

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, AT 70: THE RENAISSANCE

O.S. Michael¹ and E.O. Olapade-Olaopa²

1. Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
2. Professor of Surgery and current Provost, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Correspondence:

Dr. O.S. Michael

Dept. of Pharmacology and Therapeutics
College of Medicine
University of Ibadan
Email: micobaro@gmail.com

SUMMARY

Nigeria's Premier University (University of Ibadan), and her Medical School, will be marking the 70th anniversary in the month of November 2018. The year 1948 saw the beginning of the Ibadan Medical School which started as one of the foundation Faculties of the University. The three Faculties at inception were Arts, Science, and Medicine. Professor Beatrice Mary Joly of the Department of Surgery was appointed as the first Professor of the University. She was also the first Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, later to become a College and presently headed by the Provost, Professor E.O. Olapade-Olaopa. This is a brief exposition on the Ibadan medical school through the years, and a pictorial tribute to the Deans and Provosts. Great leadership is always deliberate, passionate, drawn from experience, incremental, and vision-driven. By standing on the shoulders of giants, vision is expanded. With a vision for excellence in research, training, and service, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan has striven to become Nigeria's centre of excellence in Medicine. This is in recognition of the high quality and standard of medical education and graduates of the College. It has been seventy years of service to the Nation, Africa, and the World. Although the journey has had many challenges, the College has grown in strength and is undergoing a renaissance that is positively impacting on every stratum of the community.

The Beginning: The founders of the University College Ibadan (UCI) had a clear vision for the institution. This included that it would have a national outlook as the nation's premier University, its primary function would be to promote the advancement of science and learning through research, it would be African-centred, and it would produce graduates of a standard that would ensure worldwide recognition of its academic degrees through their impact in academia, the professions, industry and the civil society.

Pursuant to this mandate, the founders created an enabling environment in which Ibadan was able to attract and retain top-class academics by catering for their various and varied needs. Additionally, the institution encouraged academic staff with suitably good first degrees to undertake academic and professional postgraduate training in order to improve the quality of its output in research, teaching and training, and the service it provides to its community, as well as to sustain its future development.

Exemplary Leadership at Nigeria's First University: The University of Ibadan opened in January 1948. The first academic ceremony took place

in 02 February 1948, when the College (University) formally opened. The first two terms from January to July 1948 were a period of preparation and employment of key staff. The first addition to the staff strength was Kenneth Lambert, who came as warden to take charge of student affairs. He was a librarian and also handled affairs of the library. The Principal's secretary, Joyce Chamberlain (a graduate of Oxford University in languages), came in January 1948. The first addition to the teaching staff was John Potter who took charge of the teaching of History. The first real senior appointment was that of Miss Beatrice Mary Joly. She was the first professor to be appointed by the university. She was appointed as Professor of Surgery and first Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. She had held similar appointment in India, and brought much valuable experience to the University and college of Medicine. Mr. F.P.G. Hunter was the first Registrar of the university. He arrived Ibadan in March 1948.

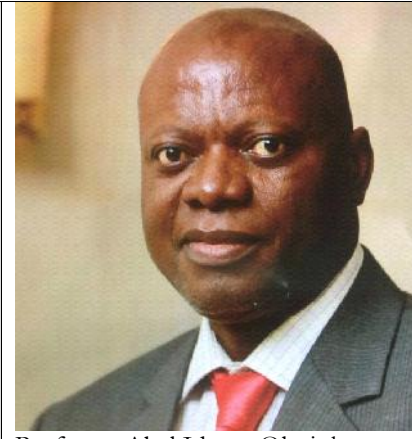
Over the years, since the university's inception, Principals and Vice-Chancellors have worked hard to ensure that the university remains the flagship tertiary institution in West Africa and attains a prominent position in global ranking of universities. Successive Vice-Chancellors



Kenneth Mellanby – First Principal, University College Ibadan (Principal, 1947 – 1953)



Professor Beatrice Mary Joly, First Professor, First Dean of the Faculty of Medicine



Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka, Present Vice-chancellor, University of Ibadan (2015 to date)

have left indelible marks of progress towards her vision and mission. The present Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka has, with passion and overwhelming experience, provided leadership and direction that has continued to enable the University to live up to the vision of being a world-class institution for academic excellence geared towards meeting societal needs. The pursuit remains that of a fourfold mission of expanding the frontiers of knowledge through the provision of excellent conditions for learning and research, producing graduates who are worthy in character and sound judgement, contributing to the transformation of society through creativity and innovation, and serving as a dynamic custodian of society's salutary values and thus sustaining its integrity. Through these, the University continues to positively propel academic and professional activities at the College of Medicine, driving her aspirations of attaining greater heights of academic excellence.

Ibadan Medical School: The school is the flagship academic medical institution for West Africa. Medicine has been the flagship discipline of the University at Ibadan since its conception. Indeed, the need for a medical school in West Africa and the characteristics of the town played a prominent role in choosing Ibadan as the eventual site of its parent University. This was because at the time of establishing the University little was known about the epidemiology of diseases amongst Africans. The Ibadan Medical School was therefore established to carry out both research and training in the medical sciences as well as provide high-standard tertiary care, and to do so for the whole of West Africa. The size and homogeneity of Ibadan's population were key attractions to the founders of Nigeria's premier University as it meant it would be able to provide adequate number and variety


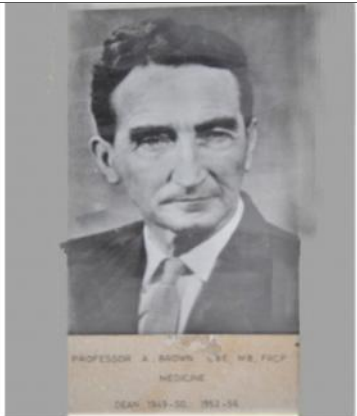
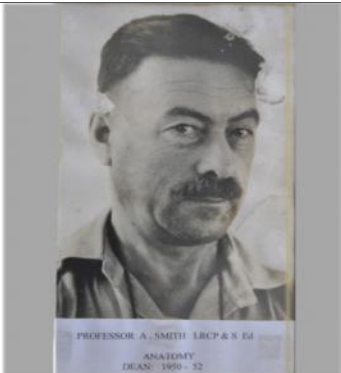
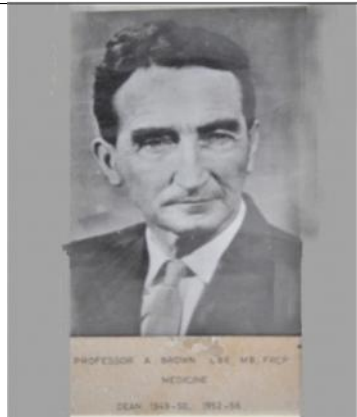
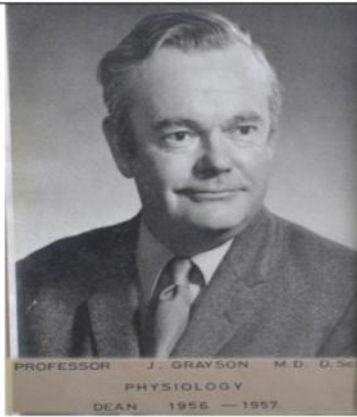


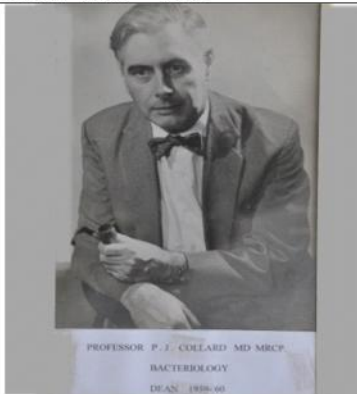

of cases native to Africans required for training medical doctors for the continent.

Tribute to Deans and Provosts of the College of Medicine: Such was the determination of the founders to achieve their plans for Ibadan Medical School that the first senior academic appointment to be made by the University in March 1948 was that of Professor Beatrice Joly as the foundation Head of the Department of Surgery and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. Further senior appointments were added quickly and by 1949, the five foundation Professors in the departments considered most essential to the commencement of the medical school, and thus indicative of its primary academic orientation, were on-ground. The five foundation Professors and their years of appointment were Beatrice Mary Joly (Department of Surgery, 1948), Thomas Richard Parsons (Department of Physiology, 1948), Alexander Brown (Department of Medicine, 1948), Oladele Adebayo Ajose (Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, 1948), and Alastair G. Smith (Department of Anatomy, 1949). Aside from the appointments of these Professors, the University spared no expense in establishing an excellent Faculty of Medicine by appointing other academic and non-academic staff and acquiring the facilities required by a modern tertiary institution. Furthermore, important collaborative efforts between the medical academic staff and their colleagues in other Faculties such as Science, Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture, and the Social Sciences expanded the pool of intellectual input and resulted in many major advances in science and learning across board. In 1980, the Faculty of Medicine transformed into the College of Medicine and continued its drive for excellence and relevance. From this pool of gifted staff, Deans and Provosts have led the College to increasing levels of academic and professional

excellence, navigating through challenges and triumphs. Great leadership is always deliberate, passionate, incremental, drawn from experience, and vision-driven. By standing on the shoulders of giants, vision is expanded.

The University College Hospital, Ibadan: The Teaching Laboratories of the Biomedical Academic Staff at the time of the establishment of the University College Ibadan, and the hospital facilities on ground for use as a University Teaching Hospital were

Photos of Past Deans of the Faculty of Medicine and Provosts of the College of Medicine

		
Professor Beatrice M. Joly MD, MRCP, FRCS, (Surgery) Dean: 1948 -- 1949	Professor A. Brown C.B.E MS, FRCP, (Medicine) Dean: 1949 -- 1950	Professor A. Smith L.R.C.P. & S.E.d, (Anatomy) Dean: 1950 -- 1952
		
Professor A. Brown C.B.E MS, FRCP, (Medicine) Dean: 1952 -- 1956	Professor J. Grayson MD D.Sc., (Physiology) Dean: 1956 -- 1957	Professor Beatrice M. Joly MD, MRCP, FRCS, (Surgery) Dean: 1957 -- 1958
		
Professor O.A. Ajose MD (Preventive and Social Medicine) Dean: 1958 -- 1959	Professor P.J. Collard MD MRCP, (Bacteriology) Dean: 1959 -- 1960	Professor G.M. Edington, C.B.E., MD, FRCP, (Pathology) Dean: 1960 --- 1962

 <p>PROFESSOR J. C. EDOZIEN MD, FRCP Ed CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY DEAN 1962-66</p>	 <p>PROFESSOR E. L. ODEKU MD, FICS, FACS SURGERY DEAN 1968-70</p>	 <p>PROFESSOR O. O. AKINKUGBE MD, DPhil, FRCP Ed MEDICINE DEAN 1970-1974</p>
<p>Professor J.C Edozien MD, FRCP Ed, (Chemical Pathology) Dean: 1962 -- 1966</p>	<p>Professor E.L Odeku, MD, FICS, FACS. (Surgery) Dean: 1968--1970</p>	<p>Professor O.O.Akinkugbe, MD, DPhil. , FRCP ,Ed (Medicine) Dean: 1970-- 1974</p>
 <p>PROFESSOR B.O. OSUNTOKUN OFR, D.Sc, MD (Lond), PhD (Lond), FRCP (Lond), FMCP (Nig), FWACP, FAS (Medicine) DEAN OF MEDICINE 1974 - 1978</p>	 <p>PROFESSOR E. O. AKANDE MBBS (Lond), D.Phil (Oxon), FRCOG, F.M.C.O.G (Nig), F.I.C.S., F.W.A.C.S., OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY DEAN 1978 - 1980</p>	 <p>PROFESSOR E. OLUWOLE AKANDE PROVOST COLLEGE OF MEDICINE 1980 - 1984</p>
<p>Professor B.O. Osuntokun. OFR. D.Sc, MD, (Lond) PHD (Lond), FRCP (Lond), FMCP (Nig), FWACP, FAS.(Medicine) Dean: 1974 -- 1978</p>	<p>Professor E.O. Akande MBBS (Lond), D Phil (Oxon) F.M.C.O.G (Nig), F.I.C.S., F.W.A.C.S., (Obstertrics and Gynaecology) Dean: 1978 -- 1980</p>	<p>Professor E.O. Akande MBBS (Lond), D Phil (Oxon) F.M.C.O.G (Nig), F.I.C.S., F.W.A.C.S., (Obstertrics and Gynaecology) Provost: 1980 -- 1984</p>
 <p>PROFESSOR O. A. OJENGBEDE BSc (Med Sci), MBBS (Ib), FICS, Cert. Family Planning, FMCOG, FWACS PROVOST COLLEGE OF MEDICINE 1994 - 1998</p>	 <p>PROFESSOR M. T. SHOKUNBI MBBS (Ibadan) MSc (Uwo) FRCS, FWACS, F.I.C.S. PROVOST COLLEGE OF MEDICINE 1998 - 2002</p>	 <p>PROFESSOR I. F. ADEWOLE MBBS (Ib), FMCOG (Nig), FWACS PROVOST COLLEGE OF MEDICINE 2002 - 2006</p>
<p>Professor O.A. Ojengbede, BSc (Med Sc.), MBBS (Ib) FICS, Cert Family Planning, FMCOG, FWACS. (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) Provost: 1994 -- 1998</p>	<p>Professor M.T. Shokunbi, MBBS (Ib), MSC, (Uwo) FRCS, FWACS, F.I.C.S., (Anatomy) Provost: 1998 -- 2002</p>	<p>Professor I.F. Adewole., MBBS (Ib), FMCOG(Nig), FWACS (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) Provost: 2002 -- 2006</p>

 <p>PROFESSOR A. O. OMIGBODUN MBBS (Ib.), FWACS, FMCOG(Nig.) PROVOST COLLEGE OF MEDICINE 2006 - 2010</p>	 <p>PROFESSOR O. O. AKINYINKA MBBS (Ib), PhD (Southampton, UK), FMC Paed. (Nig), FRCPC (UK) PROVOST COLLEGE OF MEDICINE 2010 - 2014</p>	 <p>PROFESSOR BABATUNDE LAWal SALAKO PROVOST COLLEGE OF MEDICINE MBBS(Ib), FWACP, FRCP (Edin), MNIM 2014 - 2016</p>
<p>Professor A.O. Omigbodun, MBBS (Ib), FWACS, FMCOG (Nig). (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) Provost: 2006 -- 2010</p>	<p>Professor O.O. Akinyinka, MBBS(Ib), PhD (Southampton(UK), FMCPead, (Nig), FRCPC(UK) (Paediatrics) Provost: 2010 -- 2014</p>	<p>Professor Babatunde Lawal Salako, MBBS(Ib), FWACP, FRCP (Edin), MNIM (Medicine) Provost: 2014 -- 2016</p>
		
<p>Professor Thomas Adeoye Lambo (PSYCHIATRY), Dean, Faculty of Medicine 1966 - 1968</p>	<p>Professor Ayotunde Oluremi Ogunseyinde, MBBS, FMCS, FWACS (Radiology), Deputy Provost to Professor O.O Akinyinka Completed the tenure of The Provost between 14TH Feb to 31ST July, 2014</p>	

inadequate. The UCI authorities therefore approached the Olubadan-in-Council for another piece of land for this purpose at Oritamefa, and this was duly given in 1953 during the reign of Olubadan Aleshinloye. Since this was billed as a new government hospital to be built for the people of Ibadan (but in conjunction with the medical school and thus under the control of the University), the funds were provided by the Regional and Federal Government of Nigeria.

When it was opened, the University College Hospital was equipped with the 'state-of-the-art' biomedical research, teaching and healthcare equipment, and its activities (as directed by the consultants) were firmly aligned with the academic priorities of the University. Through collaborative efforts both within the medical school and with academic staff in other faculties, and by putting the equipment to good use on a cooperative population, the Faculty of Medicine has made major discoveries in 'African biomedicine'

for which the University and its Teaching Hospital have gained global recognition. This raison d'être has stood Ibadan's Medical School in good-stead over the years. It has inevitably translated to the production of first-class graduates and specialists in medicine and the medical sciences with unparalleled expertise in African diseases, and thus the provision of excellent medical care of its patients all of which earned the institutions a reputation of being a world-class medical centre.

Service to the Community: Ibadan Medical School has also achieved global prominence in the area of Community Health. This is because it pioneered this concept many years before the Alma Atta Declaration. The first major break-through was provided from 1956 onwards by Dr. Adeoye Lambo's seminal observations on the effectiveness of the care of the mentally-ill in the community (in Aro Village, Abeokuta) in comparison to hospital-based care which became the model for treating the mentally-ill

worldwide. It also added weight to the demand for community-based health systems to be attached to the medical school. This was done in 1963 with the establishment of the Ibarapa Community Health Project and the incorporation of the Aro Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital. Both of these projects have since contributed a wealth of knowledge on the health of Africans to the world and remain renowned research and training centres. Additionally, curricula of several departments were also adjusted to be community-oriented. With the above activities Ibadan's University was able to achieve the aim of its founders for its medical school to be the flagship of medical instruction and healthcare provision in West Africa.

The Renaissance: Ibadan's meteoric rise stuttered with the socio-economic down-turn of the country especially in the 1980s and 1990s. The tertiary institutions were kept going only by the sheer determination of their executive, staff, students and alumni (both home and abroad) to swim against the tide. Indeed, the strength, depth and breadth of Ibadan's networks were tested to the full in these times, and its institutions became the focus of envy by other schools as it escaped the worst of the sequelae of this period of resource desertification as the brain-drain reached its peak nationwide. This synergism of these remarkable efforts meant Ibadan was poised for a re-emergence with the return of political, economic and academic stability at the turn of the century. Indeed the University was one of 10 research institutions selected world-wide by the World Bank as being on the 'Road to Academic Excellence' in its book that goes by the same name published in 2011.



Professor Oluwabunmi Olapade – Olaopa,
MBBS, MD, FRCS, FWACS, FMed, Ed, ACI Arb.
FAS (Surgery), Provost: 2016 - Date

College Leadership in the Renaissance: The 70th anniversary of the College of Medicine, Ibadan, will emblazon her achievements over the years and her plans for the future. The College plans to go forward still from these enviable points in her history, if only to maintain her position as the jewel of our great university and the leading national research and training health institution, and for the college to continue to produce graduates that are 'fit for practice' now and in the future. In particular, the College intends to build on and bring back those heady days of excellent multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary collaborative projects in health-education, health-research, and health-care, the college will re-connect with the individual and corporate funders within and across the borders. The college will engage her host society to ensure that she understands societal problems and desires, and partners with society in developing solutions that will be responsive to demands appropriately and adequately. Indeed, we have to aim to be the drivers by the delivery of quality healthcare through the advancement of medical science and the provision quality education for medical and other health professionals.

In this vein, the college needs to develop innovative home-grown strategies, and to re-create the enabling environment for her staff to advance her primary areas of responsibility of knowledge generation, knowledge acquisition, knowledge dissemination, and knowledge economics. It is obvious that College of Medicine, Ibadan, has the resources to achieve these ideals especially if these are properly tapped, harnessed and utilized positively. The College will continue to re-kindle the trans-disciplinary relationships within the academia and with her alumni that will return her to previously unassailable position as the epicentre of African biomedicine, and to the frontiers of medical science and education worldwide. Certainly, the world is expecting more from West-Africa's favourite medical school that has produced many of the regions finest medical doctors, bio-medical scientists and other health-care professionals.

It is apparent that to achieve all these ideals, College of Medicine Ibadan, will always need leaders to deal with the present which is now theirs to behold, and prepare her for the future. These leaders will have to demonstrate a clear understanding of contemporary health-education and research matters, both nationally and internationally, and command the respect of the university community, the alumni, industry, and relevant national and international organizations. Our leaders must be energetic yet focused, broad-based and unifying, independent-minded yet egalitarian, well-prepared yet tolerant, enthusiastic and reliable, disciplined yet compassionate, loyal and entrepreneurial. Finally, the

leadership has to be committed to scholarship, academic excellence and innovation, and for which the interest of the entire College, will be the primary consideration.

College of Medicine Ibadan Vision in the Renaissance: Over the years, the vision has significantly expanded. The current drive is to ensure that the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, will consolidate on her leadership position as Nigeria's foremost research and training health institution that will continue to provide quality health education and drive the development of health systems nationwide. In Pursuant of this vision, the present management of the college is committed to the following:

a. Optimization of assets such as novel instruments of instruction, unequalled staff, student and alumni resources, and the goodwill of a formidable heritage of excellence. This will involve improving institutional support for research projects, with emphasis on community-oriented research to improve the relevance of the College to its host society.

b. Revitalization of translational research efforts through the establishment of a Translational Research Laboratory (TRL) and support for multidisciplinary and inter-disciplinary research teams.

c. Building additional capacity in the College by improving the skills of teaching staff in research, training, and service to industry; enhancing best practices through dedicated faculty development programs, professional development of Non-Teaching staff across board to improve their performance.

d. Establishing formal mentoring programs for junior staff members (teaching and non-teaching), and increasing the publicity of research findings in both the print and electronic scientific and social media.

e. Improving the financial situation of the College by effective and efficient utilization of internally generated funds, securing additional funding from national donors through partnerships and endowments, and aggressive search for national and international research grants,

f. Creation of an enabling environment for staff and students by industrialization of the College processes and reinforcement of the reward of merit, improving the interaction between the College and other faculties/ academic units of the University, the University College Hospital, the Alumni, Industry and Civil Society.

g. Improving the ICT/Intranet networks to enhance e-learning, expanding and re-vitalizing the Medical Library to a modern and fully functional Library which is critical to a contemporary research and learning environment and;

h. Improving staff and student welfare with particular focus on improving water power supply.

i. There is also a drive to increase the number of undergraduate and postgraduate students and staff from other Nations of the sub-region and the world. Building a college of medicine where people of all tribes, races, and religious affiliations will have access to high quality education.

CONCLUSION

College of Medicine Ibadan has re-emerged, and all stakeholders have a role to play in ensuring that her beat of excellence, enviable and envied, must go on. It has been seventy years of distinction and service to the nation, Africa, and the world. Although the journey has had many challenges, the College has grown in strength and is undergoing a renaissance that is positively impacting on every stratum of the community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following Images were obtained from online websites; Prof. Idowu Olayinka (<https://www.pmnewsnigeria.com/2017/10/30/ui-admit-3500-201718-academic-year-ui-vc/>), Prof. Thomas Lambo (Remembering Thomas Adeoye Lambo and the mysteries of the African Mind, <https://www.thenewsnigeria.com.ng/2018/01/remembering-thomas-adeoye-lambo-and-the-mysteries-of-the-african-mind/>). The image of Kenneth Mellanby was obtained from his book titled 'The birth of Nigeria's University.' Mr. Soyomokun J. Taiwo of the College Biomedical Imaging Unit prepared the photographs of past Deans of the faculty of Medicine and Provosts of the College of Medicine with the permission of the Provost. The photograph of Professor A.O. Ogunseinde was obtained from a book on her valedictory lecture produced by the Department of Radiology, UCH, Ibadan. OSM acknowledges his wife Afie for her constant support and encouragement. Thanks to the Board of AIPM and the Publishers of the Journal (ARD-UCH) for sustaining the Chronicles of Medical History. Above all, gratitude and all credit go to God.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. **Oyelade AR**, Olapade-Olaopa EO, Aderinto A and Eni-Ogbedi B. The Flagship Project: Six decades of postgraduate education in Nigeria.

- ISBN: 978-978-488855-5-3. Postgraduate School, University of Ibadan (Ibadan). 2010.
2. The Road to Academic Excellence: The Making of World-class Research Universities. Philip G Altbach & Jamil Salmi (Eds). ISBN: 978-0-8213-8805-1, e-ISBN: 978-0-8213-8805-1. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank. Washington DC. 2011
 3. Early Medical Schools. Adelola Adeboye. Published by Heinemann Educational Books (Nigeria) PLC. 1998.
 4. The birth of Nigeria's University. K. Mellanby. Ibadan University Press. Catalogue number 6114/U. 1958.