

A BRIEF CITATION ON PROF. DENNIS EDOKPAIGBE AGBONLAHOR, FAS

Born in Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area of Edo State, on November 2nd 1945, Professor Dennis Edokpaigbe Agbonlahor received his Western & Professional Educations from St Mathew's Anglican Primary School, Benin City; Holy Trinity Grammar School, Sabongida Ora; National Veterinary Research Laboratory Training School, Vom; Paddington Technical College, London; and College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Nigeria.

The Medical Microbiologist/Consultant Medical Laboratory Scientist, holds both Masters and Doctorate Degrees in Medical Microbiology from the University of Lagos; the Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists (FRCPath, UK), Fellowship of the Nigeria Academy of Science (FAS), Fellowship of the Nigeria Academy of Medicine Specialties (FAMedS) and the Fellowship of West African Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Sciences (FWACMLS).

Prof. Agbonlahor was a former Vice Chancellor of Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, (1999-2004), having earlier served as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) (1994-1997), Dean of Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences (1993-1995) and Dean of Faculty of Natural Sciences, (1988-1992) in AAU, Ekpoma. He was appointed Professor of Medical Microbiology on 14th June, 1988. **As at date, Professor Agbonlahor has to his credit, 137 scholarly publications in reputable journals worldwide.**

The core of his Scientific contributions are spread around research findings on his innovative phenotypic & molecular laboratory diagnosis of causative bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic pathogens from human and animal clinical specimens. Of special note, is his maiden discovery & description of a novel diarrheagenic pathogen, which he named *Yersinia enterocolitica*-like bacterium in 1982. It is also significant to note how he fearlessly joined the team of the Lassa fever investigators in Nigeria at the outset of outbreaks of this dreaded disease in the 70s & 80s. His involvement and experiences during the 1989 episode in the University Town of Ekpoma remains noteworthy.

Professor Agbonlahor has, over the years, passionately worked for the national recognition and academic upliftment of his profession, Medical Laboratory Science. He served as the **National President of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria between 1988 and 1996. He also served as the Chairman of the Governing Board of Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria/ from 2005 – 2007, and got re-appointed for a second term from 2009- 2011.**

He played very crucial and decisive role in the transformation of the training of Medical Laboratory Scientists in Nigeria from the former professional Diploma programme to its current five-year university degree programme in the late 1980s and 1990s.

He has continued to serve as a consultant on the World Expert Advisory Microbiology Board of the International Federation of Medical Laboratory Scientists.

Professor Agbonlahor belongs to several academic societies and professional bodies.

- He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science (FAS).
- Prof Dennis Agbonlahor was the 2022 Winner of Hallmarks of Labour Foundation Award for his Excellent Contributions in the field of Science(HLR).
- He is a Foundation Fellow of the Academy of Medicine Specialties of Nigeria (FACadMedS)
- He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, (FRCPath, UK);
- Fellow of the Royal Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, (London);
- He is a Fellow of the Biotechnology Society of Nigeria (FBSN)
- He is a Foundation Fellow of West African College of Medical Laboratory Science (FWACMLS)
- Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, (London)
- Fellow of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria;
- Fellow of the Microbiology Society of Nigeria
- Fellow of the American Society for Microbiology.
- He served as a member of the Presidential Committee of Experts on Inter-Professional Relationships in the Public Health Sector in Nigeria between 2013 and 2014.
- Professor Agbonlahor was appointed the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) Ambassador for Nigeria in October 2012 and this was renewed for additional 3 years in 2017.
- He served as the Chairman of the local organizing committee of the International Conference of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) held in Abuja in December 2018.
- **He is a member of the National Committee on the Control of Lassa Fever in Nigeria.**
- **He is serving as a member of the Ministerial Expert Advisory Committee on Covid-19, Federal**

Ministry of Health Response.

- **Professor Dennis Edokpaigbe Agbonlahor also served as the President of Biotechnology Society of Nigeria (BSN) between 2004 and 2006.**
- **He is the President and Founder of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Initiative(AMRAI, a health-based NGO)**

Prof Dennis Agbonlahor is the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Lahor Research Laboratories and Medical Centre, Benin City. The Biotechnology Centre/Laboratory Complex, which was established as a result of Prof Agbonlahor's passion for molecular diagnosis of infectious diseases, especially Lassa fever, currently has State-of-the-Art Molecular Diagnostic Equipment for Forensic & Parentage DNA Testing, including A310 Genetic Analyzer. This Laboratory is a Biosafety class II facility, where infectious microbial pathogens such as Covid-19, Lassa, Ebola, Hepatitis A, B & C viruses and other bacterial, fungal & parasitic infectious agents are investigated and laboratory confirmed.

The Laboratory Complex is accredited by both Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) & Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) for PCR Testing for Covid-19 and other pathogens.

Prof Dennis Agbonlahor is currently serving as a Contract Professor of Medical Microbiology in the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Edo State University, Uzairue, Edo State and a Visiting Professor to the Dept of Medical Laboratory Science, Igbinedion University, Okada, Edo State, Nigeria.

Professor Agbonlahor is married to a wife and blessed with four children, the most senior of them being a Professor of Medical & Environmental Microbiology in the University of Benin, Benin City.

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