It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Seventeenth Inaugural Lecture of the 2014/2015 Academic Session entitled: The Conundrum Called Congenital Cardiac Defects: Insights by a Paediatric Cardiologist and Medical Educator. The lecture will be delivered by Professor Christy Amaiheaghara Nene Okoromah of the Department of Paediatrics, in our Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Medicine.

Born on December 16, 1964 in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Professor Christy Amaiheaghara Nene Okoromah attended Premier Primary School, Surulere, Lagos State and Federal Government Girls’ College, Calabar, Cross River State, where she enjoyed a Federal Government of Nigeria Scholarship Award between 1977-1979. She passed out as the best final year student with a Distinction in the West African School Certificate Examination (WAEC) in 1979. She then proceeded to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Anambra State where she obtained her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree in June 1985.

Shortly following the mandatory internship and National Youth Service, Professor Okoromah was admitted into the postgraduate residency training program in Paediatrics at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH) where she obtained the Fellowship of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (FMCPaed) in October 1995. She joined the services of the University of Lagos as Lecturer I in the
Department of Paediatrics in October 1999 and steadily rose through the ranks to Senior Lecturer in 2003, Associate Professor in 2007 and Professor in October 2011. She also obtained the FMed award with Distinction from the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER) Institute, Philadelphia, PA, USA (2004-2005).

Professor Okoromah is a recipient of several academic distinctions and awards including a Fellowship award by Effective Healthcare Program (EHCAP) for a mentorship program in Cochrane Systematic Review and Protocol Development, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom (2002-2003); Kenneth Warren Prize; IFME Scholarship award for Masters program in medical education at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Illinois, USA (2009-2011); Best Senior Resident recognition award by final year Medical Students UNEC, 1994; Ford Foundation Teaching Innovation awards program 2008.

She has served the University meritoriously in several administrative and academic capabilities including being Member, CMUL Academic Publication Committee (2013-till date); Medical Education Committee, College of Medicine (2005-2009); Curriculum Review Committee, (2006-till date); CMUL E-Learning Committee (2013-till date); Information Technology (IT) Committee, College of Medicine (2005-2008); Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Project Committee. Professor Christy Okoromah is the Director, Medical Education Development Unit (MEDU) (2013-till date); She is a Senate Representative on the University of Lagos Staff School Board of Governors (2013-till date) and Editor-in-Chief/Chairman, Medilag News, the official newsmagazine of CMUL (2009-till date).

Outside the University of Lagos, Professor Christy Okoromah has served as Chairman, Local Organising Committee, Annual Fellows' Lecture (2007-2008); Treasurer and Assistant Secretary, Faculty of Paediatrics, National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (2002-2007); Auditor, Medical and Dental Consultants Association of Nigeria (MDCAN), LUTH Branch (2006-2009) and Examiner, Faculty of Paediatrics, National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (Parts 1 and 2) (2001-till date). Our Professor of Paediatrics actively serves as an educator, youth developer, counsellor, and mentor to her community. She is a member of the non-governmental, non-profit initiative, Forward Africa, dedicated to improving the quality of life of grassroots communities through capacity building, microfinance, agriculture, health services, research and documentation.

She is a member of several local and foreign professional organisations including Cochrane Collaboration; Cochrane Review Group (CRGs) on Infectious Disease, HIV/AIDS, and Neonatology; Paediatric Association of Nigeria (PAN); Nigeria Medical Association (NMA); Cardiac Society of Nigeria (CSN) and Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN).
Professor Christy Okoromah has over forty (40) academic publications in both national and international reputable journals and chapters in books. She has participated and presented papers in numerous local and foreign conferences. She has supervised many Postgraduate Fellowship Dissertations, as well as undergraduate projects and over fourteen (14) PhD theses.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is my honour to invite Professor Christy Amaiheaghara Nene Okoromah to present her inaugural lecture. I wish you all happy listening.

Professor Rahamon A. Bello, *FAEng*
Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos,
Wednesday, November 18, 2015.
We have just listened to the Inaugural Lecture presented by our Professor of Paediatrics, Professor Christy Amaiheaghara Nene Okoromah.

The Inaugural Lecturer summarized her contributions and their uptake and translation to practice, policy and research on the epidemiology of structural heart diseases in children. Her findings observed that contrary to reports elsewhere in Nigeria but consistent with global trends, Congenital Heart Diseases (CHDs) are more prevalent than acquired heart disease in children, and that the prevalence and distribution are similar as previously described in other parts of the world with some differences. It noted an unacceptably large proportion of older children living with CHD and life threatening complication of the disease due to delayed definitive treatment and that Down Syndrome was the most prevalent genetic risk factor associated with CHD.

Professor Okoromah outlined and discussed her contribution to medical education plus teaching and learning to include her involvement in the conceptualization, planning, design, implementation and evaluation of various faculty development programs and workshops on topics and themes on educational methods, teaching and assessment methods, communication skills, responsible conduct of research, authorship criteria and research misconduct, evidence based medicine, career development and mentorship.

The Inaugural Lecturer also shared her approach to patient-centered care emphasizing the need to teach and practice preventive paediatrics, holistic care that integrates the
biophysical, social, psychosocial, socioeconomic, cultural and environmental contexts of the patient. The need to weigh scholarship and excellence in education plus teaching, learning and patient care in the evaluation of academicians and clinicians.

With the successful delivery of this lecture, Professor Christy Amaiheaghara Nene Okoromah has fulfilled her toga as professor of the University of Lagos by paying her academic debt. On behalf of the Senate, she is hereby discharged and acquitted. She is therefore welcomed to the revered league of academics who have fully paid their academic debt as a professor of our University.

I urge you all to buy copies of the lecture for proper digest and for your libraries.

I thank you all for listening and hereby declare this inaugural lecture closed.

Professor Rahamon A. Bello, FAEng
Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos,
Wednesday, November 18, 2015.