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Editorial

David Olufemi Olaleye (1954 – 2021): An Undeleteable Loss

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Professor David Olufemi Olaleye
July 21, 1954 - 27 July 2021

When death calls is the title of the fourth track of the album released in 1989 by an English rock band, the Black sabbath. For the family, friends, students and colleagues of Prof. David Olufemi Olaleye, death actually came calling unexpectedly on Tuesday, 27th July 2021. The unpreparedness of his departure makes it so difficult for many people to come to the reality that he is no more with them physically.

O.D. as he was fondly called, was the Deputy Editor of the *Archives of Basic and Applied Medicine*. Apart from playing a key role in the conceptualisation of the journal in 2013 (after successfully midwifing the Unibadan Conference of Biomedical Research during his tenure as the Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Ibadan, Nigeria), he was always interested in quality and distribution of manuscripts in each issue. He read through and corrected most of the articles all issues of the journal before being published. He was indeed a very thorough and critical editor.

Reading through several tributes written by people close to O.D., it is clear that he touched the lives of many in different ways – teacher, mentor, counsellor, benefactor, breadwinner, researcher, e.t.c. Professor Olaleye was a Virologist par excellence who served his community selflessly and meritoriously. He impacted lives and made indelible marks in the sand of time. His contributions to science, health and national development is well captured in the tributes section of this special issue.

David Olufemi OLALEYE, *DVM, Ph.D, FAAS* was a Professor of Virology at the University of Ibadan and Consultant Virologist at the University College Hospital, Ibadan. He was born on July 21, 1954 in Ogbomosho, Oyo State, Nigeria, to the family of Pa James and Mama Esther

Olaleye, He joined the service of the University of Ibadan immediately after his NYSC in 1982 as Resident Veterinary Officer (Pathology) and later was appointed Lecturer I in the Department of Virology, College of Medicine of the same University in 1986 where he rose through the ranks of Senior Lecturer (1989) to Professor of Virology in 1995. Until his death on July 27 2021 Professor Olaleye was Director, WHO National Influenza Centre, University College Hospital, Ibadan; Director, HIV Laboratory, Department of Virology, UCH; Adjunct Professor, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, USA, Consultant Virologist, University College Hospital, Ibadan and Member of the Oyo State COVID-19 Task Force.

Professor David Olaleye graduated as Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D. V. M.) in 1981, Master of Veterinary Science (Diagnostic Pathology) in 1985 and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Virology in 1991, all from the University of Ibadan. Before coming to the University of Ibadan for his DVM program, young David Olaleye attended Ogbomosho High School, Ogbomosho, (1968-1972) and University of Ife, School of Animal Health, Ibadan Campus (1973-1975) where he bagged West African School Certificate (Division 1), and Certificate in Animal Health (Distinction Level) respectively.

He also had Certificate on Radiation Safety in the Laboratory at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA; Certificate on Principles of Epidemiology, Centers for Disease Control Atlanta, USA; Certificate on Communicable Diseases Control, Centers for Disease Control, Atlantic, USA; Certificate on Working Safely with HIV and other Blood Borne Pathogens in the Laboratory, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda; Certificate on Laboratory Safety at the National Institutes of Health, NIH, Bethesda, USA and Certificate in Basic Course in Bioethics, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, USA.

As the Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria (2006 to 2010) and 4-time Head of Department, Department of Virology, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria (1994 to 1996, 1998 to 2001, 2004 to 2006, 2014 to 2018), he had over 20 years of management experience at the university level.

With 27 years as a professor, he was one of the long serving professors in the University of Ibadan and contributed a great deal in this capacity to the development of the academic system. In fact, he was referred to as one who held much of the institution's history and memories.

As a Lecturer, he taught basic and Medical Virology at various levels at the University of Ibadan including Bachelor's level courses in Microbiology, as well as in MBBS/BDS, M.Sc., Residency and Ph.D. programs. He

successfully supervised several M.Sc. dissertations and 21 Ph.D. thesis in Virology. In the last twelve years, his effort was focused on development of research capacity among junior faculty at the Universities in Nigeria. Professor Olaleye contributed and invested in-terms of time & effort, immensely to both human and infrastructural development in the Department of Virology, FBMS, COMUI, University of Ibadan and the Nigerian university system in general.

Professor Olaleye served the University of Ibadan and the country in various capacity, He was 4-time Head of Department of Virology, College of Medicine (1994-1996,1998 - 2001; 2004 - 2006, 2014- 2018); Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences (2006 to 2010); Member, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Academic Staff Assembly, (1986 -2021); Member, Committee of Provosts and Deans, University of Ibadan (2006 to 2010); Member University of Ibadan Development Committee (2006 to

2010); Member, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Appointment and Promotion Committee (1994 -2021); member, College of Medicine Academic Board, (1994 – 2021); Member, University of Ibadan Central Appointment and Promotion Committee (2002 – 2016); Member, University College Hospital, Ibadan, Medical Advisory Committee (1994 -2021); member, University of Ibadan Postgraduate Board; member, College of Medicine, Appointments and Promotion Committee for academic staff, Member, College of Medicine, Promotions Panel (1998-2017); Faculty Promotion Panel (1994 – 2021); Departmental Promotion Panel (1994 – 2021); Chairman, Panel on Mock Institutional Accreditation for University of Ibadan (2012 – 2014); Member, University Budget Monitoring Committee (2011 -2019); Chairman, University of Ibadan committee for prevention and preparedness for Ebola Virus Disease (2014 - 2015);

Table 1

David Olaleye as a research manager

S/N	FOCUS OF GRANT	GRANTING BODY	ROLE	PERIOD
1	Project on pathogenesis of Rift Valley fever virus	Wellcome Trust Fund	Principal Investigator	1987
2	Respiratory syncytial virus in the aetiology of acute lower respiratory tract infection among under five children	World Health Organization (Geneva)	Principal Investigator	1998-2000.
3	HIV Surveillance in Oyo State Project	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through APIN Harvard School of Public Health, USA	Principal Investigator	2001 to 2005
4	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV Project Phase II	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through APIN Harvard School of Public Health, USA	Principal Investigator	2002 to 2005.
5	Accelerated HIV and AIDS Treatment Program	Harvard PEPFAR (APIN-Plus), APIN Public Health Nigeria	Co-PI and Laboratory Director	2004 to 2021
6	Oyo 43 DOTS (TB/HIV) project support	AIDS Prevention Initiative Nigeria Plus-	Principal Investigator	2008 to 2011.
7	Medical Education Partnership Initiative in Nigeria grant (MEPIN). A grant for capacity development in six Nigeria universities	United States National Institutes of Health	Principal Investigator	2010 to 2015.
8	Centre for Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases	FME/FMST Post Basic, STEP-B.	Principal Investigator	2011 to 2016
9	Capacity building for mentorship at the University of Ibadan	United States National Institutes of Health	Co-Investigator	2013-2015
10	Capacity building for HIV Genomics in Nigeria	United States National Institutes of Health	Principal Investigator	2014-2015
11	Neuroimaging	United States National Institutes of Health	Co-Investigator	2013-2015
12	Postgraduate Academic Mobility for African Physician Scientist	European Commission,	Co-PI	2013 to 2018
13	HIV Drug Resistance: Implications for Optimizing Antiretroviral Therapy	Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta USA through the NIMR, Yaba	Co-Investigator	2013-2015
14	University of Ibadan MEPI Capacity Development Training for Junior Faculty (UI-MEPI-J)	United States National Institutes of Health	Principal Investigator	2015-2021
15	STRIPEN-HIV phase 1	NIH through University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) USA	Principal Investigator	2019-2020
16	Special Grant on COVID-19 Research	TETFund	Principal Investigator	2020 to 2022
17	CORVAN study	NCRC	Co-PI	2020 to 2021
18	STRIPEN-HIV phase 2	NIH through University of California Los Angeles, USA	Principal Investigator	2021

Prof Olaleye was Member (Senate Representative), Board of Otunba Tuwase Paediatric Hospital (2015 – 2017); Member (Senate representative), Board of Veterinary Teaching Hospital, University of Ibadan, (2015 – 2017); Convener, COPD Ad Hoc Committee on Inaugural Lectures, (2006-2007); Convener, COPD Ad Hoc Committee on grant sourcing and allocation of F&A (2008); Member, COPD Subcommittee on Senate Research Grants (2006-2010); Chairman, Panel of Investigation into the allegation of Headship Conspiracy in the Department of Theatre Arts (2011 – 2012); Member, Board of Examiners, Pathology Section, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan (1986-2021); Member, University of Ibadan Senate (1994 – 2021); Member, Board of Central Laboratory, University of Ibadan (2012 – 2014). At the national and global level he served as Member, Presidential Committee on Claim of Cure for AIDS by Dr. Abalaka (2000); Member, Presidential Committee on Avian Influenza outbreak (2006-2012); Consultant Virologist, National HIV/Syphilis Sentinel Survey Programme of the Federal Ministry of Health (1999 to 2012); Consultant Virologist and Member, Ministerial Committee on Integrated Disease Surveillance Program of the Federal Ministry of Health of Nigeria (2001- 2005); Facilitator, National HIV/Syphilis Sentinel Survey Program of the Federal Ministry of Health of Nigeria (1988 -1998) and Temporary Adviser to the WHO (Geneva) on design of National AIDS Program for Nigeria (1988).

Professor Olaleye was a brilliant researcher who made significant contributions to science globally, particularly in the area of Virology and infectious disease in general. He attracted one of the highest grants, in terms of number and USD value, to the University of Ibadan. Above is a summary of some of the grant award he received. Through prudent and judicious use of his research grants, Professor Olaleye contributed immensely to infrastructural and human capacity development of University of Ibadan particularly in research capacity of young faculties. He also played major role in the establishment and development of the Research Management Office (RMO) at the University of Ibadan and five other universities in the country.

Professor Olaleye won several Scholarships, Fellowships and Prizes at different stages of his education and career development including:

- Director's Prize for the overall best student in the certificate class and other prizes for the best student in specific courses, School of Animal Health, University of Ife, Ibadan Campus, Nigeria (1975).
- Federal Government of Nigeria Scholarship to study Veterinary Medicine in Nigeria (1975-1981).
- Oyo State of Nigeria Post-Secondary Merit Award on recommendation of the University of Ibadan (1977-1981).
- Department of Veterinary Pathology Prize for the best student in Pathology in the academic year (1979/80).
- German Academic Exchange (DAAD) Fellowship for a study visit to the Bernhard-Nocht Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Institute, Hamburg, Germany. (1989).

Georgina Odaibo is the Head, Department of Virology, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan

Samuel B. Olaleye is the Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan.

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- American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) travel grant to study at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA. (1990).
- Fogarty International Research Fellowship to study at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA. Sept. (1992).
- Lady Tata Memorial Leukaemia Research Fund to study at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA. (1992 – 1993).
- Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship to study at the Chemotherapeutisches Forschungsinstitut, Georg-Speyer-Haus, Frankfurt, Germany. (1996 – 1997).
- International Society for Infectious Diseases Visiting Scientist Fellowship (1996) to study at the Chemotherapeutisches Forschungsinstitut, Frankfurt, Germany.
- Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung Equipment Grant to work on Molecular Epidemiology of HIV-1 and HIV-2 in Nigeria (1997).
- National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Professional Service Contract to study at the Laboratory of Immunogenetics, Rockville, Maryland, USA. (1997 – 1998).

Professor Olaleye was one of the founding members of the African Forum for Research and Education in Health (AFREhealth) and a member of the Governing Council of Medical Education Partnership (MEPI) that gave birth to AFREhealth. He was also a fellow of the African Academy of Science (FAAS), member of the America Science Honors Society (Sigma Xi), member International AIDS Society (IAS), member of World Virology Congress, member, Nigeria Veterinary Medical Association, member, International Society for Infectious Diseases, member, National Geographic Society of U.S.A., member, American Society for Microbiology, USA, member, African Society for Laboratory Medicine, member, Consortium of Universities in Global Health (CUGH) as well as member of many other national and international scientific and professional bodies.

He was a dedicated, committed, and hardworking person who appreciated hard work and would not compromise standard. He was a forthright person who would always see white and call it white, outspoken and truthful. He respected everyone, irrespective of age and gender, he was humility personified. He was a system person and a patriotic Nigerian. He is someone who always considered the interest of the system first, be it the Department, Faculty, University and the country at large in any decision or comment.

Professor Olufemi David Olaleye is survived by his beloved wife, Mrs Caroline Adedayo Olaleye, children; Oluwadamilola, Oluwafunmilola, Oluwatomilola and Oluwafisola; grandchildren and siblings.

May his soul continue to rest in the bosom of his Creator. Indeed, death came calling at the wrong time!