OPENING ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR RAHAMON A. BELLO, FAEng AT THE 11th INAUGURAL LECTURE IN THE 2014/2015 ACADEMIC SESSION DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR MUSTAPHA ABUDU DANESI ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2015

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research), Professor Babajide Alo, FAS,
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Management Services), Professor Duro Oni,
The Registrar and Secretary to Council, Dr. (Mrs.) Taiwo F. Ipaye,
The Bursar, Dr. Lateef Odekunle,
The University Librarian, Dr. (Mrs.) Olukemi A. Fadehan,
The Provost, College of Medicine, Professor Folasade T. Ogunsola,
Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences Professor Afolabi Lesi,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
Gentlemen of the Press,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Eleventh Inaugural Lecture of the University in the 2014/2015 Academic Session entitled: “THE AFRICAN BRAIN: EFFECTS OF AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT ON BRAIN DISEASES” to be delivered by Professor Mustapha Abudu Danesi, a Professor of Neurology at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos.

Professor Mustapha Abudu Danesi was born on August 21, 1948 into the Danesi Royal family of South Ibie in Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State. He attended Moslem School, South Ibie (1955-1960) for his Primary Education, Our Lady of Fatima Grammar School, Auchi (1961-1962), Ahmadiyya College, Agege, Lagos (1963-1964) for his Secondary Education, Federal School of Science, Lagos (1965-1967) for his Higher School Certificate Education and he was admitted into the University of Ibadan in 1967 and graduated in 1972 with MBBS degree. He later obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Internal Medicine at the University of Edinburgh in 1975 and MRCP Diploma from Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Dublin Ireland in 1977.
Professor Danesi was employed as Consultant Neurologist to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital in May 1979 and Lecturer 1, at the Department of Medicine, University of Lagos in October 1979. He became Senior Lecturer in 1984, Associate Professor (1990), and Professor (1994). He had earlier had extensive clinical experience in various Hospitals in Nigeria and U.K. such as University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City; Royal Infirmary Edinburgh Scotland, Royal Infirmary Perth Scotland, Royal Infirmary Doncaster England and Burnley General Hospital, Burnley Lancashire, England. Under the auspices of the Association of Commonwealth University, he was a Clinical Fellow in Neurology and Clinical Neurophysiology at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London (1984-1985. He also worked as a Clinical Fellow in Advanced Neurology at the University of Virginia Hospital, Charlottesville, U.S.A., (1996-1998).

He is a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians, (FWACP) (1983); Fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College , (FMCP) (1994); Fellow Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, (FRCPI) (2002); Member, Nigerian Institute of Management (MNIM) (2005).

Professor Danesi has served the University meritoriously twice as Head of Department of Medicine (1998-2001 and 2004-2007) and Acting Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences (January – July 2012). He has served as member: Court of Governors of the College of Medicine (1991-1994), Member, Management Board University of Lagos Consultancy Services (1992-1996), Appointments and Promotion Board (2001-2004), Member, Committee for Entrepreneurship and Corporate Governance of the University of Lagos (2004-2008), and Member, Management Board of University of Lagos Health Centre (2009-2013). He was Chairman Student Welfare Board for the University (2001-2004). At the College of Medicine, he has also been Chairman, Library Committee Chairman, E-learning Committee and Committee on Student Health Insurance Scheme, and member Senior Staff Appointments and Promotion Committee. He is currently a member of the Central Research Committee of the University of Lagos, Member, Advancement Board of the University, Member, University Curriculum Review Committee.

Outside the University, Professor Danesi has been a Consultant to World Health Organization and member National Polio-Expert Committee since 2001. He has been an Examiner in Internal Medicine West Africa College of Physicians since 1987, also at the Faculty of Internal Medicine, National Postgraduate Medical College since 1994. He was the first Chairman, Neurology Subspecialty Committee, National Postgraduate Medical College (1999-2007) and member Neurology Subspecialty Committee, West African College of Physicians (2011 to date). Professor Danesi has also been an active leader in the University community. He was Chairman, Academic Staff Union of Universities, UNILAG branch (1987-1994), member National

With over 66 publications in both local and international reputable journals and chapters in books, the renowned scholar has participated and presented papers in numerous national and international conferences and supervised many Postgraduate fellowship Dissertations, Undergraduate projects in Physiotherapy and PhD. Thesis in Physiotherapy.

Professor Danesi is a Community man. He was President of Etsako Club 81, a foremost socio-cultural and community development club in Etsako, Edo State (2004-2006).


Professor Danesi is happily married and blessed with four (4) children. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is my honour to invite Professor Mustapha Abudu Danesi, to present his Inaugural Lecture.

**Professor Rahamon A. Bello, FAEng**

Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos

Wednesday, August 5, 2015.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research), Professor Babajide Alo, FAS,
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The Provost, College of Medicine, Professor Folasade T. Ogunsola,
Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences Professor Afolabi Lesi,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
Gentlemen of the Press,

Professor Mustapha Abudu Danesi, a Professor of Neurology at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos has just presented a comprehensive and rich inaugural lecture entitled: The African Brain: Effects of African Environment on Brain Diseases.

According to our inaugural lecturer, the environment is divided into Social and Physical. Studies in Lagos from his research showed that African social environment has adverse effects on brain diseases such as epilepsy, tetanus, neuro/AIDS and Stroke. He showed as erroneous the all-pervading beliefs that the cause of epilepsy is possession wrongly by demons or evil spirits and that epilepsy is contagious. Most of the people his study surveyed would wrongly avoid contact with epileptic patients; employers would not employ them or would dismiss any worker who had seizure at work; teachers would send away any child who had a seizure in School. Epileptic patients therefore always felt stigmatized by the condition and most would not accept the diagnosis or would hide the condition. Many of them were employed because they hid their condition but many did dangerous jobs including driving motor vehicles. The Lecturer's survey of doctors even showed poor knowledge about epilepsy. Before seeking hospital treatment, most epileptic
patients used traditional medicine and spiritual healing. While most of them discontinued traditional medicine, over 72% of those who used spiritual healing continued because of the psychological benefits they derived from it. Many herbal treatments were harmless but ineffective. The common cow's urine preparation was harmful and do cause brain damage. Poverty was also found to play a role in the treatment outcomes. Thus, only 37% were free of seizures. The Inaugural Lecturer further showed that the prevalence of epilepsy is higher in Africa than in developed countries. The commonest causes of epilepsy in Lagos were childhood febrile convulsions, birth injuries and head trauma. All of these causes can be prevented by good maternal and child care.

On Tetanus, our researcher found that most of the adults affected were below 40 years and were infected because none of them were immunized against Tetanus. A special group of people most affected were Commercial motorcyclists because of frequent injuries. Of particular mention was that Tetanus resulting after surgical operations in hospitals because equipment were sterilized by boiling rather than by autoclaves. Tetanus spores are resistant to boiling. Mortality of 37% found in earlier study in Lagos was reduced to 16% following introduction and use of the special treatment protocol designed in 1999.

On HIV, the studies of the Inaugural Lecturer showed that more than 58% of patients studied in Lagos had Neurological complications unlike in Europe where it has virtually disappeared. Stigmatization prevents many Nigerians with HIV from being detected and treated. The Lecturer's studies on stroke showed that Age-adjusted stroke incidences in Lagos were 54.5 per 100,000.0 similar to the current reported incidences in France. Incidences found in Nigeria earlier were lower than stroke incidences in France. While stroke incidence has been falling in Europe, it is rising in Nigeria showing that stroke prevention education is therefore now imperative. Poor and uneducated people are at special risk of stroke in Nigeria and should be targeted.

Studies relating to the physical environment of epileptic patients showed that the high environmental sunshine in Africa has beneficial effect on brain diseases. The sun reduces the excitability of brain cells. A comparative study showed a lower level of cerebral neuronal excitability in Nigerians compared to British patients. Study of British patients showed a lower level of excitability of brain cells in summer compared to winter and there was an inverse relationship between the amount of sunshine and the excitability of brain cells. This effect of sunshine in reducing cerebral neuronal excitability in Nigerian epileptic patients translates to less severe manifestations of epilepsy in Nigeria. Effects of sunshine also affect other neurological diseases. In Lagos the Lecturer found that Multiple sclerosis and migraine presented in milder forms and Multiple sclerosis was more easily treated here than in Europe. Exposure to sunshine increases vitamin D levels in the body which has been found to have beneficial effects on the brain.

Untreated epileptic patients who had spontaneous remission were found in a community survey in Lagos but severe epilepsy symptoms necessitating admissions were rare. Television or video games induced seizures were found to be rare in Nigerians.
With the successful delivery of this lecture, Professor Mustapha Abudu Danesi has shown sufficient intellectual sagacity and I therefore, welcome him to the revered league of academics who have fully paid their academic debt as a Professor of our University. He is therefore discharged and acquitted I urge you all to buy copies of the lecture for proper digest and for your libraries.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is my honour and privilege to declare this Inaugural Lecture closed.

Professor Rahamon A. Bello, FAEng
Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos
Wednesday, August 5, 2015.
PROFESSOR DANESI DELIVERS INAUGURAL LECTURE, AUGUST 5.

The Eleventh (11th) Inaugural Lecture of the University of Lagos in the 2014/2015 Academic Session entitled: The African Brain: Effects of African Environment on Brain Diseases will hold on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at 4.00 pm in the Main Auditorium, UNILAG, Akoka.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rahamon A. Bello FAEng will preside over the Lecture which will be delivered by Professor Mustapha Abudu Danesi of the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Medicine. Members of the University Community and the general public are cordially invited.

The amiable Professor Mustapha Abudu Danesi was born on August 21, 1948 into the Danesi Royal family of South Ibie in Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State. He is a proud alumnus of Moslem School, South Ibie (1955-1960), Our Lady of Fatima Grammar School, Auchi (1961-1962), Ahmadiyya College, Agege, Lagos (1963-1964), Federal School of Science, Lagos (1965-1967) and University of Ibadan (1967-1972). His kitty of academic and professional qualifications include, MB.BS Degree University of Ibadan (1972), Postgraduate Diploma in Internal Medicine, University of Edinburgh (1975), MRCP Diploma, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Dublin Ireland, (1977); Fellow of the West African College of Physicians, (FWACP) (1983); Fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College, (FMCP) (1994); Fellow Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, (FRCPI) (2002); Member, Nigerian Institute of Management (MNIM) (2005).

The Academic and Professional career of Professor of Neurology started when he was employed as Consultant Neurologist to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital in May 1979 and Lecturer 1, at the Department of Medicine, University of Lagos in October 1979. He became Senior Lecturer in 1984, Associate Professor (1990), and Professor (1994). He had earlier had extensive clinical experience in various Hospitals in Nigeria and U.K. such as University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City; Royal Infirmary Edinburgh Scotland, Royal Infirmary Perth Scotland, Royal Infirmary Doncaster England and Burnley General Hospital, Burnley Lancashire, England. Under the auspices of the Association of Commonwealth University, he was a Clinical Fellow in Neurology and Clinical Neurophysiology at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London (1984-1985). The renowned scholar also worked as a Clinical Fellow in Advanced Neurology at the University of Virginia Hospital, Charlottesville, U.S.A., (1996-1998).

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Committee for Entrepreneurship and Corporate Governance of the University of Lagos (2004-2008), and Management Board of University of Lagos Health Centre (2009-2013). He was Chairman Student Welfare Board of the University of Lagos (2001-2004). At the College of Medicine, the don was Chairman, Library Committee (2001-2004), E-learning Committee and Committee on Student Health Insurance Scheme, and member Senior Staff Appointment and Promotion Board (2011-2014). Presently, he is a member of the Central Research Committee of the University of Lagos, Advancement Board of the University, University Curriculum review Committee and Chairman of Research monitoring Sub- Committee.

Outside the University, the astute intellectual has been a Consultant to World Health Organization and member National Polio-Expert Committee since 2001. He has been an Examiner in Internal Medicine West Africa College of Physicians since 1987, also at the Faculty of Internal Medicine, National Postgraduate Medical College since 1994. He was the first Chairman, Neurology Subspecialty Committee, National Postgraduate Medical College (1999-2007) and member Neurology Subspecialty Committee, West African College of Physicians (2011 to date). Chairman, Academic Staff Union of Universities, UNILAG branch (1987-1994), member National Negotiating Committee of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (1991-1994), Chairman, Medical and Dental Consultant Association of Nigeria, Lagos University Teaching Hospital Branch (1994-1996), Vice-Chairman Nigerian Medical Association, Lagos State Branch(1990-1992) and President Lagos University Medical Society (1999-2003). At the Community Level, Professor Danesi was President of Etsako Club 81, a foremost sociocultural and community development club in Etsako, Edo State (2004-2006).


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