

**CITATION ON PROFESSOR TOLU OLUKAYODE ODUGBEMI MB.BS,
MD, PH.D, FWACP, FMC (PATH) FRCP (UK) FAS**

Professor Tolu Olukayode Odugbemi was born at Ado-Ekiti on 30th January 1945. His parents came from Oke-Igbo Ile-Oluji Local Government of Ondo State, Nigeria. After a brilliant Primary and Secondary Career, he enrolled as one of the Pioneer Students of Microbiology at the University of Lagos. He emerged with a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in the Second Class Upper Division in 1970. He combined this with his studies as a Medical Student and completed the MB.BS Degree in 1972 also at the University of Lagos.

Professor Odugbemi remained focused in his field of choice, study and research. He is a Microbiologist par excellence.

Early in his career, he obtained a Diploma in Bacteriology from the University of Toronto Canada (1976). Fired by his desire for excellence in research, he presented another thesis titled “Observation on some factors that influence in-vitro antimicrobial susceptibility testing of common bacteria pathogens” to the University of Lagos for which he received the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree in 1982. Professor Odugbemi studied at the prestigious University of Sheffield 1976-1978 and his research “Studies on the Pathogenicity of Gonococci” produced the thesis which earned him a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) of that University (1978).

Through sheer academic brilliance, he published extensively in national and international Journals and Articles of excellent research in Microbiology and other areas.

Professor Odugbemi's publications number over 200 (two hundred) in all and he is still publishing up to 2007.

His laboratory became a fountain of knowledge shared by many scientists and trainees who themselves have emerged as very successful Medical Scientists and Consultants.

He rose by leaps and bounds and attained professorship in 1985-barely 13 years after his MBBS degree. He was foundation Professor and Head of Microbiology and Parasitology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ilorin 1983-1985 and returned to University of Lagos as Professor and Head Department of Microbiology and Parasitology College of Medicine for several years. He was:

- (a) Honorary Lecturer, Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Sheffield UK 1976-1978.**
- (b) Guest Researcher, Center for Disease Control (CDC) STD Research Laboratory. Centre for Infectious Diseases, Atlanta Georgia USA (1981-82).**
- (c) Honorary Consultant Microbiologist, Lagos University Teaching Hospital since 1976 to date.**

He became College Dean, School of Basic Medical Sciences, and subsequently College Provost (CMUL) and Member Governing Council, University of Lagos January 1977 –

December, 2000. In January 2002, he was elected President/Chairman of Governing Board of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria for two terms; the highest academic and professional post in the Nigerian Medical Establishment.

Professor Odugbemi is Editor-in-Chief Nigerian Quarterly Journal of Hospital Medicine. Editor/Cofounder Nigeria Journal of Health and Biomedical Sciences, Member, Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria 2002 – 2003.

This Medical Scholar is a member of several professional bodies:

- **Nigerian Medical Association.**
- **American Society for Microbiology.**
- **Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.**
- **Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland.**
- **New York Academy of Science and several others too, numerous to mention.**

He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science. His most recent publication is a new book titled “Outline and Picture of Medicinal Plants from Nigeria”, is a classic. This two hundred and eighty two page book contains very clear colour pictures of 382 Nigerian Medicinal plants. He identified each plant by botanical (scientific) and local names. The specific medical uses and parts of the different plants used were given. The book is a very valuable resource for researchers,

traditional (alternate) and interested orthodox medical Doctors, inside and outside Nigeria. The book is a welcome development and very topical.

Whereas, this scholar and gentleman's academic and professional achievements cannot be fully recited, he remains a very humble person. He was honoured as The ALATUNSE OF OKEIGBO ONDO STATE and FIWAJOYE of OKE AYEDUN by his own people. No wonder, you considered it appropriate to appoint him Vice Chancellor, University of Lagos, just a few months ago, probably one of your first appointments.

Professor Tolu O. Odugbemi is a medical microbiologist and parasitologist of international repute and a seasoned administrator.

He is a prolific scholar who carried out several in-depth, innovative and pioneering research studies on sexually transmitted diseases. Specifically, his research efforts included gonococcal, staphylococcal and streptococcal infections, antimicrobial antibiotic resistance, meningitis and laboratory diagnostic techniques.

He developed a cost effective starch paper technique for the detection of penicillinase producing Neisseria gonorrhoea and another for the use of simple manganous chloride and congo red method to differentiate Neisseria gonorrhoea and Neisseria meningitidis. He determined the plasmid patterns of

many (90) isolates of Neisseria gonorrhoea from several African countries and characterized many, indeed hundred (100) strains of Neisseria gonorrhoea (including 30 penicillinase producing strains in Nigeria).

He also described a pigmented bacterium in clinical blood specimen (1989) that could become a threatening pathogen in future. He even ventured into studying microbial contaminants in local food items like gari.

Professor Tolu O. Odugbemi has made many land mark contributions to medical profession and humanity through his outstanding research findings. His book on Nigerian medical plants and his administrative expertise and deserves to be honoured with the Nigerian National Order of Merit.

Professor Odugbemi is happily married and the family is blessed with four children.

We request, Mr. President, that you kindly confer on this consummate, accomplished and dynamic medical scholar, present Vice Chancellor of the outstanding and prestigious University of Lagos the Nigerian National Merit Award.