

# SALUTING THE COURAGE & SACRIFICE OF THE 'PRODUCTION & QUALITY CONTROL MANAGERS' OF THE NIGERIAN PHYSIOTHERAPY INDUSTRY

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Sometime in 1991 some agitated and disturbed 200 Level physiotherapy students during an Electrophysics lecture took up their lecturer on an issue bothering their young minds. They were apprehensive of poor earning power and a bleak future prospect professionally upon graduation. The following dialogue therefore ensued:

**Lecturer:** "Never mind the present condition of service of physiotherapists in Nigeria; it is a camouflage. Outside Nigeria, physiotherapists are well paid, highly priced, valued and respected. That is why many Nigerian physiotherapists including many of my colleagues here are going abroad, especially to the USA for greener pastures".

The students became excited but they wondered and prodded further:

**Students:** "If that is true sir, then why are you still here, why haven't you gone too?"

**Lecturer:** "Well, I also got many tempting offers, none of which I applied for. My colleagues abroad gave my name and credentials to some Physical Therapy Schools in the USA who decided to offer me appointments even without an application or interviews. All these offers came at a crucial time that if I leave, the BSc program here will collapse. But I believe that you students have a right to your BSc education just as I had mine. You are the reason why I have stayed back. My joy therefore will be your graduating with flying colours. Then I would be fulfilled and compensated".

With these heart touching words, this crop of 26 students became highly motivated in their studies. They broke all available academic and extra-curricular records at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos (CMUL). Their set had distinctions in all courses. They produced two 1<sup>st</sup> Class degrees, fifteen 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Upper Division and nine 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Lower Division degrees. Their records till date at the CMUL some 7 years after are yet to be equaled.

Those were the days of SAP (Structural Adjustment Program); there was economic crunch. Professionals could hardly sustain themselves on their salaries. Those were the days of the 'Andrews'. Remember Andrew?... "I'm checking out! No light, no water, no good roads, you can't even make a phone call, Bullshit! I'm checking out!" Remember that NTA

jingle on NTA stations nationwide? Things were really BAD. It was about the same time that the America Physical Therapy Association (APTA) lobbied and successfully passed through the US senate a bill that America need to recruit foreign trained PTs to supplement and meet up with demands for PTs in the US. H1 visa was therefore automatic for Nigerian physiotherapists. Many Nigerian PTs were relocating to the USA daily in their numbers; a few to the UK, some to Saudi Arabia and yet a handful to Canada. It was Nigeria Physiotherapy 'Export' galore.

The effects were outstanding! There was a dearth of seasoned and skilled clinicians in our Health Centers nationwide. Distinguished Physiotherapists who were providing leadership for the profession about that time became absent thereby putting on hold momentarily, the cause of the profession's progress being pursued as at that time. There was a progressive and exponential depletion of the Faculty pool of our Training Institutions. The very existence of Nigeria Physiotherapy training programs was threatened.

But there were a few individuals in our Training Institutions who had a die-hard patriotic zeal. They had a *calling* to stay back while others left. They sacrificed the comfort and the juicy opportunities that awaited them if they had gone abroad. It is to these few individuals that I dedicate this brief write up. I'm talking of those who stayed by choice, not those Paul Stern dissatisfied.

*As we celebrate 35 years of Physiotherapy Education in Nigeria they need to be acknowledged and celebrated. Their contributions are no less important than those of the Founding Fathers. In fact they sustained the works and the labours of the fathers lest it be in vain. They stayed back as the "Production & Quality Control Managers of the Nigerian Physiotherapy Industry".*

They are still holding the forth even today in our various Universities. In the face of down turn in Government funding and lack of personal and professional incentives... they stayed put. These individuals deserve our commendations and acknowledgements. They deserve to be celebrated. and given National Awards by the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy. Indeed this generation of physiotherapists and

those coming behind will not forget them. They are great citizens of this country. They should be respected and treated as Kings and Queens.

Do I now mean that those who left are unpatriotic? Nooooooo! In fact, that is besides the point. It was good for them and us that they left (*even I will leave too at the next available opportunity....but I hope to come back*). Many of them are making great impact outside Nigeria. Their vast potentials would have been severely caged-in and they would have been frustrated if they had all stayed back. But the high point here is that, it's a great sacrifice on the part of those who stayed back at home. *In fact it takes a calling to make such sacrifices.* I here now pay tribute to the following few notable individuals listed below in our Training Institutions:

## College of Medicine,

### University of Ibadan (COMUI)

Dr. T. Abayomi Oshin spearheaded the program, which commenced in October 1966 to award BSc Physiotherapy degree. It was the 1<sup>st</sup> program in Nigeria and West Africa. The sacrifice and efforts of its current Managers sustained the program and the labours of the pioneers.

**Arinola O. Sanya**, BSc, MEd, PhD, MNSP, Professor and Head & Consultant Physiotherapist to the University College Hospital (UCH), Member MRTRB: She's been on staff immediately post-NYSC. She has seen the Physiotherapy Department go through different phases of development. She initiated and spearheaded the now approved and functional MSc, M.Phil and PhD programs in Physiotherapy. She persevered for 51 months until the program got final Senate approval. She had tempting offers abroad but chose to stay back to manage and maintain standards at the Nigeria premier Physiotherapy Institution.

**Aderonke O. Akinpelu**, BSc, MEd, PhD, MNSP, Senior Lecturer and Consultant Physiotherapist to the UCH. This distinguished and sweet lady physiotherapist who has done much works in paediatrics and neurological physiotherapy is another great Manager that has maintained standards and quality of production at the COMUI program. She got too many tempting offers especially from Saudi Arabia to leave Nigeria permanently, but she chose to stay back.

**A.O. Jaiyesimi**, BSc, MEd, MNSP, Lecturer in Physiotherapy. This Reverend Gentleman had all the opportu-

nity to go abroad but chose to stay back. He has remained to help maintain standards and quality of production at his Alma Mata. He found it necessary to help out at COMUI alongside of his Ministerial calling.

## College of Medicine,

### University of Lagos (CMUL)

Prof. G.I Odi started the CMUL Physiotherapy program in 1971 as a Diploma program that was upgraded to a Bachelor's status in 1977. The BSc program produced its 1<sup>st</sup> set of graduates in 1980. The program was sustained due to the sacrifice of the present Managers. They sustained the works and labours of the pioneer:

**Isaac O. Owoeye**, BSc, MSc, PhD, MNSP, FNASM, Professor of Physiotherapy, CMUL. Consultant Physiotherapist, LUTH & Registrar, MRTRB: He joined CMUL in 1979 as a MSc holder at a time the School needed at least one Graduate faculty member on staff to graduate their 1<sup>st</sup> set of BSc graduates. The University of Lagos thereafter sent him and ten (10) others as University Scholars abroad for graduate studies. This was in order for them to come back home and help strengthen the BSc program. To date ONLY Prof. Owoeye returned back to Nigeria after completing his PhD program. He honoured the bond he signed with the University. He is a man of integrity. The 4-years BSc program is now a 5-years BPT program. He is the Lecturer discussed above. He shunned all offers from the USA and stayed back to keep the CMUL program running.

**Sunday R. A. Akinbo**, BSc, MSc (Anatomy), MNSP, Lecturer 1 & Consultant Physiotherapist, Lagos University Teaching Hospital. He stayed back at a time the CMUL program had only 2 fully functional faculty members. He had every opportunity to go abroad but decided to help out at his Alma Mata.

## Obafemi Awolowo

### University (OAU)

Prof. V.C.B. Nwuga, the 1st Professor of Physiotherapy in Africa, started the BMR program in 1978. Its MSc and PhD programs commenced in 1986. A number of individuals apart from the Professor himself helped maintain standards and quality of production.

**Matthew O.B. Olaogun**, BSc, MSc, MNSP, MNIM, Associate Professor and Head, Vice Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Consultant Physiotherapist to OAUTHC, member MRTRB. He returned from Canada

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**SALUTING... (Contd)**

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just a few days after defending his MSc Dissertation. He has remained in Nigeria since then, shunning all offers abroad. He spent 6 sacrificial years at the Federal School of Physiotherapy, Dala, Kano, where he achieved affiliation of the School to the Bayero University, Kano. The Kano School now Awards BSc Physiotherapy degree. His presence back at OAU has maintained standards and quality of the OAU products.

**University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus**  
**S.T. Eke-Okoro**, BSc, DSc (Med. Sc), formerly Senior Lecturer and Pioneer Head of Department. Started the program in 1987 to award BMR degree. The MSc program was introduced in 1994. Dr Eke-Okoro shunned all offers abroad in order to lay the UNEC program on solid footing. He has now left Physiotherapy practice for full time Christian Ministry in the USA. Reverend (Dr) S.T. Eke-Okoro's presence at UNEC in those days set and maintained the standard and quality of the UNEC products. He remained at UNEC shunning all tempting offers abroad until just before he left practice for the Church.

**Federal School of Physiotherapy, Kano**

**Henry Onuwe**, BSc, MSc, MNSP, MMRTB, Principal, took over from M.O.B. Olaogun and has to date graduated 5 sets of BSc Physiotherapy graduates. He left the comfort of his abode in JUTH, Jos to help out and maintain the standards and ensure quality of the Federal School products.

There are many more great individuals in our Training Institutions today who probably qualify to be mentioned here for their great sacrifices in keeping the Nigeria Training Institutions running especially during the SAP and H1 visa periods. But permit me here to limit myself only to this notable few because of space.

*We also salute today, all the full-time and part-time faculty members in our Training Institutions. We salute also all the Clinicians who equally stayed behind to hold the forte. We salute also those distinguished Physiotherapists who equally stayed behind to give leadership to the profession during those trying years. These great men and women of Physiotherapy mentioned above and many more not mentioned are the "Production and Quality Control Managers of the Nigerian Physiotherapy Industry".*

**NORTH AMERICAN LASER THERAPY ASSOCIATION HOLDS 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Conference & 1<sup>st</sup> Consensus Conference on Laser Medicine, Photobiology, and Bioengineering of Tissue Repair**  
**Enwemeka is Key Speaker**



The North American Laser Therapy Association will be holding its 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Conference and its 1<sup>st</sup> Consensus Conference on Laser Medicine, Photobiology, and Bioengineering of Tissue Repair from 20th-23rd February 2002 in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. A Nigerian, Dr. Chukuka Enwemeka, Professor of Physical Therapy from the Kansas University Medical Center, Kansas City, USA, is one of the key Speakers at the Conference. For details visit <http://www.naalt.org> or contact Melyni Worth (melyni@intelos.net).

**Enwemeka to attend 42<sup>nd</sup> NSP Conference in 2002 as a Key Speaker**

Professor Chukuka S. Enwemeka has accepted an invitation from the NSP Council to attend next year's 42<sup>nd</sup> NSP Annual Scientific Conference as a Key Speaker. Prof Enwemeka confirmed his acceptance to attend the next NSP Conference to the National PhysioNews Editor, Mr E.B. John via email. Prof. Enwemeka said "it will be my joy and delight to attend the year 2002 NSP Conference". This vastly travelled scholar will however want to know the exact date of the Conference at least one year in advance. He has a busy itinerary of speaking engagements around the world, most of which are arranged many years in advance. Council will decide on date and venue of next year's Conference at Edo 2001 Conference.

Prof. C.S. Enwemeka is the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Physical Therapy Education at the Kansas University Medical Center, Kansas City, USA. He is also a world reknown Laser Therapy Expert. His profile is presented on page 20 of this edition of PhysioNews.

**WCPT 14th WORLD CONGRESS TO HOLD 7th-12th JUNE 2003 IN BARCELONA SPAIN**

The 14th World Congress of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) comes up from 7th-12th June 2003 in Barcelona, Spain. The Spanish Association of Physiotherapists will be playing host to their colleagues from all over the world. The WCPT is calling for papers and has set October 2002 as the deadline for submission of abstracts. This is for anyone who wishes to present papers at the 14th World Congress. Registration materials and invitation to the World Congress will become available for interested participants from June 2002. To receive a full Congress package; that is details of Call for Papers (now) and invitation/registration materials (anytime from June 2002), send your name, address, position, organisation by e-mail to [14thcongress@wcpt.org](mailto:14thcongress@wcpt.org). You will automatically be placed on the WCPT mailing list to receive the Congress materials as they become available.

**CALL FOR PAPER****JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIA SOCIETY OF PHYSIOTHERAPY**

The Journal of Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy (JNSP) constitutes a central forum for the publication of quality full-length manuscripts and short communications reporting new information on experimental, theoretical and clinical aspects of physiotherapy. It will act as a store for physiotherapeutic research papers and a forum for current developments.

The JNSP welcomes manuscripts, which report the application of physical therapy research methodologies to physiotherapy problems. Rigorous peer review is provided by an International Board of Associate Editors to maintain the highest level of scientific and clinical merit.

**NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS**

The submission of original manuscripts for editorial consideration is welcomed. All articles should be sent to:

Matthew O.B. Olaogun,  
Editor-in Chief /Chairman, JNSP Editorial Board,  
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College of Health Sciences,  
Obafemi Awolowo University,  
Ile Ife, Nigeria. **Email:** molaogun@oauife.edu.ng

Papers for this journal should deal with physiotherapy rehabilitation problems in general. The papers are accepted subject to the understanding that no substantial part has been or will be published elsewhere, except with the express permission of the editorial board.

Authors should send three complete copies of the text, tables and photographs. The editor will not accept responsibilities for damages or loss of papers submitted. Manuscripts should be submitted double-spaced and typewritten with ample margins. On a single separate sheet there must be the following:

1. Title
2. Author's name and initials
3. Department in which the work was done
4. The name and address of the author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

Authors should accompany manuscripts with a summary not exceeding 200 words. Three to five key words should be provided. Accompanying photographs should be glossy prints, untrimmed and unmounted. Number each with pencils lightly on the back and indicate the top. The numbers of photographs and illustration should be kept to a minimum. Publication of colour transparencies must be clearly legible when reduced to the size used in this journal.

Materials taken from other sources must be accompanied by written permission for production obtained from the original publisher. Authors are required to have observed standard ethical codes in the execution of the work to be published.

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**Article**

Balogun J.A.: Pain Compliant and Muscle Soreness Associated with High Frequency Electrical Stimulation. *Percept Mot skills* 62:799-810, 1986.

**Chapter in a book**

Wagner K.A.: Outcome Analysis in Comprehensive Rehabilitation. In Fuhrer M.J., editor. *Rehabilitation outcomes* Baltimore: Brookes Publishing Co.; pp 233-9. 1987.

**Published proceedings paper**

Kauzlarich J.J Thacker J.G.: Antiskid Wheelchair Brake Design. Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual RESNA Conference, Kansas City, MO, Washington, DC: RESNA Press; 143-5; 1991

**Tables** should not duplicate materials in text or illustration. They should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numeral cited in the text. Each table should be typed double spaced on a separate sheet and should have a brief title. Short or abbreviated column heads should be used and explained, if necessary, in footnotes.

Mathematical Formulae: Traditional mathematical treatments should be extended by adding narrative notes of explained and definitions of terms, as appropriate to ensure that readers of other disciplines gain the fullest understanding of the material presented. The metric system is requested for use in all quantities in text, tables, and figures.

**Originality:** A certificate signed by all authors must confirm that the contribution has not been published buy or submitted to another Journal.

Acceptance of manuscripts will, in addition, be based on the recommendation of referees and reviewers and approval of the Editorial board.