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Special Release

16 April, 2021

OBITUARY
PROFESSOR GODWIN ONYENORO EMEROLE
(28 May, 1941 - 20 January, 2021)

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Adebola Babatunde Ekanola, MNAL, fspsp, announces with deep regret, the transition of Professor Godwin Onyenoro Emerole, a retired staff in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Saturday, 22nd January, 2021.

Late Prof. Emerole was born on the 28th May, 1941 to the family of Mr. Job and Mrs Bernice Emerole, of Umuoda Nguru, Aboh-Mbaise, Owerri, Imo State. He attended St. Augustine Grammar School, Nkwerre, Orlu, Imo State, where he obtained Cambridge School Certificate and graduated as the best student with Division 1 in 1959. He won the Shell B.P. School Service Prize for that year. He later had his Higher School Certificate education at Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha, and obtained his Cambridge Higher School Certificate in 1962. He won the Certificate of Merit for Best Higher School Student. He studied Biochemistry at the University of Ibadan between 1962 and 1966, and graduated with First Class Honours, winning the Departmental Prize in Biochemistry as best student. Subsequently, he was awarded the Commonwealth Scholarship and Yale University Postgraduate Scholarship in 1967. After the Nigeria civil war, Late Prof. Emerole came back to the Department of Biochemistry, University of Ibadan in 1970 for his postgraduate education under the tutelage of late Professor Olumbe Bassir, and obtained his Ph.D degree in 1973. He was a University Scholar during his doctoral training.

Late Prof. Emerole started his academic career in the University of Ibadan in 1973 when he was appointed Lecturer in Biochemistry, and was promoted Professor on October 1, 1982. Professor Emerole was Sub-Dean (Postgraduate), Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences (1980-1982), and two times Head of Biochemistry Department, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan (1984-1988 and 1996-1999). He also served the Faculty, College of Medicine and the University Senate on a number of committees. After his retirement, he actively continued active service in academia. At the Redeemer's University, he became the pioneer Dean of Natural Sciences (2005-2007), Head of Chemical Sciences (2009-2010) and Acting Vice-Chancellor between August, 2011 and October, 2011.

Late Prof. Emerole was Inter-University Council (London) Exchange Fellow at St. Mary's Medical School, Paddington, London (now Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London), UK (1975 and 1980), and Laboratory of Environmental Toxicology, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Training Parks, NC, U.S.A. in the Laboratory of the Legendary Professor Robert Dixon (1977- 1978). He was Visiting Professor at the Division of Experimental Therapeutics, Walter Reed Army Institute of Medical Research, Washington, DC (1988-1990). He was Consultant Toxicologist to the World Health Organization WHO Geneva,

Switzerland, and member Expert Committee on Toxicology Review Panel (1980-1985). He was also Consultant Research and Development at the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Port Harcourt (1997-1999). He was Editor, Bulletin of Science Association of Nigeria (1980-1985), Secretary, Biochemical Society of Nigeria, and Corresponding Editor, Cameroun Journal of Biological and Biochemical Sciences (1979-80).

Late Prof. Emerole made outstanding contributions to science nationally and internationally in the areas of Biochemistry, Toxicology, Cancer Studies, Pharmacology and Therapeutics. His publications with late Prof. O. Bassir, Prof. E.A. Bababunmi and Prof. A.O. Uwaifo contributed immensely to global knowledge on the hepatocarcinogenicity of the aflatoxins, related naturally occurring coumarin compounds and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH). While at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington DC, his studies on the pharmacokinetics, disposition and metabolism of a primaquine analogue drug contributed to the development and therapeutics of modern antimalaria drugs.

Late Prof. Emerole supervised many Ph.D students in the special area of Drug Metabolism and Toxicology including Professors E.O. Farombi and O.A. Adaramoye. He had several papers in reputable national and international peer-reviewed journals to his credit.

He is survived by his lovely wife, Mrs Elizabeth Emerole, children, grandchildren and many mentees.

May his gentle soul rest in peace.

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