



# **WESTERN NIGERIA JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (WNJMS)**

**OBITUARY - VENERABLE PROFESSOR GABRIEL ADEMOLA OYEDEJI: A  
REMARKABLE LIFE OF SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT**

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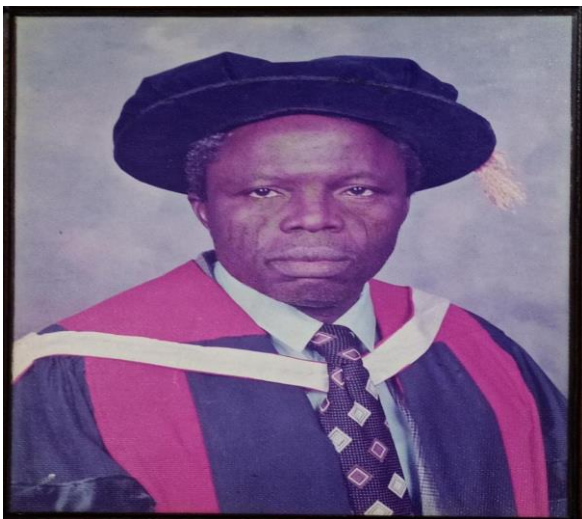
Professor Kehinde Oluwadiya  
Editor-in-Chief

Correspondence to: [editor@wnjms.com.ng](mailto:editor@wnjms.com.ng); [oluwadiya@gmail.com](mailto:oluwadiya@gmail.com)

**Prof Gabriel Ademola Oyedeji** was the first Editor-in-Chief of the Western Nigeria Journal of Medical Sciences

*"And now the time has come for me to depart, for I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7*

On December 21, 2022, the world bid farewell to a remarkable individual whose accomplishments were matched only by his humility—an individual I have long admired and sought to emulate. Professor Gabriel Ademola Ajagbe Oyedeji was a towering figure among us, yet he possessed an innate ability to seamlessly blend in with the rest of humanity.



**Ven. Professor GA Oyedeji**

Born in 1930, his journey of exploration and learning began at St. Paul's Primary School in Ido Osun and continued at the United

Central Anglican Primary School in Ilobu, Osun State. It was during his time at the renowned Igbobi Boys High School in Lagos that his academic prowess shone brightly. Following a brief teaching stint at Methodist Boys High School in Lagos, he pursued higher education at the University of Ibadan, ultimately earning his MBBS degree in Medicine and Surgery.

Driven by an insatiable thirst for knowledge, Professor Oyedeji embarked on a transformative journey to the University of Liverpool in 1973. It was there that he garnered acclaim, receiving the prestigious Cicely-Williams Prize for his exceptional contributions to Tropical Pediatrics. As the first African and Nigerian to receive this honor, the prize was presented to him by none other than Cicely-Williams herself. This experience solidified his expertise, earning him the esteemed title of Consultant Paediatrician.

Professor Oyedeji's medical career commenced at the University College Hospital (UCH) in Ibadan, with subsequent service at Adeoyo Hospital, Ibadan. In 1976, he began his academic endeavors at the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) in Ile-Ife, assuming the role of a Lecturer 1 and Honorary Consultant. Over time, he ascended the ranks, eventually becoming the first indigenous Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) in 1989.

Throughout his distinguished 45-year career, Professor Oyedeji made substantial contributions to the field of medicine. He authored over 100 articles in esteemed journals, both domestically and internationally. He lent his expertise as an Examiner for the West African College of Physicians and as an External Examiner for various Nigerian universities and West African nations. Notable among his contributions were the publications "Cooperation for African Development" and his trilogy "Sense and Nonsense about Health and Healing, The Ordinary Christian, and Considerations: Sacred & Secular."

Unwavering in his integrity and commitment, Professor Oyedeji assumed numerous leadership positions. He served as the Head of the Department of Pediatrics of OAU and Chairman of the Medical Advisory Council at Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex (OAUTHC), Ile-Ife. Additionally, he held the role of two-term Provost of the College of Health Sciences. He chaired the Christian Health Association of Nigeria and helmed the Department of Pediatrics at LAUTECH, Ogbomoso. In recognition of his exceptional contributions, he was honored with the Osun State Government Distinguished Recognition Award.

Beyond his professional achievements, Professor Oyedeji garnered numerous accolades for his selfless service to the Church and community. He held the esteemed position of Honorary Chairman of the Christian Health Association of Nigeria (CHAN), playing a pivotal role in the establishment of Diocesan Health Boards within the Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion. In 2000, he graced the pages of the inaugural edition of "Who's Who in Nigeria," published by Newswatch Nigeria, alongside iconic Nigerian figures such as Late Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

Furthermore, Professor Oyedeji served as the first Editor-in-Chief of this journal, where I had the privilege of working with him as the co-editor. I witnessed firsthand his dedication and unwavering commitment to duty. His visionary leadership guided the publication to numerous achievements during a remarkable three-year tenure.

In the words of Mother Teresa, "The measure of a life well-lived is in the selfless service rendered to others." Venerable Professor Gabriel Ademola Oyedeji embodied this sentiment, dedicating his life to the noble causes of medicine, academia, and community.

**May his soul rest in eternal peace.**