



# ALUMNI NEWS LETTER

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## PROFESSOR EZEKIEL ADEMOLA CAXTON-MARTINS: A LEGENDARY TEACHER (1945 – 2012); B.Sc. (Hons), M.Phil, Ph.D, FASN

Professor Ezekiel Ademola Caxton-Martins was born on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1945 to Late Justice Ezekiel Agboola Caxton-Martins and Chief (Mrs) Modupeola Caxton-Martins (Nee Adesigbin) of the reputable J.W. Maritns and Adesigbin Layeni families of Ita Akanni, Ita Martins, Ehingbeti area of Lagos Island. The third amongst five siblings, he had his primary education at Christ Church Primary School, Broad Street, Lagos and Government Demonstration School, Surulere, Lagos. He proceeded to Eko Boys High School, Lagos and Ibadan Grammar School, Ibadan for his secondary and higher secondary school education. In 1966, he was admitted into the University of Ibadan, College of Medicine for his undergraduate studies which he successfully completed in 1970.



In October 1971, he proceeded to the Department of Human Morphology, University of Nottingham, London for his M.Phil studies which he completed in April, 1973. In addition, he was a visiting fellow to the Tokyo Dental & Medical University and the Kitasato Medical University in 1974 in Japan where he was exposed to techniques and practices of Electron Microscopy and Electron Immuno-Histochemistry, making him the first Nigerian to receive training in these areas of research in the field of Anatomy. In 1984, he obtained his Ph.D from the University of Ife, Ile-Ife.

Prof Caxton-Martins was not only a lecturer but a scholar and a researcher with numerous publications in scholarstic and learned journals, thesis/dissertation and articles. He has, during the course of his career contributed immensely to the training, grooming and development of many Medical Doctors, Dental Surgeons, Nursing Science Practioners, Occupational and Physical Therapists both from the University of Ife now Obafemi Awolowo University and from other Higher Institutions in the Country.

He started his career from the University of Ibadan as Research Assistant, Department of Anatomy 1970- 1971; he resumed in the University of Ife as Assistant Lecturer, Human Biology & Behaviour in 1973; Lecturer II in 1975; Lecturer I in 1977; Senior Lecturer in 1979; Associate Professor in 1986; Acting Head of Anatomy Department from 1984 – 1991; full Professor in 1992; Vice Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences 1993 – 1995; Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences 1996 – 1998; Deputy Provost, College of Health Sciences 1996 – 1998; Head, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology 1984 – 2006.

To do justice to "Caxto" (as popularly called), there is no undergraduate student that graduated from both the Faculty and College of Health Sciences of the University of Ife/Obafemi Awolowo University that did not pass through him since its inception. Not only was he interested in the training of undergraduate students, he developed the Post Graduate programme in the department of Anatomy and Cell Biology since 1984 which he took over as the Head of Department. He has subsequently produced many Ph.D, M.Sc and Diplomates in Anatomy for Nigeria, many of whom are contributing immensely to the training of Medical and Paramedical Professionals both within and outside the Country.

Prof. Ademola Caxton-Martins also rendered his services to other Universities within and outside the country. He was an external examiner to the University of Ibadan, University of Lagos, University of Calabar and University of Benin. He supervised the M.Sc students of the University of Ibadan, University of Benin and University of Calabar. The Part II MBBS programme of the University of Lagos, University of Ibadan, University of Benin, University of Calabar, University of Ilorin, Ladake Akintola University, Olabisi Onabanjo University, University of Ghana Medical School and the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, University of Sierra-Leone were not an exception to his tutelage. In addition, he was the Chairman of the National Universities Commission (NUC) Accreditation team to University of Calabar Medical School, University of Jos Medical School, University of Maiduguri Medical School, Bayero University Medical School, Abia State University Medical School, Ebonyi State University Medical School and University of Port Harcourt Medical School.

Prof Ademola Caxton-Martins was a member of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland; New York Academy of Sciences; American Society for the Advancement of Science; Anatomical Society of West Africa and Anatomical Society of Nigeria. He had also been cited in the Who is Who in Nigeria, the MARQUIS' Who is Who in the World, the Dictionary of International Biography and the American Biographical Institute. He was one of the foundation fellows of the Anatomical Society of Nigeria and once the Editor-in-Chief of the journal of Anatomical Sciences. Prof Caxton-Martins was not only immensely devoted to the academics, he was also the patron of World Youth League International, Olowogbowo Cultural Society of Lagos Island and held a chieftaincy title as the Bobagunwa of Aladeland, Idanre and the Babalesin of St Gabriel's Church, Ile-Ife.

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Though he retired from the Obafemi Awolowo University in 2006 after 37 years of meritorious and distinguished service to the University community, he was not tired in terms of continuous training, grooming and development of students in the Medical Sciences and Anatomy as area of specialization. Shortly after his retirement from OAU, he was appointed as visiting lecturer to the University of Ilorin and the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye.

'Prof or Baba Caxto' as he was fondly called in the academic circle was a great teacher, a world changer, an initiator of new ideas, extraordinary contributor to human development and academic excellence. Though he carried an appearance of disciplined yet fearful facial expression which presented different meanings to many, he was an approachable, loving, and compassionate man; an island of wisdom and knowledge, a complete gentleman, a good father and mentor to many. He lived an exemplary life as an apostle of humility, equity and fair play to the extent of rendering help to his adversaries and still remained highly focused. Academic excellence was his watchword as evidenced by his sheer hard work, dedication, his insistence on imparting the best training and the way he regularly pointed out mistakes during seminar in an official, fatherly, experienced and critical way.

**Prof Ezekiel Ademola Caxton-Martins, you were a Teacher, Father, Mentor, Supervisor, Scientist, Colleague and you will live forever in our hearts.**

Among his close family and friends, Prof Caxton-Martins was known to be an incredibly intelligent, kind, friendly and open person whose company they enjoyed tremendously. His sister (Ms Omolara Caxton-Martins) describes him as a "wise, loving, and indomitable man. An immensely strong character, combined with a unique natural grace and an infectious optimism about life." Being related to Prof Caxton-Martins became a symbol of pride and a phrase of expectation to many. He will be remembered as the man with white beards that gently picks his words as he talks and who helped a lot without compromising the place of credibility; A man who was accessible socially and empathetic towards the vulnerabilities of others; and also as a man who cherished, valued and respected his friends.

Prof Ezekiel Ademola Caxton-Martins was a formidable force, an encyclopedia of the sciences especially anatomy and an embodiment of knowledge. He established a legacy of pure excellence, tenacious living, sharpened intellect, academic excellence and accuracy.

Prof Ezekiel Ademola Caxton-Martins, you were a Teacher, Father, Mentor, Supervisor, Scientist, Colleague and you will live forever in our hearts.

## ALUMNI PROFILE MEET DR AYODEJI OLUWOLE ODUTOLU

Dr. Ayodeji Oluwole Odutolu is a Senior Health Specialist in the Africa Region at the World Bank. He is a medical graduate of Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife and had his post graduate training in Health Population and Nutrition from Keele University in the United Kingdom. He has extensive experience for more than 20 years working as project manager, international consultant, researcher and health advisor to governments and international organizations. He has special skills in strategic planning, project management, monitoring and evaluation, healthcare financing and policy development. He has a rich career history, marked with multiple successfully conceptualized and implemented innovative, target group-focused strategies in development projects at grassroots, national and international levels. Before joining the World Bank, he was the Country Director of the Harvard AIDS Prevention Initiative in Nigeria (APIN) for about five years (2001-2006). He also consulted for Harvard School of Public Health (2006-2009) and the World Bank (2005-2009) on HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Health System Strengthening in West Africa and the Caribbean region. In his current assignment, he leads innovative approaches in health care delivery at the primary health care level in Nigeria. Such innovations include results based financing, service delivery indicators surveys and promoting accountability in health care delivery to reduce social inequality and improve health outcomes of children and pregnant women in otherwise marginalized and poorly served communities and regions of Nigeria.



As a social entrepreneur, Dr. Odutolu was the founder and the first Program Director (1994-2001) of a Nigerian NGO Life Vanguard Inc. This was the foundation of his work in development. In the position, he led several projects in adolescent sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS prevention, leadership and entrepreneurial skills development and youth development. Thousands of youths benefited from the programme and some of them have become social entrepreneurs contributing to the growth of their societies or working with international development organizations. He was awarded the Osun State (Nigeria) Merit award in 2005 for lifelong contribution to youth development.

Prior to founding Life Vanguard, he pioneered medical practice in rural and semi-urban areas. He was the first Medical Officer of the Comprehensive Health Center, Ejigbo and ran a private clinic in the same town providing service for what is now five local government areas in Oyo and Osun State. It was a successful practice and his experience was the bases for his interest in public health knowing fully well that we can active prevent most of diseases that are repeatedly seen in the clinics and promote good health.

He is a member of many international organizations. He is a fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health and a Paul Harris Fellow. He published widely in scientific journals and he served as editor of and contributor to the first edition of *AIDS in Nigeria: A Nation on a Threshold* and *The Africa Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Program (MAP) 2000-2006: Results of the World Bank's Response to a Development Crisis*. His current interest is on social equity.

**Dr Ayodeji Oluwole Odutolu is the Guest Speaker for the forthcoming 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Late Professor Ige Grillo Memorial Lecture taking place on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013.**

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## NEWS FLASH

### PROMOTION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ALUMNI

The alumni secretariat on behalf of the staff, students and alumni of the College of Health Sciences, use this opportunity to congratulate eminent alumni who have attained great achievements in the chosen path in life. We congratulate

Dr (Mrs.) Norah Akinola on her recent promotion to a Professor in the Department of Hematology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

Dr Kayode Olabanji on his recent promotion to an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

### UPCOMING EVENTS



**COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**  
OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE, NIGERIA  
P R E S E N T S

*6th Annual*  
**LATE PROF IGE GRILLO**  
**MEMORIAL LECTURE**

THE M E

**THE IMPERATIVES FOR BUILDING EFFECTIVE  
AND EFFICIENT HEALTH SYSTEM IN NIGERIA**

DATE - **THURSDAY 30TH MAY, 2013** | TIME - **10.00AM**  
VENUE - **ODUDUWA HALL, OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE.**



**SPEAKER:**  
**DR. OLUWOLE ODUTOLU**  
*Senior Health Specialist, World Bank, Abuja.*

**CHAIRMAN:**  
**PROFESSOR BAMITALE OMOLE**  
*Vice Chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University*

**HOST:**  
**PROFESSOR SOLOMON OGUNNIYI**  
*Provost, College of Health Sciences,  
Obafemi Awolowo University*

**CHAIR, ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:**  
**PROFESSOR ADESEGUN FATUSI**

Alumni relations office information- 08108710562;  
ifechsalumni@yahoo.com, www.ifechsalumni.org

enquiries - Funmi (08160443335); Ayo (08035325069)

**PICTURE FLASH: LATE PROFESSOR EZEKIEL ADEMOLA'S SERVICE OF SONGS HELD AT THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**



From left: Prof (Mrs) Adejuyigbe (Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences), Dr (Mrs) Akinwusi, Prof Ogunniyi (Provost), Prof (Mrs) Faponle (Deputy Provost), Prof Adelusola (Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences), Dr Adewole (HOD, Department of Anatomy).

Staff, family members and well wishers giving tribute to Professor Caxton-Martins.



**Alumni Office**

Upper Floor, Provost Complex (Near Provost Office)  
College of Health Sciences  
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Tel: 0810-871-0562

E-mail: oauchsalumngmail.com

Website: www.ifechsalumni.org