

## Mentor: Hanns-Joachim Neubert (Germany)

Freelance Science Journalist



**“I brought into the project my experiences as a teacher in science journalism, as a science journalist, and my practice from teaching at African universities.**

**“However, my intercultural sensitivity has been sharpened even more and my awareness for African topics and procedures in science journalism increased”**

## Mentee: Augustine Alexander Abutu (Nigeria)

Science and Education reporter for the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)**

### Mentor’s Comment

“Alexander made excellent progress on his way from an agency journalist to a real science journalist. Already after one year he turned out to have learned all the necessary skills and tools of science journalism. To gain more practice in writing longer science stories beyond his full-time agency employment, he even successfully wrote very good styled and thoroughly researched stories for SciDev.net, although he had to use a pseudonym for understandable reasons. Outstanding were his own achievements, even to kick off a discussion inside his agency about a better agency writing style, which resulted in the forming a working group.”



Hanns-Joachim Neubert, Freelance Science Journalist and Author

The screenshot shows the SciDev.net website interface. The main article is titled "Sickle cell drug mired in controversy" by Adele Hession and Christina Scott, dated 30 June 2008. The article text discusses a high-profile Nigerian initiative to produce large quantities of a new sickle cell anaemia drug, which has become mired in accusations of fraud and corruption. It mentions the Nigerian branch of the private US-based company Xechem International and its state-owned partner, the Shehia Science and Technology Complex (SHESTCO). The article also notes that both entities are under investigation by the country's Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) over an alleged fraud involving 400 million Nigerian naira (US\$3.5 million) of public funds. A small image of a person's hands holding pills is visible next to the text. The website layout includes a navigation menu on the left with categories like "REGIONS" and "TOPICS", and a sidebar on the right with "Information Services" and "RELATED TOPICS".

The article published on SciDev.net: 'Sickle cell drug mired in controversy', published 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008