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Special Release

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR EFFIONG ESSIEN UDO AKANG (10 December, 1959 – 31 December, 2014)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor I. F. Adewole, FAS, announces with deep regret, the death of Professor Effiong Essien Udo Akang, former Head, Department of Pathology, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Wednesday, 31 December, 2014 after a very brief illness.

Late Professor Akang was born on 10 December, 1959. He hailed from Ukpom Anwana in Akwa-Ibom State, Nigeria. He attended many primary schools at home and abroad due to his father's traveling engagements. Prof. Akang attended Whitefield Bilateral Secondary School, London, 1970-1974 and the Kings College, Lagos, 1974-1977 for his secondary education. He proceeded to University of Ibadan, Ibadan in 1977 for his tertiary education, graduating with an MBBS degree in 1983.

Professor Akang subsequently had his rotations as House Officer at the Military Hospital, Benin, 1983-1984 and thereafter undertook his national service as Medical Officer at the College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti, 1984-1985. He proceeded to the Department of Pathology, UCH, Ibadan in 1986 for his Residency training programme, completing his Fellowship training with a Diploma of the National Postgraduate Medical College Nigeria in the field of Pathology (FMCPATH) in May 1990.

He started his career in the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan as Lecturer I in the Department of Pathology in 1990. He was promoted Senior Lecturer in 1993 and Professor in 2000. He served as Acting Head of the Department of Pathology, University of Ibadan, 1997 – 1999 and Substantive Head of Department, 2005-2008. He was reappointed Head of Department in August 2014, a position he held until his sudden demise.

He remained very active throughout his career in many aspects of the development of the Department, Faculty, College and University, serving as resource person in many committees of the institution.

Late Professor Akang was a member of several societies and professional associations and received a host of citations. These included: the Nigeria Medical Association, 1983; American Association of Neuropathologists, Inc., 1993; International Society of Neuropathologist, 1993; International Brain Research Organisation, 1997; American Association for the Advancement of Science (1994-1997); Marquis' Who's Who in the World (1996, 1997, 1998) citations; Men of

Achievement (1996) citation; Marquis Who's Who in Science and Engineering (1998-1999) citations; Who's Who in Nigeria (Nigerian International Biographical Society) (1999,2003)citations; International Scientist of the Year 2003 citation; Member of the American Biographical Institute Research Board of Advisors 200 and Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Industrial Administration 2009.

He served as a reviewer of articles for several local and international journals including the West African Medical Journal, African Journal of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Journal of the National Medical Association, Nigerian Medical Journal, Nigerian Journal of Surgical Sciences and Nigerian Quarterly Journal of Hospital Medicine.

He received a Certificate of Excellence for outstanding performance and lasting contribution as a Reviewer for the Journal of the National Medical Association in 2002.

A deeply committed academic, teacher, researcher and mentor, he was well respected by colleagues and admired by both undergraduate and postgraduate students in Medicine, Pathology and other related fields. He served as External Examiner to many Universities in Nigeria and the West African coast including Ghana and Sierra Leone, as well as Internal/External Examiner to various departments within the University at postgraduate examinations. He served as Examiner to the West Africa College of Physicians, the West African College of Surgeons, The National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria and the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Professor Akang was a prolific writer with over 140 publications in peer-reviewed journals. His primary research areas were Neuropathology and Paediatric Pathology but was also involved with research in various other areas especially, Oral Pathology.

He was active in secular life as an elder in his church congregation. Prof. Akang was a good family man, playing a significant role in making a happy home with his amiable wife and two children who, along with a large number of associates, will miss him dearly.

May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

Burial Arrangements are as announced by the family.

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