

# UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA



## OPENING ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR RAHAMON A. BELLO FAEng AT THE 2<sup>ND</sup> INAUGURAL LECTURE IN THE 2015/2016 ACADEMIC SESSION DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR ABAYOMI OLADAPO SOMEFUN ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics 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, FNIM**,  
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, **Prof. Afolabi Lesi**  
Deans of other Faculties,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Gentlemen of the Press.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Second Inaugural Lecture of the 2015/2016 Academic Session entitled: ***"Building my Blocks on my Mentor's Gold, Silver and Brass."*** The lecture will be delivered by the distinguished Professor Abayomi Oladapo Somefun of the Department of Surgery, in our Faculty of Clinical Sciences.

Born on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 1962 in Abeokuta, Ogun State of Nigeria. Professor Abayomi Somefun attended Ojuwoye Catholic School, Lagos, Mac-Job Grammar School Abeokuta, Eko Boys High School, Igbobi College Yaba and Lagos State College of Science & Technology Lagos for his primary, secondary and post secondary education. Thereafter, he was admitted to the University of Ilorin, Ilorin Kwara State to study for a degree in Medicine from 1982 to 1987.

His academic and professional qualifications include: MBBS, Ilorin, 1987; Fellow Medical College Oto-rhino-laryngology (FMCORL) 1995; Fellow West African College of Surgeons (FWACS) 2000. Upon graduation in 1987, Professor Somefun did his Housemanship at General Hospital, Ikeja Lagos, from September 1987 to August 1988. He served his National

Youth Service as a medical officer in the Ear-Nose-Throat Department at same General Hospital, Ikeja Lagos, from September 1988 to August 1989.

He started his residency training programme immediately after his National Youth Service in Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery at Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Lagos in November 1989. He qualified as an Otolaryngologist (ENT Surgeon) in May 1995. He proceeded immediately to Toronto General Hospital, University of Toronto, Canada from 1995-1996 as a visiting fellow in Oto-rhino-laryngology.

Professor Somefun's academic career at the College of Medicine of the University of Lagos began in 1997 as Lecturer I. He became a Senior Lecturer in 2002 and an Associate Professor in 2008. In 2012, he became a Professor in the Department of Surgery.

Professor Somefun is a recipient of a scholarship in the Faculty of ORL-National postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria 1995 and Merit award in pursuit of academic excellence, CMUL 2001.

Over the past few years, the Inaugural Lecturer has helped to develop the Department of ENT at Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH). He set up the First Temporal Bone Laboratory in ENT Department in 1998, where residents' doctors learn about ear surgeries on cadavers. He upgraded the infrastructure in the Department through donors. He played a prominent role in the emergence of ENT Unit becoming a full-fledged Department in the hospital in 2008. He is the first to introduce the staggered appointment system as opposed to block appointment into the outpatient clinics for easy access for clinical consultation to reduce patient waiting time.

The Inaugural Lecturer currently is the Head of Department of ENT, Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Lagos. He has successfully trained and mentored ENT surgeons, notably seven Fellows of National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (NPMCN) in the Faculty of ORL in his area of sub-specialisation Otology and Audiology. He has also served as a reviewer for local and international journals. He has over 36 publications in peer-reviewed journals in collaboration with researchers in various faculties in the University of Lagos as well as other Universities world-wide.

Professor Somefun is a member of the University Senate, and has served as Member, NUC Accreditation Sub-committee, Merit Award Committee and Admission Committee CMUL. He is currently a member of the Governing Council of National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria.

He was a member of the team that conducted the first National Survey on Hearing Impairment and Deafness in Nigeria in 2000. He was Secretary National Programme on Hearing Impairment and Deafness in Nigeria 1998-2003.

Professor Somefun is actively associated with many professional bodies and learned societies. He is a member of Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Oto-rhino-laryngological Society of Nigeria (ORLSON), West African Federation of Oto-rhino-laryngological Societies (WAFOS) and a member of working group of Inter-Academy Medical Panel (IAMP) for hearing loss.

Currently, he is the Chairman and Chief Examiner, Faculty of ORL National Post Medical College Nigeria. He has successfully organised courses for various organisations notably among them, “Hands on surgical training courses” which runs annually and has been on-going for the past 10 years.

Professor Somefun’s hobbies include, photography, playing piano, reading history books and travelling, especially within Africa. He is married to Esther Somefun, a community physician and blessed with three lovely children.

**Professor Rahamon A. Bello, *FAEng***  
**Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos**  
**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

# UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA



## **CLOSING ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR RAHAMON A. BELLO FAENG AT THE 2<sup>ND</sup> INAUGURAL LECTURE IN THE 2015/2016 ACADEMIC SESSION DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR ABAYOMI OLADAPO SOMEFUN ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016**

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Deans of other Faculties,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Gentlemen of the Press.

Professor Abayomi Oladapo Somefun has just presented a comprehensive and rich inaugural lecture entitled: ***Building my Blocks on my Mentor's Gold, Silver and Brass.***

From the inaugural lecture, Professor Abayomi Oladapo Somefun showed his contributions to knowledge in two areas: One is Otology with a focus on hearing impairment, starting from the magnitude and causes, to strategy for early detection and prevention of childhood hearing impairment to exploration of the identified causes for risks and promoting factors. The other, are his attempts at defining the burden and challenges of management of cancers of the head and neck in Nigeria.

In the cause of his studies, he identified the risk population for disabling hearing impairment (DHI) as those in the range of ages of 0-15 years with up to 3.7million *Nigerian children affected with DHI*. He discovered that a high proportion of children between 6 months and 4years had various communication disorders notably hearing impairment with delayed speech, hearing impairment and central speech disorder.

Professor Abayomi Oladapo Somefun along with his co-researchers explored the various causes of communication disorders like *Chronic Otitis Media, Peri-Natal Factors, Neonatal Jaundice, and Trauma to the Ear* for promoting the risks factors. They discovered that chronic middle ear discharge associated with polyp and granulation tissue is predictive of hearing impairment. Birth deliveries in traditional family homes account for crude prevalence rate of 7 sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL) for every 1000 live births. Also violence, anger and lack of respect for the rule of law are promoting factors for traumatic perforation among women and children while noise induced hearing loss (NIHL) is more from informal occupational and social sectors.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, you all will agree with me that Professor Abayomi Oladapo Somefun has fulfilled his toga as Professor of the University of Lagos by paying his academic debt. He is therefore discharged and acquitted. 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 close.

**Professor Rahamon A. Bello, FAEng**  
**Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos**  
**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**