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Special Release

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR DAVID DADA OYEWUSI OYEBOLA (1945–2024)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, announces the transition of Professor David Dada Oyewusi Oyebola, a distinguished retired Professor of Physiology of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Ibadan. He was aged 78 years.

Late Professor David Dada Oyewusi Oyebola was born on 01 October, 1945 at Ogotun-Ekiti in Ekiti Southwest Local Government area, Nigeria. He attended St. Paul's Primary School, Ogotun-Ekiti from 1952 to 1958 and had his secondary education at Christ's School Ado-Ekiti from 1960 to 1964, where he had the best prizes in Biology and Geography. He taught briefly as a Mathematics teacher at Amoye Grammar School, Ikere-Ekiti from January to September, 1965, and as a Senior Biology Teacher at Ise/Emure Grammar School from July to September, 1969. He attended the University of Ibadan medical school between 1965 and 1972.

Throughout his undergraduate years, he enjoyed scholarships given on merit to outstanding candidates in each faculty in the concessional entrance examination to the University of Ibadan. As a result of his outstanding performance in the Part 1 MBBS examination in March 1968, he was invited to do an extra year for the intercalated B.Sc. Med. Sci. degree in Physiology and graduated with a first class Honours degree in the B.Sc programme in June 1969. He was also a part-time demonstrator in Physiology from 1968 to 1973. He eventually obtained the M.B.B.S degree in June, 1972. He was a House Physician in Medicine, Surgery and Pediatrics at the University College Hospital between July 1972 and June 1973. He later obtained the M.D. degree in Physiology from this University in April, 1978.

Professor Oyebola started his career in the University of Ibadan as a Lecturer II in the Department of Physiology in July 1973. He had a break of three years from full-time Physiology teaching between January 1975 and March 1978 when he was a Research Fellow Grade 1 in the Department of Medicine and University College Hospital. During this period, he taught Internal Medicine to Clinical students at the University of Ibadan. He came back again to full-time Physiology teaching in March 1978 as Senior Lecturer in Physiology. He was promoted Reader in 1980 and Professor in 1983.

During his lifetime, Prof. Oyebola served the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences and the University of Ibadan in various capacities before he retired from active service. He was Acting Head of Department 1978 – 1980; between January 1982 and January 1983; Head of Department (August 1986 – September, 1989); Head of Department (Nov 1, 1995 – Oct. 31, 1998). He was elected Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences (August 1990 – July 1993). He represented the Senate of the University of Ibadan on many Boards and Committees. He was a member of the Court of Governors, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan (1989 - 1990). His inaugural lecture was delivered on 08 January 1987 on the topic: “Hospitals or Healers? The Dilemma of the Nigerian Patients”. After teaching Physiology for 41 years, Prof. Oyebola retired from the University after a highly successful and meritorious service in September 2011.

Prof. Oyebola was a recipient of several scholarships, travelling fellowships and awards. He had his postdoctoral experience at the Guy’s Hospital, St. Thomas’ Hospital, Kings College Hospital, Denmark Hill, St. Mary’s Hospital and Paddington Medical Schools in London, United Kingdom. He was visiting Professor to the Department of Physiology, University of Toronto Medical School, Ontario Canada (1980 – 1981). He was also visiting professor at the Universities of Jos (1985 – 1986), Sokoto (1985 – 1987) and Ilorin (1993 – 1994). He was also the Pioneer Provost of the College of Medicine, University of Ado Ekiti (2001 – 2004). After his retirement from the University of Ibadan, he taught Physiology as visiting Professor at the Obafemi Awolowo University (2011 - 2015) and afterwards until his death, at the University of Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State (2015 – 2024).

Professor Oyebola was a member of many national and international professional bodies which included Nigerian Medical Association and the British Diabetic Association. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, United Kingdom. He was a founding member of the Physiological Society of Nigeria and served as the first Editor-in-Chief of the Society’s flagship journal, the Nigerian Journal of Physiological Sciences (1983 – 1986) and President (February 1991 – June 1994). He also served two terms as a member of the council of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS, 2001 –

2009). He was the leader of the Federal Government of Nigeria delegation to the meeting of Non-aligned nations on Traditional and alternative Medicine, Pyongyang, North Korea (August, 1988). He was elected Fellow, Physiological Society of Nigeria (FPSN) in August 2010. He was also a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Natural Medicine.

Professor Oyebola was married and blessed with children.

He will be greatly missed by his family, colleagues, friends, the Department of Physiology and the entire University community.

May his soul rest in peace.

Burial arrangements

The family has scheduled Friday, 19 April, 2024 for his funeral programme.

Venue: Chapel of the Resurrection, University of Ibadan

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