



OBITUARY
PROFESSOR BANKOLE OLUSIJI OKE
(31 March, 1953 – 10 August, 2021)

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebola Babatunde Ekanola, FNAL, fspsp, announces with deep regret, the transition of Professor Bankole Olusiji Oke, a staff in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Tuesday, 10 August, 2021.

Late Professor Bankole Oke was born in Lagos on the 31 March, 1953 to late Pa Simeon Emiola Oke and Mama Irene Titilola Oke (Nee Olukoga). He had his primary school at the Ladi-Lak Institute, Yaba, Lagos and his secondary school at Ijebu-Ode Grammar School where he sat for his WAEC examination, emerging with flying colours in 1970. In 1971, he was admitted through the Preliminary Science course of the University of Ibadan to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree programme and graduated in 1977.

After his National Youth Service at the College of Agriculture, Abu, Kabba in Kwara State of Nigeria, he was employed by the Ogun State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources as Veterinary Officer II in 1978 and later as Lecturer II in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy of this University in 1980 and eventually became Professor in 1996.

Late Professor Oke in 1990 was a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe. In the same year, he proceeded to Georgetown University Medical School, USA as a Rockefeller Fellow until 1992 and as Biotechnology Career Fellow from 1993 - 1995.

He held several administrative positions including Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine; Head, Department of Veterinary Anatomy. Late Professor Oke served on the Veterinary Council of Nigeria and was a member of the Governing Council of the University of Ibadan and of several professional organisations, including the Board of Trustees of the United States-Africa Development Foundation, USA.

Late Professor Oke carried out extensive research in Molecular Regulation of the testis and epididymal form and function using various methodologies including electron microscopy, in-situ hybridization and immunocytochemistry. In this regard, he collaborated effectively

with numerous notable scientists in the United States. His pioneering work on the reproductive biology of the African giant rat stimulated various scientific investigations that aided its domestication and breeding. He produced numerous students at Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), M.Sc and Graduate levels, many of whom are already Professors and successful Veterinary Practitioners across the globe. Late Professor Oke had over 140 publications in scientific journals. In 1997, along with two other authors, he won the second prize of the European Journal of Andrology for their publication in the International Journal of Andrology 19: 179-199 (1996).

In the last four years, together with his research team, he investigated the actions of Bisphenol A (BPA), an endocrine disrupting agent on the endocrine and reproductive system with a resultant appreciable number of publications in high impact factor international journals.

Until his death, Late Professor Oke, fondly addressed as Banky by friends and associates, was the most senior professor in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Ibadan, a Fellow of the College of Veterinary Surgeons, Nigeria and well-respected member of the University of Ibadan Senior Staff Club.

Late Professor Oke is survived by Prof. Gbemisola Aderemi Oke, a professor of Preventive Dentistry, University of Ibadan and blessed with children and grandchildren.

May his soul rest in peace.

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