Abstract Information

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Abstract : The Teaching Tools Workshops in Africa (TTW) have been held for nearly 20 years in over 10 African countries. Each Workshop hosts 15-25 applicants and presents tools to assist in teaching Neuroscience subjects. Because we hosted over 300 students and each of those students teaches others, we estimate that over the years we reached many thousands of African graduate, medical students, and residents. Each Workshop delivers elements of Neuroscience teaching including samples of lectures on key subjects necessary for any course in Neuroscience, pedogological tools, interactive laboratories, curriculum and test design. We include applicants from all corners of the continent and involved students from at least 28 African countries. The attendees include young faculty that have been teaching an aspect of Neuroscience for a few years. We introduce multiple techniques that faculty can use to engage students in large and small classrooms. The Workshop encourages group interaction and includes small groups to discuss how to integrate Neuroscience courses into a curriculum and introduce novel teaching methods and tools into their programs. We also work on presentation techniques and each attendee delivers a short lecture at the end of each session. It is essential to educate both teachers and the public about tools to simplify and make understandable diseases and structure of the brain, since so many are fearful about the subject. This is in part because the material is difficult and students are often insufficiently prepared for the subject. In addition, Neuroscience is not taught consistently, which does not prepare graduates to contradict the stigma of diseases that affect the nervous system. By learning methods to present material in a manner more conducive to learning and retaining the material, we hope to ultimately enhance diagnosis and treatment of neurologic and psychiatric diseases.