

Tribute
to
Amazon of Pharmacology
Professor Dinah Mary James, OBE
25 March 1919 - 09 February 2020

She came, she saw and not only did she conquer, she left an enduring legacy in Nigeria, the country she lived for twenty years from 1958 when she arrived. Almost without gainsaying, Professor Dinah Mary James, OBE, who was fondly called *Iya Pharmacology* spent her *entire* productive years for research and training in Pharmacology at the Nigeria's first Medical School, University of Ibadan where she rose to become the first Professor of Pharmacology in 1965.

Professor Dinah Mary James was appointed Senior Lecturer in our Department of Pharmacology in 1958 and was the first Academic to be appointed directly in the fledging Department which had been part of Department of Physiology until 1952. She retired from the University in 1978 and returned to the United Kingdom. In 1980, Professor Dinah James was conferred with the prestigious OBE by her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II for services to medicine and research.

The commitment of, and fortunately the impact of *Iya Pharmacology* in the research and teaching of pharmacology to generations of students from all parts of the country could place her in the same league of *Pharmacology Greats* like: Oswald Schiedeberg (Germany), John Abel (USA), and Arthur Cushny (UK), at least, insofar as Nigeria is concerned! Indeed, Our University of Ibadan benefited from great Pharmacologists like Bill Bowman, Eleanor Zaimis, Alan Cuthbert and Heinz Schild who, at the instance of Dinah James, were regularly visiting for purpose of research and training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students of the University.

On Sunday, 09 February 2020, only weeks to her 101st birthday on the 25 March 2020, *Amazon*, Professor Dinah Mary James, OBE, took her last breath and finally slept for ever; *Iya Pharmacology*, good night



Professor Dinah Mary James, OBE
1919 - 2020

Tribute by D T Okpako - Retired Professor, Former Head, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences; Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Ibadan, Nigeria and, F A Fehintola - Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.