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Special Release

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### OBITUARY

#### **PROFESSOR GBOLAGUNTE TAIWO AYINLA IJADUOLA** ***FRCS (Eng.) FRCS (Glasgow) DLO (London) PhD.***

**(1945-2024)**

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kayode O. Adebowale, mni, fspsp, FAS, announces the transition of Professor Gbolagunte Taiwo Ayinla Ijaduola, a Professor of Otorhinolaryngology, and a former Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences and Dentistry. He died on 07 October 2024, aged 79 years.

Professor Gbolagunte Taiwo Ayinla (GTA) Ijaduola was born on 17 April 1945, in Oyo town to the family of Prince Gabriel Olasupo Ijaduola and Princess Modupe Ijaduola (nee Abimbola), making him a Prince of Oyo Town whose paternal and maternal ancestries were linked to the lineage of the Alaafin of Oyo and the Oluwo of Iwo respectively.

He had his primary school education at the Primary School, in Oyo (1951-1958), his secondary education at the Igbobi College, Yaba (1959-1963), and higher school at Comprehensive High School, Aiyetoro. He attended the University of Ibadan for his tertiary education (1966-1971), where he qualified as a medical doctor. He won the University of Ibadan National Competition in Biological essay in 1965. His academic distinctions included Grade 'A' in primary school certificate examination, won State Scholarship for secondary school education at Igbobi College; won religious knowledge prize in 1961; passed out with Grade 1 in the Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination in 1963; Chemistry prize in A-level in 1965; scholarship award for medical school education of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan in 1968; and the Federal Government scholarship for postgraduate study in Otorhinolaryngology in 1975.

While he was in the secondary school, he was the Head of House in the boarding school and a School Prefect during which he ensured the cleanliness of the house, also did a fund-raising rally to finance the education of fellow students with the creation of a visible library and 'The Comprehensive Echo' a journal of the school for which he was a features Editor. While in the university, he was a leader in various capacities and a 'Business Manager' of the Journal of Medical Students.

He briefly taught chemistry, biology, and mathematics in two secondary schools in Ibadan and Abeokuta (1966-1967). He equally did super vacation jobs as a morbid anatomy student under Late Prof. Eddington in 1968 at the University College Hospital as well as Emergency War-Front Medical Officer in Elele Alinini near Port-Harcourt, Rivers State. He did his internship at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, from 1971-1972 and later took up a Senior House Officer's post in Surgery at the Ahmadu Bello University

Teaching Hospital, Zaria (1972-1973) and he later returned to the University College Hospital, Ibadan as a Senior House Officer/Registrar in Otorhinolaryngology from 1973-1974.

Professor Ijaduola later relocated to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital to continue with his residency in Otorhinolaryngology from 1974-1976. He was a recipient of the Senior Fellowship of Commonwealth Universities and left for Belfast, Ireland, where he became Registrar in Otorhinolaryngology, Victoria Hospital, Belfast City, Northern Ireland, from 1976-1977. He used the opportunity to effectively become Registrar in Otorhinolaryngology, Graigavon Area Hospital, Northern Ireland, from 1977-1978 and Senior Registrar in Otorhinolaryngology, Birmingham E.N.T Hospital, Birmingham and was awarded Diploma in Otorhinolaryngology, (DLO) of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1977 and subsequently a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, England and Fellow Royal College of Surgeons, Glasgow.

On his return to Nigeria, he took up a Lecturership post with the University of Lagos in 1978 and rose to become a Senior Lecturer in Otorhinolaryngology from 1983-1987. He then returned to the University of Ibadan in 1987 on appointment as a Professor of Otorhinolaryngology. On 08 February 1990, he delivered the 75th University of Ibadan and the first Inaugural lecture in Otorhinolaryngology in Nigeria, titled "That All May Hear."

Professor GTA Ijaduola was one of the Foundation Fellows of the Faculty of Otorhinolaryngology of both the West African Postgraduate Medical College (West African College of Surgeons) & the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria. His contribution to the nurturing and development of ORL was great. In the 1980s and 1990s, when his colleagues left the country for greener pastures, he remained behind to see to the growth and development of the speciality. A great teacher, an icon, an excellent Surgeon and a devoted academic, he was Faculty Secretary and Chairman, Faculty of ORL, NPMCN at various times as well as Faculty Board member of the Faculty of ORL, West African College of Surgeons. He was instrumental to the structuring and development of the Faculty of Otorhinolaryngology residency training curriculum. Over 45 ORL trainees in the University College Hospital Ibadan trained during his period in the Department of ORL, UCH, Ibadan. He was a mentor to scores of these trainees, many of whom are now professors and have done outstanding works in their various institutions.

Professor GTA Ijaduola was Head, Department of ORL, College of Medicine University of Ibadan at various times. He was also Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences and Dentistry. He equally served on various committees in the college and the university. Professor Ijaduola was a prolific author, and he coauthored numerous scientific papers in first tier academic journals. He was a member of many professional organizations including the Faculty of Otorhinolaryngology, National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, West African College of Surgeons, International College of Surgeons; Member Nigerian Medical Association, Otorhinolaryngological Society of Nigeria (President 1994), Head and Neck Cancer Society of Nigeria (President 1990), Pan African Federation of Otorhinolaryngology Societies (Chairman education committee 1975), and Association of Lourds Medical Doctors. He was listed as a noteworthy Otorhinolaryngologist and educator by Marquis Who's Who.

Upon retirement from the University of Ibadan, he spent a few years developing the Ear, Nose and Throat Department of Niger Delta University, Bayelsa and was pivotal in publishing the Niger Delta Medical Journal becoming the Editor in Chief.

He was married to Mrs. Olubunmi Ijaduola (nee Tayo) and had two children, Dr. Modupe Ijaduola and Dr. Ewalola Ayo Ijaduola and was blessed with grandchildren. He was affectionately known as "GTA" to colleagues and "Father of Light" at the University College Hospital to his many trainees.

"He will be sorely missed by us all: you were a great influence in the society you left; your children, family, in-laws, the church, and all who ever encountered you. A great disciplinarian with a great sense of duty and commitment! We are indeed grateful to God for your impactful life here on earth."

Adieu! Great mentor and teacher!

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