

Tribute

Profile of a Don - Prof. Eme Osim Retires

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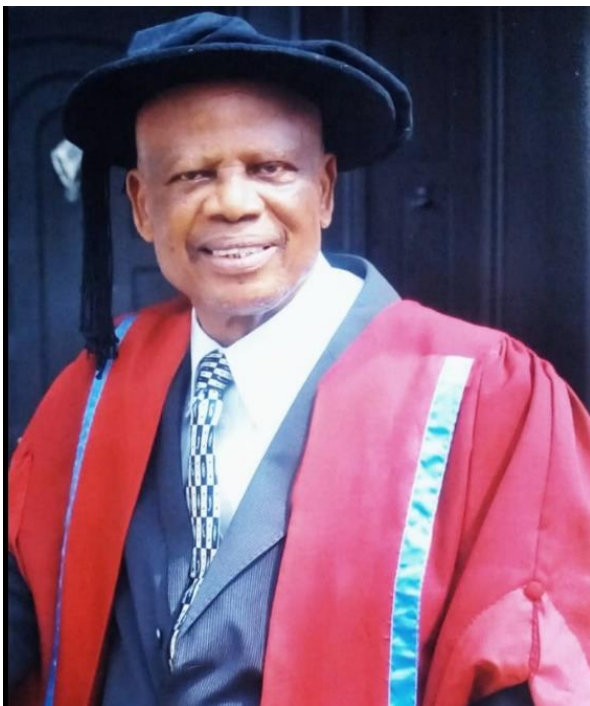
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Summary: Prof Eme E. Osim served Editor-in-Chief of Nigerian Journal of Physiological Sciences between 1999 and 2009. This tribute highlights his immense contributions to the development of the journal and academia.

Keywords: *Tribute, Eme Osim, Retirement, Nigerian Journal of Physiological Sciences*

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*Prof. Eme E. Osim
Editor-in-Chief (1999 – 2009)*

The month of November 2020 marked the end of an era: the retirement after 43 years and four months of Prof. Eme E. Osim at the University of Calabar. As a former Editor-in-Chief of our prestigious journal, his services to the journal, an official publication of the Physiological Society of Nigeria is ranked as one of the most successful of an erudite scholar and researcher in Nigeria. During his years as the Editor-in-Chief, the Nigerian Journal of Physiological Sciences was indexed by many abstracting bodies such as National Library of Medicine (PubMed), Bioline, African Journals Online (AJOL) and Index Copernicus to mention but a few. He served the scientific community with dedication, passion and diligence.

Professor Eme Efiom Osim was born on 28th November, 1950 in Usumutong, Abi Local

Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. He completed his primary education at the Presbyterian Primary School, Abakaliki in 1962 and secondary education at the prestigious Hope Waddell Training Institute, Calabar, Cross River State. Eme Efiom Osim got admitted into the foremost University in Nigeria, University of Ibadan, Nigeria in 1972 and completed his B.Sc in Human Physiology in 1976. After his graduation, Eme Osim served his country under the mandatory National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) programme during the 1976/1977 NYSC year at School of Nursing, Sokoto. He belonged to the elite group of Nigerians who had his M.Sc degree in 1979 and a doctoral degree in Physiology at the famous University College, London in England. His research interest is in Neuro-physiology and Gastrointestinal Physiology. In the first year of his Ph.D. programme, he won Wellcome Trust Sponsorship and became a Wellcome Trust scholar in addition to being a University of Calabar scholar. He rose through the ranks to become Professor of Physiology in 1998. Professor Osim is one of the eleven physiologists in Nigeria awarded Fellow of Physiological Society of Nigeria (FPSN) for meritorious services to the growth of Physiology in Nigeria. Prof Osim was again awarded the Fellowship of Nigerian Society for Experimental Biologists (FNISEB) in 2016. He has also benefited from TETFUND Institution based research grant in 2015/2016. He served as Associate Professor and Professor of Physiology in the Universities of Zimbabwe and Malawi respectively between 1997 and 1999.

After gaining research and teaching experience within and outside Nigeria, he settled down in University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria where he contributed immensely to the growth and development of human resources within the university and its environment. He was the Head, Department of Physiology for over 13 years. In 1998, he was

appointed Professor of Physiology at University of Calabar. He was the Deputy Provost, College of Medical Sciences from 1994-1996, member of University of Calabar Governing Council (1990 – 1993 and 2005 – 2007). He was a Sessional Consultant University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) between October 1999 and December 2020. He was the Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences between 2004 -2008 and later became Dean of Basic Medical Sciences and Head of Okuku Campus of Cross River University of Technology (CRUTECH) from April, 2013 – March, 2014. Prof. Osim has served as the Director, Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO) in University of Calabar since April 2018 till 2021.

Prof Osim has researched on many trending issues related to our environment and health and has published over 180 research articles and four books. One hundred of these publications can be found in selective SCOPUS. He has also trained many young scientists and supervised over 48 doctoral theses. Professor Eme E. Osim was in 2018 (jointly with Dr. S.A. Bisong) awarded a patent by the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the sole use and advantage of an invention for; Method of aqueous root bark extract of *Rauwolfia vomitoria* for ameliorating dementia in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease.

Prof. Osim has been a strong member of the Physiological Society of Nigeria. He has demonstrated his commitment to the Society by contributing to the growth of the Society and attending many meetings of

the Society. He served the Society as the National Secretary from 1992 to 1994 and became the

Editor-In-Chief, Nigerian Journal of Physiological Sciences between 1999 to 2009. In 2011, soon after Prof Osim completed his ten-year tenure as Editor-in-chief, TETFUND chose Nigerian Journal of Physiological Sciences as one of the best 50 journals in the country and awarded a 5 million Naira grant. Prof. Osim became the President of the Physiological Society of Nigeria from 2009 to 2014. In his time as the President of the Society, many innovations concerning meetings and scientific sessions were introduced. He was appointed a Fellow of the Society in 2010 and he is currently Chairman, Board of Trustees of Physiological Society of Nigeria.

His contributions to meetings and suggestions to the Physiological Society will still be reminiscent though he bows out of the University of Calabar. He has been a mentor to young physiologists, an honest reviewer of many manuscripts, and excellent leader in research and administration. Prof. Osim has been a critical thinker and provides innovative ideas when there seems to be no way forward in research direction. The Editorial Board of the journal will continue to remember his contributions in terms of his research impact and teaching career that has produced many professors, researchers and quality research findings to the journal. As a happy family man, we congratulate Prof Osim on his retirement from active service of the University of Calabar and wish him a healthy and happy life.