

# FROM ORIGINS TO IMPACT



A Documentary Transcript Relating the Origins of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan  
His Academic Journey, Personal Insights, Societal Impact, and Vision for the Future



# From Origins to Impact

*In Conversation with*

***Emeritus Professor Oluwole Akande, OON at 85***

Foundation Provost, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan  
& Pioneer Chief Medical Director, University College Hospital, Ibadan

*A Transcript of a Conversation about the Origins of the College of Medicine,  
University of Ibadan, His Academic Journey, Personal Insights, Societal Impact,  
and Vision for the Future*

**Ebenezer Oluwole Akande**



***noirledge***

Copyright © Ebenezer Oluwole Akande, 2024

Ebenezer Oluwole Akande asserts the moral right to be identified as the author of this book.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without written permission, except for brief quotations in books and critical reviews. Any unauthorised distribution or use of this publication may be a direct infringement of the author's and publisher's rights, and those responsible may be liable in law accordingly.

ISBN: 978-978-60717-5-6

Published in Nigeria by  
Noirledge Publishing for

**College of Medicine, University of Ibadan**

University College Hospital premises

Ibadan 200212, Oyo State, Nigeria

Telephone: +234 (0) 22914130 (office hours only)

Website: [www.com.ui.edu.ng](http://www.com.ui.edu.ng) | E-Mail: [provost@com.ui.edu.ng](mailto:provost@com.ui.edu.ng),  
[collegeinfo@com.ui.edu.ng](mailto:collegeinfo@com.ui.edu.ng) | [library@odeku.ui.edu.ng](mailto:library@odeku.ui.edu.ng)

**Noirledge Publishing**

Suite 223, Ogun-Oshun River Basin Development Authority,

Off Oni Memorial Children's Hospital, Ring-Road, Ibadan

Telephone: +234 809 816 4359 | +234 805 316 4359

Email: [hello@noirledge.com](mailto:hello@noirledge.com) | [www.noirledge.com](http://www.noirledge.com)

Socials: [www.linktr.ee/noirledge](http://www.linktr.ee/noirledge)

Cover Design: Dhee Sylvester

Book Design: Servio Gbadamosi

Typesetting: Rukayat Amudah

Editorial Team: Olaitan Junaid

# Contents

Commemorating the 85th Birthday of Emeritus Professor Oluwole Akande, OON	1
<b>Part One</b>	3
Interview	5
<b>Part Two</b>	21
Provost's Introductory Remarks	23
The College of Medicine Administration Building	32
<i>Annex</i>	36



## **Commemorating the 85th Birthday of Emeritus Professor Oluwole Akande, OON**

**I**n celebration of the 85th birthday of Emeritus Professor Oluwole Akande, OON, Pioneer Provost of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan (CoMUI), and Pioneer Chief Medical Director of the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, we express our heartfelt gratitude to God for his remarkable life and the sacrifices he has made to establish a solid foundation for the college's growth and excellence.

We are immensely grateful for his role as a great teacher, mentor, and visionary, who has not only shaped individuals but also built enduring institutions capable of withstanding the test of time. His unwavering dedication and vision have continued to inspire generations.

We extend our gratitude to Emeritus Professor Oluwole Akande for his constant presence and support, as he has always been there for the college, offering valuable counsel and actively resolving concerns. His consistent attendance at programmes and activities has contributed immensely to the continuous growth and

development of the college, even after 43 years since its establishment.

We wholeheartedly wish Emeritus Professor Oluwole Akande many more years filled with good health, strength, peace, joy, and an unwavering commitment to serving God and mankind.

On behalf of the entire college community, including the staff, students, and alumni, we join in saying, "Happy Birthday, sir!" May your strength be replenished as your days continue.

**—Olayinka Omigbodun FAS**

*Professor of Psychiatry & Provost, CoMUI.*

*Sunday, 25 June 2023.*



# Part One



# Interview

**I**t's a privilege to have you interview me in this short documentary relating essentially to the origins of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, as well as the relationship between the college and the University College Hospital over the past years.

## **Origin of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan**

In respect of the origin of the college, the Federal Government of Nigeria in 1977-1978 academic year, designated the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ibadan, the Centre of Excellence in Medicine amongst several universities in Nigeria at the time.

The decision to honour the faculty with such designation is influenced by a few reasons. First, the faculty's previous performance, at the time, was nothing short of excellence. Second, despite being the first Faculty of Medicine in the country, the faculty had continued to remain relevant and excellent in research, teaching, and in rendering medical services.

At about the same time, the National Universities Commission (NUC) set up a committee on medical education in Nigeria. The committee, after several meetings and discussions with stakeholders, decided that Faculties of Medicine would be best run under a collegiate system. The first reason given for this is that the Faculty of Medicine in many universities is much larger than any other faculty. For instance, in Ibadan at the time, the Faculty of Medicine had about 25 departments, whereas many of the other faculties had six to eight departments. So, the Faculty of Medicine was very large.

Secondly, the Faculty of Medicine is usually closely related to its associated teaching hospital, which was a semi-autonomous institution, autonomous in finances and independent from the Federal Ministry of Health. Whereas the Faculty of Medicine was usually part of the university, which relates to the National Universities Commission and, through it, to the Federal Ministry of Education. So, the NUC Working Party decided that Faculties of Medicine should be administered as colleges.

At about this time that the Faculty of Medicine in Ibadan was designated Centre of Excellence, the faculty had also been considering moves to change its status to that of a college. As at that time, the medical school of the University of Lagos, which was founded after the

University of Ibadan, started as a College of Medicine and was the only one with such designation in the country. All other medical schools operated as faculties.

The advantages of operating as a college are very clear: the College has semi-autonomy, is free to administer its finances, and make certain decisions that are essential in its relationship with the teaching hospital.

With regards to Ibadan, once the decision of the NUC was finalised and approved in principle by the Senate, the University Council decided to use the powers conferred on it under the University of Ibadan Act Section 4, Sub-sections 2 and 3, to administratively restructure the faculty into a College of Medicine with effect from August 1, 1980.

The University Council, at its meeting of June 21, 1980, approved the regulations establishing the college and appointed me, then Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, the first Provost of the college upon the recommendation of the Board of the Faculty of Medicine.

That's how I became the first provost of the College of Medicine with effect from the 1st of August 1980 and having been Dean for the previous two years, from the 1st of August 1978 to 31st July 1980. I was, therefore, the last Dean of the then Faculty of Medicine and the first provost of the College of Medicine.



At its inception, the college consisted of just two faculties: the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences and Pharmacy and the Faculty of Clinical Sciences and Dentistry. Later, these other arms became separate faculties too. We then had the Faculty of Pharmacy, the Faculty of Dentistry, the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, and a few years later, the Faculty of Public Health. After a few years, the Faculty of Pharmacy was separated from the College of Medicine. So, after that, we then had four faculties, namely, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences,

Faculty of Clinical Medical Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry,  
and Faculty of Public Health.

### **Strategies to Ensure the College's Flourishing Success**

It should be noted that the restructuring of the faculty into a college was an administrative action of the University Council, and one of the things that we did to stabilize the college was to ensure that a statute establishing the College of Medicine for Ibadan was enacted by the Federal Government. The statute is a law approved by the National Assembly for incorporation into the law under which the university is administered.

So, we were fortunate to be able to get this statute enacted. But it took me, or not me alone but the university administration, several years to get it approved. However, I was the leading point, making several trips to Lagos and meeting with relevant officials of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Health to get approval of this statute. Through God's grace, we got it approved and signed into law on the 25th of June, 1984, which coincidentally, is my birthday. So, from that time on, the statute establishing the College of Medicine became part of the University of Ibadan Act. Changing the law will be difficult since any changes must be approved by National Assembly, which consists of the House of

Representatives and the Senate. So, that was one of the stabilising factors to ensure that our collegiate structure will not be easily tampered with.

It is noteworthy that the statute contains provisions for the retroactive effective date of the appointments of the principal officers of the college. The provisions were earlier made by the University Council on 1st of August, 1980.

Under the statute, the college also has a Court of Governors. The Chairman of the University Council is the Chairman of the Court of Governors of the College. The Vice Chancellor and the Chairman of the Board of Management of the University College Hospital are also members of the Court of Governors. The Provost and the Chief Medical Director are members of the Court of Governors as well as representatives of the Senate and Council. Through this mechanism, we were able to bring the management of the hospital and that of the College together, although not in the administrative or in the day-to-day running, but in terms of policy. The college therefore has a form of semi-autonomy in that it can take decisions, something other faculties, such as the Faculty of Agriculture, the Faculty of Social Science, or the Faculty of Law, can hardly do.



Now, although the Provost is still under the Vice Chancellor, he or she has this umbrella Court of Governors which can decide on policies and implement them. That, to me, is a major achievement in stabilising and making sure that the administration of the College of Medicine is not easily tampered with.

Again, another thing I should mention is that, in 1986, the federal government set up a visitation panel for the University of Ibadan under one Justice, Buba Ado. As you know, visitation panels are set up for universities from time to time to look at the running of the universities and to check whether they are doing what they should do according to the university law.

At the conclusion of the exercise, the Justice Buba Ado-led visitation panel criticised the way a number of things were run in the University of Ibadan but stated that **“the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, was the best run arm of the University.”** The panel gave kudos to the college, and this was, of course, widely publicised in the newspapers.

### **Exploits Beyond Borders**

After finishing as Provost in 1984, I went on sabbatical for 15 months. I spent the 1984-85 academic year as Visiting Professor in Reproductive Health at the McMaster

University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Thereafter, I spent another three months in Monash University in Clayton, Australia, also as Visiting Professor in Reproductive Health. I came back to Ibadan at the expiration of the sabbatical in October 1985.

A year after my return to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, I was appointed in 1986 as Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at King Saud University, Riyadh. Later, I left for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where I worked for six years.

You might have asked, why did I leave at the time? At the time, not just me but several of our colleagues left the country, just exactly as it is happening at this time, because facilities had deteriorated, and we couldn't maintain our standard of living. You can't believe it that even after having been Provost and Chief Medical Director for six years, I couldn't pay the mortgage on the building which we were constructing at the time! We needed money to continue, and on one occasion, our bank withdrew all the money in our account, jointly held with my wife, as we had defaulted in the repayment of our bank loan.

So, I got this appointment as Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where I worked for six years.

Prior to my service in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, I was, from 1983 to 1986, Chairman of the World Health Organization's Human Reproduction Programme's Policy and Co-ordination Advisory Committee (PCAC). During the period that I was in Riyadh, I continued as Honorary Consultant to WHO in reproductive health. I was, at various times, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Task Force on Injectable Contraceptives, one of WHO's major committees, in Geneva. I was also a member of the Steering Committee of WHO Infertility Task Force as well as the Scientific and Ethical Review Group (SERG). I used to travel to attend meetings in Geneva and elsewhere. But after six years in Saudi Arabia, WHO offered me a permanent position as the programme manager for strengthening research capacity in Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean region, which is the Middle East.

So, after six years, I left Saudi Arabia and went to work at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva for eight years until my retirement at the end of June 2000; the retirement date in WHO and other UN agencies being the last day of the month in which you attain the age of 62. So, I retired from the WHO on 30th June, 2000 after a service spanning eight years.

During that period, I made sure that facilities in many of our reproductive health institutions in Nigeria benefited from WHO, Ibadan being, of course, the greatest beneficiary, followed by Lagos.

We also established a reproductive health centre in Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital, Sagamu, Jos University Teaching Hospital, Jos and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. We also made sure that a lot of research and training funds came not only to Nigeria, but to other centres in Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean region. But Nigeria was a major beneficiary. So, we had 6 reproductive health research and training centres in Nigeria using the Long-Term Institutional Development (LID) Grant strategy.

This grant was also given to several other institutions in Africa, such as Nairobi, Cameroon, Cotonou, Benin Republic, Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire and Ethiopia. As I mentioned earlier, my area of responsibility also covered the Middle East. So, we had centres in Egypt (Alexandria and Cairo), Tehran, Karachi, and Pakistan.

After my retirement, the WHO Regional Director for Africa appointed me as the Chairman of the WHO African Regional Task Force for Maternal Child and Neonatal Health. In this position I served for five years, from 2000 to 2005, even though I had retired.

During my service with WHO, a number of my colleagues were given research training grants to train abroad, and research grants for research projects in their institutions. Everyone was really proud that Ibadan continued to do well and excel. In particular, Professor Isaac Adewole was a major beneficiary of WHO grants, for which he did extremely well. In Benin too, Professor Friday Okonofua did very well, and so did Professor Oladosu Ojengbede here in Ibadan. There were many of them – so many who did very well – and we were really proud of them. Professor Kayode Dada did very well in Sagamu. My colleagues in Geneva were always talking about him. Whenever there was a multi-centre research project to be done and we were looking for centres to be selected, Nigeria always provided people. Professor Joe Otubu in Jos was extremely good, as were so many others whose names I choose not to mention. They did us proud in that they excelled, they delivered, and we were never sorry that we engaged them. We were really proud of them.

Overall, I had a positive experience working and retiring at WHO. I returned home in July 2000, and the society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON) honoured me with a Distinguished Service Award in November 2000. Also in December 2003, I was

conferred with the Nigerian National Honour of Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON). In the same year, the University of Ibadan made me **Emeritus Professor** of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and through God's grace, I have remained a member of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology until today.

Since my retirement from the World Health Organisation, I have served as Chairman of the African Regional Task Force for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (2002-2007); Chairman of the Presidential Project Implementation Committee (PPIC) of the FGN/Vamed Project on the Rehabilitation of Nigerian University Teaching Hospitals (2007-2015); Chairman of the Board of Management, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex, Ile-Ife (March 2009 to October 2011); and the Chairman Governing Council and Pro-Chancellor of Igbinedion University, Okada (2015-2018).

### **Brain Drain and Brain Gain**

Speaking on brain drain and brain gain, many more individuals left Nigeria after I did. At the time, it was the beginning of the exodus. In fact, after several years, you could virtually count on your fingers the number of consultants left. Additionally, one of my colleagues who returned a few years after I got to Saudi Arabia said it was

“becoming an embarrassment to be seen on the corridors of UCH” because people would look at the person and say, “if his papers are complete, he won't be here.” Because, first of all, the facilities had run down. They were not well-maintained, and the salaries were extremely low.

But that is the brain drain part. Now, the brain gain part is the part that I earlier described in the sense that after a number of years, and not just me, a few others, like Prof. Ladipo who also went to Brazil, were able to contribute to the development of the country by channelling back home grants for research, training, and so on and so forth.

In fact, sometime after I left Nigeria for Saudi Arabia, it came out in the newspapers that “former Provost left for Saudi Arabia!” My colleagues in the department in Riyadh said, “Oh, you must have been a very important person!”. I said no, I am not; people are only just being jealous of those of us who have left the country. It is noteworthy that, at the time, we had Germans, British, Swedish and people of other nationalities in our department. Some of these people said that when they left their countries, it was no news, and nobody even knew that they left the country. But here you are in the newspapers, being talked about!

But later, when I started to work with WHO, many of my colleagues at home were saying, "Just stay there, please, because we need you," This is mainly because we were able to bring opportunities back to the country. We were able to get research and training grants for those at home. That is part of the "brain gain." I think there is still something there in the sense that when people go, their minds are still back home. They want to bring opportunities back home and they want to contribute to development at home.

So, I'm not worried. I have a feeling that, by God's grace, all the people that have gone will return home with things to be proud of. And who would have gained if they had stayed at home, frustrated, unable to work happily, and can't even provide for their families? No one. In some ways, this is a positive development.

Also, I must mention in terms of family now. Two of my children graduated from the University of Ibadan's College of Medicine. My daughter graduated there first in 1991. She's a consultant geriatrician in the UK currently. The other, my son, graduated in 1994 and is currently employed in the UK as a consultant psychiatrist. But both come home regularly. In fact, my daughter has just established a JBS Gerontology Centre in Lagos with the goal of caring for the elderly. It is the first of its kind in



Nigeria. If she comes home, she spends like two weeks here and two weeks back in the UK. It is a lot of strain on her and the family, but this is because she feels that she must put something at home, and I am proud of that. My son also has a health centre in Lagos. In fact, he left only last night, arriving the UK today, and they keep coming and going. So, I don't believe that people leave the country only due to lack of patriotism. They leave for various reasons.

There is a push and a pull factor for the brain drain. The push factor is what I had described earlier, where the facilities are inadequate, and salaries are not enough. You can imagine how I felt when I couldn't even pay the mortgage on the house that I needed to build. There was no other way than to get legitimate earnings elsewhere and bring it back, and in that way, the country gains. And the pull factor, of course, is the fact that those who go can do more things over there, where the facilities are better and so on and so forth. But so will it be here. Actually, brain drain can become brain gain, and this is what I believe will happen eventually.



# Part Two



## Provost's Introductory Remarks

**T**he wait is over! Here's the concluding part to the exciting interaction we had with Emeritus Professor Oluwole Akande, the remarkable pioneer who laid the foundation for the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan (CoMUI) on the occasion of his 85th birthday.

—**Olayinka Omigbodun FAS**

*Professor of Psychiatry & Provost, CoMUI.*

### **Concluding Part of the Interview**

#### **Educational Background**

Fortunately, I attended two of the prestigious secondary schools in Nigeria at the time. One is Christ School, Ado Ekiti, where I took my school certificate examination in 1956. The other is King's College in Lagos, where I studied for the Higher School Certificate (HSC) course in 1957 and 1958. My late father (may his soul rest in peace) was the headmaster of various schools in Ekiti in the past. Later, he would become the headmaster of St. David's School Lafiaji, Lagos, which is why I am a student at Christ

School in Ado-Ekiti. He had always wanted me to go back to Ekiti to school there. So, I was sent to Christ School, Ado-Ekiti, and I used to go from Lagos and return to Lagos on holidays. So, I was at Christ School for my secondary education. Christ School was a fantastic school, and certainly one of the best schools at the time in Nigeria. But because there was no Higher School Certificate course in Christ School, I went to King's College in Lagos where I did my Higher School Certificate examination (HSC) in December 1958. Thereafter, I entered the University College Ibadan (now University of Ibadan) in 1959, graduating Bachelor of Medicine; Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) University of London in 1964. The University College Ibadan was at that time in a cordial relationship with the University of London, and Ibadan University College students were registered for London University degrees.

After graduation, I undertook my internship at the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan. On completion of the internship, I went to the United Kingdom (UK) for my postgraduate medical training in various hospitals. Again, they were prestigious hospitals. Through God's grace, I was in Hammersmith Hospital which is the Royal Postgraduate Medical School of London. I was also at the West Middlesex Hospital,

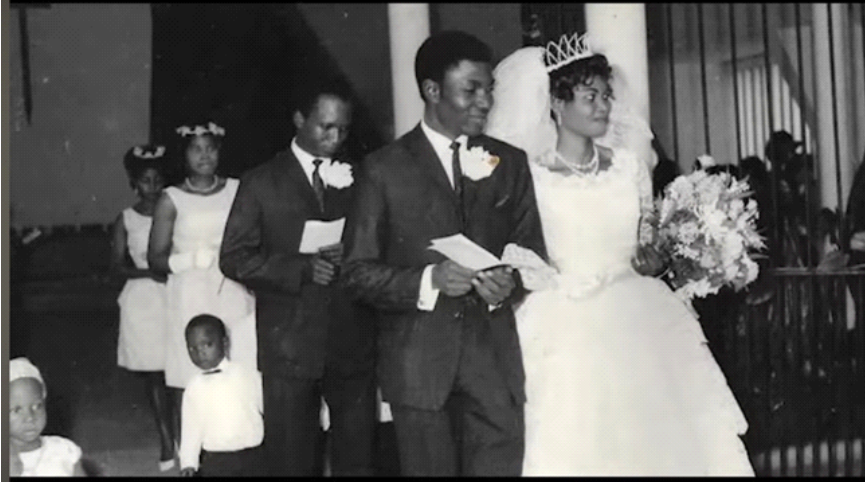
Isleworth, the Radcliffe Infirmary Hospital, Oxford, and finally, I was at the Queen Mother's Hospital in Glasgow, Scotland. The Queen Mother's Hospital was such a reputable hospital because it was the only hospital that had ultrasound machine in the whole world at that time. In fact, the diagnostic use of ultrasound was introduced into medical practice by the then Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, the late Professor Ian Donald. Whilst Professor Donald was working in the Navy during the Second World War, he observed that ultrasound was used to detect the depth of the sea. Utilising his knowledge as an obstetrician that a foetus (baby) is surrounded by amniotic fluid in the uterine cavity, he designed, with the help of technologists, a machine that uses sound waves to explore the foetus through that fluid. This was how the ultrasound machine was introduced into medical diagnostic practice. The initial ultrasound machine was quite big, but now ultrasound machines are much smaller. At that time, medical personnels used to come to our hospital in Glasgow to understudy the ultrasound equipment. It was interesting that during the oral examination of the membership of the Royal College of Obstetrician Gynaecologists in January 1969, one of the examiners, knowing that I came from Glasgow, said to me, "the one question we will not ask you is on

ultrasound because you can teach us ultrasound. What we want to know is what else you know apart from ultrasound.”

That was how the examination went. And, of course, I passed with flying colours. I came back home in May 1969, having been appointed as a Senior Registrar in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UCH Ibadan. Subsequently, in 1970, I was appointed as a lecturer/consultant by the University of Ibadan/UCH. And a few months later, I obtained a research fellowship to undertake research in reproductive endocrinology at the University of Oxford, leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Reproductive endocrinology was a rare field at the time. My research involved the development of techniques for hormonal measurements using radio-immunoassays as well as techniques for in-vitro fertilisation. These were techniques that I was really anxious to bring home. Again, I am pleased that in-vitro fertilization and other artificial reproductive technologies are being undertaken in the IVF Centre in a building across the road in UCH currently, by some of my younger colleagues. As the grand teacher, I call them grandchildren, grand students. So, I am very proud of them, and I thank God for their efforts.



## Family



Let me say a little about my family. In this respect, I always remember the text in Proverbs 18: 22, which says, “He who finds a wife, finds a good thing and obtains

favour from the Lord". There can be no question at all that whatever I have been able to accomplish could not have been possible without a good and supportive wife. And, indeed, I have been blessed and have obtained favour from the Lord to have such a great wife. I married Miss Victoria Modupe Awoyinka, as she was then, at the Chapel of Resurrection, University of Ibadan on 18 December 1965. Through God's grace, she is currently Professor (Mrs) Victoria Modupe Akande. She has done so well to provide me and the entire family with a supportive and conducive home. She has also been able to build a career of her own, becoming a Professor of Animal Ecology at the Institute of Agricultural Research and Training which is an institute of the Obafemi Awolowo University based in Moor Plantation in Ibadan. And we are blessed with four children. As I mentioned in the earlier part of this interview, two of them are medical doctors, graduates of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. The other two graduated from the Faculty of Law, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. The two medical doctors are Dr Olutoyin Ajala (Nee Akande) and Dr Olugbenga Akande, both Consultants in the United Kingdom National Health Service (UK NHS). The first of the two Lawyers is Mr. Oluwole Ayodele Akande who worked with the Dell Computer company in Austin,

Texas, USA for several years, rising to the position of Director. The second is Professor Dapo Akande who is a Professor of International Law at the University of Oxford and a representative of the United Kingdom in the United Nations International Law Commission in Geneva, Switzerland.



### **Worldwide Travels**

To touch briefly on travel opportunities, I should mention that due to one's position in the academia, there are usually conferences here and there. So, that gave me an opportunity of attending conferences in virtually all the continents of the world—Melbourne, Sydney, Australia, Japan, Thailand, USA, Canada, Latin America etc. Through God's grace, I have been able to visit those countries. Working with an international organisation

like WHO where I was responsible for strengthening reproductive health research and training capacity in institutions across Africa and the Middle East has also given me an opportunity to visit virtually all the countries in Africa—Burundi, Rwanda, Zambia, Lesotho, South Africa, Mauritius and so on and so forth. There's always something going on somewhere or the other, providing opportunities to visit several countries. It is also an opportunity to learn and to see how blessed Nigeria is. It is sometimes difficult for one to imagine that we have degraded to where we are today despite our abundant human and material resources. Anywhere you go, you see Nigerians doing so well. They make you feel so proud. As soon as I arrive somewhere in those days when I was working with WHO, they will say, oh, come and let me show you one of your boys or one of your girls. They will bring one of their staff members and when you see them, you discover that they are from Nigeria, and they are doing so well. It usually made me feel so proud. Nigeria is a great country, and I am sure by God's grace, whatever our problems are right now, we will overcome.

My first advice to our trainees and staff is that they should have a sense of commitment. I think the first thing is to be committed to whatever one is doing and not to seek anybody's praise. If they thank you, it is just a bonus.

You are not doing it because somebody is going to thank you. You are doing it because you believe that you should be doing it. This is particularly so in administrative positions. I thank God that sometimes somebody comes to me and say, you did this for me, or you did that for me. You know, I just think they got what they deserve. But through God's grace, I was the channel that God used to get it done. So, you should be proud of whatever you do. You should feel committed and proud of it. That is it. You are doing it because you want to do it. And at the end of the day, you get thanked for it, courtesy of sources that you may never have imagined. Also, I always thank God that, as a doctor (particularly a gynaecologist), somebody will come and tell me, "That baby you helped to deliver is now a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer etc." And I can't remember! I simply did whatever I was supposed to do, and God blessed it.

## **The College of Medicine Administration Building**



In the 1978-1979 academic year, the University Council made available funds for erecting faculty buildings. This was about the same time that the NUC designated our Faculty of Medicine “Centre of Excellence.” The University Council made funds available not just to the Faculty of Medicine but to all the other faculties in the university— Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Science and Faculty of Agriculture. I can't remember the exact amount, but each of the facilities was given the same amount of funds for construction of faculty buildings. It was the University Council that awarded contracts for the construction of the buildings. We were fortunate that our own faculty building (now

college building) was awarded to Cappa and D'alberto, an Italian construction firm. However, the contract for the faculty buildings of some other faculties were awarded to some Nigerian contractors. I am sorry to say that those Nigerian contractors performed badly. But we were lucky. Not only were we lucky, we were also fortunate that our own building was awarded to a dedicated contractor who, through effective supervision, did an excellent job. I recollect that when I was Dean and later Provost, I ensured an effective supervision of the construction, and that is how we got such an excellent building. Some years later, some of our colleagues on the main campus of the university were wondering, how come the Faculty of Medicine had such a beautiful building whilst they didn't? But if you go back into the history, you will find that each faculty was given the same amount of money, but through God's grace, we were given a good contractor who was dedicated, and now we have the college building. It is named after me, but I have no Kobo in it. Naming the building after me is just an honour. The decision to name the building after me was that of the council and based on the recommendation of the Academic Board of the College of Medicine to the University Senate.

The University Governing Council at its Statutory Meeting held on 23rd October, 2012 approved the senate decision on “Naming of Buildings and Streets of the University.” Following the approval, the College Administration Building was named after me. The University Council also approved the naming of the Clinical Sciences building after Emeritus Professor Oladipo Olujimi Akinkugbe as well as the naming of the college auditorium building after Professor Benjamin Oluwakayode Osuntokun. So those three buildings were named as approved by the University Council.

### **Tributes**

Finally, I must once again pay very warm tributes to our current dynamic and visionary Provost, Professor Olayinka Omigbodun, FAS, as well as her predecessors, the past provosts, who have built on the foundation laid. It is okay to say that you laid a foundation and all that. But if your successors do not build on it properly, it will collapse. It is creditable that those who held office after me have successfully built on the foundation laid in spite of the prevailing negative conditions. I now go into the College of Medicine building usually feeling extremely happy, and proud that things are in good hands. If the college had collapsed, there would have been nowhere to



*Emeritus Professor Ebenezer Oluwole Akande, OON*

go! For instance, this evening I am going to the college to meet with some of the alumni that graduated 50 years ago. Included in that group are Dr B. G. K. Ajayi and Dr Tony Marinho, distinguished and eminent alumni. They are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation from the College of Medicine and we are, indeed, very proud of them. I am happy that I will join in the celebration, and I thank God that I am still alive to witness these things!

Thank you very much.



**Emeritus Professor Ebenezer Oluwole Akande**

*OON, DPhil (Oxford), FNAMed. FAMedS, FRCOG (UK)*

*Foundation Provost, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan &  
Pioneer Chief Medical Director, University College Hospital, Ibadan*

# **Annex**

## **University of Ibadan Bulletin**

**Special Release 29 November 2012**

### **Council Decisions**

The University Governing Council at its Statutory Meeting held on **23rd October, 2012** took the following decisions:

#### **Senate Decision on the Recommendation of the Joint Council-Senate Committee on the Naming of Buildings and Streets**

Approved Senate Decision on Naming of Buildings and Streets of the University as follows:

- (i) College Administration Building named after **Emeritus Professor Ebenezer Oluwole Akande, OON.**
- (ii) Clinical Sciences Building named after **Emeritus Professor Oladipo Olujimi Akinkugbe, MD, MNOM.**
- (iii) College Auditorium Building named after **Late Professor Benjamin Oluwakayode Osuntokun.**