



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University November 6-16, 2020

Covenant Appoints Professor Abiodun Humphrey Adebayo 7th Vice-Chancellor

The Board of Regents (BOR), the apex decision-making body of Covenant University, has appointed Professor Abiodun Humphrey Adebayo as the 7th Vice-Chancellor of the 18-year-old institution.

Professor Adebayo replaces Professor Akan Williams, who had been the Ag. Vice-Chancellor since the expiration of tenure and exit from office



Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University,
Professor Abiodun H. Adebayo

Professor Abiodun Humphrey Adebayo obtained a B.Sc (Honours) degree in Biochemistry from the University of Calabar in 2000. He later proceeded to the University of Jos in 2003 and was awarded an M.Sc degree in Biochemistry (Distinction grade) in 2005.

Professor Adebayo, who joined the services of Covenant University in 2005, was awarded a PhD degree in Biochemistry by the University in 2009. He undertook a postdoctoral study at the Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2012-2013. He specialized in Plant Biochemistry and has been actively involved in the sustainable use of indigenous medicinal plants with some collaborations with local and international industries.

His main research focus is on phytochemical, biochemical and toxicity studies of medicinal plants. His research on medicinal plants involves the purification, isolation and characterization of active compounds from plants; these compounds are in turn screened for anticancer, antiviral, antimicrobial and antioxidant properties. Professor Adebayo is also involved in the safety evaluation of locally used medicinal plants using biochemical, haematological and histopathological indices of toxicity.

Professor Adebayo, who is a recipient of the prestigious Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing

World (TWAS) Fellowship awards, has published in reputable local and international journals. His astuteness has earned him three times prize of Covenant University High Impact Journal publication awards for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012. He also won research equipment grant worth \$25, 000 from the Ministry of Science and Technology, China and a Phytochemistry Laboratory has been set up which is fully functional. His research group won the 2014 TWAS Research grant of about \$60, 000 USD for carrying out a study on the "Preclinical evaluation of novel computational-aided designed compounds as antimalarial drug candidates". The fund also made provision for the award of scholarship to MSc Students.

Professor Adebayo reviews for some high impact journals and also listed on the editorial board of some international journals. He is a grant reviewer with international organizations, such as the Medical Research Council, UK. He is a fellow of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) and a Sectional Editor of Annals of Science and Technology, the Academy's official journal. He has won several travel grants and awards.

Professor Adebayo's biography is listed and published in the 30th edition of Marquis Who's Who in the World in the United States. He is a member of some national and international learned societies. He had served in different University Committees and Boards at different times.

Professor Adebayo was the former Deputy Chaplain of the University and Chaired the Community Development

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Vice-Chancellor Emphasises Importance of Ethics in Research

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor Abiodun H. Adebayo, has described as crucial the role of ethics in research.

He stated this while addressing participants at the 3rd Biennial Training Workshop of the Covenant Health Research Ethics Committee (CHREC), with the theme, "Advancing Ethical Research: A Focus on Clinical Trials and the Use of Animals in Research."

Professor Adebayo congratulated participants and appreciated the efforts of the CHREC members towards promoting and improving research outcomes in the University. He pointed out that the importance of ethics in research had prompted the Covenant University Management to ensure that every researcher in the University got as much information and support as possible on research ethics.

Research ethics, said the Vice-Chancellor, was a framework of moral principles guiding the conduct of

research. "This is intended to foster research that protects the interests of the public, the subjects, and the researchers," he remarked.

According to him, there had been many scientific and ethical advances with the use of animals for pre-clinical and clinical trials. He said that animals were often used in biomedical research to study diseases, develop new drugs, and also assess potential drug safety limit. Many great strides had been made in medicine by the use of animals, he added.

Professor Adebayo noted that efforts to objectively evaluate the value of animal research for understanding and treating human diseases were particularly relevant in the modern era, considering the availability of increasingly sophisticated technologies to address the research questions.

In his welcome remarks, the Chairman, CHREC, Professor Shalom Chinedu, stated that five years after its inauguration by Professor Charles Ayo, a former Vice-Chancellor of Covenant, the CHREC had come full circle in its objective of establishing ethical review of research protocols in the University. He said that the CHREC had been duly registered with the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC) of Nigeria.

Professor Chinedu stated that the ongoing training, scheduled to hold between Wednesday, 18 November

Covenant University's Prowess in Research & Development Delights TETFUND

Covenant University stands out among Nigerian institutions involved in research and development and indeed consistently gives the nation something to cheer about in this area, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) has declared.

A Deputy Director at the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), Mr Emeka Orji, gave this accolade on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, when he led a team from the TETFUND Standing Committee on Engineering, Technology and Material Science Thematic Working Group (ETM TWG) on a visit to the Management of Covenant. The three-man visiting team also featured Dr Yakubu Ibrahim and Mr Josiah David Emmanuel.

While stating the purpose of their visit to Covenant, Mr Orji, who represented the Director-General, NOTAP, Dr Dan Azumi Ibrahim, said that TETFUND was desirous of fostering a harmonious relationship among tertiary institutions in Nigeria in terms of research and development and commercialization of products.

Nigeria, he stated had made lots of efforts toward technological advancement through several approaches. TETFUND, he said, had tried to intervene by funding research and identifying with research institutions in the country. "We want to ensure cohesion among research institutions in Nigeria. Until this is achieved, we'll continue to flounder," he remarked.

Mr Orji noted that Covenant had excelled in Engineering, Technology and Material Science, which are the central focus of his committee. He added that TETFUND was interested in having other institutions to replicate what was happening in Covenant in their campuses.

In his comments, the Dean, College of Engineering, Professor David Omole, said that since the country was about coming up with a national research foundation, proponents of the idea should consider putting in place a relevant policy to ensure an enabling environment that

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Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abiodun H. Adebayo, with participants at the Opening Ceremony of the 3rd Biennial Training Workshop of the Covenant Health Research Ethics Committee (CHREC)

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Covenant Appoints Dr Mercy Iroaganachi Acting Director, CLR

The Board of Regents (BOR), the apex decision-making body of Covenant University, has appointed Dr Mercy Iroaganachi as the Acting Director, Centre for Learning Resources (CLR), otherwise known as the University Library.

Dr. Iroaganachi's appointment was announced on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at a meeting between the Management of the University and senior officers of the CLR.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abiodun H. Adebayo, had in his welcome remarks at the event held in his Conference Room, appreciated every member of the University for their excellent wishes following his recent appointment as the 7th Vice-Chancellor of Covenant University. He, on behalf of the Chancellor, Dr David O. Oyedepo, commended the efforts of all members of faculty and staff, especially staff of the CLR.

"We all know the strategic importance of the CLR to the University's aspirations. We appreciate the good work you are doing," he enthused.

While announcing the choice of Dr Iroaganachi as the Ag. Director, CLR, the Registrar, Dr. Oluwasegun Omidiora, commended the senior officers of the CLR for handling the affairs of the centre with dedication since the exit of the immediate past Director, Dr (Mrs) Promise Ilo. "That speaks to the leadership qualities in each person. Your level of discipline is highly commendable.

He said that the Chancellor, Dr. David O. Oyedepo, had approved Dr. Mercy Iroaganachi as the Ag. Director of the CLR. The centre, he stated, was very critical in the University's accreditation drive. As such, all staff of the CLR should cooperate with and give the Acting Director their support.

Following the administration of the Covenant of Office on Dr. Iroaganachi by the Registrar, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebayo, congratulated her stating that "We don't celebrate leadership positions here but contributions. We trust God that you'll receive grace to deliver on the terms of office".

Dr. Iroaganachi is a professional librarian. She was until her new appointment a Deputy University Librarian in Covenant University Center for Learning Resources. She holds B.A. (Hons.) in Communication and Language Arts, Masters Degree in Library Science (MLS), both from the University of Ibadan and a PhD in Information Resources Management (with specialization in Library and Information Science) from Babcock University Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State.

Dr. Iroaganachi is a Certified Librarian of Nigeria (CLN) by the Librarian Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) and a Member Nigerian Library Association. She is a seasoned Librarian with several years of work experience in the various sections of the academic library. She has some scholarly publications in reputable outlets. Her areas of special interests are gender studies and STEM education.

Also at the event was the Director, Financial Services, Pastor Babatunde Onatola, Head, Human Resources, Ms Hannah Oyewole, and Head, Media and Corporate Affairs Unit, Mr. Oladipo Okubanjo, ranked, by steadily and continuously rolling out unique research products. He attributed the successes of Covenant in the last 18 years to the God-factor at work in the lives of faculty, staff and students of the University.



The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor Abiodun H. Adebayo congratulates Dr Mercy Iroaganachi on her appointment as Acting Director, Centre for Learning Resources as the Registrar, Dr Oluwasegun Omidiora (2nd left); Director, Financial Services, Pastor Babatunde Onatola (1st left); Head, Human Resources, Ms Hannah Oyewole (1st right), and others watch in admiration.

"We have the talents, we are creating the enabling environment, and shortly, our research outputs and products will be received globally, as we work towards excellence on all fronts," he added.

The Professor of Analytical/Environmental Chemistry appealed to government to create enabling environment that would facilitate the patronage of local products, and at the same time make funding available to enterprising institutions to carry out local production.

The event, held at the conference room of the Vice-Chancellor, was witnessed by the Director, Financial Services, Pastor Babatunde Onatola; Deputy Director, CUCRID, Dr Oluwatobi Stephen; representative of the Legal Unit, Barrister Faith Lawani; a lead researcher into the ADPL Seed Extract, Mrs Taiwo Owoeye, and CUCRID's Principal Information Officer, Mr Emmanuel Igban.

Mrs. Taiwo Owoeye and Mrs D.K Akinlabu, it will be recalled, had in August 2020 won gold for Best Presentation and Outstanding Creativity and Innovativeness for their ADPL Seed Extracts entry at the World Invention Creativity Olympic (WICO) 2020. The event was organized by the Korea University Invention Association in Seoul, South Korea. ■

Vice-Chancellor Emphasises Importance of Ethics in Research *Contd. from Pg 1*

2020, and Friday, 20 November 2020, was necessitated by the expiration of the last registration in October 2020 and the current training was a requirement for the registration of CHREC for another two years by NHREC.

He revealed that the CHREC did not stop at the registration with the National body, but went ahead to apply and get registered as an Institutional Review Board (IRB) by the United States Department of

Human and Health Services. The registration, he said, was valid till 2022.

The CHREC Chairman pointed out that the 3rd training workshop was unique due to the number of participants and the fact that the participants were all drawn from the four colleges of the University as well as the Medical Centre.

While stating that there would be additional training of online participants, Professor Chinedu said that

every participant would at the end of the training obtain three international certifications on Bioethics in addition to HHREC/BENSON certificate.

The Secretary of the committee, Dr. Tayo George, gave the vote of thanks, appreciated the University Board and Management for their constant support, which had enabled the committee's successes over the years. She also appreciated members of the committee and all participants for being a part of the success story of CHREC.

Covenant University's Prowess in Research & Development Delights TETFUND *Contd. from Pg 1*



Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor Abiodun H. Adebayo (right), welcoming the Head of the TETFUND visiting team, Mr. Emeka Oji, to his office.

would enhance the rating of researchers.

The Director, Covenant University Centre for Research, Innovation, and Discovery (CUCRID), Professor Emeka Iweala, who reeled out the centre's exploits, said that it had 24 registered patent rights and ten (10) were being processed. He stated that, Covenant had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a company to market some of the patented products.

Professor Iweala noted that Covenant had been winning laurels at exhibitions, locally and internationally. "Covenant University supports publications and conference attendance. The University has 31 recognized research clusters, with each of the clusters addressing a subject in the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Also, Covenant has a robust industry partnership, and there is a collaboration with the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria," he explained.

The Vice-Chancellor Covenant University, Professor Abiodun H. Adebayo, in his remarks, said that the University derived her inspiration from God who is the founder and funder of the institution.

He stated that Covenant had a robust governance structure initiated by the Board of Regents (the University's apex decision-making body) ably led by the Chancellor, Dr David O. Oyedepo. "Our Chancellor is an inspirational leader who'll ensure he drives the vision of Covenant into reality," he asserted.

Professor Adebayo averred that the government had given little value to Research and Development. While noting that research centres in the country provided little compared to those in developed nations, he added that the research centres in the developed nations made significant contributions to the academic development of such nations.

"These well-developed research centres contribute to the development of the industries in those nations at the expense of their governments because their governments drive value. Little wonder why they are ahead of us," said the Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Adebayo said that Covenant University was in the right direction in bridging the gap between the industry and the academia. He,

Covenant Appoints Professor Abiodun Humphrey Adebayo 7th Vice-Chancellor *Contd. from Pg 1*

Impact Initiative Committee for four years. He was also the Chair of the Covenant University Farm Board for almost five years. Professor Adebayo rose through the academic ranks and was appointed a Full Professor of Biochemistry on January 1st, 2018. He was appointed into the office of the Sub-Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies for two years and was later appointed as the Dean of the School of Postgraduate Studies, the position he held until his appointment as Vice-Chancellor.

He is a member of the accreditation panel of the National Universities Commission (NUC) where he visited and accredited Biochemistry programme in some Private, State and Federal Universities in Nigeria. He is also on the NUC Resource Verification Team for Postgraduate Programme in Biochemistry. He has supervised and graduated bachelor, masters and doctoral students in Biochemistry. He had participated in the assessment of faculty members into Professorial Chair as an external assessor to some Universities.

Professor Adebayo had also served as an external examiner to some Universities in Nigeria. He is an ordained Pastor at the Living Faith Church (Faith Tabernacle), Canaanland, Ota. He is happily married with children. ■

however, maintained that so much more could be done if the government played its part in adding value to research and development. ■