

CITATION OF LATE PROFESSOR ABOLADE AJANI AWOTEDU

I write this citation as a long-term acquaintance, friend and working colleague of the late Professor Abolade Ajani Awotedu who passed into Eternal Glory of the Lord on Wednesday, the 26th of July, 2017 at the Donald Gordon Medical Center, Johannesburg, South Africa. It is a great honour for me to be asked to do this. I have known him since our younger days in the Medical School at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria; Medical Residency Training Programme at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria; early Consultant life at Ibadan, and much later days as a working colleague at the Walter Sisulu University and the Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital, Mthatha, South Africa.

Professor Bola Awotedu was born at Osogbo, Osun state on the 24th of February, 1949 to parents who originated from Ipara, Ogun State, Nigeria. He had his Primary School education at Methodist Primary School, Ibadan, Oyo State and Secondary School education at Molusi College, Ijebu-Igbo, Ogun State, from 1961 to 1965, and Government College, Ibadan for the Higher School Certificate from 1966 to 1967. He taught for 9 months in 1968 at St Charles Secondary School, Osogbo before proceeding to the University of Ibadan to read Medicine later that year. He qualified as a Medical practitioner in June 1973. He had his Internship at the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan from July 1973 to June 1974.

Postgraduate Residency (Internal Medicine and Pulmonology):

He did his Rotating Residency in Internal Medicine at the Department of Medicine, UCH Ibadan, from 1975 to 1978

He was a Clinical Assistant at the Respiratory Units of New Cross Hospital London and Guys Hospital, London from 1978 to 1980

Upon his return to Nigeria he was a Senior Registrar at the Department of Medicine, UCH, Ibadan, from 1980 to 1981

Senior Academic and Professional Positions :

He was appointed Lecturer I/ Consultant in the Department of Medicine, University of Ibadan and the UCH, Ibadan in 1981. He rose through Senior Lecturer and Readership to full Professorial positions culminating in his last appointment as Professor and Head of Department of Medicine in 1990.

International Positions after an early retirement at Ibadan: To develop his quest for excellence and International exposure to his career in Medicine and Medical Education Professor Awotedu took quite a number of International appointments:

. Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Zimbabwe & Consultant Physician, Parirenyatwa Hospital, Harare, Zimbabwe, 1990 to 1992.

. Senior Consultant Physician, Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital, Francistown, Botswana, 1992 to May 1997.

. Associate Professor & Head, Department of Pulmonology, University of Transkei, Mthatha, South Africa, May 1997 to 2004.

. Acting Head of Internal Medicine, University of Transkei, Mthatha, 2000 to 2003.

. Professor & Head of Medicine Walter Sisulu University, Jan 2004 to June 2016.

. Contract Professor, Walter Sisulu University, June 2016 to June 2017.

Professional Certificates & Diplomas: Prof Bola Awotedu's Academic and professional attainments are highly distinguished:

Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Ibadan - 1973

Fellow of the Nigerian Postgraduate Medical College of Physicians (FMCP) – 1980

Fellow West African College of Physicians (FWACP) – 1985

Fellow American College of Chest Physicians (FCCP) – 1988

Fellow College of Physicians of South Africa (FCP(SA) – 2000

Fellow Royal College of Physicians(Edinburg) (FRCP) – 2009

Fellow Royal College of Physicians(London) (FRCP) – 2012

Scholarships & Prizes: Notable amongst his achievements in this regard are:

Federal Government of Nigeria Scholarship, 1968 to 1973

French Government Scholarship for Research, 1985

American College of Chest Physicians Governors Community Service Award Nominee, 2001. Topic of submission "Building a Pulmonology Division to serve a large, poor and under-served population"

Membership of Learned Societies: Professor Bola Awotedu was a member of several professional bodies:

Member, Nigerian Medical Association

Member, South African Medical Association

Member, Association of Physicians of Nigeria

Member, Association of Physicians of West Africa

Member, Nigerian Thoracic Society

Member, British Thoracic Society

Member, South African Thoracic Society

Member, American Thoracic Society

Honours: Professor Bola Awotedu was a man of distinction. He received the following honours:

Recipient of the Nigerian achievement award 2009 in Medicine by the Nigerian High Commission, presented by His excellency, President Goodluck Jonathan and the Speaker of the House of Parliament of South Africa, Mrs Baleka Mbete.

Featured in the 2nd edition of the OMOLUABI, an e-magazine of the Association of Yorubas in Diaspora, South Africa, February – March 2017. “Professor Abolade Ajani Awotedu: A Quintessential Personality”.

Service to the Community:

While Head of Medicine at the University of Ibadan, he served in various Committees of the Senate and of the Faculty Board, including the Disciplinary Committee of the University. He was also the Hall Warden of the Clinical Students’ Hostel, Alexander Brown Hall, from 1987 to 1990. This tenor was well noted for discipline and fairness at the same time.

He served as external examiner to various Universities in Nigeria, including the University of Lagos, Jos, Shagamu and the Obafemi Awolowo University. Similarly in South Africa he served as external examiner to the University of Kwazulu-Natal, University of Stellenbosh, University of Cape Town and the National University of Rwanda at Kigali. He examined at both the Part I and the Part II examinations of the College of Physicians of South Africa.

Prof Bola Awotedu served in the Councils of both the South African Thoracic Society and the National Asthma Education Programme. He was a member of the Hamilton Naki Scholarship Board of South Africa, a body that awarded scholarships to poor but deserving students. He was a Council member of the College of Physicians of South Africa. He also served in the Consultancy of the NEPAD of the African Union on “Harmonization of Policy on regulation and registration of drugs in Africa.

As the Principal Investigator for a Medical Research Council of South Africa Flagship Research Project he attracted to the Walter Sisulu University funds totaling 18 million Rands (\$1.5 Million USD).

Prof Bola Awotedu was a Patron of the Association of Yorubas in Diaspora, South Africa (AYIDSA).

He was the longest serving Council Member and a great pillar of selfless service at the Full Gospel House of Prayers Church at Mthatha, where we worshiped for 18 years.

Scientific Publications: Professor Bola Awotedu was widely published academically, and to his credit are:

Journal articles: He published over 50 articles in local and international Scientific Journals

Professorial Inaugural Lecture, Walter Sisulu University, 2008, "Breath of Life: Trends in the Pathogenesis and Management of Asthma."

Books: 1. Science, Technology and Innovation for Public Health in Africa, 2009.

2. Asthma in Africa, 2012 He co-edited this book and wrote over 50 percent of the Chapters.

Major Conferences: He attended over 45 National and International Conferences in his chosen field of Pulmonology.

Hobbies:

In his younger days in played Table Tennis and had a passion for Photography.

In the latter parts of his life he was an expert in Medical history, Current affairs and World news as well as a Football and Cricket enthusiast.

Family Life:

His was a complete family life with a remarkable dedication to the care of each and every member of the nuclear as well as the extended family. It is remarkable that he bred a family of Medical doctors: himself a Physician, his wife a Family Physician with a Doctorate in Physiology, the first daughter is on the way to achieving a doctorate in Law, a subject very closely related to Medicine. His second daughter is a Paediatrician, the second son-in-law an Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, and the third and last daughter a Dermatologist in training. What a gift to the Medical Confraternity. He was blessed with 7 lovely grand children.

I will summarize the gentleman, Bola Awotedu as a distinguished Physician, Academician, Researcher, Family man and above all a child of God. Saint Paul in one of his epistles to the Corinthians said that "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (cf I Cor 9: 19-22). Bola Awotedu was a faithful and dutiful child of God, a human person who touched everyone that he met with tremendous power of the love of God, through genuine interest in peoples' lives and a kind and generous helping hand.

ADIEU MY BROTHER AND FRIEND, REST IN PERFECT PEACE.

By

Professor Patrick Oluwole Oluboyo.

Consultant Pulmonologist.

August 12, 2017.