

My experience at the 2023 Encephalitis Conference

My name is Dr. Yared Zenebe Zewde, a consultant neurologist with a rank of Assistant professor at the Department of Neurology, College of health Science, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In late 2023, I embarked on a transformative journey after being awarded a bursary grant to attend the prestigious Encephalitis Conference held at the Royal College of Physicians in London, UK. The journey began with the excitement of being selected as a bursary winner, and continued with great reception and hospitality throughout my stay in the conference. The financial support provided by Encephalitis Society (currently Encephalitis International) made it possible for me to travel and lodge in London, where I immersed in a sea of scientific advancements, cutting-edge researches and collaborative discussions with participant and experts in the field. At the conference, I found myself with like-minded professionals, each driven by the common goal of advancing the field of encephalitis.

Prior to the main conference I participated in a half-day satellite meeting where I delved into the intricate world of securing grants and fellowships. Led by seasoned experts, this session allowed me to gain valuable insights into the art of crafting a compelling proposal and navigating the competitive landscape of research funding. The interactive session provided me with a skills and techniques needed to refine my strategies and understanding the nuances of making a successful grant application. The lightning poster presentation sessions that followed were a whirlwind of diverse research approaches and captivating findings. From innovative diagnostic techniques to emerging therapeutic targets, each presenter offered a unique piece of the encephalitis puzzle. The energy in the room was palpable, fueled by a shared passion for uncovering the complexities of these often-misunderstood conditions. I eagerly engaged in discussions, exchanging knowledge and forging connections with fellow researchers from across the globe.

Stepping into the main conference the next day felt like entering the heart of the encephalitis world. Beyond the formal talks, the interactive sessions provided invaluable opportunities for dialogue and collaboration. Engaging in discussions with experts allowed me to delve deeper into specific topics, seek clarification on intricate details, and share my own perspectives. Sharing experiences with encephalitis survivors added a crucial human dimension to the scientific discourse, reminding me of the real-world impact of such grave disease in individuals and their family's life.

Networking opportunities throughout the conference were abundant, fostering a sense of solidarity and shared purpose. Engaging with fellow researchers, clinicians, and patient advocates broadened my professional network and exposed me to diverse perspectives. Hearing about ongoing research projects, discussing challenges, and brainstorming potential collaborations fueled my enthusiasm and opened doors to future partnerships. The 2023 Encephalitis Conference was much more than just an academic event. It was a catalyst for personal and professional growth, reigniting my passion for fighting encephalitis and equipping me with the knowledge, skills, and connections to contribute meaningfully to this field. The conference served as a powerful reminder of the global community dedicated to unraveling the mysteries of encephalitis and improving the lives of those affected.

I left London feeling energized, inspired, and equipped to continue this important journey, my enthusiasm amplified by the collective spirit and unwavering dedication of this remarkable community. As I move forward, the valuable insights, practical advice, and inspiring encounters at the conference will continue to guide me. I am grateful for the opportunity to have participated in this enriching experience, and I look forward to contributing my part to the ongoing fight against encephalitis.

My experience at the 2023 Encephalitis Conference in Pictures



