



Participants and Resource Persons at the Drosophila Workshop

research in *Drosophila* has been ongoing for some time with a lot of work being carried out. This is because of the genetic material in the fruit fly. It is simple and easy to manipulate. He urged the participants to keep an eye on the opportunities in this model research and how it can enhance their individual researches.

In a presentation, the key note speaker Dr. Amos Abolaji stated that the



fruit fly can be used to investigate and unravel different diseases adding that all the processes that take place in human organisms, can be investigated through *Drosophila*. He said while in humans there are 100, 000 billion neurons, there are 200,000 neurons in the fruit fly. Dr. Amos Abolaji said *Drosophila* has contributed to a range of topics in neurobiology, neurodevelopment, behavior, learning and memory, synaptic transmission and neuro-generation.

Drosophila can be used to investigate the following - Type 2 Diabetes, Parkinson disease, Alzheimer's, Autism etc; when it is genetically modified to identify these diseases and drugs. Others include hereditary, inflammation and other infectious diseases. He opined that *Drosophila* is a promising model. Participants appreciated the Centre for organizing the workshop and suggested that more of such workshops be made more regular to allow them acquire more knowledge on this new model for research.

ACEPRD Organizes Short Course on the Applications for Cell Lines in PhytoMedicine Research

THE main goal of the short course was to equip participants with the basic working knowledge on the usefulness of cell culture technology and how to start up a cell culture laboratory. The course outline covered topics such as design of cell based assays, biomarkers in cell lines and assay techniques, choice of culture media and determination of cell growth, viability and proliferation assay techniques, prevention of contamination, cryopreservation and retrieval of cells from frozen state. Assay of anti-diabetic and anti-



cancer plant extracts in addition to acquiring skills in interpretation and analysis of experimental data.

The short course work attracted 39 participants in total from within and

outside Jos. The participants in general made positive comments about the usefulness of the training sessions and the hands-on practical sessions.

The workshop lasted for 4 days: 12th - 16th of February, 2018, had a target audience of undergraduate and postgraduate students, biomedical researchers and other scientific researchers.

- Duration: 40 Hours
- Venue: ACEPRD Conference Hall, Road 4 University of Jos Senior Staff Quarters, Bauchi Road, Jos - Nigeria.

NUC Executive Secretary, Prof. Rasheed Visits ACEPRD



ES, NUC, Prof. Rasheed, VC, UNIJOS, Prof. Maimako, Nat. Coordinator, ACE, Dr. Attah

THE Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Prof. Abubakar Rasheed says research in Phyto-medicine is the crucial aspect of the industry at the moment. He stated this while paying a visit to the ACEPRD recently. The ES acknowledged the benefits of linking academia with industry and traditional practitioners, adding that the academia has decided not to be spectators in the growing area of research in phytomedicine. He expressed delight at the country's biodiversity which is being conserved and preserved through research in phytomedicine, adding that capacity building through certificate, master's and doctoral programmes within Nigeria and the African sub-region is very beneficial.

While noting the challenges faced by the Centre in the area of slow release of funds and industrial action by Universities in Nigeria as the biggest enemy to internationalization, Prof. Rasheed tasked the Centre to ensure



Dep. Centre Leader, ACEPRD, and Project Management Members

that researches by key researchers should continue so that foreign students, especially are not adversely affected. He enjoined the Centre to utilize its funds from the World Bank in order to fast track project delivery. On sustainability, the ES called on the University to carry out expenditure of the Centre in the event of the end of World Bank funding.

Also speaking, the National Coordinator of ACE at NUC, Dr. Joshua Attah, suggested the establishment of a repository of some herbal plants of the Centre. He advised the project manage-

ment leadership and team to work hard at externally generated revenue so as to benefit more in terms of the funding component of the project, adding that the University should put the Centre on its budget.

Dr. Attah, further advised the Centre to reach out to more national and international students, for continuous mentoring as well as work towards commercialization of its products.

A presentation on the Centre's activities was made by the Deputy Centre leader; Prof. Taiwo Alemika. The Executive Secretary also interacted with staff and some students and inspected the Centre's laboratories.

While paying a visit to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Jos, Prof. Seddi Sebastian Maimako, Prof. Rasheed commended the University management for the support given to the Centre.

Responding, Prof. Maimako appreciated the NUC for the interest in partnering with the University of Jos adding that the Centre is working hard to meet its objectives.

The Executive Secretary, in company of the Vice Chancellor and some principal Officers of the University inspected the burnt University Library complex which was gutted by fire on the 8th October 2016 and the University Data Office at the Naraguta campus. He assured the University management that as soon as documents needed for due process are ready and have gone through the Federal tender's board and the Federal ministerial board, the award for the rehabilitation will be issued. The Executive Secretary's entourage also included a Director at NUC, Mr. Chris Maiyaki and Head of Communication at NUC, Mrs. Bukola Olatunji.

PHOTO GALLERY



PHOTO GALLERY

