

## **THE TReND EXPERIENCE AT IQRA COLLEGE, ILORIN, KWARA STATE, NIGERIA**

The TReND train had a stopover at Iqra College, Ilorin, Nigeria on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2013, and as usual it was filled with memorable moments and experience. The mini workshop/outreach sponsored by TReND was organized by one of its alumni in person of Amin Abdulbasit and supported by Issa Yusuf (TReND Alumnus) and postgraduate students of physiology and anatomy from University of Ilorin and University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

The proprietor of this College was thrilled of having such event hold in his school and provided material support in the form of microscopes, public address system, and projector. In order to ensure efficient transfer of knowledge to the students, ten students each from senior secondary class 1-3 were chosen to participate, making a total of thirty brilliant minds.

The workshop/outreach was divided into two parts; a theoretical session and a practical session. The seminar started with Amin Abdulbasit introducing TReND, its aims, its impact, sponsors, and partners. Imam Aminu and Adeyanju Oluwaseun postgraduate students of Anatomy and Physiology respectively of the University of Ilorin introduced the students to basic anatomy and physiology of the nervous system using a brain model. Cobham Ansa, a graduate of Anatomy from University of Calabar and a postgraduate student of Anatomy, University of Ilorin deciphered “genetics” to the students. Emotional videos on what can go wrong with the human body physiology and genetic make-up was played to the students, in the form of “disorders of the nervous system”. The most touching of all the videos was that on drug addiction, it filled the eyes of the students with tears. Balogun Wasiu and Abdulmajeed Wahab, postgraduate students of Anatomy and Physiology, University of Ilorin talked more on the pathologic and genetic basis of the different disorders of the nervous system. Issa Yusuf presented a motivational talk on how the students can help people living with these disorders by getting involved in Neuroscience irrespective of their field of study. Amin Abdulbasit further introduced the students to model organisms used in neuroscience research with *Drosophila* taking center stage. The practical session involved dissection of rat brain for the students to appreciate the different parts of the brain and their functions (the students further insisted on exploring other organs in the rat) and a session on basic electrophysiology (backyard brain spiker box was put to use) using cockroach as a model organism.

At the end of the workshop/outreach the principal of the school was full of appreciation. In his words, “it is a privilege for my school to be chosen as venue for this fantastic workshop”. The students and management alike thanked TReND for the wonderful experience and look forward to future collaboration.