



FUTA NEWS

FUTA Steps up International Collaboration as Spanish Expert Holds Molecular Biology Workshop

To further boost a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Federal University of Technology Akure, FUTA's Department of Physiology and TReND in Africa, an international teaching and research organization based in the United Kingdom, Maria Pallares Masmitja from the University Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain held a training workshop on Molecular and Synthetic Biology for students from various departments in FUTA. This is to expose them to techniques in Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and Cloning and Gel Electrophoresis.

The focus of TReND is capacity building in African Universities to train and provide laboratory equipment in areas of need, particularly in the basic health sciences. In view of this TReND is providing various relevant equipment and consumables to the university. The driver of the training is Dr. Temitope Adedeji of the Department of Physiology. Dr Adedeji said the workshop which is a follow up to the earlier one in November 2018 by Professor Jeffrey Diamond is a way of giving FUTA students international practical exposure to their studies. "The foreign personnel giving trainings and the equipment when delivered will be beneficial to staff and students in the departments of Biotechnology, Microbiology, Physiology, Anatomy and Industrial Chemistry. Students from 200-500 levels are qualified for the training" Adedeji further said that the training has a long term plan with the next one schedule to hold in a couple of months. He added that the ultimate aim is to make FUTA a training hub for other universities in Nigeria and also establish a Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology in the future.

Assessing the students, Maria said they came across as highly motivated students and willing to learn. She also described them as “very inquisitive”. Maria said FUTA has a very beautiful campus and a great university and called for improvement in electricity to help laboratory conditions. Expressing their minds about the training Itunu Adakomola (400 level Physiology), Bello Ridwan (400 level Biotechnology) and Ogunmola Esther (400 level Anatomy) said the training has given them more practical knowledge and insight of what they were taught earlier. They described the experience as worthwhile and said it has given them an edge over their colleagues in other universities. Esther said "this training has encouraged me to pursue more knowledge in Molecular Biology. I can easily relate with whatever I find in any textbook or online material. It's really educative". The students described FUTA as a great university blessed with the best hands.

Earlier at a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Fuwape the Head, Department of Physiology, Dr. Olatunde Jeje commended the university management for giving enabling environment to staff and students to thrive. He poured encomium on his predecessor in office, Dr Temitope Adedeji and assured the students of the immense benefits of the training. The Vice Chancellor expressed his delight in the various MoU the university is having saying they are all beneficial to the university. The Director, International Strategy Office, Professor Thomas Ofuya who formally introduced Maria said FUTA is blessed to have good partnerships with reputable institutions across the globe.