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Special Release

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## OBITUARY

### **PROFESSOR ANTHONY OSAIGBOVO UWAIFO (03 August, 1943 - 31 December, 2020)**

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebola Babatunde Ekanola, MNAL, fspsp announces with deep regret, the transition of Professor Anthony Osaigbovo Uwaifo, a retired staff in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020. He was aged 77 years.

Late Prof. Uwaifo was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 1943 to the family of Uwadia Uwaifo as the first son. In 1957, he gained admission to the prestigious Government College, Umuahia, as one of the best three primary school pupils admitted that year. It is of note that he passed the Cambridge School Certificate in Form 4 and Higher School in the same college. He was a recipient of Israeli Government Scholarship to study Medicine in Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem, Israel in 1965. He however could not activate the scholarship, and ended up studying B.Sc. Biochemistry at the University of Ibadan, on the advice of late Prof. Olumbe Bassir. He subsequently bagged his Ph.D. degree under the supervision of Prof. Bassir in 1971. His specialty was Cancer Research and Molecular Biology, and he supervised many Ph.D students including the current Head of Department of Biochemistry, Prof. Oyeronke A. Odunola, and Dr S.O. Owumi, a senior lecturer in the department. He had over eighty (80) publications in reputable national and international peer-reviewed journals. He was a member of the following learned societies - Biochemistry Society (Nigeria), Science Association (Nigeria), Nutrition Society (Nigeria), Basic Medical Scientists Association, Pan African Environmental Mutagen Society (PAEMS), Environmental Mutagenesis Society (EMS), USA and American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), USA.

In 1980, Late Prof. Uwaifo was the second Nigerian recipient of the prestigious International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Fellowship, Lyon, France. While in 1990, he received the American Eleanor-Roosevelt Fellowship for research on cancer. He was the second Nigerian and ninth African to be awarded. He was also an awardee of Holland Prize - one of the seven awardees outside the United States at the inception of the prize. In addition, he was the first Nigerian to be elected as a corresponding member of American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), and the first Nigerian to be elected as a member of Environmental Mutagenesis Society (EMS). He was a Fellow of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

Late Prof. Uwaifo served in the panel set-up by the Federal Government of Nigeria to draw up standards for Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) for beverages and drinks imported into the country.

At the level of University of Ibadan, late Professor Uwaifo was the last Sub-Dean (Pre-Clinical) of Faculty of Medicine, before the emergence of the College of Medicine, and later became the Sub-Dean (Postgraduate) of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences. He served as the Head, Department of Biochemistry, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan two (2) times (1989-1991) and (1999-2002) respectively. He eventually crowned his academic career by delivering the inaugural lecture titled: “Cancer, the Consequences of Cellular Breakdown of Law and Order” in 1993. He retired from the services of University of Ibadan at the age of sixty five (65) years on 30th September, 2008 having served the institution meritoriously, and with great dedication.

Late Prof. Uwaifo was married to Mrs. Remilekun Uwaifo and they were blessed with highly successful children and grand-children.

May his gentle soul rest in peace.

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