



FOURTH QUARTERLY

NISEB NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN

JULY, 2019



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From The President

NORTH EASTH HOST 2019 NISEB CONFERENCE

For the first time in the history of the Society for Experimental Biology of Nigeria (NISEB), the Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) is to be hosted in North Eastern part of Nigeria. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the 2019 conference taking place at Taraba state university, Jalingo has rescheduled this epoch making conference for 2nd to 5th of September, 2019. I have received assurances from the LOC and the Taraba state university management that the conference will be a memorable one.

NISEB members all over the country, particularly those from other parts of Nigeria should catch on this opportunity to visit Taraba State to see 'The Nature gift to the Nation', with its beautiful landscape like the Mambila Plateau and the large expanse of savannah land; and attend the conference. Looking forward to seeing you all at Jalingo!

– Prof. A. Taiga:

president@niseb.org, akpotaiga@yahoo.com

From The Editorial Board

"THE INFORMATION OVERLOAD AGE"

Some many years ago we were in the stone age. Everything revolves round the use of the stone. Later, we graduated to the iron age. We left the stone alone and moved to iron. Iron became the main stay of the world economy. The Rockefellers' of this world benefitted from that as they made their fortune from supplying iron to the American rail industry which was building railway lines at that time. We later moved to the jet age. Everything became very fast. Speed was the in thing. Journeys of months became shortened to a few days or hours due to the production of faster moving aircrafts. We are in the information technology age or information age. There is no point travelling today compulsorily from here to there in order to transact business or pass information. All you need is a computer with internet access or telephone and pronto you can communicate with the world. So much information is being circulated all over the world. Even when you don't ask for it you find them on spam folder or as text messages. So many WhatsApp and telegram groups are being created and one is automatically added without asking to be added. So much information is being pushed

to you. So, the age seems to be an “information overload age”. Before government officials make official statements, the complete details of their speech with further analysis are already in the social media. Those olden days newspapers come out daily and, in some places, they get the current newspapers after three days of publication. Today you can read the latest news in the comfort of your home or office or even in transit. Scientific papers that take months to reach readers are now at our disposal the very minute they are released. People are overloaded with information that they don't need, that they don't use and that are not relevant to them. This overload of info makes people not to even take notes or

make use of the relevant ones. So much information on anything today. The “information overload age” can be used to one's advantage. Majority can access recent journals and books to their advantage instead of the old style of depending on old printed book references. We can check for learning videos on YouTube and elsewhere instead of watching Hollywood, Nollywood, Bollywood or any such woody (sic!) films! Looking for materials that give hints on grants and funding was difficult to find in the libraries in the years gone by. Today, as you lie down on your sofa or bed you can access tons of information on grants, scholarships and the like. The “information overload age” is here.

3-4 YEAR

DOCTORAL TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP

in PASET RSIF Thematic Area FREE!

PASET-RSIF is offering up to 45 Ph.D. scholarships at one of ten RSIF African Host Universities in the following thematic areas: ICTs including big data and artificial intelligence; Food security and agribusiness; Minerals, Mining and Materials Engineering; Energy including renewables, and Climate Change. The RSIF scholarship will be awarded in September 2019.

Closing date for applications: 22nd July 2019

Any application received after this date will not be considered or acknowledged. Kindly note that only successful candidates will be contacted.

PhD SCHOLARSHIP PACKAGE

PASET-RSIF will provide full scholarships and will cover the following:

- 45 RSIF PhD scholarships are available to nationals of sub-Saharan countries who do not have a PhD degree, and who are not currently enrolled in any PhD Program
- The scholarships cover all costs of the PhD programme, including travel, living expenses, medical insurance, university fees and research support.
- Return airfare from/to home country
- RSIF scholars are eligible to benefit from competitive research grant awards by submitting proposals in collaboration with faculty and international partners to strengthen their research excellence.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

- The scholarships are open to nationals of a sub-Saharan African country who do not have a PhD degree (Nigeria inclusive)
- Preference will be given to young faculty without PhD degrees
- Women are especially encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

HOST UNIVERSITY: UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT, NIGERIA

PhD Programme: PhD Program in Petroleum and Gas Engineering / Energy Economics

Thematic Area: Energy including Renewables

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

An applicant for admission into the Ph.D. program in Petroleum and Gas Engineering/Energy Economics must:

1. Have a relevant M.Sc degree of the University of Port Harcourt with a CGPA of 4.0 and above on a scale of 5.0 and a minimum CGPA of 3.0 in their first degree or its equivalent degree from an accredited institution.
2. Candidates must also possess the minimum entry requirements with, at least, a credit pass in Mathematics and English Language in their O'Level certificates.

NISEB 2019 CONFERENCE AT JALINGO: SEPTEMBER 8 – 11, 2019

The 19th Annual Scientific Conference and General Meeting of the Society for Experimental Biology of Nigeria (NISEB) will now hold from **8–11 September, 2019** at the Main Auditorium of Taraba State University, Jalingo, Taraba State (Attached is a copy of the flier). We request for your usual assistance in terms of publicizing the conference within your faculty and encouraging your faculty members to attend and participate fully in the conference. See you there.

GENERAL INSTRUCTION FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstract are invited from all aspects of experimental biology for their oral or poster presentations (clearly indicate the preferred type of presentation).

- All abstract submission must not be more than 450 words.
- Authors should indicate the NUMBER of the area of their papers in bracket as shown in **SUB-THEMES**, for example: Artificial Intelligence in Food, Nutrition and Dietetics (AIFND04)
- Abstract should have a concise title in **UPPERCASE** and centralized.
- This should be followed by author's (s) name, affiliation (department and institution), email address, phone number.
- The corresponding author's(s) address should be indicated with an asterisk (*)
- Abstract should be written in English Language and Latin words in italics.
- Abstract should be submitted in Microsoft Word Document with the following formatings: double line-spaced at font size 12 using Times New Roman.
- Abstract must have maximum of 5 keywords, introduction, materials and methods, results and discussion, conclusion and recommendation.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE AND NISEB MEMBERSHIP DUES

S/N	Category	Early Registration February 1 st 2019 to August 31 st 2019	Normal Registration Sep 1 st 2019 to June 30 th 2019
1.	Registered Members (Annual Dues)	₦15,000	₦17,000
2.	Non-members/ Government	₦17,500	₦20,000
3.	Agencies/ Corporate Bodies	₦25,000	₦32,000
4.	Farmers/ Agripreneurs	₦17,000	₦20,000
5.	Post Graduate Student (Non-Staff)	₦5,000	₦6,000
6.	Under graduate Student (with I.D.)	₦2,000	₦2,900
7.	Fellows of the Society	₦20,000	₦25,000

GUIDE AND TIMELINE

- Abstract should be submitted electronically as an email attachment to: nisebtsu2019@tsuuniversity.edu.ng before 12 midnight of 17th August, 2019
- Each submitted manuscript should be accompanied with evidence of payment (scanned bank teller) of a processing fee ₦2,000 only.
- All conference charges, annual dues, endowments, exhibition and advert payments are payable at any branch of:

Bank: FIRST BANK
Account Name: ESTHER UMAHI
Account Number: 3129949308

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Sunday, 8th September, 2019
Arrival /Registration
Monday, 9th September, 2019
Opening Ceremony, Keynote Address and Plenary Lectures
Tuesday, 10th September, 2019
Oral and Poster Presentation/ Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019
Departure

HOST
Prof. Vincent Ado Tenebe
Vice Chancellor, Taraba State University Jalingo

CO-HOST
Prof. (Mrs.) Delphine Leila David
Director Quality Assurance, Taraba State University Jalingo



SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY OF NIGERIA (NISEB TSU, 2019)

19th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date:
Sunday 8th - 11th September, 2019

Theme:
Application of Artificial Intelligence in Experimental Biology for National Development and Sustainable Economy

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR:
His Excellency, Arc. Darius Dickson Ishaku
Executive Governor, Taraba State

Venue:
Main Auditorium, Taraba State University Jalingo, Taraba State, Nigeria

ACCOMMODATION AND HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotels/ Guest Houses in Jalingo metropolis, their rates and phone numbers on booking are captured below

Star Exclusive Hotel: 07062356481
Opposite Taraba State University 4th Gate

- Single room - ₦5,500
- Studio room - ₦8,500
- Deluxe room - ₦10,500
- Master Suite - ₦18,500

Mobile Links: 08067867844
Abuja Phase I Adjacent State Secretariat, Jalingo

Single Rooms - ₦4,000
 Studio rooms - ₦6,000

De Bas Suites: 09038752887
Hammanruwa Way Jalingo

- Standard room - ₦5,750
- VIP - ₦6,900
- Executive - ₦7,475
- Ex. VIP - ₦9,200
- Monarch - ₦10,350
- Royal - ₦11,500

Mid Land Hotels Ltd: 08060520001

- Studio room - ₦4,000
- Standard room - ₦5,000
- Suite - ₦6,000

Heritage Hotel: 081400113523
Mallum Road, Opp. Taraba Vegetable Farm, A.T.C. Jalingo.

Studio Room - ₦1,500 - 2,500

Additional Contact on Accommodation
Dr. Bako Ali - Chairman Logistics Committee
 (+2348032692652).

Dr. Apang R. Shinkom - Member, Logistics Committee
 (+2347035563584).

For further information or contact

- Professor Anthony Barau
 LOC Chairman
 Phone: +2347065580711

- Mr. Tukur, Kabir Usman
 LOC Secretary
 Phone: +2348038693294; +2349069997524
- Dr. Nicholas O. Namessan
 Chairman, Technical Committee
 Phone: +2348023680028
- Mrs. Esther N. Umahi
 LOC Treasurer
 Phone: +2347065355578

ADVERTS AND PRODUCT EXHIBITION

Adverts and goodwill messages are invited from friends, partners, individuals, other professional bodies/ societies, companies and universities for the book of abstracts.

Companies/ industries, research institutes, NGO's, universities and individuals, entrepreneurs, friends of the university and government wishing to exhibit and possibly market their products, operations, talents or inventions shall apply to the LOC Secretary and copy the LOC Treasurer.

Space	Early Booking	Late Booking
Back Page (Full) Back Cover (Full)	₦15,000	₦20,000
Inside Front Cover (Full) Inner Front Page	₦18,000	₦23,000
Inside Pages (Half) Inner Pages (Half)	₦8,500	₦13,000
Goodwill Message	₦11,000 Per 50 words	₦16,000 Per 50 words

INVITATION

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of NISEB Taraba State University, 2019 Conference on behalf of the Nigeria Society for Experimental Biology invites members of NISEB and life scientists, researchers, agripreneurs and entrepreneurs in the government, non-governmental, education, industrial, agricultural, private and public sectors to the 19th Annual Scientific Conference and General Meeting of the Nigerian Society for Experimental Biology (NISEB) scheduled for 2nd - 5th June, 2019 at the Main Auditorium, Taraba State University Jalingo, Taraba State (Nature's gift to the nation). The conference shall feature awards, exhibitions, keynote speech, plenary, poster and oral presentations in all aspects of experimental biology and Book of Abstract made available for interested participants.

SUB-THEMES

- The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Biodiversity, Conservation and National Development - AIBND01.
- Artificial Intelligence in Ethnomedicine, Therapeutic Drugs and Toxicology - AIETT02
- The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Plant Protection and Control of Plant Diseases for Sustainable Economy- AIPCS03
- Artificial Intelligence in Food, Nutrition and Dietetics- AIFND04
- The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Bioremediation and Parasitic Diseases - AIBPD05
- The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry and Biotechnology for National Development - AIMBN06.
- Artificial Intelligence in Crop Production for Sustainable Development - AICPS07.



HOW 'USELESS' QUIRKS OF EVOLUTION ACTUALLY SUPPORT DARWIN'S THEORY

HOW 'USELESS' QUIRKS OF EVOLUTION ACTUALLY SUPPORT DARWIN'S THEORY

– Prof. A. Taiga:

An evolutionary spandrel is a physical structure or behavioural characteristic that is a by-product from some other functional adaptation. But despite some apparent examples, truly useless spandrels are hard to find within evolutionary biology.

The plumage of peacocks seems like a clear invitation to be eaten (Shutterstock) Evolution is a fascinating field but can be rife with misunderstanding. One misconception is that evolution has some innate sense of direction or purpose. In reality, evolution is a mindless, plan-free phenomenon, driven into endless possibilities by random mutations, the most successful of which win out. People also often think that every aspect of every living creature has a function, that it helps the organism survive in some small way. But there are some areas of evolutionary biology where benefits are murkier and, in some instances, where traits seem to make no sense at all. This is the realm of sexual selection, vestigial traits and evolutionary spandrels. As important as the concept of survival of the fittest is to evolution, there are many examples that seem to undermine this idea. In fact,

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onary biology may seem counterintuitive and could even be seen as a reason to reject evolution as a whole. In fact, they strengthen our understanding rather than diminish it. Here's how. Sexual selection. Many species invest heavily in camouflage and other means of blending into the surroundings to avoid predators. So the physically heavy and downright ostentatious plumage of birds of paradise, peacocks and many other birds seems like a clear invitation to be eaten. But crucially they help these birds pass on their genes because they increase their chances of attracting a mate.

This is what's known as sexual selection at its finest. It strengthens the theory of evolution in that these seemingly weaker individuals are actually showing how

well they can do in the face of adversity. It's the evolutionary equivalent of using a pretty over-confident dating profile to impress potential partners. Vestigial traits. When an anatomical structure appears frankly inept, it is probably a vestigial trait. This is a feature that no longer does whatever made it advantageous enough to evolve in the first place. If we could embody evolution as a person, then he or she would be creative but inherently lazy. If something is not being used then why bother maintaining it? It's hard to say why they haven't disappeared altogether but give it another million years and perhaps they will. Some snakes, for example, still show vestigial traits harking back to their four-legged ancestry. Male pythons have little claw-like structures towards the tail, which, although they aid courtship, are all that remain of their hind limbs. Some cave fish have, over generations, lost most of the components of their eyes because sight uses up a lot of energy and isn't helpful when you live in complete darkness. Many flightless birds, such as penguins and Galapagos flightless cormorants, have wings so small that they are effectively redundant in terms of flying. Closer to home, the human appendix is a good example of a vestigial trait (although there's now some evidence it may not be useless after all). But there is a weirder one, the plica semilunaris. The next time you look into the eyes of a loved one (it's more awkward with a stranger on the bus), look at that little pink, triangular bit on the inside of each eye. It's not completely vestigial, as it helps ensure that tears drain properly and gives a slightly greater range of movement, but that's not its original function. Long ago, when we shared a recent ancestry with birds and other reptiles, this little structure would have formed a nictitating membrane, or "third eyelid", to provide further protection to our eyes. So, although we have lost this clear, extra eyelid, evolution has upcycled it for another use. Spandrels are in many ways, the rarest and hardest to see "weird" evolutionary quirks.

The word comes from an architectural term for the triangular sections between arches in older, usually fancy, buildings. These zones were often ornately decorated but incidental to the real function of the structure of the building. An evolutionary spandrel is a physical structure or behavioural characteristic that is a by-product from some other functional adaptation. But despite some apparent examples, truly useless spandrels are hard to find within evolutionary biology.

One well-studied example is seen in an island-dwelling population of Italian wall lizards (*Podarcis sicula*), which spend less time basking in the sun than their mainland cousins. This behaviour can be seen as a spandrel because there's no obvious advantage to it. Scientists have proposed it's a by-product of the lizards' evolution of increased levels of aggression, sexual activity and food intake. This has also led to more active melanocortin receptors, part of the hormone system that works in response to sunlight, and so the lizards don't need to bask so much. One genuine exception is something that defines our species as modern human beings: the chin. No other animals, or even extinct human relatives such as Neanderthals, have one. As human diets changed, the bones and muscles in our jaws became smaller so we didn't waste energy on them but we were left with a protruding bone at the bottom of the face. And no one has come up with a wholly convincing reason why. Although the chin throws a spandrel in the works, there is nearly always a reason or, at least, an explanation for the myriad traits we see across biology. A better understanding of these evolutionary obscurities paves the way for a deeper understanding of the complex factors and drivers that influence the natural world around us.

→A. Taiga: president@niseb.org, akpotaiga@yahoo.com

SCHOLARSHIP ALERT!

Do you have any family members, relatives or friends in public Universities 200L and above.

Application for NPDC/Seplat undergraduate Scholarship Award is ongoing! Eligibility: 200 Level and above

Scholarship Worth: Seplate pays N150,000 yearly until graduation.

Application Deadline: 15th July, 2019.

For Details Visit: <https://worldscholarshipforum.com/npdcseplat-undergraduate-scholarship-awards/>

Application Link: <https://seplatscholarship.com/apply/>

NOTE: Application is FREE and only qualified eligible candidates will be contacted for aptitude test.

Kindly Forward this information to groups of friends and families, you may not know a struggling student this can Help.

UPDATE ON NISEB CHAPTER COORDINATORS AND SECRETARIES

It is my pleasure to bring you an update on the leadership of the various chapters of Society for Experimental Biology of Nigeria. One of the cardinal objectives of Prof Taiga led National Executive of NISEB is to reposition NISEB by ensuring the existence of vibrant and functional NISEB chapters in Nigerian Institutions. Consequently, the present NISEB leadership has made several calls on existing chapters to make available the contact of their respective chapter coordinators and secretaries to ensure proper dissemination of information. Furthermore, new coordinators have been appointed in some institutions where NISEB never existed. However, it is obvious that there are

several institutions where NISEB exist but the National Executive is yet to have contact information of the leadership of such chapters. NISEB Members should therefore check through the table below, which contain the contact information of chapter coordinators and secretary at the disposal of the National Leadership. Members of chapters not listed should assist the National EXCO in updating the list by sending details of their chapter coordinator and secretary to the National PRO via utibeevans@yahoo.com or **08038349822**. Also, members should also assist in providing information on incomplete detail and/or correct any erroneous data on the table below.

NISEB CHAPTER CORDINATORS/SECRETARIES				
S/N	INSTITUTIONS	NAMES	EMAILS	PHONE No.
1	University of Uyo	Prof E. J. Akpan	enomfonakpan5930@yahoo.com	+234(0)7037455443
		Dr A. F. Uwah		+234(0)8038888814
2	University of Ilorin	Prof M. T. Yakubu	tomuyak@gmail.com	+234(0)8037544437
3	University of Lagos	Dr Minari		+234(0)8032488513
4	Taraba State University	Prof (Mrs) D. L. David	delphinedavtsu@yahoo.com	+234(0)7066267678
		T. K. Usman	tukurkabir84@gmail.com	+234(0)8038693294
5	University of Jos	P. B. Omoniwa	sojiomoniwa@gmail.com	+234(0)8037362620
6	University of Benin	Prof (Mrs) E. Omoregie		+234(0)8023397020
7	Kogi State University	Dr Olajide		+234(0)8031379840
		Prof Oyewole		+234(0)8069199992
8	Landmark University	Prof O. Osemwegie	osemwegie.omorefosa@lmu.edu.ng	+234(0)8028383027
9	Katsina State Polytechnic	Mr. L. Abdulhameen		+234(0)8036424928
10	Federal University, Wukari	Prof Otitoju		+234(0)8033622480
11	Modibo University of Technology, Yola	Prof I. Chimbekujo		+234(0)7030752706
12	Federal University, Dutsin Ma	Prof Hamzat		+234(0)7068188706
13	Yaba Tech	Dr Nwakama		+234(0)8050771923

14	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	K. O. Omeje		+234(0)8063866242
15	Bingham University, Karu, Nassarawa	Dr M. D. Adams	mdadams@binghamuni.edu.ng	+234(0)8038952634
16		C. Egbuna	egbuna.cg@coou.edu.ng	+234(0)7058418395
	Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University			
17	Ondo State University of Science and Tech			+234(0)7032665874
18	Auchi Polytechnic, Edo State	S. R. Abubakar		+234(0)8066191665
19	Bauchi State University	A. Idris	adamuafinja@gmail.com	+234(0)7037762599
20	Federal University, Gashua, Yobe	Bama A. G.		+234(0)8039695427
21	Kano State Polytechnic, Kano	S. Salihu		+234(0)8028068121
22	Novena University	Prof. C. Otoikhian		+234(0)8033447416
23	Federal Polytechnic, Mubi, Adamawa State	Mr. Vandi S.	kysukv@gmail.com	+234(0)8039273193
24	Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, Kwara State	Dr. O. Quadri		+234(0)8034273045
25	Delta State University	Dr. Idise		+234(0)8136506553

Utibe Evans Bassey, *National PRO*



12th AACR CONFERENCE

ON THE SCIENCE OF CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES IN RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITIES AND THE MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED

Financial Support for Attendance

ABOUT 3 FINANCIAL SUPPORT CATEGORIES ARE AVAILABLE AS FOLLOWS:

i-Scholar-in-Training Awards.

ii-AACR-Minorities in Cancer Research (MICR) and

iii-AACR Minority and Minority-Serving Institution Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research Awards.

KINDLY SEE LINK BELOW.

<https://www.aacr.org/Meetings/Pages/MeetingDetail.aspx?EventItemID=183&DetailItemID=1070>

Application Deadline: Friday, July 12, 2019, 11:59 p.m. ET