



NSBMB NEWS LETTER

NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF BIOCHEMISTRY & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

June Edition 2026

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE • ADVANCING RESEARCH • IMPROVING HEALTH



Prof. Paul C. Onyenekwe
(then DG SHESTCO)



Prof. Dario Alessi
(President, IUBMB),



Prof. Paul Abidemi Kappo
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Dear Reader

Editor's note for the fourth issue

Welcome to the yet another edition of our newsletter for the year 2026. This edition I very much believe will be catchy. I wish to appreciate all Biochemists and Molecular Biologists who took time to go through the previous editions and for their comments, words of encouragement and valuable inputs.

In this edition, we bring you tidbits from the Federation of African Societies of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (FASBMB) Educational workshop which was held at the Sheda Science and Technology Complex (SHESTCO), Abuja between 24th and 27th November 2025 with the Theme "Redefining the future of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education in Africa Through Advanced Technology and Automation." The workshop brought eminent Biochemists and Molecular Biologists in African and the world including the president of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB), Prof Dario Alessi and the President of the FASBMB, Prof. L. S. Bilbis, and the Vice President of



FASBMB, Prof. Abidemi Paul Kappo. You can watch the entire event on our YouTube channel. We also wish to use this edition to remind you of the upcoming 42nd National Scientific Conference and Annual General Meeting which will hold between 6th and 10th July, 2026 at Federal University of Technology, Akure. The FASBMB vice president, Prof Kappo will also be in

attendance and will deliver the Olumbe Bassir Lecture. Please make it a date with the society and we hope that members will use the occasion to also network.

Some of our members were elevated to the rank of Professor. We bring you a few that we can trace and we congratulate all. Some also received grants and awards within the period under review. Congratulations to all.

I would not like to bore you with further briefs on the content. Just dive in and enjoy our metabolic tidbits.

Uche Samuel Ndidi, PhD
National PRO/Editor-in-Chief

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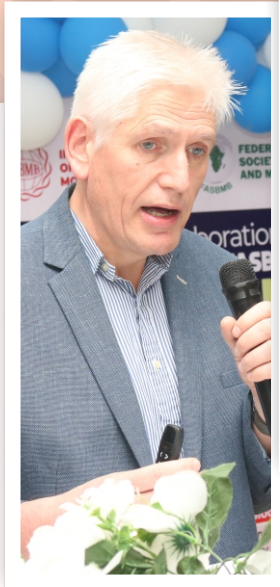
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FASBMB EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP SETS NEW BENCHMARK FOR FOR BIOCHEMISTRY EDUCATION IN AFRICA

Over 400 scientists gather in Abuja to redefine the future of biochemistry and molecular biology through technology and automation.

Abuja, Nigeria — The Federation of African Societies of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (FASBMB), in partnership with the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NSBMB) and the Sheda Science and Technology Complex (SHESTCO), hosted a landmark educational workshop from 24–27 November 2025 in Abuja.

Held under the theme “Redefining the Future of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education in Africa through Advanced Technology and Automation,” the event drew over 400 participants in person and online. Attendees included senior scientific leaders, international partners, students, and early-

career researchers from across Africa.

The workshop was supported by the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB). Its presence was underscored by the attendance of IUBMB President Prof. Dario Alessi, signaling growing global recognition of FASBMB’s capacity-building work.

Building Skills for a Tech-Driven Future

The programme combined plenary lectures, panel discussions, and intensive hands-on training in cutting-edge areas including single-cell genomics, gene cloning, and proteomics. Sessions addressed urgent themes shaping the field: responsible use of generative AI, precision medicine, genomics in public health, and molecular

diagnostics and point-of-care technologies.

Organizers designed the workshop to strengthen practical skills in advanced biochemical and molecular techniques while promoting the integration of automation, artificial intelligence, and emerging molecular tools into African teaching and research.

A Call for Scientific Sovereignty

In their addresses, NSBMB President Prof. Lawal Suleman Bilbis and FASBMB President Prof. Lawal Suleman Bilbis emphasized Africa’s opportunity to leapfrog traditional development pathways. They urged investment in high-tech laboratories, automated systems, and training for young scientists in molecular, computational, and bioinformatics skills.

Continues On Page 03



FASBMB EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP SETS NEW BENCHMARK FOR FOR BIOCHEMISTRY EDUCATION IN AFRICA

A key focus was retaining African biological samples within the continent to strengthen scientific sovereignty, indigenous innovation, health security, and economic competitiveness.

Sustaining the Momentum

The workshop outlined concrete steps to sustain capacity development, including:

- Support for African PhD training and intra-African researcher mobility
- Expansion of virtual and hybrid teaching models
- Development of joint research grants with international partners

- Relaunch of the FASBMB bi-monthly virtual lecture series in 2026

Outcomes and Impact

Despite the logistical demands of hosting a large hybrid event, the workshop achieved significant gains in capacity building, research collaboration, governance alignment, and visibility for FASBMB. Participants reported enhanced technical competencies, while regional and international scientific networks were strengthened. Feedback from IUBMB President

Prof. Dario Alessi highlighted the high scientific quality and impact of the programme.

The event provides a strong foundation for future FASBMB initiatives and reinforces the value of sustained collaboration with IUBMB and other partners in driving scientific excellence and innovation across Africa.



BIOCHEMISTS AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGISTS SWEEP MAJOR 2025 HONORS

In October 2025, the global biochemistry and molecular biology community marked a momentous achievement. Researchers from across the field were awarded some of the most prestigious honors — including MacArthur Fellowships, a Nobel Prize, and the Kimberly Prize — highlighting how central their work is to advancing medicine and deepening our understanding of life's molecular underpinnings. Among the celebrated scientists was Jason McLellan, a structural biologist and MacArthur “Genius Grant” recipient, known for his pioneering use of x-ray crystallography to stabilize viral surface proteins. His work has already informed vaccine

design, including against SARS-CoV-2, and his vision now aims toward a universal coronavirus vaccine. Another standout honor was the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, awarded to Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi. Their groundbreaking discovery of regulatory T cells and the genetic basis for immune tolerance reshaped our understanding of autoimmune disease, self-tolerance, and immunological balance. Finally, the Kimberly Prize in Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics went to biochemist Svetlana Mojsov for her characterization of GLP-1, a gut hormone critical to insulin regulation. This discovery

eventually spurred the development of GLP-1 receptor agonist drugs, which have revolutionized treatment for type 2 diabetes and obesity. These recognitions are more than individual honors — they underscore how biochemistry and molecular biology lie at the heart of transformative innovations in health, disease, and therapeutics.

Source:

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
<https://search.app/yBPTM>
<https://www.asbmb.org/.../biochemists-and-molecular...>

A Call for - ICBMBN

Institute of Chartered Biochemists & Molecular Biologists of Nigeria (ICBMBN).

Why This Matters for Nigeria:

By Stanley I. R. Okoduwa PhD

These global achievements present a compelling argument for the establishment of a formal regulatory and professional body in Nigeria — the Institute of Chartered Biochemists & Molecular Biologists of Nigeria (ICBMBN).

1. Elevating Standards

A chartered institute would help define and enforce professional standards, ensuring that biochemists and molecular biologists in Nigeria are trained, certified, and regulated to the highest quality.

2. Recognition and Legitimacy

With world-leading scientists being honored on the global stage, the establishment of the ICBMBN would raise the profile of Nigerian practitioners. It would signal that biochemistry and molecular biology are not only academically important but professionally recognized disciplines in Nigeria.

3. Advancing Research & Health
As this year's awards show, discoveries in molecular biology directly feed into life-saving innovations — from vaccines to metabolic therapies. A professional



institute could champion research, support funding, and foster collaboration between scientists, universities, and the government to ensure Nigeria benefits from this field's rapid progress.

4. Professional Community & Advocacy

The ICBMBN could serve as a collective voice for biochemists/molecular biolo-

gists, advocating for research funding, regulatory frameworks, and the integration of molecular biosciences into national health and education policies.

Invitation to Support

We call on stakeholders to join hands in supporting the Bill for an Act to Establish the ICBMBN (HB.1164). This is not just a bureaucratic exercise — it's a recognition of the vital role that biochemists and molecular biologists play in driving scientific discovery, public health, and innovation in Nigeria.

Visit this page for your contribution:

<https://www.nsbmb.org.ng/support4icbmbnbi/>

Let us leverage the global spotlight on our discipline to build a strong, chartered institute — one that nurtures talent, safeguards standards, and propels Nigeria to the forefront of molecular life science.



AN ADDRESS PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT,

PROFESSOR MATTHEW OWHONDA WEGWU

of the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NSBMB), At The Induction Ceremony Of Graduating Students Of Biochemistry, ATBU Bauchi, Bauchi State.

Prof. Matthew Owhonda Wegwu

PROTOCOL

It is with deep admiration and great honour that I welcome a brand new set of intelligent minds into the impactful and noble field of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

We will never cease to remember today as a remarkable one in the annals of our Society as it marks the beginning of the formal Induction of our graduating students into the field of Biochemistry, a profession that sits at the heart of scientific discovery, including medical Advancement and innovation.

Distinguished guests, our profession is the science that explains life at the molecular level. It provides the relevant lens through which we understand how cells communicate, how medicines work and also how the chemistry of life processes sustain every breathe that life forms take.

Ladies and gentlemen, kindly permit me to humbly inform the inductees that by choosing this path, you have boldly resolved to embrace the challenge of exploring life complexities and today, you are viewed as ambassadors of knowledge, innovation and integrity. As you are inducted today, always remember that Biochemistry is not just a discipline, rather, it is a responsibility. I hereby welcome you to a community of scientists whose work influences drug discovery and development, public health, agriculture, Biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, environmental conservation and numerous sectors that may not be mentioned due to lack of space.

My dear Inductees, please note that your skills will be required to solve problems the world is yet to imagine. I am confident that your curiosity will drive discoveries that may save lives. May I notify you that the trust society places in science will only be upheld by your integrity.

I am particularly interested in your demonstration of resilience, discipline and intellectual courage throughout your four years of study. Thank you so much for enduring rigorous laboratory sessions, long hours of research, highly demanding course work, and now, you are standing ready to transform the acquired knowledge into solutions relevant locally and with global recognition. I charge you to take pride in how far you have come and take confidence in the foundation you have built.

As you have decided to assume the responsibilities and privileges of this noble profession, I charge you to carry with you the values that define true scientists, which are, curiosity that never rests, humility in the face of evidence, ethical conduct in all your work, and commitment to lifelong learning.

This induction must not be the end of your academic journey, but it should mark the beginning of your contribution to making the world a better place. Always remember that the world awaits your ingenuity and passion.

May your journey be marked by discovery, purpose and excellence. May the great hope that you are custodians of knowledge and pioneers of the future, continue to burn on your minds.

On behalf of the National Executive and the entire members of NSBMB, I welcome you to the great family of Biochemists and Molecular Biologists.

God bless NSBMB.
God bless Nigeria



The PhD Economy: Degrees without Scholarship in Nigeria

*S/he has a PhD, but is S/he a scholar?
Reflections on the integrity and Scholarship
in the Nigerian Academy*

By Adéyemí Johnson Ademowo



Few days ago, I had a conversational encounter with a "Dr"; it was a sordid experience. As I recount the unpalatable tale with a soliloquy, my mind jolted to the reality that somewhere in our campuses, another doctoral gown is being ironed, another "Dr." title embossed, and another set PhD holders are about to be unveiled into the Nigerian academy.

In reality, however, beyond the applause and photographs, a troubling question lingers: when did "S/he has a PhD" become more important than "S/he is a scholar"? Those of us inside the system know that the difference between the two is more than grammatical; it is moral, cultural, and intellectual. In Nigeria today, the PhD has become less of a journey of discovery and more of a passport to promotion or boosting self-esteem. What was once a sacred covenant between mentor and mentee, a supposed long, rigorous conversation with (and about) ideas, has been replaced by hurried supervision, perfunctory defense, and sometimes, industrial-scale academic production.

We now live in what one might call the PhD economy: a thriving marketplace of degrees without a corresponding culture of scholarship.

The result is what I often describe, with equal parts affection and

frustration, as our peculiar mess (our Penkelemeesi, a la late baba Adelabu). Because we are not innocent observers but both the architects and inhabitants of it.

Our system now rewards titles, not thought. We clap for credentials, not contributions. We attend conferences where PowerPoint replaces argument, citation replaces reflection, "impact factor" of journals replaces the impact of ideas and "Scopus-indexed" craze becomes the desired normal. Unfortunately, the more we inflate our CVs, the more we deflate the integrity of our disciplines and our cherished acadca career!

To be sure, this is not to romanticize the past. Even in the so-called golden age of Nigerian academia, there were cracks: gatekeeping, elitism, academic feudalism. But there was also something recognizably scholarly (deep ratiocination too): a seriousness of mind, a fear of mediocrity, an apprenticeship culture.

At the time, the scholar's identity was not built on the prefix "Dr." but on a sustained relationship with thinking and writing. Today, the PhD is often seen as an end rather than a beginning. The question "What is

your PhD about?" is too often met with "I just wanted to finish". Some don't even remember the title of their dissertation; "I wrote something around.." Sometimes the titles are undocctoral too; many a times too shallow to produce a scholar that worth more than the signed piece of paper/card called "certificate".

Part of the problem lies in our institutions. We open postgraduate schools without research libraries, mount doctoral programs without qualified supervisors, and celebrate "defenses" that are little more than rehearsed rituals (with coolers of rice, chicken and wine/juice).

And then there is the social dimension. In a country obsessed with status, the PhD title carries weight. It confers dignity, authority and sometimes access to power.

Society reveres the title more than the intellect behind it. In our peculiar culture of spectacle, being called "Dr." is sometimes more important than doing the work of a scholar. The result is a growing tribe of academics who possess the paper but lack the practice; brilliant in certification, barren in contribution.

Yet, it would be hypocritical to pretend we are not complicit. We

its original meaning, not Permanent Head Damage, as students jokingly say, but Pursuit of Honest Discovery through Patience Humility and Doggedness.

The way forward demands courage: strengthening peer review, mentoring with

The PhD Economy: Degrees without Scholarship in Nigeria

es we know are weak, sit on panels that rubber-stamp mediocrity, and maintain a silence that masquerades as collegiality.

We, the older academics, have normalized shortcuts in the name of mentorship. The younger ones, watching us, are learning fast. It is, after all, a system that rewards compliance over curiosity.

But all is not lost. The first step in redemption is recognition. We must collectively confront the truth that our universities are becoming factories rather than forums. We must restore the idea that the scholar is not merely a degree holder but a disciplined mind committed to knowledge and community. The PhD should return to

integrity and insisting on substance over status.

University councils and regulatory bodies must rethink their metrics; promotion criteria should privilege quality, originality and mentorship. And as individuals, we must cultivate the humility to ask ourselves: am I still thinking, still learning, still teaching or merely existing as a

title? In the end, our crisis is not about the PhD per se but about the meaning we have attached to it. Until "S/he is a scholar" regains moral and intellectual weight over "S/he has a PhD," we will continue to produce decorated degrees but starved disciplines. The mess is ours but so too is the possibility of cleaning it up.



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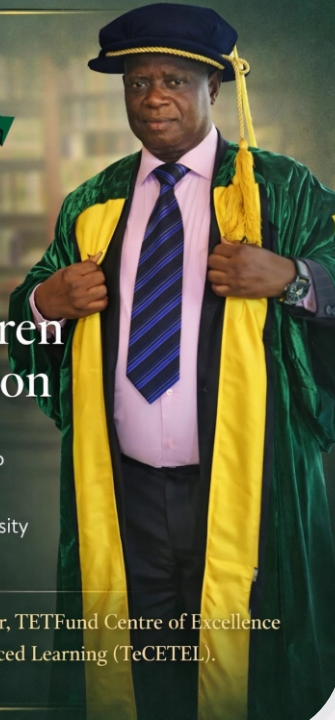
Adéyemí Johnson Ademowo is a professor of sociocultural anthropology and social advocacy at Afe Babalola University Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria. yemiademowo@gmail.com

You can subscribe to our youtube channel: www.youtube.com/@NSBMBLive

Congratulations

NSBMB Awards and Promotions

CONGRATULATIONS

Professor Omwihiren Efe Mouson

On your promotion to the rank of Professor at the Federal University of Education, Zaria.

Documentation Officer, TETFund Centre of Excellence for Technology Enhanced Learning (TeCETEL).



NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI
2025 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

Award of Excellence

Presented to
Prof. Moses Zaruwa
For initiating impactful Projects/Programmes that enhance learning and research

Awarded this day
11th December, 2025




UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY, NIGERIA
The Vice Chancellor, Professor Edo B. Omoregie, SAN, on behalf of Senate, Staff and Students.

Cordially invites

to the

364TH IN THE INAUGURAL LECTURE SERIES

To be delivered by:
PROFESSOR EHIMWENMA SHEENA OMOREGIE, FNSBMB, FNIISEB
Professor of Ethnobiotechnology and Toxicology
B.Sc. Biochemistry, University of Lagos (1992)
M.Sc. Biochemistry, University of Ibadan (1995)
PhD Biochemistry, University of Benin (2005)
Post Doctoral Certificate, Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow, India (2009)
Visiting Scholar Certificate, Institute of Microbiology, Beijing, China (2011)
Senior Visiting Scholar Certificate, University of the Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain (2023)

TOPIC:
UNEARTHING NATURE'S NATURAL CURES: MY EXPEDITION AS AN ETHNOBIOCHEMIST AND TOXICOLOGIST

Under The Distinguished Chairmanship of
PROFESSOR EDOBA B. OMOREGIE, SAN
Vice Chancellor, University of Benin

Date: Thursday 26th March 2026 | **Time:** 4pm Prompt
Venue: Akin Deko Auditorium, University of Benin, Ugbowo campus

GUESTS ARE TO BE SEATED BY 3:30PM

Signed: Ademola A. Bobola, mmim
Registrar

Congratulations

NSBMB Awards and Promotions



Congratulations

I F E O M A I J E H

From The Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Nigeria, has been awarded the **2025 IUBMB Education Fellowship** to travel to Middlesex University London, UK, and learn from Dr. Blessing Oyedemi to enhance her personal development as a biomolecular sciences educator to promote active learning at her home institution



Past events



Department of Biochemistry

Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

Cordially Invites The University Community



TO

SENDFORTH & RETIREMENT

CELEBRATION

— in honour of —



Prof. Danladi Amodu Ameh
Nutritional & Medical Biochemistry



Prof. Humphrey C. Nzelibe
Enzymology & Industrial Biochemistry

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Monday, 4th May 2026	2:00 PM	Yusufu Bala Usman Hall (Former Assembly Hall), Main Campus, A.B.U. Zaria

CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION

Prof. I. A. Umar, Dept. of Biochemistry, A.B.U. Zaria

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR

Prof. Adamu Ahmed, Vice Chancellor, A.B.U. Zaria

GUEST OF HONOUR

Prof. Maryam Aminu, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, A.B.U. Zaria

HOST

Prof. Aliyu Salihu, Head, Dept. of Biochemistry, A.B.U. Zaria

CHAIRMAN, PLANNING COMMITTEE

Prof. M. A. Ibrahim, Dept. of Biochemistry, A.B.U. Zaria

Your presence would be greatly appreciated

Upcoming Events



NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (NSBMB)



SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (AGA)

AKURE 2026

THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, AKURE

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT & ONGOING ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

THEME

BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY FOR PEACE, HEALTH, FOOD SECURITY, AND CLIMATE-SMART SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AI ERA

"...positioning biochemistry and molecular biology at the heart of the Fourth Industrial Revolution"

Date: 6th – 10th July, 2026

Sub-Themes

- Biochemical and Molecular Determinants of Social Welfare and Public Health
- Artificial Intelligence, Genomics, and Computational Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology-Based Approaches to Peace/National Security and Biosafety
- Molecular Therapeutics, Drug Discovery, and Diagnostic Innovations
- Environmental and Industrial Biochemistry for Sustainable Development
- Nutritional and Metabolic Biochemistry for Community Well-Being
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Climate Change Adaptation/Mitigation
- Ethics, Regulation, and Responsible Innovation in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Pre-Conference Workshop

Practical Skills in Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics;

- Total RNA Isolation
- cDNA Synthesis
- Amplification and Detection of Gene of Interest
- Navigating Bioinformatics Databases
- Sequence Alignment
- Protein Structure Prediction
- Drug Target Fishing

■ Workshop Registration N20,000

WORKSHOP DATE: JULY 6TH, 2025

Workshop Registration Link:
<https://bit.ly/4sl13rQ>

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

	Early Bird	Regular
■ Members	N35,000	N40,000
■ Non-members	N40,000	N45,000
■ PG Students	N20,000	N20,000
■ UG Students	N7,500	N7,500
■ Corporate Bodies		N75,000

Conference format:
Hybrid (Onsite & Virtual Participation)

Venue:

Obafemi Awolowo Auditorium,
Federal University of Technology,
Akure, Nigeria

Chairman of the Occasion:

Prof. Muhammad Kajoje Abubakar

Former Minister of Science and Technology

Royal Father of the Day:

H.I.M. Oba (Dr.) Aladetoyinbo Ogunlade Aladelusi

CFR, Odundun II,
The Deji and Paramount Ruler of Akure Kingdom.

Special Guest of Honour:

Hon. Professor Igbekele Amos Ajibefun

Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Ondo State.

Olumba Bassir Lecturer:

Prof. Abidemi Paul Kappo

University of Johannesburg;
FASBMB Deputy President

Special Features:

- ☐ Conference Lecture
- ☐ Next-Generation Biochemists Roundtables
- ☐ Quiz/Debate
- ☐ Exhibitions

PLENARY SPEAKERS

- **Prof. Mohammed Auwal Ibrahim**
Department of Biochemistry, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.
- **Prof. Godwin Oju Igile**
Department of Biochemistry, University of Calabar, Calabar.
- **Prof. Paul Chidozie Onyenekwe**
Former DG, Sheda Science and Technology Complex (SHESTCO), Abuja.
- **Prof. Musa Toyin Yakubu**
Department of Biochemistry, University of Ilorin, Ilorin.

Keynote Speaker:

Prof. Dario Alessi
University of Dundee, UK;
IUBMB President

Host:

Prof. Matthew O. Wegwu
University of Port Harcourt,
President, NSBMB

Chief Host:

Prof. Adenike Temidayo Oladiji
FNSBMB, FAS (VC, FUTA)

BANK DETAILS

Bank Name: United Bank for Africa (UBA)
Account Name: NSBMB Conference Akure 2026
Account Number: 1029685065

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

(Please refer to the registration and abstract submission guidelines overleaf.)

Peer-reviewed manuscript of accepted conference abstracts will be published in a special edition of our Nigerian journal of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NJBMB)

For Enquiries:

- ☐ LOC Chair: Prof. Afolabi Clement Akinmoladun (08034445893)
- ☐ LOC Co-Chair: Prof. David Morakinyo Sanni (08069256694)
- ☐ LOC Secretary: Dr. Ayokunle Olubode Ademosun (08033944653)
- ☐ Chairman, Publicity Committee: Prof. Sule Ola Salawu (08137886171)



SCAN ME

Upcoming Events

ABSTRACT FORMATTING GUIDELINES

Title

- The abstract title should not exceed 25 words
- Please use the Title Case (Capitalize the first letter of each major word) and format in Times New Romans, size 14, bold

Authors and Affiliations

- List full names of all authors (no initials or abbreviations)
- Use superscript numerals (e.g Alex Oluwasina¹ to indicate author affiliations.
- Each affiliation should be listed numerically and fully (e.g. Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria)
- The corresponding author should be marked with an asterisk (*) and must provide a valid phone number and email address as well (Just below the affiliation block)

Abstract Body

- The abstract must be written in a single paragraph, not exceeding 250 words.

- It should clearly present the following elements:

- Introduction: Brief background and purpose.
- Methodology: Outline of the methods used.
- Results and Discussion: Key findings and interpretation
- Conclusion: Summary of main implications or recommendations.

- Use Times New Romans, font size 12, single line spacing.

Keywords

- Place five (5) keywords at the end of the abstract to aid in indexing.

Plagiarism and Originality

- All submission must be original.
- A similarity index above 15% will lead to automatic rejection.
- Authors are strongly advised to use a plagiarism checker before submission.

Subtheme Selection

- Clearly indicate the subtheme under which your abstract is being submitted
- Submission not aligned to the conference subtheme may not be considered for review.

Template Compliance

- All abstracts must adhere strictly to this format.
- Non-compliant entries will be returned for correction or outrightly rejected.

Important Timelines

□ Call for Abstracts Opens	December 2025
□ Early Bird Abstracts Submission Closes	31st March, 2026
□ Final Abstract Submission Closes	June 2026
□ Abstract Acceptance Notification	On an ongoing basis

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AROUND FUTA

S/N	NAME	ADDRESS AND APPROXIMATE DISTANCE TO CONFERENCE VENUE	ROOM TYPE	CHARGES
1	Pentagon	FUTA South Gate Road 4.4 km (13 mins drive).	Double Room Medium Room Single Room	N18,000 N12,000 N10,000 - N15,000
2	Benny Rose	FUTA South Gate Road 4.1 km (11 mins drive)	Super Ambassador Super Deluxe Deluxe (Single Room) Kings (Single Room) Queens (Single Room)	N40,000 N37,000 N33,500 N30,500 N28,500 N25,500
3	Pilgrimage Hotel & Suite (Former SOLAB)	FUTA South Gate Road 3.1 km (11 mins drive)	Executive (Double Room) Standard (Double Room) Pent House	N13,500 N10,500 N15,500
4	FUTA Scholars Lodge	FUTA Campus 1.4km (4 mins drive). Located directly within the university campus.	Executive Deluxe Standard	N12,000 N10,000 N8,000
5	FUTA Senior Staff Club Guest House	FUTA Campus 1.8km (6 mins drive). Inside FUTA.	Single Medium Room Single Big Room	N8,000 N10,000
6	Goddy Royal Hotel & Suites	FUTA South Gate Road 2.5km (9 mins drive). Located just off-campus, near the Stateline Area.	Single Room Super Room Executive Room Executive Suite	N15,500 N20,000 N25,000 N30,000
7	A & T Presidential Suites	Akure-Ilesha Road (Oloko Junction). Approximately 3.5km (8 mins drive).	Single Single Royal Single Royal Double Mini Suite Executive Suite Executive Suite	N12,000 N10,000 N13,000 N17,000 N20,000 N25,000 N30,000
8	Hotel L'Afrique	Located near the Alaba Layout Area. 8.1km (18mins Drive)	Elegance Royal Executive Studio Suite	N20,000 N30,000 N40,000
9	Bliss World Resorts & Hotels	Ijapo Akure 12km (22mins drive)	Standard Room Royal Single Deluxe Royal Royal Double Business Suite Executive Suite	N20,605 N31,372 N34,100 N37,646 N50,592 N78,430
10	Royal Birds Hotels	Alagbaka Akure 15km (28 mins Drive)	Princess Room Mini Ambassador Ambassador Double Kings Double Pent Room Deluxe Double	N25,000 N27,500 N30,000 N30,000 N32,500 N32,500

NOTE

Each submitted abstract should be accompanied by evidence of payment of an abstract processing fee of N5,000 only

For further enquiries on abstract submission,

please contact: 08034445893; 08034350812

Abstracts should be submitted electronically as email attachments to

nsmbakure2026@gmail.com

with a copy sent to bch@futa.edu.ng



Ajaokuta Steel Complex as Catalyst for rapid Industrial and Economic Development

In the quiet industrial town of Ajaokuta, on the banks of the River Niger, stands a symbol of promise and betrayal. The Ajaokuta Steel Complex, once envisioned as Nigeria's bedrock of industrial revolution, remains one of Africa's most ambitious and symbolically potent, but unrealised projects. Conceived in 1979 and reaching near-completion by the mid-1990s, the plant was designed to anchor a fully integrated steel economy to power construction, transport, defence and manufacturing. However, it remains an "idle giant" that has neither produced steel at scale nor fulfilled its transformative promise.

The urgency now is not to recount its failures, but to decisively chart a pathway to success. Ajaokuta's troubled history is well documented: decades of policy

inconsistency, failed concessions, legal disputes, and infrastructure gaps, have kept the complex in limbo. Over \$8 billion has reportedly been spent, but the plant however remains largely dormant, with obsolete equipment and disconnected supply chains undermining its viability. This figure does not include the significant opportunity lost (cumulative impact) in terms of industrial output, direct investment, employment, and technological capability over several decades, which experts estimate at between \$670 billion and \$1 trillion.

Nigeria currently produces about 1.2 million metric tonnes of steel annually, far below its estimated demand of over 10 million tonnes, while relying heavily on scrap-based production rather than primary steel from iron ore.

This structural gap translates into billions of dollars in annual imports of steel and industrial materials. Nations that command industrial power, including China and India, once faced similar uncertainty, but transitioned through coordinated policy, long-term financing, and disciplined industrial execution, offering Nigeria a framework to adapt.

There is much to learn from countries like China, India and South Korea, which built steel-driven industrial economies despite earlier classifications as third world nations. China now produces over one billion tonnes of steel annually, driven by long-term state coordination, massive infrastructure investment, and state-backed financing tied to industrial clusters. India, the second-largest

producer with over 140 million tonnes, expanded output through governance reforms, technological modernisation, and private-sector participation. South Korea demonstrated how disciplined governance, technological adaptation, and infrastructure integration can scale global competitiveness. The denominators here are policy coherence, infrastructure, nance, and synergy in governance. This is precisely where Ajaokuta has faltered, and where Nigeria must now focus.

Nigeria must stop treating Ajaokuta as a standalone project. Steel plants do not thrive in isolation; they operate within industrial ecosystems. Ajaokuta's original design already recognised this, linking iron ore from Itakpe, rail transport to Warri, and downstream industries across the country. To succeed, this integrated vision must be restored and modernised. The Itakpe-Ajaokuta-Warri rail corridor must be secured and made fully operational to guarantee raw materials and products movement. The ongoing Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano gas pipeline presents a critical opportunity to ensure stable and cost-effective energy supply, which is central to steel competitiveness. Around the plant, Nigeria should deliberately cultivate industrial clusters, including automotive assembly, fabrication, construction materials, and defence manufacturing, to transform Ajaokuta into the nucleus of a broader industrial corridor rather than an isolated facility.

A lesson Nigeria must internalise is that steel plants do not fail in isolation; they fail within weak governance environments. Ajaokuta's history of concession disputes and costly arbitration settlements underscores the dangers of weak contractual frameworks, policy reversals, and political interference. The path forward demands a technocratic, autonomous management structure insulated from short-term political cycles, with transparent benchmarks, enforceable contracts, and merit-based leadership replacing entrenched patronage.

Rather than outright privatisation or full government control, Nigeria should pursue a hybrid public-private partnership (PPP) framework that balances efficiency with national strategic interest. Encouragingly, recent developments suggest a shift in direction. The government is pursuing a production-sharing partnership with Chinese investors, anchored on a proposed \$2 billion rehabilitation plan that preserves national ownership while leveraging foreign expertise. However, a critical question remains: what constraints prevent a similar resolution with the original Russian builders of the complex?

Simultaneously, new policy thinking is emerging. A landmark 2025 agreement between the Ministries of Steel Development and Defence seeks to transform part of Ajaokuta into a military-industrial complex, linking steel production directly to national security and manufacturing capability. This

approach reflects a more strategic understanding of steel, not merely as an industrial input, but as a foundation for sovereign capability in infrastructure, defence, and heavy manufacturing. These initiatives signal a growing recognition that Ajaokuta must be embedded within a broader, coordinated industrial strategy.

Reviving Ajaokuta is not merely about steel; it is about structural transformation. Steel underpins infrastructure, housing, transportation, and energy systems, while enabling value addition across multiple sectors. The economic multiplier effects are substantial, including large-scale job creation, technology transfer, foreign exchange savings, and increased industrial output. More importantly, it offers a pathway for Nigeria to transition from a resource-exporting economy to a production-driven one with stronger domestic value chains.

Like sleeping giants, Ajaokuta can only be awakened through deliberate and disciplined action. Financing is not the primary constraint; credibility, policy consistency, and execution capacity are more decisive. Nigeria stands at a moment where investor interest and infrastructure development are beginning to align. If these elements are harnessed with clarity and commitment, Ajaokuta can become the catalytic core of Nigeria's industrial future. If not, it risks remaining a monument to inconsistency and unrealised national potential.



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Announcement

Dear NSBMB Members,

Greetings from the NSBMB Executive Council.

I am pleased to bring to your attention an excellent opportunity for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and undergraduate trainees within our community.

The FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE Annual Conference (<https://febs-iubmb-enableconference.org/>) 2026 will be held in Krakow, Poland, in October 2026. This prestigious 3-day international conference is organized by and for young scientists, and will feature:

- Scientific presentations and networking sessions
- Outreach activities and gala events
- Career development and readiness workshops

Importantly, several fellowship opportunities (<https://febs-iubmb-enableconference.org/registration-and-travel-grants/>) are available to support participation in the meeting, including the IUBMB MilliporeSigma ENABLE-Africa Fellowships (<https://febs-iubmb-enableconference.org/registration-and-travel-grants/>) specifically targeted at African trainees.

I am particularly delighted to inform you that the deadline for fellowship applications has been extended to 01 June 2026, and applicants currently have a very good chance of success.

As a member of the IUBMB Fellowship and Training Committee and African Representative, I strongly encourage eligible NSBMB members and trainees to take advantage of this opportunity.

Please share this information widely with your students, colleagues, and trainees.

I will also be available to provide guidance, answer questions, and assist interested applicants where necessary.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing strong participation from Nigeria and the NSBMB community.

Best regards,

Dr. Andrew Onu
Member, IUBMB Fellowship and Training Committee
Zonal Coordinator North-West Region, NSBMB