

TOPIC: NIGERIA AS AN INTERNATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE HUB

The Neuroscience Society of Nigeria (NSN) idea was conceived in Kenya at the conference of the Society for Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA). The first Conference was held at Ahmadu Bello University in 1990. NSN has over 200 members. Many research studies explore the effects of plant extracts on rodent-induced neuropathology and animal behaviour.

Many keys 'advanced' methods available to researchers outside the Western country, such as cell culture, PCR and qPCR, western blotting, fluorescence and electron microscopy, are rarely available in Nigerian laboratories because of enormous challenges of lack of funding, infrastructure, expertise and lack of reliable power supply. Researchers in Nigeria commonly use histological techniques such as 'standard' haematoxylin and eosin staining (H&E) and immunohistochemistry for microscopic examination, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) for enzymatic/hormonal analysis for their research.

Women in Neuroscience was founded on 2nd March 2018. The idea was conceived at the Women in Neuroscience luncheon during the America Society of Neurochemistry Conference in Arkansas, USA 2017. Our vision is to empower women/girls to optimize their careers in neuroscience and STEM to bridge gender inequality. This is achieved through different initiatives of improving networking opportunities for women in neuroscience/STEM, encouraging excellence in the yearly Espirisa Chinna Orish ECO Award to the best female undergraduate neuroscience student, running the Neuroscience Journal Club, organizing lectures & workshops, disseminating information on grant opportunities & post-doctoral training, teaching women to have work-life balance, Women's health initiative, supporting early career mothers to a conference with WIN E- Child care travel grant, running NEURO4GIRLS outreach program, discussing the challenges that women face in moving through the ranks of academia and building capacity in STEM through outreach and public engagement. Since its inception many folks have joined, and we have made a lot of strides both in Nigeria and other countries not limited to Africa as our membership spans beyond Africans.