

Tribute

An Editor Bows Out - Tribute to Prof. Anthony Ebeigbe as He Retires

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Summary: This tribute was written to appreciate the longest-serving Editor-in-Chief in the history of this journal as he retires from active teaching and research. His contributions to the Physiological Society of Nigeria is outstanding and his relationship with colleagues highly commendable.

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*Prof. Anthony B. Ebeigbe
Editor-in-Chief (1987 – 2001)*

*Let those who sleep wake up
Let them arise as the listening skies
To appreciate God's love for him who lives and works so hard
Him through whom God's love washes
Lift up your glass to celebrate with us
One who deserves the best of everything*

The first time I met Prof. Anthony B. Ebeigbe was at a Scientific meeting of the Physiological Society of Nigeria about 32 years ago. I was at the meeting as a young student of Physiology and President of Physiology Students Association. I had gone to the meeting to seek for the support of alumni of Ibadan Physiology programme for a student association that needed a direction, focus and encouragement of those who passed through the programme. We asked our lecturers at that time to give us names of those who they thought were worthy Physiologists and who would be approachable. Prof Ebeigbe's name was mentioned by all of them. He did not disappoint us

when we eventually met him after he gave a very interesting presentation at one of the sessions. His counsel made a lot of difference to my understanding of Physiology and he encouraged me to go all out to pursue a career in Physiology. Generations of students and young faculties in several Nigerian Universities have similarly been impressed with the way Prof Ebeigbe relates and picks interests in their academic and professional pursuits. He is indeed a friend of the young generation. His formal exit from the University as he takes a bow out of the ivory tower on August 22, 2020 is therefore expected to be a celebration of fulfilled years of mentoring, service and administrative excellence.

Born on August 22, 1950 at Igbanke in Edo State, Anthony Ebeigbe attended Nigeria's premier University and graduated with a degree in Physiology in 1974. He joined the services of the newly established University of Benin in 1975 as a Graduate Assistant. He belonged to the elite group of Nigerians who had the opportunity of pursuing a higher degree at the famous Institute of Physiology at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, from where he got a doctoral degree in Physiology in 1980. He returned to his station in Benin and rose through the ranks to become an Associate Professor of Physiology in 1984. Even after his return to Benin, 'Tony, as he is fondly called by his peers, had research exposures in several laboratories around the world. He was at the Physiology Department, University of Michigan Medical School, USA as a visiting Research Scientist and later as a Fulbright Scholar in 1982. In 1985, he was Research fellow at the Preclinical Research laboratories of Sandoz Ltd., Basel, Switzerland. Between 1987 and 2005, he was visiting Professor to Universities and Pharmaceutical companies in Brussels (Belgium), Basel (Switzerland), Glasgow

(U.K), London (U.K) and Newcastle (U.K). In 2004 – 2005, he was Richard A. Bernstein distinguished Professor at the Department of Natural Sciences, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Maryland, U.S.A. Prof Ebeigbe was a recipient of many research grants and awards both within and outside Nigeria.

After traversing the globe for laboratory research and teaching experiences, he settled down to contribute his quota to the administrative development of the University of Benin, where he held several administrative positions. In 1990, he was appointed Professor of Physiology at the Bendel/Edo State University (now Ambrose Alli University), Ekpoma. At Ekpoma, he was Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences between 1991 and 1993. He later returned to base at the University of Benin as professor (by appointment) in 1993. He was elected Provost, College of Health Sciences, University of Benin between 1993 and 1994. He also served as the acting Vice Chancellor of PAMO University of Medical Sciences, Port Harcour, on its establishment in 2018.

Prof Ebeigbe has been a great and reliable pillar within the Physiological Society of Nigeria. He is perhaps one of the very few (not more than five) who would dare all consequences to attend the Annual General Meetings of the Society (except when not in Nigeria). He was the Society's National Secretary between 1983 and 1987. He became the second Editor-in-Chief of the Nigerian Journal of Physiological Sciences in 1987, a position he held till 2001, when he

became the Vice President. He is thus the longest serving Editor-in-Chief of the Journal till date. During his tenure as editor, he exposed the Nigerian Journal of Physiological Sciences to several University libraries around the globe. He also laid the foundation for the Journal's inclusion in Medline and many other Indexing services. Prof Ebeigbe became the President, Physiological Society of Nigeria in 2005 at the Society's meeting in Port Harcourt and served in that capacity till 2010. He is a member of both the Board of Trustees (B.O.T) and also heads the Body of Fellows (B.O.F), of the Society.

Though Prof Ebeigbe is retiring from active duties, it is sure he will not withdraw from our midst in the Physiological Society of Nigeria. His jokes, historical interjections at meetings, his intelligent suggestions on how to move PSN forwards and his regular lectures to upcoming Physiologists will continue to be focal points at meetings.

We in the Board of the Nigerian Journal of Physiological Sciences will continue to celebrate a man whose impact has been well felt in his career, an honest reviewer of manuscripts, experienced editor, an excellent teacher and researcher who has produced several Professors, someone whose amicable and approachable manner made him a helpful resource for junior colleagues and lastly, a proud family man.

We congratulate Prof Ebeigbe and wish him a long, healthy and happy life in retirement.