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Edition

# FBS Newsletter

A Publication of Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

## Inside this Edition

- \* From the Dean's Desk
- \* The Dean Assumes Office
- \* Dean's Inaugural Address
- \* FBS Organizes Training for Exam Officers in the Faculty
- \* FADIP Holds her 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference/Workshop
- \* FBS and ICT Interact
- \* Prof. Chris Nwani delivers 145<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture
- \* Know Your HODs
- \* Scholarship and Grants
- \* Events and Birthdays

## Upcoming Events

3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of FBS Annual Symposium on HIV/AIDS  
December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Workshop/Seminar on the 5<sup>th</sup> Yellow Book  
February, 2018



## FROM THE DEAN'S DESK



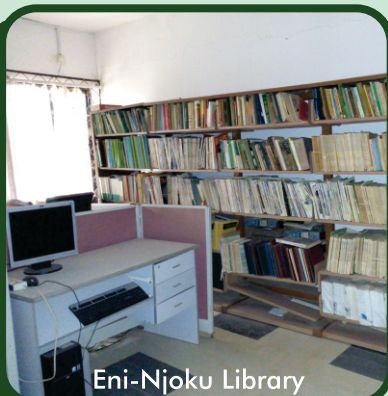
Distinguished Colleagues, I am delighted to inform you that Faculty of Biological Sciences Newsletter takes a debut this November. We intend to make it a regular publication and to use it to keep you in touch with news, developments and other pieces of information which relate to our great Faculty.

It is an indisputable fact that Faculty of Biological Sciences is one of the best Faculties in the University of Nigeria. In terms of webometrics, aesthetics, examination conduct, discipline among others, we are the best. This is why it has become necessary to float this Newsletter to help disseminate information both within and outside the Faculty on events and activities around the Faculty. Each edition of FBS Newsletter will also be posted on the FBS WhatsApp platform and the University's website. I, therefore, welcome both staff and students to be part of this platform and to help in moving this great Faculty to higher levels.

Announcements, interviews, birthdays, Faculty Connect among others provide great opportunities for both staff and students to talk about themselves. Whilst the majority of the materials in this Newsletter is certainly from Faculty members, we will be very keen to respond in real time to our readers' interests. Consequent upon this, we look forward to your comments and feedback on every edition.

I use this opportunity to thank the Editorial Team and all those who contributed in various ways to make this Newsletter a reality. I have no doubt that this maiden edition and subsequent editions will be engaging.

**Prof. Sabinus Oscar O. Eze**  
*Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences.*



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dean.biologicalsciences@unn.edu.ng



## PROF SABINUS OSCAR O. EZE ASSUMES OFFICE AS THE DEAN OF FACULTY OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

- by Asomadu Ritha O, Department of Biochemistry

**A**ugust 1 every year will always be remembered as a date for change of baton across the University of Nigeria as new administrations take over from old ones in various Departments, Faculties and Institutes. On this date, new HODs, Deans and Directors of various establishments take over from old ones.

At the Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Nigeria, Prof. Sabinus Oscar O. Eze assumed office as Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences with a brief prayer and anointing session led by Rev. Fr. Joseph Asogwa, the then Assistant Chaplain, St. Peter's Chaplaincy, University of Nigeria, Nsukka amidst Faculty members and well-wishers who came to felicitate with the Dean.

Below is an excerpt from Rev. Fr. Asogwa's homily:

### SERMON

#### Dean's office, Faculty of Biological Science

*I am called by name, O Lord, God of Hosts (Jer. 15:16)*

The Dean! You are happy, we guess so. We believe authority comes from God. You feel called like the prophets to this office. This calling has become to you *a joy and delight of your heart (Jer 15:16a)*.

I congratulate you. In the eyes of man, you may not be the best qualified, but we believe that in the eyes of God at this point, *n'oge nke anyi*, you are to be on this seat as *Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences*. You have been called to lead a faculty that helps people admire the beauty of God's creation in the physiologies of human beings, organisms and plants as well as the interdependence that exists at levels of biological organizations. We know it is not an easy crown, but *Chukwu kere nwaagu agaghi ekwe ka o taa abibia*.

I motivate you. "*Man is free, but is everywhere in chains*," says Rousseau; chain of health, of psychological burdens and of spiritual emptiness. *In the midst of life, we are in death* (Book of Common Prayer, 1662). There are threats to our biological constitution: diseases, deformities, etcetera. At the foundation of man's quest for wholeness is bodily health, protection of human species, other biological organisms and plants, which with man form an interdependent system of coexistence. The vision, researches and experiments of this Faculty provide hope that this can be achieved. Can your openness to learning and wisdom allow these efforts to come true? Charles

Dickens (1844) observed that *life is given to us on the definite understanding that we boldly defend it to the last*.

Hear and feel, in this lamentation of Jeremiah, the cry of society for the fruits of learning achievable from this Faculty- "*Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?*" (Jeremiah 15:18).

I warn you: history will mark this period for you, and the beneficiaries of your leadership will become libraries of your life as a Dean. Our whole lives will become testaments for or against us on Judgment Day. *Our critical day is not the very day of our death, but the whole course of our life* (John Donne, sermon, 1627). If you consider what is precious, what is valuable, what will bring about the good of this Faculty, of staff and students, the promise of God is, "*You shall be as my mouth*" (Jeremiah 15:19).

I encourage you. St. Alphonsus de Ligouri, a doctor of Law at the age of 16 left everything (cf. Matthew 13:44) at the age of 27 to serve the Will of God with greater commitment. This is another means God has added to you to serve His Will and to attain salvation. Once you are honestly devoted to this - the service of God and humanity, and you sustain yourself airborne in Divine romance and fortification, you will remain a source of inspiration to others. Take cognizance of this: when oppositions borne from evil raise their ugly heads, this is what God says to you: "***I will make you to this people (to such opposition) a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you,***" says the Lord. ***I will deliver you out of the hands of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless*** (Jeremiah 15:20-21). When you are troubled, my brother, remember these words of Psalm 59:17: "*God is my refuge in the day of my distress.*"

God grant you success!

Vote of thanks and appreciation were given by Dr. C. O. Nwuche of the Department of Microbiology.



Prayer being offered for the new Dean by Rev. Fr. Joseph Asogwa



## Inaugural Address and Welcome Remarks Presented by Professor Sabinus Oscar O. Eze to the Board of the Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka on Tuesday 11th September 2018 at the Faculty Board Room

As reported by Okagu Innocent,  
Department of Biochemistry

**D**istinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, it is with a great sense of responsibility and respect that I address you as the Dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences today. I appreciate the high turn-out to this inaugural Faculty Board meeting.

From the bottom of my heart, I deeply appreciate your prayers and supports which culminated in my being elected as your Dean. As is common with most election outcomes, I am aware that the circumstances that resulted in my election may appear to have strained some relationships; however, my sincere disposition and take is that *we are all collective winners*. May I remind us of what makes our Faculty the envy of other faculties: *we have always come together as one after every Deanship election*. Let this one not be an exception. I, therefore, extend my hands of fellowship to my distinguished and erudite colleagues who contested this election with me. For me, we all have one Programme, which is to move the Faculty to the higher levels of academic standards and best practices.

In this regard, my doors are open to good suggestions and constructive criticisms. I assure you that I will lead the Faculty in consultation with Faculty members. The responsibility of leading this Faculty, which of course, is one of the largest faculties in this University is quite enormous. I assure you that I am prepared for this onerous responsibility while soliciting for your maximum supports.

I am pleased to be surrounded in this Board by erudite Professors whose hard work and dedication positioned us as a great Faculty. May I at this juncture welcome and thank our most senior colleagues/past Deans, especially those who are still in active service: Prof. F. C. Okafor, Prof. B. N. Okolo, Prof. O. U. Njoku, Prof. C. E. A. Okezie, Prof. F. C. Chilaka, Prof. J. E. Eyo, Prof. J. O. Ugwuanyi and other academic leaders in this Faculty, colleagues and friends. They have, indeed, helped to shape my professional and personal growths in this University. Their remarkable stewardship have brought our Faculty to this enviable status in the University. They have individually and collectively given us a Faculty

rich in intellectual diversity, stunning aesthetics and outstanding academic Programmes that are amongst the best. The collective leadership shown by these great men and women has helped to define and elevate our standing in this University, as truly the *first and best performing Faculty* in many areas, including Webometrics. With your support, my administration will continue to pursue excellence and ensure that we remain Number One in the University. My due regard also to students and non-academic staff whose contributions will also be relied upon to secure our position as a global learning centre.

I am struck by the intellectual passion and sense of connection and duty our Faculty instills in her students, members of staff and alumni. Our Faculty has the reputation of one that has struggled to retain academic excellence in this University against all odds. Our strictness with examinations is second to none and our zero-tolerance for every form of academic fraud has earned us lots of respect before other faculties and the University community at large. This is a reputation that I have been very proud to be associated with over the years and one that I will assiduously work to maintain and improve on.

I am passionate about improving academic standards as well as conditions in our classrooms and laboratories. I have been working in new directions, asking lots of questions, and meeting with students, staff and Faculty members; learning their aspirations, what they are most proud of, and what they are anxious about as we move forward together. More than anything, I listened to them all and will continue to listen.

There is no shortage of opinions or ideas - these are always voiced with a desire to make FBS better. Some of the intended changes may demand more sacrifice from all of us. It is my hope that we shall all back-up our collective desire for improvement with a willingness to make the necessary sacrifices when called upon.

I will always remember my first day as a student of this



Faculty, as an assistant lecturer, a Professor and now my first day as the Dean of this Faculty. Being a professor and Dean of a great Faculty such as ours is a remarkable privilege, which I will not take for granted. **All matters concerning staff welfare will be given the urgent attention they deserve. In addition, no member of staff will suffer from any form of discrimination or injustice during my tenure.** Irrespective of our peculiar experiences, the ideal is our target. I will do my utmost best to ensure that nobody suffers pain in the process of doing his/her duties.

I am committed to making this Faculty a conducive place where all members of staff will be ready to give their best. This means surrounding them with outstanding colleagues, students and staff; providing cutting-edge infrastructure, developing the needed resources to support innovative research and teaching as well as celebrating their successes.

In working with all, I have consulted with Heads of Departments, Faculty Development Committee and other stakeholders on how our investments in the future will make this Faculty a stronger academic centre.

All these consultations culminated in the following policy thrusts:

- 1) **Creation of Faculty whatsapp group and FBS Newsletter:** Our society is evolving at a very fast rate. Consequent upon this, we need to move with the speed of light to catch up. These two platforms will help in making our Faculty to be known as a place where mutual respect does not require agreement; where differences of perspective are treated with sensitivity, and where we all become advocates for, and experts in civil discourse and help in dissemination of information on events and activities around us. The monthly Newsletter has already kicked-off with Editorial Board properly constituted. The Dean is requesting this Board to approve this action in retrospect.
- 2) **Internet services:** Within the first week of our Deanship, a team from the ICT Centre visited the Faculty and did network mapping. It is our desire to improve tremendously on the Internet services in Jimbaz to enable us drive research and teaching. A land cable will be laid to computer room, former Board room and Eni Njoku Library from ICT to create multiple points where staff can always work even when wireless services drop. We shall explore the possibility of boosting Internet services in other buildings housing our Faculty members (the estimate has already been submitted to the Dean's office).

- 3) **Reconstitution of Faculty committees:** One of the great joys of devoting one's life to this great Faculty is to be surrounded by the optimism and energy of colleagues. The enthusiasm, resilience, passion and sense of responsibility exhibited so far by colleagues have led to the creation of new committees to strengthen existing ones. These are: *Accreditation Committee* and *Special Lab Committee*. In addition, I have also reconstituted existing committees in line with my vision and mission statements. Permit me to request the Board to grant their gracious approval. I expect Chairpersons of these committees to submit quarterly reports on their activities to the Dean's office, especially non senate committees.
- 4) **Bio-Research:** This Journal is important to our Faculty. Bio-Research is now well into its 14<sup>th</sup> volume and by now should enjoy deeper reach than is the case at the moment. It is time for it to move to higher levels. I have reconstituted the Editorial Board as seen on the list of committees. I charge them to reinvigorate the Journal and set it on the path of more sustained growth that will enhance the number of articles rejected rather than worry about the prospect of not having enough articles to make all the issues we need to publish. Bio-research is going online and open access. We have contacted BIOMED CENTRAL and JOHN WILEY to enlist our Journal to improve its visibility and our request has been granted. Discussion is ongoing. We are also in the process of developing a website for the Journal using the OJS portal. This will also afford us the opportunity to upload all previously published volumes. I most sincerely thank Prof. O. U. Njoku for his personal efforts in bringing Bio-research to this enviable position.
- 5) **Accreditation:** 2019 is accreditation year for all the five Departments. We shall strive to get resource verification from NUC this year or early next year for the new Department of Molecular Genetics. An Accreditation committee has been put in place to interface with each department to ensure that we do not lose the full accreditation handed over to us by our predecessors.
- 6) **Postgraduate Programmes:** Our Postgraduate Programmes are doing well, but they can do better. I plead with the Postgraduate committee to drive convergence of knowledge and generation of ideas/transfer in our Faculty at least at the level of Ph.D., I suggest that, at least at the level of seminars (even if only for input purposes), our Postgraduate committee should explore the possibility of a Faculty-level seminar.
- 7) **Anti-plagiarism:** The reason for the Anti-plagiarism



Faculty, as an assistant lecturer, a Professor and now my first day as the Dean of this Faculty. Being a professor and Dean of a great Faculty such as ours is a remarkable privilege, which I will not take for granted. **All matters concerning staff welfare will be given the urgent attention they deserve. In addition, no member of staff will suffer from any form of discrimination or injustice during my tenure.** Irrespective of our peculiar experiences, the ideal is our target. I will do my utmost best to ensure that nobody suffers pain in the process of doing his/her duties.

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## FBS ORGANIZES TRAINING FOR EXAM AND LEVEL EXAM OFFICERS FROM THE FOUR DEPARTMENTS IN THE FACULTY AT THE DEANS OFFICE

*Report by Okagu Innocent U, Department of Biochemistry and Onyeka C. Precious, Department of Microbiology*



Group Photograph of Participants

The training of Exam Officers and all Level Exam Officers was held at the Dean's office, Faculty of Biological Sciences on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2018. This training was approved by heads of departments at a meeting with the Dean.

In his opening remark, the Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Prof. Sabinus Oscar O. Eze highlighted the reforms initiated in handling and processing of students' examination results as approved at a meeting with all the heads of departments in the Faculty. He stressed that the reform was borne out of the need to increase the number of graduating students in the Faculty and reduce identified challenges such as missing results and files among others being encountered by students in their final years. He announced that the Faculty has appointed **Rev. Sr. Prof. Marie-Esther Uju Dibua** of the Department of Microbiology as Chairman of the Faculty's Examination Committee to drive these reforms. He also informed trainers that the software for result computation and processing has been procured by the Faculty for use by various departments in the Faculty.

He made it clear that Level Exam Officers should maintain a class from admission till graduation and then

become departmental exam officers in line with recommendations by heads of departments. Further explanations show that for instance, a 300 level exam officer should start collation and computations of 300 level students' results in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year and move with the class to final year. Such an exam officer has the responsibility of collating and computing class results for the backlog of their first and second years. Same applies for a 200 level exam officer who collates and computes the 2<sup>nd</sup> year results and get them ready as students move to 300 level with that same exam officer. The second year exam officer will also compute the backlog of the students results in their 100 levels.

Thereafter, the Dean introduced the trainer for the exam software, Mr. Ibekwe Emmanuel from Departmental of Computer Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He also noted that all Level Exam Officers would receive maximum support from the Dean's Office and that they should be very much appreciated. The Dean also observed that results of Combined Biological Science students were not being forwarded with that of other students, a situation that has resulted in such students not knowing whether they failed or passed their courses in time. He urged those responsible to be proactive to ensure that the



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## STEPS TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF STUDENTS' RESULTS IN THE FACULTY AS APPROVED BY THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

*Report filed by Dr. V. E. O. Ozougwu,  
Department of Biochemistry*

1. Faculty should strengthen the **Faculty Examination Committee** and subsequently appoint its chairman as the **Faculty Examination Officer** who will be reporting to the Dean on the situation of students' results in various departments (release and processing).
2. That the Faculty Examination Committee comprises Departmental Examination Officers and their Level Exam Officers. One or two experienced academics could join them just for advice in some matters.
3. Departments should appoint Level Exam officers whose core responsibilities should be to **provide academic advise and collation of the levels results at the end of each semester**. For effective academic advising Level officers should be conversant with students' results.
4. A Level Exam officer should move with the class till they reach final year (**and then becomes Examination Officer for that Academic Session if the Department or HOD so wishes**).
5. For ease of handling and accuracy, Faculty should procure **Examination Results Processing Software** to enable Examination Officers to process results in time. This is very important considering the increase in students' population in departmentS. (**RPMSpro = Result processing and management software professional**)
6. The issue of handling and processing of results should be viewed as part of academic training and development, which every growing academic staff should pass through and share in so as to understand the gravity. This will prepare him/her for higher responsibilities.
7. Therefore, the Faculty should discourage making that responsibility in Departments such that people run away from it and thereby making it too burdensome for anyone who accepts to do it.
8. There should be prompt forwarding of results by Departments to both Exams Unit and Departments.
9. It was observed that results for Combined Students are not usually forwarded alongside those of the majors by the servicing Departments such that they usually record low graduation rate.
10. Need for Computer-based Exam Committee to be incorporated into Faculty Exam Committee.

DEAN



## FADIB Holds 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference/Workshop at the Lecture theatre of Faculty of Biological Sciences.

Reported by Kenneth Ugwu, Natural Science Unit, SGS

**F**oundation for African Development through International Biotechnology (FADIB) recently rounded off a very successful and well-attended International Conference/Workshop. The two-day event which kicked off on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at the Faculty of Biological Sciences Lecture Theatre had all the trappings of a properly packaged international scientific meet.

Following short remarks by the President, Professor James Ogbonna (DVC Academic), the stage was set for the major events lined up for the opening ceremonies. The major highlight of the day was the presentation of keynote speeches from two seasoned scholars and internationally reputed scientists from our Faculties of Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Sciences, respectively. Professors Anthony A. Atamah (Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences) and Professor K. P. Baiyeri (Faculty of Agriculture) made presentations inspired by the theme of the Conference: *"Biotechnology as Sustainable Basis for Product Development and Economic Transformation."* The depths of ideas and projections canvassed as well as the discussions that followed were indeed solemn and profound. The audience was greatly inspired and challenged.

It was a great honour and an exceptional blessing to have Professors Atamah and Baiyeri accept invitations to share their research experiences at FADIB 2018! Other dignitaries at the event included Prof. Lewis Ezeogu (Head, Microbiology Dept., UNN); Dr. Friday Nwalo (FADIB Coordinator, AE-FUNNAI); Dr. M. N. Unachukwu (FADIB Coordinator, Godfery Okoye University, Enugu); Dr. M. N. Niemogha (FADIB Coordinator, UNILAG); Prof. Sam Udem (Veterinary Medicine, UNN) among others too numerous to mention.

Another milestone from the opening meeting was an award ceremony in honour of Prof. Nduka

Okafor, Founder and first President of FADIB. He was a man of immense intellect, strength and foresight. He received the prestigious FADIB Fellowship Award in recognition of his selflessness, industry and promotion of biotechnology through his researches, writings and publications. Prof. Mike Orji (Secretary, FADIB, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka) received the award on behalf of Prof. Nduka Okafor who was on a return trip from United States of America at the time of the event. He turned 84 recently.

Earlier before the keynote lectures, the chief host and Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Prof. Sabinus Oscar O. Eze welcomed all delegates and guests drawn from nearly all universities and higher institutions in Southeastern Nigeria. He paid tribute to the President, Prof. J. C. Ogbonna, who, in his words has literally taken the organization to enviable heights in such a short period despite financial constraints. In his address, the Dean expressed optimism that the Conference would not only open new vistas of ideas and uncommon means by which biotechnology could contribute to national and economic progress; but will critically demonstrate their practical applications to the day-to-day challenges plaguing our nation, continent and the world today. Professor Eze challenged the meeting to look into ways by which research findings could transmute into products for improvements of our daily lives and health as well as raw materials for industries and basis for sustainable government policies. As stakeholders in tertiary institutions, he said, we have a responsibility to integrate products of academic research and output from the various disciplines of learning into technological products that can drive industrial growth and development.

Following the successful completion of the opening ceremonies, the meeting broke into technical sessions at designated venues for the presentation of papers by authors whose abstracts made it to the book after a thorough and painstaking evaluation undertaken by experts from relevant fields. On the whole, more than 100 abstracts were published according to the following





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**we have a responsibility to integrate products of academic research and output from the various disciplines of learning into technological products that can drive industrial growth and development.**

**-Prof. Eze**



## FACULTY OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES HOLDS INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH THE ICT UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY

*Reported by Dr. E. C. Ossai, Department of Biochemistry*

The *Interactive Forum* between the University's ICT Management and Faculty of Biological Sciences ICT Committee members was designed to create/strengthen the partnership, networking and collaboration between the two bodies. It serves to acquaint Staff of the Faculty on activities of the University's ICT unit; to enable the University's ICT unit assist the Faculty on any ICT-related projects.

The various sections of operations in the University's ICT unit as enumerated by the Head of ICT where the Faculty could explore for possible benefits to both staff and students are:

**i. Maintenance Section headed by Engr. S. A. Salawu.**

This section is responsible for the maintenance and repair of computers, projectors and related accessories owned by the University, including ones purchased by the Faculty. The service is at no cost. However, replacement of parts would be subject to approval by appropriate authorities.

**ii. Training Section.** This section undertakes the training of staff on some relevant applications/system. The Faculty could take advantage of this for training of Faculty members.

**iii. Network Section.** The responsibility of this section is for Internet connectivity/networking. The Faculty had earlier interacted with this Unit on the need to flood the Faculty building with more infrared radios to improve connectivity.

**iv. Student/Staff portal.** This section is in charge of students/staff online profiles and students' registration from the point they were admitted into this University to graduation; also, for uploading of results by staff. This Unit is being explored for improvement in service delivery for bio courses.

**v. Customer Services Section.** Complaints are received by this section and processed for proper attention and handling.



The Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Prof. Sabinus Oscar O. EZE (second from left), and the Team from the ICT Unit, University of Nigeria, Nsukka during the interactive session at the Dean's office.

**vi. Webometric Section.** Responsible for the University's visibility. Members of staff are encouraged to use this section to improve on their visibility by getting their profiles uploaded for this purpose.

**vii. Operations/Quality Assurance Section:** Checkmates oversights in the Unit's operations to ensure that services meet required standards.

Mrs. C. C. Nnadi was introduced as the UNN ICT staff in charge of Faculty of Biological Sciences. Her primary role is to liaise with the ICT Unit and the Faculty via working hand-in-hand with the Faculty's ICT representatives.

There are numerous ICT action plans to be taken by the Faculty among which are: soliciting the assistance of University's ICT Unit for efficient course registration and administration of examinations since all Faculty courses from First Year to Third Year are computer-based examinations. In addition, periodical staff training by the University's ICT Unit on course registrations and portal management would take place, to address the issues of multiple registrations by some students for a particular course and impersonations during examinations, respectively.



# 145<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture

## Agrochemicals and Pharmaceuticals on Aquatic Life – Danger Ahead

**By Prof Christopher Didigwu Nwani**  
(Professor of Environmental Biology and Molecular Toxicology,  
University of Nigeria Nsukka)

*Reported by Andong F.A., Dept. of Zoology & Environmental Biology*

**A**grochemicals are used in agricultural production. These include: insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, plant growth regulators, repellents, attractants, etcetera. The use of agrochemicals is necessary to control pests and weeds in order to produce adequate food for global population (estimated at 7 billion in 2009). Developing countries, where 1.02 billion people (15 %) are undernourished and 1.3 billion people (19 %) live on inadequate diets need adequate food supply. However, the agricultural sector's annual applications of over 140 billion kilograms of fertilizers and large amounts of other agrochemicals creates massive sources of diffuse pollution of freshwater ecosystems.

Pharmaceuticals are a large and diverse group of medicinal compounds used for diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, alteration or prevention of diseases in humans and animals. Their presence in the environment is an emerging environmental issue.

Our research work centered on the ecotoxicological effects of agrochemicals (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etcetera) and pharmaceutical compounds (Chloramphenicol, Praziquantel, Ivermectin, Abendazole, Ibuprofen, Diazepam etcetera) on freshwater fishes and other aquatic organisms. The acute toxicity, behavioral characteristics and effects on oxidative stress, hematological, biochemical and physiological parameters of the agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals on fish and other aquatic organisms were determined. The DNA damage at the cellular level were also determined in the fish using micronucleus assay and single cell gel electrophoresis. We also assessed the effects of other xenobiotics (Potassium dichromate, *Psychotria microphylla*, *Euphobia tirucali*, Crude oil, engine oil, kerosene) on fish. Our results indicate that these compounds affect the physiology and DNA integrity of fish.



On the dangers ahead, there are increasing presence of pesticides in household items and food materials. It was estimated that 35% of all cases of cancer in U. S. population originate from diets and that herbicides present in foods are responsible. It has been reported that over 30% of bread consumed in U.K. contains traces of glyphosate. Though not necessarily toxic in small amounts, the gradual and persistent intake of pesticides and pharmaceuticals could create health risks with attendant cytotoxic, genotoxic, mutagenic, embryotoxic, teratogenic, carcinogenic and estrogenic effects. In 2015, European Union (EU) placed a temporary suspension on export of agricultural produce such as beans, yams, melons and groundnut from Nigeria due to high level of pesticides.

It is recommended that environmental monitoring for the more commonly used agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals should be undertaken as a priority. Detailed toxicity testing, utilizing a wide variety of test organisms and compounds should be performed to guard against their ecotoxicological effects in the environment.



## KNOW YOUR DEAN AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

*By Onwubuko Kelechi Victor, FOBSSA President*



**Prof Sabinus Oscar O. EZE**  
Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences



**Dr Charles O. Nwuche**  
Associate Dean, Fac. of Biological Sc



**Prof F.C. Chilaka**  
Head, Department of Biochemistry



**Prof Alfreda O. Nwadinigwe**  
Head, Plant Science & Biotechnology



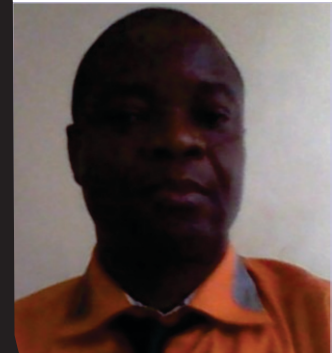
**Prof L.I. Ezeogu**  
Head, Department of Microbiology



**Prof B.C. Nwanguma**  
Head, Dept. of Molecular Genetics



**Prof P.A. Ubachukwu**  
Head, Dept. of Zoo & Envntl. Biology



**S.E. MBA**  
Faculty Officer, Faculty of Biological Sc



# Apex Printers Visits FBS

By Okoye C., Department of Zoo & Environmental Biology



Dr. Apoh handing over letter headed papers to the Dean of the Faculty

The Managing Director and C.E.O of Apex Printing Press Limited, Nsukka, Dr. Apoh Anselm Apex paid an unscheduled visit to the Faculty of Biological Sciences and used the opportunity to congratulate the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. S. O. O. EZE on his emergence as the Dean after a keenly contested election on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. He prayed that God Almighty should guide and always guard the Dean to success. He encouraged the Dean to always keep up his approachable behaviours, noting that it was only God Who made him to achieve this position. He equally used the opportunity to present Faculty letter headed papers to the Dean as his own contribution towards moving the Faculty to the next higher level. Dr. V. E. O. Ozougwu thanked the donour and prayed for more support from his company.

## FBS moves to Acquire more Radios and Distribution of Multi Ethernet Cables in Jimbaz

Chike O. Chiejina, Dept of Zoo and Envntl Biology

The Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Prof. S.O.O. Eze has commenced strategies to revamp the Internet bandwidth of the Faculty of Biological Sciences having met on two occasions with the top officials of the University ICT Unit. One of the meetings had in attendance, Prof. S. O. O. Eze (Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences), Mr. Sekiro Salau, Uche Nwamara and Akiniyi Ekundayo (all from the University ICT Unit). Feasibility study would be conducted for provision of fast Internet services, being one of the cardinal dreams of the current Faculty Administration. Suggestion was made for acquisition of more radios and more importantly, to distribute the fibre optics/Ethernet cable network in the Dean's office into multi units, which are preferable over radio/wireless Internet service. These cable multi units would at least be installed in prominent offices/rooms like Eni Njoku Library, the new Central Faculty Laboratory, former Board Room at the Jimbaz and also the Computer Room at Jimbaz. Engr. Akiniyi Ekundayo has developed a plan for FBS Internet cabling. This would be followed up immediately for execution.

To improve the efficiency of the Faculty's Secretarial staff members, plans are underway for the provision of more computers in their offices with Ethernet network cables running all through the computers. In addition, the Faculty also requested the training of Faculty staff members on some ICT gadgets such as the use of smart boards for efficient lecture delivery.

For reduction in the cost of Faculty data management, Prof. S. O. O. Eze expressed interests in an Electronic Data Processing Systems (EDPS). While discussing with the ICT Team, he stressed the importance of this medium for data storage and management, being able, at all times, to summarize documents and related materials and automatically generate reports. It is also expected that once the EDPS are created and implemented, overtime, it would reduce the cost of data management by a significant margin while also addressing the issues of efforts' duplication and repetition of entries due to mistakes in manual data entries.



# SCHOLARSHIPS and GRANTS

*Anchored by Uchendu N.O., Department of Biochemistry*

## **Aga Khan Foundation International Scholarship Programme**

**Subjects:** All subjects.

**Purpose:** To financially support outstanding students from developing countries who have no other means of financing their studies.

**Eligibility:** Open to candidates under the age of 30 with excellent academic records and genuine financial need.

**Level of Study:** Doctorate, Postgraduate

**Length of Study:** 1–2 years

**Frequency:** Annual

**Application Procedure:** Application forms are available on January 1st each year from AKF offices or Aga Khan Education Services/Boards in applicant's countries of current residence.

**Closing Date:** March 31st

For further details, visit: [www.akdn.org/akf\\_scholarships.asp](http://www.akdn.org/akf_scholarships.asp)

## **Georg Forster Fellowships (HERMES) for Experienced Researchers**

**Subjects:** The research proposal must address issues of significant relevance to the future development of the candidate's country of origin, and, in this context, promise to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and methods to developing and emerging countries.

**Purpose:** To enable researchers from developing and emerging countries to carry out long-term research project of their own choice with an academic host at a research institution in Germany.

**Level of Study:** Post doctorate, Professional development, Research

**Type:** Fellowship

**Length of Study:** 6–18 months. The fellowship is flexible and may be divided up into as many as three stays in Germany within three years plus 12 months return fellowship

**Frequency:** Annual, 3 selection rounds each year

**Country of Study:** Germany

**Application Procedure:** Information regarding the application procedure is available at [www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/georgforster-fellowship-experienced.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/georgforster-fellowship-experienced.html).

## **Visiting Fellowships for Developing Countries**

**Subjects:** Biochemistry.

**Purpose:** To support research capacity building in developing parts of the world, example, Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

**Eligibility:** Open to an overseas researcher on a laboratory visit to the sponsor's research facility or to go out to visit a research facility in a developing region or to enable a member give seminars and undergraduate or postgraduate training.

**Level of Study:** Unrestricted

**Application Procedure:** Apply online at [www.biochemistry.org](http://www.biochemistry.org).

**Closing Date:** January 1st, March 1st, May 1st, June 1st, July 1st, September 1st, and November 1st.

**Contributor:** The Biochemical Society

## **Research Scholarships: Programme 1**

**Subjects:** All subjects.

**Purpose:** To support candidates from developing nations who are still in their home countries for doctoral and postdoctoral research.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be young academics from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Near and Middle East or Eastern Europe with a commitment to return to their home countries upon completion of their research stay.

**Level of Study:** Doctorate, MBA, Post doctorate, Postgraduate, Research

**Length of Study:** 1 year (extendable up to 3 years)

**Frequency:** Annual

**Study Establishment:** A German University

**Country of Study:** Germany

**Application Procedure:** Application forms are available on request.

Applications can be submitted to the KAAD partner organizations in the home country, which in turn will propose the applicants to the KAAD.

**Closing Date:** January 15th and June 15th (check with website)

**Contributor:** Catholic Academic Exchange Service (KAAD)

**Additional Information:** Visit <http://kaad.de/1/scholarships/> for further details.



### **Aga Khan Foundation International Scholarship Programme**

**Subjects:** All subjects.

**Purpose:** To financially support outstanding students from developing countries who have no other means of financing their studies.

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**Level of Study:** Doctorate, Postgraduate

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**Level of Study:** Post doctorate, Professional development, Research

**Type:** Fellowship

**Length of Study:** 6–18 months. The fellowship is flexible and may be divided up into as many as three stays in Germany within three years plus 12 months return fellowship

**Frequency:** Annual, 3 selection rounds each year

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**Application Procedure:** Information regarding the application procedure is available at

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### **Visiting Fellowships for Developing Countries**

**Subjects:** Biochemistry.

**Purpose:** To support research capacity building in developing parts of the world, example, Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

**Eligibility:** Open to an overseas researcher on a laboratory visit to the sponsor's research facility or to go out to visit a research facility in a developing

region or to enable a member give seminars and undergraduate or postgraduate training.

**Level of Study:** Unrestricted

**Application Procedure:** Apply online at [www.biochemistry.org](http://www.biochemistry.org).

**Closing Date:** January 1st, March 1st, May 1st, June 1st, July 1st, September 1st, and November 1st.

**Contributor:** The Biochemical Society

### **Research Scholarships: Programme 1**

**Subjects:** All subjects.

**Purpose:** To support candidates from developing nations who are still in their home countries for doctoral and postdoctoral research.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be young academics from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Near and Middle East or Eastern Europe with a commitment to return to their home countries upon completion of their research stay.

**Level of Study:** Doctorate, MBA, Post doctorate, Postgraduate, Research

**Length of Study:** 1 year (extendable up to 3 years)

**Frequency:** Annual

**Study Establishment:** A German University

**Country of Study:** Germany

**Application Procedure:** Application forms are available on request.

Applications can be submitted to the KAAD partner organizations in the home country, which in turn will propose the applicants to the KAAD.

**Closing Date:** January 15th and June 15th (check with website)

**Contributor:** Catholic Academic Exchange Service (KAAD)

**Additional Information:** Visit <http://kaad.de/1/scholarships/> for further details.

### **Research Scholarships: Programme II**

**Subjects:** All subjects.

**Purpose:** To support candidates from developing nations who are already in Germany and are in an advanced stage of their research and whose research are not yet promoted by KAAD.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be young academics from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Near and Middle East or Eastern Europe with a commitment to return to their home countries upon completion of their research stay.

**Level of Study:** Doctorate, MBA, Post doctorate, Postgraduate.

**Value:** In accordance with KAAD scholarship



guidelines.

**Length of Study:** 1 year (extendable up to 3 years)

**Frequency:** Annual.

**Study Establishment:** A German university.

**Country of Study:** Germany.

**Application Procedure:** Application forms are available on request.

**Closing Date:** January 15th and June 15th (check with website).

**Contributor:** Catholic Academic Exchange Service (KAAD).

**Additional Information:** For further details, visit <http://kaad.de/1/scholarships/scholarship-program-2/>.

### Commonwealth Academic Fellowship

**Subjects:** Fellowships are offered in all subjects. Applications are considered according to the following selection criteria: academic merit of the candidate, quality of the proposal and the likely impact of the work on the development of the candidate's home country.

**Purpose:** Fellowships for mid-career academics from developing countries to spend 3 months at a UK university to network and update knowledge and skills related to their academic subjects and responsibilities.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be Commonwealth citizens, refugees or British-protected persons; be permanently resident in a developing Commonwealth country, have been employed for at least 5 years as an academic staff member of a university in a developing Commonwealth country; be in the employment of the nominating university and holds a doctorate, or in the fields of Medicine and Dentistry have been qualified as a doctor or dentist for at least ten years.

**Level of Study:** Post doctorate.

**Length of Study:** 3 months.

**Frequency:** Annual.

**Study Establishment:** Any approved UK university or higher education institution.

**Application Procedure:** Applications must be submitted using the CSC's Electronic Application System (EAS) and submitted to and endorsed by an approved nominating body. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/cscuk-apply>.

**Closing Date:** Applications must be submitted using the EAS by December 3rd

### DAAD Graduate School Scholarship Programs (GSSP)

**Subjects:** Scholarships are provided for any of the courses offered by the universities.

**Purpose:** Scholarships are offered for pursuing

doctoral degree at German universities.

**Eligibility:** At the time of scholarship, applicants should have a diploma or master, in exceptional cases, bachelor (fast-track promotion) be completed.

**Level of Study:** Doctorate.

**Country of Study:** Germany.

**Application Procedure:** For nomination process, applicant must submit various documents to the DAAD including a nomination letter to the academic qualifications, fit of the candidate to Doctoral program, a letter of confirmation stating the supervising university teachers. For information on application procedure for foreign applicants, visit the website.

**Closing Date:** January 20th.

**Additional Information:** Each DAAD Ph.D. course is awarded up to 3 years, but in the case of Ph.D. students from developing and emerging countries, scholarships are awarded up to 4 years.

### The Arturo Falaschi ICGEB Flexible Fellowships

**Subjects:** Molecular Medicine, Tumour Virology, Yeast Molecular Genetics, Bacteriology, Protein Structure and Bioinformatics, Molecular Pathology, Molecular Immunology, Biosafety, Biotechnology Development, Human Molecular Genetics, Molecular Virology, Mouse Molecular Genetics, Neurobiology, Protein Networks, Mammalian Biology, Malaria, Recombinant Gene Products, Immunology, Structural and Computational Biology, Virology, Cancer Genomics, Plant Molecular Biology, Plant Transformation, Insect Resistance, synthetic Biology and Biofuels, Molecular Haematology, Cancer Genomics, Cancer Molecular and Cell Biology, Cellular Immunology, Cytokines and disease.

**Purpose:** To provide short-term training in Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology for scientists from the member states of ICGEB, and to promote academic and industrial research in an international context.

**Eligibility:** Open to promising pre- and postdoctoral students who are nationals of one of the member states of ICGEB.

**Frequency:** Annual.

**Study Establishment:** ICGEB laboratories in Trieste, Italy; New Delhi, India; Cape Town, South Africa; ICGEB Outstation at Monterotondo (Rome), Italy.

**Application Procedure:** Applicants must submit a complete application through the ICGEB Liaison Officer of an applicant's country of origin. Application forms can be found on the website.

**Closing Date:** Applications are accepted at any time.

**Additional Information:** Endorsed applications





# HAND OVER CEREMONY AND OATH TAKING OF THE EXECUTIVES OF FACULTY OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (FOBSSA).

*Chike Chiejina, Department of Plant Sciences & Biotechnology*

The election which was supervised by staff of the Faculty of Biological Sciences has produced Faculty of Biological Sciences Students' Association Executives.

On September 3, 2018, the newly elected FOBSSA Executives were sworn in. The ceremony was graced and presided over by Prof. S. O. O. Eze, Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences. The outgoing executives presented their accounts of stewardship and subsequently handed over all FOBSSA files and other property to the current Executives.

In a speech on the occasion, the Dean stated:

*"FOBSSA is an association that belongs to the Faculty, hence, FOBSSA Executives must abide by all the laws guiding the Faculty. FOBSSA Executives must work respectfully with the*

*Management of the Faculty of Biological Sciences and be good representatives of the Faculty Students' body. I urge you all to abide by FOBSSA's Constitution, and at all times, work with Executives at Departmental levels. Most importantly, I want to inform you all that the Faculty Week will no longer be business as usual. Henceforth, Faculty Week shall comprise other activities such as Academic exhibitions. These exhibitions are expected to attract the entire university community and members of the general public. In this way, we will be able to change the narrative and project our graduating class to potential job markets."*

The Dean congratulated and thanked outgoing executives and ceremoniously handed certificates of office to members of the new Executives.



THE NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVES TAKING OATH OF OFFICE



HANDOVER OF THE FOBSSA FILES



THE DEAN, PROF. S.O.O. EZE, THE FACULTY OFFICER, MR. MBAH, WITH THE NEWLY ELECTED FOBSSA EXECUTIVES



## WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE FOBSSA PRESIDENT

It thrills me with great sense of enthusiasm and penchant humility to on behalf of FOBSSA Executives extend my warm welcome to our new and returning students to the Centre of Excellence for the 2018/2019 academic session.

I thank our amiable Dean for an opportunity like this to welcome FOBSSITES back to school. God bless you, Sir!

Welcome to the 2018/2019 Session of the Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. I hope that you have had a good and fruitful holiday and that you have all come back ready to learn, to work, and to do your best. I know that you all have the capacity to excel once you set your minds to the task at hand. I want to challenge you all to be the best that you can be.

I heartily congratulate our returning students on their successes at the last academic session while rejoicing with our new students on their successful admissions into this prestigious university, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka where excellence is the watchword and dignity of man is restored through value-adding knowledge.

New students should ensure that they attend the orientation programs conducted by the Faculty. These programs will give them the opportunity to meet their leaders and also acquaint them with the University's general rules and regulations including tips on life on campus, online registration and CBT examinations; campaigns on zero-tolerance for late registration, hate speeches, examination malpractice and other social vices.

Fellow students and compatriots: let me emphasize here that there is no short road to any place worth going to because only a serious approach can guarantee glorious and excellent results. That is, to be successful, the opportunity you have to study at this prestigious university must be consolidated with adequate preparation.

It is also important to note that we, FOBSSA Executives are working in close relationship with the Faculty Administration to make sure that we serve you all better and make your stay in school a splendid and rewarding experience.

I plead with all FOBSSITES to be of good behaviour and obey all rules and regulations as spelt out by the Faculty Administration to ensure a smooth academic session.

Once again, I welcome you all to the Centre of Academic Excellence where dignity is restored. I wish you a prosperous Session full of peace and academic excellence. Our motto remains: *Knowledge of life for better living.*"

Long live, Faculty of Biological Sciences Students Association (FOBSSA)!  
Long live, Faculty of Biological Sciences!!  
Long live, University of Nigeria, Nsukka!!!

**SEN. ONWUBUKO KELECHI VICTORY**  
**(SENATOR IN ACTION)**  
**FOBSSA PRESIDENT, UNN 2018/2019**



The Dean, on behalf of the staff and students of Faculty of Biological Sciences wishes each and every one of you a very happy birthday and a year full of success.  
It has always been a pleasure working with you.

## AUGUST

### BCH

**A**  
Omeje Kingsley

**B**  
Bravo U. Umeh

### MCB

**A**  
Dr Nwokoro, Ogonnaya C  
Dr Onwosi Chukwudi O

### B

Odo, Ogechi M

### PSB

**A**  
Dr Nweze, Nkechinyere O.  
Dr Amujiri, Angela N  
Eze, Perpetua C  
Urama, Dilibe C

**B**  
Ibe, Juliet N

### ZEB

**A**  
Orji, Ebele A.  
Echude, Daniel  
Ngene, Chinedu I

**B**  
Chibuoque, Anthonia N  
Okorie, Wesley U  
Ezema, Augustina N  
Nwankwo, Celestina U

## SEPTEMBER

### BCH

**A**  
Mabel N. Awachie  
Ogonnaya E. Ikwuagwu  
Dr V.E.O Ozougwu  
K.V. Iloabuchi  
Dr A. L. Ezugwu

**B**  
Nkechi S. Chiaha  
Veronica C. Onah

### MCB

**A**  
Ogonna, Emmanuel C

### B

Ntun Ntun Nkwam  
Eze, Chukwuemeka C  
Ezeme, Felicita C

### PSB

**A**  
Dr Udengwu, Obi S  
Dr Onyeke, C. C  
Osibe Dandy A.  
Dr Okafor Uche C  
Aliche, Ernest B

**B**  
Onyeukwu, Chijioko J  
Ugwuja, Linus E.

### ZEB

**A**  
Prof. Ubachukwu Patience O  
Dr Agwu, Julia E  
Dr Gregory E Odo  
Nzei, Joy  
Oraewelu, Chinemerem H  
Maduka, Promise O.

**B**  
Uzoamaka Ofoegbuna W

## OCTOBER

### BCH

**A**  
Prof. Henry A. Onwubiko  
Dr Florence N. Nworah

**B**  
Obiageli T. Onuigbo  
Celestina Ukoma Anene  
Christian C. Okeke

### MCB

**A**  
Prof. I. M Ezeonu  
Ezema Chinonso A

### B

Onah, Emeka J  
Ugboaja Magdalene O  
Nnadi Theodora N.

### PSB

**A**  
Prof. C. E Okezie  
Prof. M.O Nwosu  
Ayogu, Virginus O  
Adeosun Chidiebere A  
Chioke, Onyinyechi J

**B**  
Onwukwe, Beatrice N  
Kanu, Godswill O

### ZEB

**A**  
Prof. Nwani C. D  
Dr Ejere, V.C  
Dr Ugwu, Francis  
Ebido, Chike C  
Ohanu, Chinenye M  
Ezeorah, Cajetan C  
Okwuonu, Elijah

**Key: A = Academic Staff  
B = Non Teaching Staff**



# FBS Newsletter



FBS Quandriangle



Faculty Library