alzheimer's disease models	Duaa Dakhallah (US) [L]
13:00-13:45	Coffee Break	
14:00-16:00	Organotypic brain slices as a new model to study progressive a-syn pathology	Sara El-Farrash and Mariam Gamal El-Din
16:00- 16:30	Translating science into Policy and Practice	Sung-Soo Chun (S.Korea/Egypt) [L]

Capacity Building Sessions: 8-9 pm; Voluntary (sign up required)

1- Grants hunting: Regional to Global: Team leader: MS

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- 3- Community engagement: The Longitudinal Studies: Normative Aging and Risk: Team Leader: MS

[R]: Recorded

[L]: Live

International Faculty highlighted in red colour!

Diversity of attendees

The event allowed to gather junior scientists (males and females) from MENA region (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon) with Faculty from Egypt as well international speakers (please refer to the agendas).

Additionally, we held several discussion forums that helped to have an interaction between the students and international leaders in the area of neurogenetics.

More interesting, we had several, informal, capacity building sessions where students asked questions relevant to their future career track.

The ability to hold the event as hybrid one allowed us to have more attendees and diversity of speakers during the different days of the event.

Relevance to the region:

The activity tried to tackle an important challenge in the region which is the gap between scientists and clinicians in the area of brain health. This school brought together diverse group of neuroscientists, neurologists, geneticists, bioinformaticians and more who learned what is meant by multidisciplinary research and the value of collaboration the discussion and dialogue continued even after the school to promote future collaboration between scientists from different countries in MENA

Attachment:

Physical students list

Online attendees