Exploring Life Processes

NSBMB Newsletter

A Quarterly Publication of the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (NSBMB)

Issue Number 1 | March 2020

EDITORIAL

On behalf of the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NSBMB), I hereby present the first edition of our Electronic Newsletter to you this year 2020. The NSBMB newsletter is a regular publication of the Society which will be published quarterly – in March, June, September and December of every year. This will serve as an avenue to acquaint members of the activities of the Society and to create awareness for the public.

This edition documents the events at the last NSBMB Conference and Annual General Meeting at the Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina. Highlights of the Opening Ceremony included the induction of new Fellows into the Society. A major outcome of the Annual General Meeting was the election of new officers into the National Executive Committee (NEXCO) of the Society following the completion of Four (4) year-tenure of the previous leadership. From all the lectures delivered including the Keynote Address and Plenary Sessions, participants unanimously agreed that there is no life without biochemistry. The articles on the ubiquity of biochemistry and molecular biology in science and medicine together with the one on biochemistry profession in Nigeria further buttress the need to establish the Institute of Chartered Biochemists and Molecular Biologists of Nigeria (ICBMBN).

You will also learn about the categories of membership in NSBMB and many more in this edition of the Newsletter. On behalf of the National Executive Committee (NEXCO), I welcome you all and wish you a happy reading .

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2019 NSBMB CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE: OPTIMIZING THE VALUE OF LOCAL RESOURCES

The 37th Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NSBMB) Conference and Annual General Meeting was held between 4th and 8th November 2019 at the Umaru Musa Yar'adua University (UMYU), Katsina, Katsina State, with the theme, ***Biochemistry and Molecular Biology: Optimising the Value of Local Resources for Direct Foreign Investment and Youth Empowerment***.

The opening ceremony was attended by many important dignitaries including the Vice-Chancellor of the Umaru Musa Yar'adua University (UMYU), Katsina, Katsina State, Prof. Idris I. Funtua and His Excellency the Governor of Katsina State Rt Hon. Aminu Bello Masari, CFR, ably represented by his SA Higher Education, Mal Bashir Usman Ruwan Godiya.

Prof. S.O. Malomo delightfully welcomed the participants and other dignitaries to UMYU, Katsina, Katsina State. She stated that the Conference was scheduled to hold in November, 2018. However, the various security challenges in virtually all parts of the country resulted in putting off the Conference till November 2019. She was glad that we could convene as Biochemists and Molecular Biologists as it is our usual practice. According to her, the ancient city of Katsina is notable for agriculture and commerce, and the State has a lot of notable personalities including Presidents, Vice presidents, Senate Leader, Chief Whip, Chief Justice, Inspector General of Police, Governors, Ambassadors, Ministers, Businessmen etc.

A glance at the NSBMB 37th Annual Scientific Conference held at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina, Katsina State

The Olumbe Bassir Lecture was delivered by Prof. Temidayo A. Oladiji. Her area of research interest includes Nutritional Biochemistry as well as Phytonutrients. The Lead Paper I was presented by Prof. Sani Ibrahim and the Lead Paper II was presented by Prof. Mohammed N. Shaibu.

A total of six hundred and seventy four (674) papers were received for presentation under six Technical Sessions. These were Biochemical Toxicology 98, Clinical Biochemistry 147, Exploring Natural Products 262, Enzyme Technology 41, Food Biochemistry and Nutrition 87, Molecular Biology, Biotechnology and Bioinformatics 39.

The high point of the occasion was the conferment of new Fellows into the College of Fellows of the Society and the Election of the new National Executive Committee (NEXCO) with President O.A Sodipo of University of Maiduguri as President and Prof. D. Dahiru of Modibbo Adama University, Yola, as Secretary General.

A Season of Change - The President's Remarks

Worthy members of NSBMB, you are welcome to this season of change! Indeed a wind of change is blowing this season and you should be part of it. Yes, the wind of change is bringing new things and rebranding old ones. And of course, we are all happy and thrilled to be part of this season of change. The wind though bringing new things, may not be fully harnessed if some old things do not give way for new ones. We may have to make some sacrifices every now and then for the NSBMB to move forward. We should all be willing to do this for the love of our great Society. This is a clarion call for better service and change of attitude. NSBMB members with this working tools, shall be ushered into a hall of unparalleled progress and achievements. Finally, we owe it a duty to keep this Newsletter alive. We shall do this by sending news items of relevance to NSBMB. Once again, you are welcome on board the flagship of NSBMB. The voyage shall be to great and enviable destination. *Bon voyage!*

Professor O.A. Sodipo, *PhD, FNSBMB*
National President, NSBMB

IN THIS ISSUE

The Ubiquity of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology - Prevailing Impediments and Way Forward

- Uche Samuel Ndidi, PhD, NSBMB

Biochemistry as a term was introduced by Carl Neuberg in 1903. Defined broadly as the chemistry of life and living processes. Biochemistry is arguably the most ubiquitous discipline in life sciences. No life science-related discipline nor subject has as much application as biochemistry in practically all areas of life sciences and allied disciplines. Biochemistry has application in human medicine, veterinary science, agriculture, microbiology, zoology, botany, entomology etc.

Every aspect of life in any living organism – conception, birth (germination in plants), growth, reproduction, excretion, irritability, ageing and ultimately death involves biochemistry. Every event in a living system is packed with numerous biochemical reactions. Indeed, biochemistry can be likened to the cement that holds the blocks of life sciences together.

While a laboratory scientist uses laboratory tools to make suggestions for disease diagnosis, a biochemist gets to discover the biomarkers that the laboratory scientist would look out for. Such biomarkers could be antibodies, generated by the host as a result of the disease or enzyme(s) unique to the disease pathogen. This is beside the microscopic examination of pathogens. With regards to examination of pathogens, today, the biochemical technique using deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) analysis (by employing DNA probes) can be used in the unambiguous identification of disease-causing pathogens. For instance, a specific DNA diagnostic test has been developed for the identification of *Plasmodium falciparum*. Here the DNA probe binds and hybridizes with a DNA fragment of *P. falciparum* and distinguishes it from other species of Plasmodium such as *P. ovale* and *P. malarie*.

"Every aspect of life in any living organism – conception, birth (germination in plants), growth, reproduction, excretion, irritability, ageing and ultimately death involves biochemistry"

While the pharmacist may dispense a certain drug or substance to prevent, cure or manage an ailment, a biochemist tends to discover the processes, proteins and metabolites that lead to the disease or enhance the spread of the disease and even identify compounds, through structure-function relationship studies, that could be employed in the management or treatment of the disease. Indeed biochemistry has shown that knowing the active state structure of enzymes could help researchers devise more effective treatment. For instance, some biochemists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in a report published March 26, 2020 were able to devise a way to trap and visualize ribonucleotide reductase (RNR) – an enzyme that is a target for anti-cancer therapies – at the moment they become active. Bioinformatic tools have successfully been applied in the study of structure-function relationships with a view to discovering new drug targets and new drugs. This is usually further followed by trying the selected compounds or known extracts on the key enzymes responsible for the disease.

"What is life without biochemistry, the subject that glues together the diverse fields of life sciences and allied disciplines?"

While a physician may interview patients asking questions related to symptoms and may suggest laboratory tests in order to make the right diagnosis, biochemists discovers the reactions that elicit the symptoms and biomarkers that are associated with the disease which the physician would eventually consider before making inference. Furthermore, genome-wide association studies (GWAS) and candidate gene association studies (CGAS) have aided in the tagging of gene(s) to specific biomarkers and/or diseases in humans and these have aided disease diagnosis.

Traditional laboratory tests for diagnosis of genetic diseases were all developed through the knowledge of biochemistry. They include estimation of metabolites and/or enzymes. Biochemistry has however, gone further to innovate more precise diagnostic tests through molecular biology. As a matter of fact, laboratory tests based on DNA analysis can specifically diagnose inherited diseases at the genetic level. These tests can further predict if individual offsprings are at risk of a genetic disease and can be applied even in prenatal diagnosis of hereditary disorders. Knowledge of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology has led to the discovery of genes responsible for drug resistance in disease-causing pathogens and this has helped in the development of drugs that can circumvent the resistant genes.

Biochemistry has gone further to unravel genes responsible for hereditary diseases which removes superstitious beliefs behind some diseases. A typical example is the genetic basis for sickle cell disease which was suggested by the African tradition and folklores to be a spirit that reincarnates every now and again and which was given different names by different ethnic and linguistic nations in Africa. The discovery of genes responsible for hereditary disorders also opened another area of disease treatment through gene therapy, a field that focuses on the utilization of the therapeutic delivery of nucleic acid into patient's cells as a drug to treat disease and gene editing, a field that involves the addition, removal or alteration of genetic material at particular locations in the genome.

In nutrition, the knowledge of biochemistry has helped in unravelling the basal causes of deficiency diseases in humans. Succinctly put, it has helped us to underscore the significance of minerals and vitamins, which are required in minute quantities but which when absent or below the recommended limit can lead to very fatal diseases. Typical examples are ascorbic acid (vitamin C) deficiency that leads to a disease called scurvy and deficiency of iodine that leads to a disorder called goitre.

Molecular biology tools have been used to manipulate genes to obtain much better characteristics in a process called transgenesis. In this process, an exogenous DNA (gene) is introduced into the organism's genome to create an organism with an improved heritable character. These tools have been employed in agriculture to enhance milk production in cattle for example, meat production, resistance to disease pathogens of organisms (animals and plants) of interest etc. Molecular biology has helped in production of proteins (e.g. insulin) and antibiotics (e.g. chloramphenicol) for medical and pharmaceutical applications. It has also served as models for understanding human diseases.

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MEMBERS OF NSBMB NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(NEXCO MEMBERS)

Prof. O.A. Sodipo, FNSBMB
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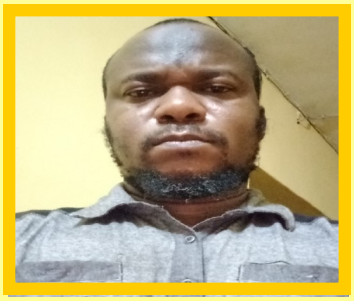
University of Calabar, (UNICAL), Calabar, Cross-River State



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Dr A.K. Salau, MNSBMB

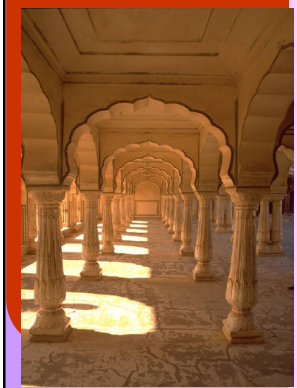
Fountain University, Osogbo, (FUO), Osogbo, Osun State

Prof. S.O. Malomo, FNSBMB
Ex-Officio I

University of Ilorin, (UNILORIN), Ilorin, Kwara State

"… notwithstanding, biochemistry is an endangered discipline in Nigeria"

"There is a pressing need to establish a regulatory council for biochemistry and molecular biology practitioners in Nigeria".



MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

1. **Student Membership:** Undergraduate student with valid ID Card.
2. **Graduate Membership**: Unemployed graduate of Biochemistry/Molecular Biology and Postgraduate student.
3. **Affiliate Membership:** Affiliate membership is open to individuals, associations, agencies or organizations which support the vision and mission of the Society but are not eligible for Full or Associate Membership because they do not have a degree in Biochemistry.
4. **Associate Membership:** Non-Biochemist/Molecular Biologist with a Posgraduate degree in Biochemistry or Molecular biology.
5. **Honorary Membership:** Those awarded Fellowships or invited by the Society by virtue of their contributions to the growth of NSBMB.
6. **Corporate Membership:** Membership of organizations, institutions and corporate bodies.
7. **Early Career Membership:** Grade Level 8-11 *(eg Graduate Assistant (GA), Assistant Lecturer (AL), Lecturer II (L2), Research Officer II (RO2), Research Officer I (RO1), Senior Research Officer (SRO).*
8. **Mid-Career Membership:** Grade Level 11-13 *(eg Lecturer I (L1), Senior Lecturer (SL), Principal Research Officer (PRO), Chief Research Officer CRO).*
9. **Senior Career Membership:** Grade Level 14 – 17 *(eg Assoc. Prof./Reader, Professor, Deputy Director, Director)*
10. **Fellow Membership:** Awarded to distinguished members of the Society upon recommendations from Council through College of Fellows in view of their contributions to the Society and considered to have met the stipulated requirements for such award.
11. **Emeritus Membership:** This category is for retirees who are Biochemists/Molecular Biologists
12. **Life Membership:** Any active member of ten years financial standing, may consecutively become a life Member by payment in one lump sum a minimum amount as determined by the Council.

NOTE: There is no Voting Right for categories 1-6; Only categories 7-12 have Voting Right.

The Ubiquity of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology - Prevailing Impediments and Way Forward

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Biochemistry has, through molecular techniques, enhanced the characterization of microorganisms (by microbiologists), insects (by entomologists) and closely-related plant species (by botanists).

Its ubiquity notwithstanding, biochemistry is an endangered discipline in Nigeria. Today, disciplines that require basic understanding of biochemistry for optimal performance and for robust all-round grounding of their products, now treat biochemistry with levity, as an afterthought, with little respect and without dignity. Some life science and allied departments have completely expunged the few biochemistry courses that their students required in their curriculum because they believe biochemistry impacts their students negatively and elicit failures for many who may have to repeat their Semester, Session or even Sessions. Some others use their own staff that are not biochemists by training - that only did a few courses in biochemistry - to lecture classical biochemistry courses. The result is that we churn out scientists who are clearly, unarguably substandard, unqualified for the profession and half-baked compared to their peers around the world. The dangers that lie ahead because of this untoward attitude are better imagined. These seemingly harmless actions will not just impact negatively to biochemistry as a discipline but also mortgage the future of medicine and science generally. With time, biochemists and molecular biologists may no longer know their rightful places. Consequently, the zeal and enthusiasm to study Biochemistry and Molecular Biology as disciplines would wane and lead to dearth of ground breaking researches in these areas. Failure to address this trend would negatively impact not only Biochemistry as a discipline but offshoots of Biochemistry, including medicine, life sciences and allied disciplines in Nigeria.

"...biochemistry remains the subject that glues together the diverse fields of life sciences and allied disciplines"

There is therefore, an urgent need to regulate the field of biochemistry and molecular biology as professions. There is a pressing need to establish a regulatory council for biochemistry and molecular biology practitioners in Nigeria. There is need, a very urgent one at that, to establish a chartered institute of biochemists and molecular biologists. Remember, the demise of biochemistry is the death of medicine, the death of life science and indeed the death of allied disciplines.

The above prevailing impediments notwithstanding, biochemistry remains the subject that glues together the diverse fields of life sciences and allied disciplines.

So you out there can still be a part of those who work in this most fascinating field of science. So what are you waiting for? Join us!

Research Grants and Career Development Opportunities

1. Matsumae International Foundation

The Matsumae International Foundation (MIF) has started receiving application for the 2021 Fellowship Program. The Fellowship Program is fully funded to cover Stipend for Research and Stay, Insurance, Air transportation (to/fro) etc.
Duration: 3-6months (Between April 2021 and March 2022).
Field of Study: Natural Science, Engineering and Medicine
Application Deadline: 30th June, 2020
Application Procedure
visit MIF's website: http://www.mif-japan.org

2. Fulbright African Research Scholar Program

The Fulbright African Research Scholar Program is offering grants to Researchers from African Countries under the platform of **The Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program** for 2021/2022 academic year funded by United States Department of State. This is a Research Fellowship Award Grants to foreign academics or professionals to advanced research at U.S. institutions.
Deadline: 1st June, 2020 via https://apply.iie.org/fvsp2021
Eligibility: Citizen of Nigeria with valid passport issued by the Federal Republic of Nigerian Government.
Further enquiry, visit the website: https://ng.usembassy.gov

3. Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship funded by The European Research Council (ERC) and the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation (KAW) for a 2-year fellowship grant with a stipend of 282,000 SEK per year to study mechanisms of Autophagy.
Application deadline: 11th May, 2020
Further info: https://www.umu.se/en/staff/yaowen-wu/ OR Prof. Yaowen Wu, email: yaowen.wu@umu.se

4. Postgraduate Fellowship Program 2020 for young Scientists

The TWAS-CSIR Postgraduate Fellowship Program 2020 for young Scientists has commenced. CSIR will provide a monthly stipend to cover for living costs, food and health insurance.
Duration: minimum of 6months and maximum of 3 years.
Application deadline: 11th May, 2020.
Eligibility: Nationals of a developing country, age limit: 35years.

Biochemistry Profession in Nigeria

- Eze Mathew Onyekachi

One of the challenges facing Nigeria is lack of equipped Biochemists to perform complex biochemical researches that are key solutions to medical and agricultural problems.

Biochemistry is the science that studies how various chemicals interact to maintain the life of human beings, animals, plants and microorganisms. Biochemistry is therefore a vital force that drives development in medicine, science and agriculture. Most of the developed countries have recognized the significant role of biochemistry, and have made Biochemist scholars key policy makers especially in health and agricultural sectors. For instance, Thomas Robert Cech is an American Biochemist and former President of Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Bruce Michael Albert is an American Biochemist and former President of National Academy of Science. Mohammad Usman is a Pakistani Biochemist and former Director General of Agricultural Research in Pakistan.

"All biochemistry graduates should be mandated to perform a compulsory internship"

Arguably, no country needs more well trained Biochemists than Nigeria. We need well equipped Biochemists versatile in theories and practical to study and characterize the biochemical compositions of our huge bioresources. We need well equipped Biochemists to discover and develop solutions for poor agricultural yield. We need Biochemists that are well prepared for rapid research needed to tackle outbreak of novel plant and human pathogens like Lassa fever, coronavirus (Covid 19) and antibiotic resistance.

CHALLENGES

Despite churning out thousands of Biochemistry Professionals each year from our Institutions of higher learning, is sad that Nigeria is yet to fully harness the potentials in these Professionals. This is because Biochemists in Nigeria are not supported to carry out their specialized and complex roles. Biochemists in Nigeria still face the following challenges:

1. Unstructured jobs for Biochemists with no specific job title. This has created a situation where biochemistry graduates are assigned different kind of duties, with ridiculously poor salaries.
2. Lack of recognition of Biochemists as key policy makers in health and agricultural sectors.
3. Lack of strong and adequately equipped Council for the welfare of biochemists and biochemical practice in Nigeria.
4. Lack of funding for biochemical researches

If well empowered, Nigerian Biochemists would certainly perform better than the Biochemists in other countries. This can be evidenced in the life of Helen Asemota, a Nigerian born Biochemist who after her graduation from the University of Benin went to Jamaica where she was adequately empowered to carry out her duties. She became the Director of Biotechnology Center in Jamaica and also a United Nations' Consultant in biotechnology.

If the biochemistry professionals in Nigeria are encouraged and supported like their colleagues in developed countries, great achievements would be made by these professionals for the benefit of our dear nation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended actions to be taken to improve the biochemistry profession and its benefits to the nation are:

1. The Governing Council of biochemistry, which is the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NSBMB) should be strengthened, supported and given the needed recognition among policy makers in Nigeria, especially in health and agricultural sectors.
2. Since Biochemists are mostly involved in discoveries through researches, a National Biochemical Research Institute should be established. All biochemistry graduates should be mandated to perform a compulsory internship at the Institute to equip them with the latest biochemical research techniques.
3. Upon completion of internship at the Institute, successful Biochemists should be empowered to practice as Lead Researchers in all health, research and agricultural agencies in Nigeria. The entry level to this position should be same as the entry level for medical doctors.
4. Biochemists should be made policy makers in issues that involve health and agriculture. Agencies such as NAFDAC, SON, FIIRO, NIMR and NCDC, should be headed by Biochemists.

NSBMB IN BRIEF

The Nigerian Society of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (NSBMB) is a learned, non-governmental Society that is reputable for the activities of Biochemists and Molecular Biologists in Nigeria, with the other parts of the world. It was established initially as Biochemical Society of Nigeria (BSN) about 50 years ago and later transformed to the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology about 46 years ago in order to have a unified name with the Society in other countries across the globe, such as: American Society of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (ASBMB), Belgian Society of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (BSBMB), South African Society of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (SASBMB), Korean Society of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (KSBMB), Singapore Society of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (SSBMB), Federation of African Society of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (FASBMB), International Union of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (IUBMB) etc. Since its establishment, the Society has been working to promote the sciences of biochemistry and molecular biology in the country. The organization deals with the development of collaborative research in biochemistry and molecular biology between Africa and the rest of the world. The Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology encourages researchers in the field to engage in extensive research that leads to fulfilling results.

EVENTS & NEWS

1. The 38th NSBMB NATIONAL Scientific Conference and AGM is scheduled to hold at Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Sokoto State from Sunday 5th July to Thursday 9th July, 2020. For Details contact: Prof. Y. Saidu –0803-613-1987 or Dr. M.E. Sadiq - 0805-793-7555, OR Visit: www.nsbmb2020.udusok.edu.ng
2. The 12th NSBMB SOUTH-EAST Zone Annual Conference will take place from 23rd April to 24th April, 2020. Venue: Rhema University, Aba. For Details contact: Dr. M.K.C. Duru - 0803-393-7941
3. The 5th NSBMB SOUTH-SOUTH Zone Annual Conference will take place from 27th May to 28th May, 2020. Venue: Federal University Otuoke, Bayelsa State. For Details: Contact: Dr. E. Osioma - 0806-856-2275 or Dr. I.O. Babatunde - 0806-232-0794
4. The 2020 American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) Annual Meeting has been canceled. However virtual presentations via YouTube will be utilized. Certificate of presentation will be issued to presenters at the end. Deadline for submission of Video files is 30th April, 2020. For details visit https://www.asbmb.org
5. The **28th FAOBMB and 2nd CBSL Conference,** tagged "Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for the Future" is scheduled to hold in Colombo from 11th to 13th June, 2020. For Details visit: https://faobmb20.com
6. The **45th FEBS Congress** tagged "Molecules of Life: Towards New Horizons" is scheduled to hold from 4th to 9th July, 2020, in Ljubijana, Slovenia. For details visit www.2020.febcongress,org

Our Website: www.nsbmb.org.ng

EXCLUSIVE NEWS UPDATE

BIOCHEMISTS IN TOP MANAGEMENT POSITIONS (1)

- **Dr. Okezie Victor Ikpeazu,** Executive Governor of Abia State, re-elected since 29th May, 2015.
- **Prof. O.B. Oloyede**, Pioneer Vice Chancellor, Summit University Offa, Kwara State.
- **Prof. Lawal Suleiman Bilbis**, Vice Chancellor, Usman-Danfodio University, Sokoto State, since 30th July, 2019
- **Prof. Aliyu Shugaba,** Vice Chancellor, University of Maiduguri, Bornu State, since 3rd June, 2019.
- **Prof. Danladi A. Ameh**, Acting Vice Chancellor of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria since 28th February, 2020.
- **Prof. A.A. Uwakwe,** Vice Chancellor, Gregory University, Uturu.
- **Prof. (Mrs) Silvia Malomo,** Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academics, University of Ilorin, Kwara State Since 2018. (1st Female Dean of old Faculty of Science, University of Ilorin, Kwara State).
- **Prof. Lawan B. Buratai**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Nigerian Army University, Biu, Bornu State.
- **Dr. Madu A. Gadaka,** Deputy Vice Chancellor, Yobe State University, Damatutu, Yobe State., since 2017.
- **Prof. Prohp, The Prophet.** Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, since February 2019.
- **Dr. Noel B. Saliu,** Director of Academic Planning, National Universities Commission, FCT, Abuja.
- **Prof. Ibrahim Hassan Garba**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Bauchi State, since July 2019.
- **Prof. Chukwuma James Ogbonna**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academics, University of Nigeria Nsukka.
- **Prof. (Mrs.) Olubunmi B. Ajayi**, Acting Vice-Chancellor, Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, since February, 2019.
- **Dr. Sha'ayau Mafara**, Rector Abdu Gasau Polytechnic Talata-Mafara, Zamfara State, since August, 2019.
- **Dr. Kabir Ibrahim Matazu** (mni), Executive Chairman FCT UBE Board, Abuja.
- **Prof. Sunday Oge Elom**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academics, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State.
- **Prof. Francis Chukwuemeka Ezeonu**, Resident Electoral Commisioner, Imo State.
- **Prof. Riskuwa Arabu Shehu**, Immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto. Current Resident Electoral Commissioner, Kano State.
- **Prof. Ignatius A. Onimawo**, Vice-Chancellor, Ambrose Alli University, Ekopma, Edo State.

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Publication Designed & Type-Setting by: SIRONigeria Global Limited, Plot 247 NEPA Rd, Kubwa, Abuja-Nigeria.
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