



# **International Neuroinfectious Disease Conference**



**February 27-28, 2010**  
**United Nations Conference Centre**  
**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Sponsored by



**Ethiopian  
Medical  
Association**



**Federal  
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**International  
Society for  
NeuroVirology**



**National  
Institute of  
Neurological  
Disorders and  
Stroke**



**People to  
People, Inc.**

## TENTATIVE AGENDA - INTERNATIONAL NEUROINFECTIOUS DISEASE CONFERENCE



The International Neuroinfectious Disease Conference, sponsored in part by the ISNV, will cover topics relevant to neuroinfectious diseases and conditions prevalent in Africa, including HIV/AIDS, neuroAIDS, tuberculosis, cerebral malaria, bacterial meningitis, and viral encephalitis.

### Saturday, February 27, 2010

<b>8:00 am - 9:10 am</b>	<b>Introductions</b>	<b>Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus</b> , Hon. Health Minister <b>Fuad Temam</b> , President, Ethiopian Medical Association <b>Eugene Major</b> , NINDS/NIH <b>Lynn Pulliam</b> , President, ISNV <b>Enawgaw Mehari</b> , P2P <b>Mehila Zebenigus</b> , Neurology Department
<b>9:15 am - 2:30 pm</b>	<b>Theme I</b>	<b><i>Viral Infections</i></b> <b>Moderators: Peter Kennedy and Getahun Mengistu</b>
9:15 am - 10:00 am	Redda Tekle Haimanot	<i>Polio</i>
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Coffee Break and Art Presentations	
10:30 am - 11:15 am	Richard Johnson	<i>Viral Encephalitis</i>
11:15 am - 12:00 pm	Avindra Nath	<i>Neurological complications of HIV</i>
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch and Art Presentations	
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	Joseph Berger	<b>Moderators: David Clifford and Enawgaw Mehari</b> <i>PML</i>
1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	Eugene Major	<i>Pathophysiology and lab diagnosis of viral infections</i>
<b>2:30 pm - 6:00 pm</b>	<b>Theme II</b>	<b><i>Bacterial and fungal infections</i></b> <b>Moderators: Lynn Pulliam and Joan Berman</b>
2:30 pm - 3:15 pm	Zenebe Melaku	<i>CNS-Tuberculosis</i>
3:15 pm - 3:45 pm	Coffee Break and Art Presentations	
3:45 pm - 4:30 pm	Allen Aksamit	<i>Bacterial meningitis</i>
4:30 pm - 5:15 pm	Joseph Berger	<i>Fungal meningitis</i>
<b>5:15 pm - 6:15 pm</b>	<b>Local Neurology Residents</b>	<b><i>Case presentations</i></b>

## Sunday, February 28, 2010

<b>8:00 am - 11:00 am</b>	<b>Theme III</b>	<b><i>Parasitic infections and leprosy</i></b> <b>Moderators: Allen Aksamit and Mehila Zebenigus</b>
8:00 am - 8:45 am	Wakgari Deressa and Daniel Fekade	<i>Cerebral malaria</i>
8:45 am - 9:30 am	Peter Kennedy	<i>African trypanosomiasis</i>
9:30 am - 10:15 am	David Clifford	<i>Cerebral toxoplasmosis</i>
10:15 am - 11:00 am	Elizabeth Bizuneh	<i>Leprosy</i>
11:00 am - 11:30 am	Coffee Break	
<b>11:30 am - 12:00 pm</b>	<b>Workshop I</b>	<b><i>Neuro-ID training and education</i></b> <b>Coordinators: Getahun Mengistu, James Bower, Peter Kennedy</b>
<b>12:00 pm - 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Workshop II</b>	<b><i>Research Opportunities</i></b> <b>Coordinators: Lynn Pulliam, Joan Berman, Enawgaw Mehari</b>
<b>12:30 pm - 1:15 pm</b>	<b>Local Neurology Residents</b>	<b><i>Case presentations</i></b>
<b>1:15 pm - 1:30 pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS, MODERATORS, AND COORDINATORS (IN ORDER OF PARTICIPATION)



**Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, PhD**

Minister of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

*Dr. Tedros has been Minister of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia since October 2005. Prior to his current position, he served as State Minister of Health in the Federal Government for one year. Dr. Tedros has served in various expert and leadership positions at the federal and state levels since 1986. His major interest is in malaria and he has published several articles in this field. Dr. Tedros received his bachelor's in Biology from Asmara University in 1986 and a master's degree in immunology of infectious diseases from the University of London in 1992. In 2000, he received his Ph.D. in Community Health from the University of Nottingham, UK. Dr. Tedros currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of Addis Ababa University (since October 2004), Board Member of the GAVI Alliance (since January 2007), Chair of the UNAIDS Programme Coordination Board (PCB) (since June 2009), Board Member of the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) (since May 2007), and Board Chair of the Global Fund (since July 2009). He has also served as Co-Chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health (PMNCH) (September 2005 through December 2009) and Board Chair of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership (May 2007 through May 2009).*

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*Fuad Temam Awel, MD, DCHTM, (an Ethiopian born on 23 November 1965 in Addis Ababa) graduated in medicine at the University of Leipzig, Germany, in 1993, followed by a residency in Dermatology and Venereology at the same University (1995-1999). He did his Dermatopathology Fellowship at Ackerman Academy of Dermatopathology in New York City in 2006. He worked as an honorary Assistant Professor at the Department of Internal Medicine, Addis Ababa University, Faculty of Medicine (2004-2007). He joined the Department of Dermatovenereology, Faculty of Medicine, Addis Ababa University as Assistant Professor in September 2008. He worked as an executive member of the Ethiopian Medical Association from 2007-2009 and became a president of the association as of June 2009.*

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**Eugene O. Major, PhD**

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*Dr. Major received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois Medical Center, Chicago, IL, where he served on the faculty before becoming Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Programs at the Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, IL. Dr. Major moved to the Division of Intramural Research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NIH, as Chief of the Laboratory of Molecular Medicine and Neuroscience where he has established a research program on viral infections of the human brain and developed a unique human brain-derived, multipotential progenitor cell culture system. Dr. Major has received a number of awards at the NIH for his scientific work, mentoring of students, and administrative positions as Acting Deputy Director, NINDS, and Scientific Director of the Intramural Program. Dr. Major has a number of patents and licenses through the NIH Technology Transfer Offices, including the qPCR assay to detect the viral genome of JC Virus, the causative agent for the demyelinating disease progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy. He also is co-chair of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Interagency Working Group on prion science and a Senior Science Advisor to the Indian Academy of Neuroscience and the Ethiopian NGO, People to People. Dr. Major is an elected member of the American Neurological Association.*

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**Lynn Pulliam, MS, PhD**

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*Dr. Pulliam is Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, and Chief of Microbiology at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, San Francisco. Her research interests are the neurological complications of HIV infection, including chronic immune dysfunction and biomarkers for neurocognitive impairment. She is the President of the International Society for NeuroVirology.*

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*Dr. Mehari did his residency in Neurology at the University of Kentucky, and subsequent fellowships at Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, OH) in Pain Management/EMG and at the Washington University in St. Louis in NeuroAIDS. Dr. Mehari manages two careers: one in medicine as a consultant neurologist at St. Claire Regional Medical Center and another as founder and president of People to People Inc., which focuses on a diaspora-based program that draws resources from across the globe to narrow the gap through quality health care, education, training, and research.*

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*Dr. Zebenigus is an internist and neurologist in private practice who has also served as Honorary Assistant Professor since June 2008 in the Department of Neurology at Addis Ababa University.*

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**Peter GE Kennedy CBE, MD, PhD, DSc, FRSE, FMedSci**

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*Professor Kennedy has been the Burton Chair of Neurology at Glasgow University since 1987. He is also Head of the Division of Clinical Neurosciences, and Honorary Consultant Neurologist at the Institute of Neurological Sciences at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland (UK). His primary clinical and research interest is in infectious diseases of the nervous system. His main research focus is the pathogenesis of viral infections of the nervous system (especially herpes viruses HSV and VZV), including VZV human ganglionic latency, herpes simplex encephalitis, neuropathogenesis of human African trypanosomiasis (Sleeping sickness), and investigation of possible viral involvement in multiple sclerosis. He served as President of the International Society for Neurovirology (ISNV) (2004-2010) and Chairman of the Scientist Panel on Infections including AIDS of the European Federation of Neurological Societies (2000-2007).*

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**Getahun Mengistu Takele, MD**

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*Dr. Getahun Mengistu Takele received his MD degree in 1989 from the Gondar College of Medical Sciences, Addis Ababa University (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). He also holds a Masters in Headache Medicine ("La Sapienza" University of Rome II School of Medicine and Surgery, 2007), as well as Specialty Certificates in Internal Medicine (Graduate School, Addis Ababa University - Medical Faculty, Black Lion Hospital, 1998) and Clinical Neurology (Addis Ababa University, 2008). He is currently an Associate Professor and Consultant in the Faculty of Medicine Department of Neurology at Addis Ababa University. His publication record includes over thirty papers in national and international journals.*

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**Redda Tekle Haimanot, MD, FRCPC, PhD**

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*Prof. Redda is presently running a non-governmental organization that he established in 1996 in rural Ethiopia to cater for the physically disabled and visually impaired. He has published extensively on neuroepidemiological aspects of epilepsy, neuroathyrism, neurofluorosis, epilepsy, and headache. He has contributed chapters for textbooks on tropical neurology. Prof. Redda was awarded the 1997 WHO Quenum Prize for Public Health in Africa in recognition of contributions to the rehabilitation of the disabled. In the same year, he received the senior research award of the Ethiopian Public Health Association. Prof. Redda was the President of the Pan-African Association of Neurological Sciences from 1994 to 1996.*

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**Richard T. Johnson, MD**

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*Dr. Johnson, Distinguished Service Professor of Neurology, Microbiology, and Neuroscience at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health, is former Director of the Department of Neurology and Neurologist-in-Chief of Neurology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. His research for 45 years has been on viral infections of the nervous system in animal models and humans (acute meningitis and encephalitis, demyelinating diseases including post-measles encephalomyelitis, HIV associated neurological diseases, and prion diseases). He has presented at every World Congress since 1973 and was convener of the Main Themes of Immunology in 1977, Neurovirology in 1981, Multiple Sclerosis in 1985, AIDS and Immunodeficiency in 1989, Neurology of HIV Infections in 1993, and Infections of the Nervous System in 1997. He gave in Inaugural Soriano Lectureship at the World Congress at Vancouver in 1993 and the Inaugural Baruchi Lecture in Sydney in 2005.*

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*Dr. Nath is a Professor of Neurology and the Director of the Division of Neuroimmunology and Neurological Infections at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA. He is also the Chair of the Section of Neurological Infections of the American Academy of Neurology. He has published nearly 300 manuscripts and reviews largely focused on neurological complications of HIV infection and co-edited a book on Clinical Neurovirology. His research laboratory studies the mechanisms by which neuronal injury occurs due to viral infection and activated immune responses.*

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*Dr. Clifford is the Melba and Forest Seay Professor of Clinical Neuropharmacology in Neurology at Washington University in St. Louis. Since 1993, he has been the Principal Investigator of the Neurologic AIDS Research Consortium, an NIH funded program to develop and carry out studies to improve the treatment of neurological complications of HIV. He is also the Principal Investigator of the Washington University AIDS Clinical Trials Unit of the ACTG and an investigator in the CHARTER study. He has been involved in numerous international studies, including work in Ethiopia, Uganda, Senegal, The Gambia, and Guinea Bissau.*

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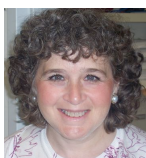
**Joseph R. Berger, MD**

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*Dr. Berger is the Ruth L. Works Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurology at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, where he is director of the Multiple Sclerosis Clinic and the Neuro-AIDS Program. Dr. Berger was a summa cum laude graduate of the Pennsylvania State University – Jefferson Medical College 5 Year Accelerated Medical Program and is member of Alpha Omega Alpha. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Georgetown University Hospital and his neurology residency at the University of Miami School of Medicine. In 1981, he joined the faculty of the University of Miami School of Medicine, serving in both the Departments of Neurology and Internal Medicine. At that institution, he held the Whigham-Berger Endowed Chair for the study of the neurological complications of HIV/AIDS. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Neurology and the American College of Physicians, and a member of the American Neurological Association, currently serving as Treasurer of the latter. His research interests include the neurological complications of HIV/AIDS, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, multiple sclerosis, and other inflammatory disorders of the brain. He has been the recipient of numerous grants to support his research. He has published more than 160 refereed papers, more than 80 chapters, and has edited three textbooks. He is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Neurovirology, the co-editor of Frontiers of Neuroscience, Infectious Disease, HIV and Tropical Diseases, and has served or is serving on several other editorial boards.*

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*Dr. Berman is Professor of Pathology and Microbiology and Immunology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, NY. Her laboratory examines mechanisms that mediate the pathogenesis of NeuroAIDS. Her studies are focused on understanding how HIV-infected monocytes and, in some cases, T cells, cross the BBB and initiate and propagate neuroinflammation and BBB damage. She also examines tissues and fluids from HIV-infected individuals for biomarkers and predictors of HIV-associated neurocognitive impairment. In addition, her laboratory investigates mechanisms of CNS pathology in HIV-infected substance abusers. She has recently begun to examine the interrelationship of cerebral malaria and HIV CNS disease. Dr. Berman is the Director of the Graduate Student Program in Experimental Pathology at Einstein, and is the Senior Faculty Advisor of Einstein's Sue Golding Graduate Division. Dr. Berman is the Co-Director of the Immunology and Pathology Core of Einstein's Center for AIDS Research, a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of NeuroVirology, a member of the Executive Board of the International Society of NeuroVirology, and Chair of the Women in NeuroVirology Committee for that Society. She has several NIH funded programs and is a reviewer for many high impact journals. She has served on several study sections and review boards, and is an advisor to the NIMH-funded CHARTER program, a six-research center consortium studying many patient populations with NeuroAIDS.*

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*Dr. Zenebe has been the Country Director for Columbia University's International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP) since its inception in 2005. In his capacity as the Country Director of ICAP Ethiopia since 2005, he led efforts to initiate program activities in four regions of Ethiopia while building up the staff and establishing ICAP country and regional offices. Currently, ICAP Ethiopia has over 80 staffers in the central office and four regional offices supported through CDC/PEPFAR funds. He has guided program administration, implementation, and financial management, and has coordinated ICAP support with the Ministry of Health, CDC, USAID, and other partners and donors. Dr. Zenebe has also overseen program operations and reporting, including compliance with donor regulations/procedures and local policies and laws; ensured on-time program monitoring, evaluation, and reporting; and established and maintained an excellent working relationship with local and international partners.*

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*Dr. Allen Aksamit is Associate Professor of Neurology in the Mayo College of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. He is also the Education Section head in the Department of Neurology. He works primarily as clinical Neurological Consultant in the Mayo Department of Neurology. His fellowship training was primarily in neurovirology, but he cares for patients with a variety of neuroinfectious and neuroinflammatory disorders, including neurosarcoidosis. He has also written about the care of patients with prion disorders. He is interested in spinal fluid investigations of neurologic infections and perfecting testing for neurologic infection diagnosis. He teaches neuropathology to Mayo neurology and neurosurgery residents, and the Neuroscience course to Mayo Medical School first year students.*

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**Wakgari Deressa, BSc, MPH, PhD**

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*Dr. Wakgari is currently an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at the School of Public Health at Addis Ababa University (AAU). He is engaged in teaching epidemiology and biostatistics courses for both undergraduate and postgraduate medical and health sciences students at the Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Wakgari has more than 10 years of research experience in malaria, focusing on community perceptions and practices, treatment seeking behavior, malaria epidemics prevention and control, vector control, health facility data reporting and management system, community-based malaria control program, insecticide treated nets, urban malaria, economic costs of malaria, and malaria and HIV co-infections. He has also been engaged in studies related to HIV/AIDS, adolescent health risk behaviors, family planning, reproductive health, and major parasitic diseases. He has advised more than 20 postgraduate students of AAU for their master's thesis. Due to his active engagement in research, he has authored and co-authored more than 25 articles on peer-reviewed, reputable national and international journals since 2003. Currently, Dr. Wakgari serves as the principal investigator of the multidisciplinary Ethiopian Malaria Prediction System (EMaPS) project (2007-2011) funded by the Norwegian NUFU program. In this project, personnel from AAU (School of Public Health and Aklilu Lemma Institute of Pathobiology), National Meteorology Agency of Ethiopia, Arba Minch University (Ethiopia), and the Centre for International Health at the University of Bergen, Norway, are implementing a project that incorporates climate variability and forecast information for malaria epidemics. The collaboration also aims to strengthen Ph.D. and masters programs, and will strengthen international collaboration on climate and health research.*

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*Dr. Daniel Fekade joined the Faculty of Medicine, Addis Ababa University in 1987 after completing his residency in internal medicine. He did his infectious disease fellowship at McGill University, Canada, in 1991. He is Associate Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases, and has twenty years of experience in clinical teaching, consultancy, and research. His research interests include pathophysiology and management of the Jarish Herxheimer reaction, epidemic meningococcal meningitis, HIV/HCV/HBV co infections, and neurological syndromes associated with HIV/AIDS.*



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*Dr. Bizuneh has spent the last 23 years working for the Federal Ministry of Health, ALERT Hospital, where her focus has been in Dermatology and included four years as the Senior Medical Officer. Her teaching experience has been in Dermatology and leprosy to students and health professionals of all levels. Dr. Bizuneh has published numerous papers on leprosy; topics of papers under review for publishing include: HIV and leprosy, leprosy as immune reconstitution syndrome, disability in new leprosy cases, and angio-lymphoid hyperplasia with eosinophilia – case presentation.*

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*Dr. Bower is an Associate Professor of Neurology at the Mayo Clinic in the Division of Movement Disorders, where his research interests lie in the epidemiology of parkinsonism. He has been active teaching neurology in Ethiopia since 2001 at the Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa, as well as the medical schools in Jimma and Gondar. He received his Masters degree in Tropical Medicine at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and is also interested in the epidemiology of neurological disorders in Africa. He will be performing prevalence studies of neurological morbidity in Moshi, Tanzania and Butajira, Ethiopia.*

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Aïda Muluneh (right) is an award-winning photographer based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. After studying film at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Aïda worked as a freelance photographer for The Washington Post. Then in 2003, she was chosen to be part of the groundbreaking show "Ethiopian Passages: Dialogues in the Diaspora" at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C. Later that same year, she made an appearance on "Imágenes Havana" a group photography exhibition in Havana, Cuba - the same fortuitous encounter that led to the film "The Unhealing Wound." As with her photographs, she continues in this powerful documentary to explore her own stated fascination with "how much cultural retention is possible without, necessarily, cultural interaction."



Aïda's work can be found in permanent collections of several Museums in the United States. In her photography book "Ethiopia: Past/Forward (Africalila, 2009), Aïda explores the country through identity, personal journey, and family nostalgia after a 30-year absence. The photographs (examples below) form a collection of images that showcases a return to a society juxtaposed between past, present, and future. She was also the recipient of the European Union Prize for her work on Ethiopia in the 2007-7th Rencontres Africaines de la Photographie, in Bamako, Mali.



Aida is founder of D.E.S.T.A FOR AFRICA, which is a non-profit cultural organization in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. D.E.S.T.A, which stands for Developing and Educating Society Through Art, also means "happiness" in the Ethiopian language Amharic. D.E.S.T.A FOR AFRICA promotes cultural development through the use of photography by providing workshops, exhibitions, and creative exchanges.

## ABOUT THE SPONSORS



The mission of **Ethiopian Medical Association** ([www.emaethiopia.org](http://www.emaethiopia.org)) is to ensure the rights and benefits of medical professionals (doctors) through lobbying, and advocating for their rights and benefits (and their professional abilities through continuous upgrading of their medical knowledge) so that they will be able to provide quality professional services, and work with the government and other partners for the improvement of quality health services to the Ethiopian community.



The vision of the **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministry of Health** ([www.moh.gov.et](http://www.moh.gov.et)) is to see healthy, productive and prosperous citizens. To achieve this vision, the mission of the Ministry is to reduce morbidity, mortality and disability, and to improve the health status of the Ethiopian people by providing a comprehensive package of preventive, promotive, rehabilitative, and basic curative health services via a decentralized and democratized health system in collaboration with all stakeholders.



The **International Society for NeuroVirology** ([www.isnv.org](http://www.isnv.org)) is a non-profit corporation established in 1998 as an international forum for researchers and clinician scientists involved in the study of neurovirology. The purpose of the Society is to advance collaboration among scientists in all aspects of neurovirology and related disciplines in order to further knowledge in the area, and promote the clinical application of this knowledge to prevent and treat neuroinflammation and pathophysiology of viral encephalitides. The Society achieves these goals primarily through the organization and sponsorship of international meetings and conferences.

The official journal of the ISNV is the **Journal of NeuroVirology** ([www.jneurovirol.com](http://www.jneurovirol.com)). This bi-monthly journal provides a unique platform for the publication of high-quality basic science and clinical studies on the molecular biology and pathogenesis of viral infections of the nervous system, and for reporting on the development of novel therapeutic strategies using neurotropic viral vectors. The Journal also emphasizes publication of non-viral infections that affect the central nervous system. The Journal publishes original research articles, reviews, case reports, coverage of various scientific meetings, along with supplements and special issues on selected subjects.



Financial support for this meeting was provided by the Division of Intramural Research of the **National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)** at the **National Institutes of Health** (Bethesda, MD USA). The mission of the NINDS ([www.ninds.nih.gov](http://www.ninds.nih.gov)) is to reduce the burden of neurological disease - a burden borne by every age group, by every segment of society, by people all over the world. To support this mission, NINDS (i) conducts, fosters, coordinates, and guides research on the causes, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of neurological disorders and stroke, and supports basic research in related scientific areas, (ii) provides grants-in-aid to public and private institutions and individuals in fields related to its areas of interest, including research project, program project, and research center grants, (iii) operates a program of contracts for the funding of research and research support efforts in selected areas of institute need, (iv) provides individual and institutional fellowships to increase scientific expertise in neurological fields, (v) conducts a diversified program of intramural and collaborative research in its own laboratories, branches, and clinics, and (iv) collects and disseminates research information related to neurological disorders.



**People To People, Inc.**, ([www.peoplepeople.org](http://www.peoplepeople.org)) was founded in April 1999 in the state of Kentucky, USA, as a non-profit organization. It is comprised of people armed with spirit of compassion to bring hope to those who find themselves in hopeless situations brought about by various determinants. P2P is emerging globally as a bridge and network of the Ethiopian diaspora committed and willing to give back to the motherland. It is developing strategies for mobilizing the Ethiopian diaspora to provide support not just in health and education areas alone but also in other sectors of social and economic development.