Neuroscience Society of Nigeria

NSN Newsletter

1st Edition April 04, 2022



(Inauguration of the newly elected NSN excos during NSN conference AGM in PHC, 2021)



NSN Newsletter Editors

Dr. Eberechi Wogu. Dr Agnes Nwakamma

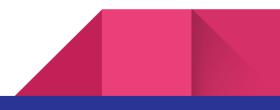
Secretary, NSN. Asst. Secretary, NSN

The President's Address

By Prof. Victor Owoyele

President, Neuroscience Society of Nigeria





It is with a heart full of gratitude that I use this maiden edition of our Newsletter to welcome you all to the year 2022. The birth of the newsletter is a credit to all the executives of the society but most especially to the ladies running our secretariat, our secretary (Dr. Eberechi Wogu), and Assistant secretary/PRO (Dr. Agnes Nwakanma). I am blessed to have a lot of ladies working with me to move the Society to greater heights. They are truly *breaking the bias*.

Since coming into office as your president last August, I have strived to promote the society nationally and internationally. We appointed our Vice President (Dr. Chinna Orish) as the coordinator of our National brain bee programme. She has outlined innovative ways to achieve a successful outcome during our national conference at Ibadan. I am also happy with her team which have been drawn from across the country. Indeed the marketing and promotion of the programme has started massively in the social media.

Our 'Neurotalk' which featured our Editor-in-Chief (Dr. Moses Ekong) and Vice president (Dr. Chinna Orish) was a huge success in terms of knowledge dissemination and the attendance recorded. We would strive to continue to hold this programme and to improve on it. Our national conference coming up at Ibadan from 31st July to 3rd August promises to be a blast. The programme which I am privileged to have briefing on promises to be enriching and impactful. At the conference, we shall induct our first set of Fellows, they will bag the Fellow of Neuroscience Society of Nigeria (FNSN) as approved at the AGM in Port Harcourt. The Fellow designates have been duly communicated. I commend the chairman of the local organizing committee (Prof. James Olopade) and his team for all the efforts and planning that is ongoing. This conference is one programme that we should all plan to attend.

Once again we mourn the death of Prof. Ekwerike, who infected us with copious optimism and we had hoped to benefit immensely from his wealth of experience and extensive connections but the cold hands of death cut his life short. May God console the immediate family as well as this society.

On behalf of myself and the NEC, I wish to express appreciation to all the regional neuroscience hubs for the various outreaches, advocacies and programmes mounted during the recently concluded brain Awareness Week which no doubt have communicated important messages to our members and the public in general. This zeal is highly appreciated and commended. On a joyful note, all our members that have gained promotion or received appointments especially those at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, are celebrated. Please accept my heartwarming



felicitations and prayers for good health and further career upliftments. Finally, I enjoin us all to enjoy this maiden edition of our newsletter.

Watch our launch video

Exclusive interview

with Prof. Amadi Ihunwo





1. Briefly tell us about yourself.

I am a Nigerian but resident in South Africa. I am a Professor of Anatomy, a Neuroscientist and Head of the School of Anatomical Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg South Africa. I graduated with Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMedSc-Hons) degree in Anatomy from the University of Port Harcourt; MSc in Anatomy from the University of Calabar and PhD from the Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Uganda. My research area is on Comparative Adult Neurogenesis and Gliogenesis looking at the generation of new cells in the adult brain in mammalian and avian species and the factors that affect the processes at different life stages. I am the Immediate past Secretary-General of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA) and currently the Chair of SONA Governing Council. I am also a Councillor, representing Africa on the Council of the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN).



2. At what point did you decide to pursue a Neuroscience career and who/what inspired you?

As a Graduate Assistant at the University of Jos, Nigeria, I had Professor Nikolay Dimitrov as Head of Department. He was very good at dissections in general with particular attention to that of the human brain, He will give an open invitation to the staff to join him at such sessions. Then, I do make out time to join him and subsequently learnt how to dissect the human brain. Thereafter, I decided to undertake my MSc research project in Neuroscience at the University of Calabar under the supervision of Professor SP Singh (of blessed memory). My PhD research in Neurosciences followed automatically.

3. What qualities or strengths of yours do you think, gave a boost to your career growth as a neuroscientist?

I identified early in my career the role an Academic Society in Neuroscience can play and as early as 1992, I became an individual member of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) which was possible then through an application process and acceptance was usually published in 'IBRO News' Newsletter. From there I became a member of International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) and then the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA). Prior to these global Societies, I had identified with the Neuroscience Society of Nigeria (NSN) which was in its formative stage as a Foundation Member. I made every effort to participate in their conferences through which I established a global network of Collaborators. I was persistent in my pursuits of participation in the global arena of Neurosciences which became a huge boost to my career as a neuroscientist.

4. What were the major challenges you encountered as an emerging Neuroscientist and how did you overcome them.

First getting a place to undertake my MSc studies in Anatomy in Nigeria then was one. My sojourn to Uganda provided the opportunity to undertake my PhD under a Professor of Anatomy and then Vice-Chancellor of Mbarara University of Science & Technology, Professor FIB Kayanja, who became my mentor in academics and administration at university level. Funding has and remains a challenge. I committed a lot of personal funds to make a headway to which I am grateful to my wife and family. I received funding from the ISN Committee for Aid and Education (CAEN) to undertake two successive Research Visits to the Paul Flechsig Institute for Brain Research at the University of Leipzig, Germany, under Professor Reinhard Schliebs which facilitated the completion of my PhD research.

5. You have an excellent track recording as a research scientist, a mentor, a leader, a teacher and a family man. How do you create a balance between these roles?

I found myself undertaking initiatives as a 'first' and subsequently, I knew I had to also see myself as a 'forerunner'. For example, I was the first Graduate Assistant at the Department of Anatomy, University of Jos, likewise in some Neuroscience matters that I am engaged in. That generated in me a passion to encourage people to also try out what I have done and to provide any assistance within my reach. I believe every "vision" must be of benefit to others which then drives me. I am not afraid to try something new and if it does not work out, I change it. I love to teach students in simple terms and allay their fears of the discipline of human Anatomy, then Neuroanatomy, and subsequently Neurosciences in all its ramifications. I love travelling, especially to new places and always use the same time to unwind and refresh. My family accepted my travelling as my way of creating opportunities for achievements and so I return home once I finish any assignment to also 'cool off'.



6. One of the major challenges of Neuroscience researchers in developing African countries is unavailability of required facilities and obtaining research funding. What advice would you give such researchers?

I usually recommend that a Researcher undertakes a survey of available facilities beyond one's own department in any Institution. Check other institutions and then a laboratory outside the country where the research of interest is possible. Research funding remains a challenge on the African continent. However, there is usually small beginnings to accessing funding which should be explored. I have set up a foundation, the Brain Wellness Initiative (BWI) whose primary mission is the pursuit of funding for Neuroscience activities including research on the African continent. We are hopeful that from 2023, we should be preparing to make calls for applications in this regard. I have signed a strategic partnership with Fattah Neuroscience Global Advisors (FNGA) to pursue an "African-centred, African-controlled and African-directed Neuroscience research" (https://finance.yahoo.com/news/fattah-neuroscience-global-advisors-develops-

032400186.html). Here is the YouTube link to the BWI International Partnership Interview: (https://youtu.be/dbWRhNJMqh8) All enquiries about the BWI can be directed to the Executive Director BWI, **Dr. UB Amadi**- uchey4adi@gmail.com

7. In what ways do you think the Neuroscientists in Nigeria (and Africa) can improve the quality of research done in their home institutions despite the impending challenges?

Remember that no data is useless but will require additional information. See the transformations in the manufacturing Industries – continuous changes in models – from phones to cars. That mindset is needed in research and especially Neuroscience research where we still have a lot to unravel. So always ask what the next level for your research niche is and plan for that addition. We should strive to undertake different dimensions of immunohistochemistry to the laboratory techniques which transform the quality of neuroscience research. You can always add a second

research niche too. It is possible that the equipment needed can be obtained in piece meal. Create a list and let it be always handy in case someone becomes interested in giving a helping hand. We need to start identifying potential funding avenues outside our usual sources of funding.

Read more on our website

The Nigerian Neuro Laboratories

1. Ijomone Neuro-Lab

Department of Human Anatomy, School of Basic Medical Sciences (SBMS), Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), Nigeria.

Meet the Principal Investigator





Dr Omamuyovwi Ijomone godmamus@gmail.com +2347031354971 LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/omamuyovwi-ijomone-1610481b/ twitter: @godmamusprime Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/neuroMamus

About the Principal Investigator

Dr Ijomone is presently a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Human Anatomy, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Federal University of Technology, Akure. He completed his PhD and MSc degrees in 2015 and 2012 respectively from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, and his Bachelors from the University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. He is well-published in reputable high impact journals, a member several national and international professional societies, and has received numerous grants from different organizations including the International Brain Research Organization, International Society for Neurochemistry, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, amongst others.

Research interests

Dr Ijomone's research focus is in the field of neurosciences with particularly emphasis on neurodegeneration, neurodevelopment, and neurotoxicology. His research mostly involves on gene-environmental interactions in the pathogenesis of brain disorders.

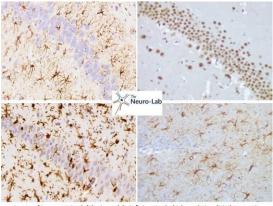


Services offered by lab

Immunohistochemistry, Microscopy and imaging analysis.

Training Opportunities

We are open to offer training in the above techniques and more, including in the use of *Caenorhabditis elegans* model, which we are developing in our lab. We are also open to short-term internships for aspiring and junior neuroscientists. For inquiries contact us via details provided earlier.



Images of immunostained slides in our lab. Left: Imaging by high resolution digital scanner in oversea collaborator's lab. Right: Imaging by standard digital microscope in our lab.



2. Olorunfemi-Joyce Neuro-Lab

Neurophysiology & Neurobehavioral Unit, Department of Physiology, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Meet the Principal Investigator



Dr Olorunfemi Oluwadare Joyce

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+2348035760596

Twitter: @DrDare_neurolab Linkedin: Dr oluwadare Joyce olorunfemi

Olorunfemi Oluwadare Joyce (Ph.D) is an Associate Professor of Neurophysiology. He is a Neurophysiologist by training, and presently the Head, Neurophysiology & Neurobehavioral Research Unit, Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, and Sport Physiologist and Member of the Academic Board, UNIPORT Sport Institute and a seasoned Researcher with over 90 international publications in leading journals. The ongoing research in his lab is titled, *"Implications of Chronic Methamphetamine Ingestion on Pain Hypersensitivity and Advanced Protein Oxidative Products in Wistar Rats.". As* a research Scientist, he currently runs two viable laboratories- NEUROLAB, his brainchild lab set up and built from scratch for neurobehavioral studies and HUMAN PERFORMANCE LAB in the UNIPORT SPORT INSTITUTE owned by the institution for cognito-motor processing studies for athletes. He is a dedicated, organized, and methodical individual.

Research interests

Dr Oluwadare's research focus is in the field of neurosciences with particularly emphasis on Adaptive locomotion study, seizure/Induced epilepsy in rats, learning and memory behaviour, cognitomotor activities and balance, pain, sleep behaviour, circadian rhythms, motor coordination and tremor, neurotransmitter activities and amnesia

Services offered by lab

1 Anagesylmeter: This equipment offers research opportunities in induction of mechanical pain and estimation of pain threshold. You can measure analgesic properties of your drugs/herbs in a time and dose-dependent fashion. It is made by the renowned Italian Hugo Basile.

2. Electro-convulsion Therapy Unit: The above versatile equipment can be used to induce electroshock through the pinna of a rodent/rat. It is used to induce pre-epilepsy or full epilepsy (bi-temporal) at a graded potential. It can also be used to disrupt synchronized sleep or to optimize the punishment center in the reward zone of the diencephalon in rat/rodents.

3. Passive Avoidance Box (Step-through): One of the foremost equipment of choice in neurobehavioral laboratories is the PAB. It has a wide variety of uses ranging from Startle reflex study, Alertness study, Reflex study and spatial memory and learning.

4. Rotometer: This Apparatus is employable in the study of cerebral hemisphere appraisal of sensory coordinating center activities in the parietal lobe. It is classically useful for evaluating the rotational behavior of unrestrained rats and mice. It is also useful in research for motor assessment, traumatic and acquired brain injury and spinal cord injury.

5. Plethysmometer: This easy-to-use apparatus is designed to measure inflammatory swelling in rats and mice. Small differences in paw volume are detected by a transducer. It has a 0.01ml resolution. The transducer measures compensating changes in conductance induced by salinity and temp changes between two vertical wire electrodes. Other Neurobehavioral tests done in our lab includes the elevated plus maze test, Morris water maze test, radial arm maze test, modified Cincinnati "dry" maze test, Barnes maze test etc



6. Bicycle Ergometer: This equipment is designed for human subjects. It is used to increase the VO2max when investigating the effects of reflexogenic substances on brain substrates.

Training Opportunities

Training opportunities come once in a year and the research enthusiasts are taught on the principles and procedures on the use of the equipment and rudiments of research. The lab is open to both young and old researchers, especially those with special interests in brain research. Since inception, the lab has produced approximately 25 M.Sc. and 2 PhD scholars in neurophysiology. Our research on *"Implications of Chronic Methamphetamine Ingestion on Pain Hypersensitivity and Advanced Protein Oxidative Product in Wistar Rats"* Is ongoing. You can join us to learn a great deal of skills and experience.

NSN 2022 IBADAN CONFERENCE

The 19th National Scientfic Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Neuroscience Society of Nigeria is scheduled to hold at Ibadan on the 31st July to 3rd August, 2022. We encourage all NSN members and all those interested in Neuroscience to plan to attend. This conference promises to be very enriching with varieties of speakers from around the globe.



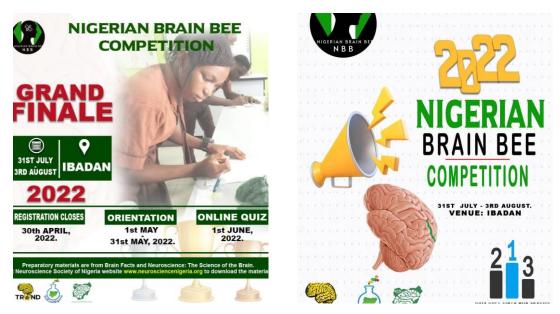


NATIONAL BRAIN BEE COMPETITION

By Dr. Chinna Orish,



National Coordinator, National Brain Bee



The Nigerian Brain Bee is a neuroscience competition for high school students (teenagers) between the ages of 13 and 19. It will be held during the Neuroscience Society of Nigeria conference in Ibadan. Its purpose is to motivate young students to learn about the human brain and inspire them to seek careers in the basic and clinical neurosciences in order to treat brain disorders. The brain bee will be in two phases, namely online quiz and physical finals, with the latter taking place at the Neuroscience Society of Nigeria conference from 31st July to 3rd August 2022 and award celebration.

Phase I: The online quiz shall come up in 1st June 2022, with duly registered students from across the nation competing in their knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of the brain.

Phase II: The final lap of the competition shall be held as the National Finals during the NSN conference at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. There, 18 students (comprising of the best 3 students selected from each geopolitical region following the online quiz) shall further compete



in their knowledge of the brain to determine the national winners. The award ceremony shall take place at the NSN Conference opening ceremony, where winners of the overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions shall be presented with cash prizes (1st position - N100,000; 2nd position-N75,000 and 3rd position- N50,000) and certificates of excellence. Other regional winners shall also be awarded their respective prizes and certificates of excellence.

The call for registration for the Nigerian Brain Bee Competition for secondary school students is now open. To register, click the link

Click to register for the 2022 National Brain Bee competition

WOMEN IN NEUROSCIENCE NIGERIA E-CHILDCARE TRAVEL GRANT



It has been well observed that balancing work and family remains a persistent challenge for women to climb the ladder of career. Therefore, creating a harmonious work-life balance becomes pertinent to empowering women and filling the leaky pipeline. The cost of such dependent care has been shown to inhibit participation in conferences which impairs professional visibility, growth and as well as networking opportunities for women in a resourcelean nation like Nigeria.



This award is designed to subsidize childcare costs associated with travel to the Neuroscience Society of Nigeria Conference. It will be used for travel expenses related to child and caregiver while attending an NSN conference to present a paper.

NSN 2022 PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP



Theme

Neuroscience Data for Research and Innovation in Africa: Challenges and opportunities

Time 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Date 31st July, 2022. Venue Conference building

Background

The new era of neuroscience research and innovation is centered around big, complex and multifunctional data (from a variety of species) generated via a number of approaches and strategies. These data are increasingly made Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR). However, African neuroscience data are missing in the global ecosystem of available neuroscience data. Important aspects of FAIR are the collection, processing, application, use and



sharing of data. This workshop explores the barriers to FAIR in Africa and also the opportunities big data presents for researchers in Africa including data science, standards and funding.

Aims and Objectives

- To highlight the challenges facing researchers in Africa processing Neuroscience data
- To examine the opportunities available to African researchers
- To promote the collaboration and advancement of neuroscience data in Africa

Agenda: 3 hours Workshop

Moderator:

- 5 mins introduction
- 5 Closing Remarks

Panelists 2x

- 20 mins presentation each
- 40 mins discussion section
- 30 mins Q&A

Speakers

Moderator:

Wogu Eberechi Ph.D.

Anatomy Department,

University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.



Panelists:



Prof. Franco Pestilli

Founder and Director of the leading cloud platform for biomedical imaging data management, processing, and visualization **brainlife.io**

Professor of Psychology,

University of Texas, Austin, USA.

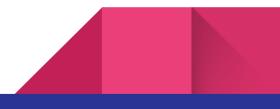


Matthew Abrams Ph.D

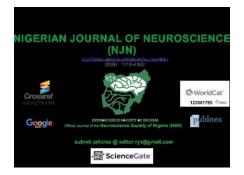
Director Science and Training, International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility (INCF) Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden.



Ursula Rohlwink Ph.D Fellow, Francis Crick Institute, England. University of Cape Town, South Africa.



NIGERIAN JOURNAL OF NEUROSCIENCE



The Nigeria Journal of Neuroscience (Nig. J. Neurosci.) is the official journal of the Neuroscience Society of Nigeria.

The journal is indexed by Crossref, Google Scholar, WorldCat, Publons and Sciencegate and more...

Publish with the journal now by submitting your articles at editor.njn@gmail.com: Accepted articles are freely available online at http://www.neurosciencenigeria.org/journal-articles/ within two weeks after acceptance/final corrections.

A special issue for the Ibadan 2022 meeting will also be published: Scientists with presentations at the meeting should avail themselves of this opportunity to publish in a specialized neuroscience journal with good peer review feedback.

Inquiries can be sent to the Editor in Chief at editor.njn@gmail.com.

For more information on the journal, visit the official website of the Neuroscience Society of Nigeria or click the link below;

Neuroscience Society of Nigeria official website



HOW TO REGISTER FOR NSN MEMBERSHIP, ANNUAL DUES PAYMENT AND FELLOWSHIP DUES PAYMENT

To register for NSN membership, go to the <u>Neuroscience Society of Nigeria Official website</u> and click on "**join us**", a form will pop up, fill the form, indicate your purpose of payment (Annual dues, membership registration or fellowship dues), upload proof of payment in designated section of the form and click on **submit**.

INFORMATIONONNSNMEMBERSHIPREGISTRATION FOR NIGERIANS

NSN REGISTRATION FEE

Membership registration at any level category is a one-off fee of N5000.

NSN ANNUAL DUES

Undergraduates and Unemployed Postgraduate annual dues: N1,500 (with the evidence of identity card)

Employed Postgraduate: N3,500

Lecturer 1 and below: N3,500



Senior Lecturer and above: N6,000.

Account Details

Account Name: Neuroscience Society of Nigeria.

Account Number: 3266848011

Bank Name: FCMB

INFORMATION ON NSN REGISTRATION AND ANNUAL DUES FOR FOREIGN MEMBERS/MEMBERS IN DIASPORA

For Foreign members or members in Diaspora, their annual due is \$20 while their one-off membership registration fee is as follows:

\$50 for Faculty member

\$20 for Postgraduate

\$10 for Undergraduate

NSN DOMICILIARY ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account Name: Neuroscience Society of Nigeria

Account Number. 3266848028

Bank name: FCMB



NOTICE!

If you have not paid your annual dues within the last five years, your membership status with NSN will be invalid. To reactivate your Membership as a returning member, you are to pay the Annual dues backlogs of the past 3 years OR you pay a fresh membership fee. Also note that if you already have a membership identification number, you will not be assigned a new number rather the old number will be reactivated.

Note: if you have registered at any time and you've not received your receipt or you have any query, send an email with your evidence to the same email:

nsnfinance.official@gmail.com.

By Dr. Samuel Tunji Onasanwo Fin. Secretary (NSN)

NIGERIAN BRAIN AWARENESS 2022 PHOTO GALLERY





BAW, COOU, ANAMBRA STATE BAW, GOMBE STATE UNI



BAW, PAMO UNI, RIVERS STATE.

BAW, UNIPORT/UST, RIVERS STATE



BAW, UNIJOS.



BAW, UNIZIK



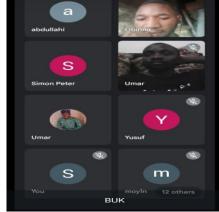


BAW, EDO STATE UNI.

BAW, UNIPORT



BAW, ABU ZARIA.



BAW, BAYERO UNI, KANO



BAW, UNIZIK.

BAW, GOMBE STATE UNI



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE



Prof. Uduak E. Umana (Anatomy)



Prof. Mohammed Garba Magaji (Pharmacology)





Prof. Jamilu Y'u.(Pharmacology) Prof Wilson O. Hamman (Anatomy)





Prof Alhassan Abdulwahab (Physiology)

The Neuroscience Society of Nigeria heartily congratulates her members that were recently promoted to the professorial cadre at ABU Zaria. We are indeed proud of you all and we wish you more success in life.

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT



With a deep sense of loss, the Neuroscience Society of Nigeria regrets to announce the demise of Prof. Alphonsus Ekwerike. A Professor of Neuroendocrinology/ Cognitive Neurosquatemetric STEM-Invention Technology.



He was one of the keynote speakers at Portharcourt during the 2021 NSN Conference. Until his demise, he was the President/Research Director of the Science Medicine Research Institute, Dallas, Texas, USA. He was also a Research Director, College of Science Medicine, Claretian University of Nigeria, Nekede, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria. He was a high flying neuroscientist and an enthusiastic member of our great Society-NSN. He will be greatly missed by the Nigerian Neuroscience community. We pray for the repose of his soul and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family.

CALL FOR NSN NEWSLETTER ADVERTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Editorial board of the Neuroscience Society of Nigeria Newsletter calls for adverts, Announcements, reports and updates on NSN related matters.



Please contact the NSN Secretariat via email nsnsecretariat.official@gmail.com

INSTRUCTION FOR NEURO LABORATORY ADVERT

For lab adverts, *financially up-to-date registered members* are open to send in their adverts for free to be published on the newsletter, NSN Facebook, twitter, website and emailing list.

This is one of the avenues the NSN is using to increase visibility of indigenous labs and to promote patronage of the lab services by NSN members and non-members as well.

To place your advert, send in the following information;

- 1. Name of lab
- 2. Name of PI
- 3. Contact(email, phone number, LinkedIn, twitter handle etc)
- 4. Passport photograph
- 5. A short biosketch.
- 6. Research interests
- 7. Location of lab
- 8. Services offered by lab
- 9. Training (optional)
- 10. Any other relevant info

These information would be published on the NSN official websites under Neuroscience Laboratories in Nigeria. Note that only two lab adverts will be published per edition.

Interested non-members are encouraged to register for membership and also pay the annual dues. In case you don't want to become a member but wish to advertise with us, it will attract a token of N10, 000 to be paid into the NSN bank account.



NSN Account Details

Account Name: Neuroscience Society of Nigeria.

Account Number: 3266848011

Bank Name: FCMB

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