

Newsletter

June 2013

## NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (NSBMB)

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## **From the President's Desk**

Fellow Biochemists, I bring you greetings from the National Secretariat, once again I thank you all for your support

As you are aware, the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of our Society will take place in Ilorin, November 12-15, 2013. May I use this opportunity to request members to kindly leave the date open and make efforts to attend the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual conference as scheduled.

As an Executive, we are doing everything possible to give the Society great feasibility, our Journal will soon be accessible on-line and all the backlog and current issues/volumes will be ready before the conference.

The secretariat is doing everything possible to improve the web site to make it more user-friendly. I encourage you to visit the web site regularly for update and activities of the Society.

I feel compelled to ask our entire membership to continue to remember our colleagues in the troubled parts of the country in their prayers

On a sad note, we lost one of our most cherished and respected Biochemist and former President, Professor Anthony U. Osagie, the Society was feasibly represented in the funeral and interment.

We **congratulate** our members who were promoted or appointed to various positions especially, Professor Bilbis who recently assumed duties as the first Vice Chancellor of the Federal University Kebbi.

Let us remind members of their various financial obligations to our Society. We plead that you pay up your outstanding dues to enable us serve you better.

**Obi U. Njoku Ph.D**

## **Unilorin Set to Host 2013 NSBMB Confab**

University of Ilorin, in the ancient city of Ilorin, Kwara State is leaving no stone unturned towards a successful hosting of the Annual Conference of the Nigerian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NSBMB) billed for the last quarter of this year. At the 2012 Annual General Meeting and Conference held at University of Calabar, the Ilorin contingent had to contend with University of Lagos for the hosting of the 2013 conference. However, the issue was resolved amicably among the trio of Professor S.O. Malomo, Dr. MT Yakubu (both from Unilorin) and Prof. AOT Ebuehi (Unilag) without necessarily dragging it through the process of voting; and the hosting right was eventually given to university of Ilorin. Thanks to the understanding of these elders.

The host department has already put in place a Local Organizing Committee headed by Dr. M.T. Yakubu. A release by the Zonal Coordinator for North-Central who incidentally is a member of staff of the host University, Prof. A.T. Oladiji, hinted that the dates for the 4-day conference have been fixed for Tuesday November 12 to Friday 15, 2013. The proposed venue for the Conference is the University Auditorium. Please see the conference flyer for other necessary details. The conference promises to be exciting and educative going by the pace of preparation by the host institution. See you in Ilorin, Kwara State capital – The State of Harmony.

## **Promotions and appointments for NSBMB members and other announcements**

It is with great joy that we report the elevation of some of our members to the exalted position of Professor.

At Michael Okpara University Umudike comes the announcement of two new Professors of Biochemistry namely Professor Ifeoma Irene Ijeh (effective date 1st October, 2010) and Professor Polycarp Nnacheta Okafor (effective date 1st October, 2011).

At Usman Danfodio University Sokoto, Dr R.A. Umar, the immediate past national secretary of NSBMB, got elevated to the position of a Professor, also Dr S.W. Hassan was promoted to Professor

At Bayero University Kano, Dr A.M. Wudil was promoted to reader with effect from 2012

Also from Bayero University Kano came the report that Dr A.M. Wudil has replaced Prof H.Abubakar as the Head of Biochemistry Department

Also Prof S.E. Atawodi was elected fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Prof Atawodi is at the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria.

While hoping and praying for more, we say congratulations to them.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Executive Council meeting of the NSBMB under this executive was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June at the Vice Chancellors lodge, Federal University of Technology Minna. Among the highlights of the meeting was the NEC meeting on June 5 and a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor on June 6. We sincerely thank the Vice Chancellor Prof M.A. Akanji who is also the Editor-in-Chief of our Journal for hosting the meeting.

On a very sad note, the Society announces the death of our former President, Prof Anthony U. Osagie, who was interred on June 20, 2013 at his 21, Ekikhalo-Edosomwan Avenue residence along Ugbor village road, Benin City. The society placed an obituary announcement to that effect on Daily Sun of 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2013. May his gentle soul rest in peace, AMEN

## **NSBMB Directory**

A directory of all Biochemists in all the Universities within the country will be unveiled at UNILORIN 2013. All zonal coordinators are reminded of the need to represent their zone effectively in this directory as no one should be left out of this project. Members are also reminded that this directory will cover only registered and financial up to date members.

## **Inaugural Lectures**

### **Professor Malomo reveals the invisible behind and beyond the visible**

Professor (Mrs.) Sylvia Omonirume Malomo, the first female Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and entire Faculty of Science, University of Ilorin, delivered a scholarly and outstanding inaugural lecture titled; **“The invisible behind and beyond the visible”**. The Lecture which was the 127<sup>th</sup> in the series, took place at the Science Lecture Theatre of University of Ilorin on April 4, 2013.

Professor Malomo opined that each part of every living being is biochemically connected. In her words “Every part of the human body for instance maintains communication with each other via its various tissues and fluids at various levels and this ensures regular restoration and maintenance of proper balance and harmony, making the body a healthy functional unit that expresses proper physiological and mental activities.” She further stressed that living organisms are derived from the same elements – carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen e.t.c. that are found in lifeless matter. No wonder then that the usual laws of physics and chemistry that are work in the more elementary aspects of the cosmos are also found to be operational within the biological entities that constitute living organisms since they are part of the material universe.

The event took place at the Main Auditorium, University of Ilorin and it was well attended by the town and gown. Present at the occasion were the Vice-Chancellors of Unilorin and FUT Minna, Professors Ambali and Akanji; all the Principal Officers of Unilorin and our own Professors Oloyede, Bewaji and Oladiji. On behalf of every member of NSBMB, we say congratulations to our amiable Professor of Biochemistry.

Also from Bayero University Kano, Prof M.S. Sule delivered the 10<sup>th</sup> inaugural lecture in April 2013

From University of Port Harcourt comes the news that Prof Onyeike also delivered inaugural lecture

### **Update on the Society Journal**

The Editorial Board of our journal, Nigerian Journal of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NJBMB) wishes to inform all members that the process of registering the journal with African Journals Online (AJOL) is almost completed. This is good news to all of us as our research efforts will be seen and accessed by scientists all over the world.

### **Instruction to Authors**

1. Nigerian Journal of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NJBMB) publishes papers in all areas of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. **Manuscript should be sent to the Editor's e-mail address: [editornjbmb@gmail.com](mailto:editornjbmb@gmail.com)**
2. Originals of illustrative materials and line drawings should be submitted. When photographs are included, they should be glossy print. All photographs will appear as black and white.
3. Authors submitting a paper do so on the understanding that the work has not been submitted before and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. Submission of manuscripts by author(s) means that the author(s) automatically agree to assign exclusive copyright to the journal if and when the manuscript is accepted for publication.
4. Manuscripts should be typewritten with double spacing and wide margin. Tables, illustrations, graphs and legends should be on separate sheets, which should be numbered consecutively.
5. The first page should contain the title of the manuscript, name(s) of all the authors and their affiliations including e-mail addresses. Where there are more than one author, the corresponding author should be indicated. An abstract (of not more than 200 words) should follow the authors' names and addresses. This should adequately summarize the

pertinent findings of the paper. The main body of the paper may be divided into (a) Introduction, (b) Materials and Methods, (c) Results, (d) Discussion, (e) Acknowledgement and, (f) References. “c” and “d” may be combined for conciseness and clarity.

6. If the research involves the use of human subjects, including collection of human blood or other human specimens, an Institutional ethical clearance document should be submitted with the manuscript. Alternatively, a clear statement should be made in the materials and methods section indicating that informed consent of the experimental subject and/or appropriate ethical committee has been obtained.
7. References must be arranged in alphabetical order at the reference section after citation by name and year in the text. Full titles of papers cited should be included and abbreviations of journals should conform to those of Biological Abstracts. Note the following examples:
  - (a) Cheung, W. Y. (1980) Calmodulin plays a pivotal role in cellular regulation. *Science* 207, 19 – 27.
  - (b) Akanji, M. A., Olagoke, A. A. and Oloyede, O. B. (1993) Effect of chronic consumption of metabisulphite on the integrity of the rat kidney cellular system. *Toxicol.* 81, 173 – 179.
  - (c) Brodulus, P. (1983) Immobilized plant cells. In: immobilized Cell and Organelles. Vol. 1 (b. Mattiason, ed.), pp 27 – 55. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida.
8. **Authors should note that handling fee and page charges apply for submitted manuscripts.**
9. Upon publication, a copy of the issue containing the author’s article will be mailed to the corresponding author. However, copies of the journal may be purchased from the Editor-in-Chief.

Members are hereby encouraged to submit their manuscripts for publication in this journal.

## **REPORTS FROM THE ZONES**

### **South West**

The South West zone of the NSBMB organized this year’s ZONAL QUIZ COMPETITION for the UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS of Biochemistry on Thursday June 27, 2013. The venue

was the Alumni Hall, College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Idiaraba, Lagos. The event was well publicized within the zone and was well attended. Prof. O.A.T. Ebuehi , the SW Zonal Coordinator, NSBMB and Head of Department of Biochemistry, University of Lagos, chaired the event and all the Biochemistry lecturers present during this occasion served as co- judges for the quiz competition. Questions were drawn from all aspect of Biochemistry and after 4 brain storming rounds, THE DEFENDING CHAMPION , Olabisi Onabanjo University , Ago Iwoye, Ogun State emerged First, while the University of Lagos came Second and Fountain University , Oshogbo, Osun State was Third. Certificates and prizes were presented by the Coordinator to the best three schools which participated in the quiz contest.

Adeneye Oluwadamilola and Ezechukwu Henry represented Olabisi Onabanjo University. Ewetumo Mary Kemi and Ikujuni Ayotunde Paul represented the University of Lagos and Adeleye Abdulwasiu Oladokun and Onakoya Sayeed Abiola represented Fountain University.

From these results, the Biochemistry students of the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye, will represent the south west zone in the national quiz contest which will take place during the Annual conference of NSBMB at University of Ilorin in November 2013.

The NSBMB Directory is at the final stage of compilation and production, all members of NSBMB from the south west are required to forward their names, designation , Email /Tel no. , area of specialization, etc , to Prof. OAT Ebuehi electronically, using [ebuehi@yahoo.com](mailto:ebuehi@yahoo.com) for **inclusion into the directory.**

## **South East**

The 5<sup>th</sup> South East Zonal Conference has been scheduled to hold at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka from 18 to 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2013 at Chike Okoli centre for entrepreneurial studies. A Local Organising Committee is already in place with Dr H.A. Ogbunugafor (08032322729) as the chairman and Dr V.H.A. Enemor (08039533280) as the secretary. The zonal conference with the theme Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, bridging the gap in medical, nutritional and agricultural research and development, will be chaired by our own Honourable minister of state for foreign affairs, Prof Viola Onwuliri. The keynote address will be delivered by Prof E.O. Ayalogu, former deputy vice Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Port Harcourt. The workshop guest speaker is Nze S. Akachukwu Nwamkpo, special adviser to the president on Technical matters and secretary Sure-P.

According to the release by the LOC, registration for the conference is N5, 000.00 for members and N7, 000.00 for non-members, while students at all levels will register with N2, 000.00 each. Payments are to be made to UBA Plc Acct number 1017289039. The account name is UNIZIK Biochemistry Conference.

## **NORTH WEST**

The zonal quiz competition for the north west has been scheduled to take place in the first week of October 2013 at Bayero University, Kano.



***THE LENSE ALSO CAPTURED EVENTS  
AT THE EXCO MEETING***

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The national president, Prof Obi U. Njoku and the Secretary during the EXCO meeting



L-R: Assistant Secretary, Dr M.T. Yakubu, Treasurer, Dr (Mrs) Josephine Ezekwesili-Offili and the North central Zonal Co-ordinator, Prof (Mrs) T. Oladiji



North West zonal co-ordinator, Dr Atiku



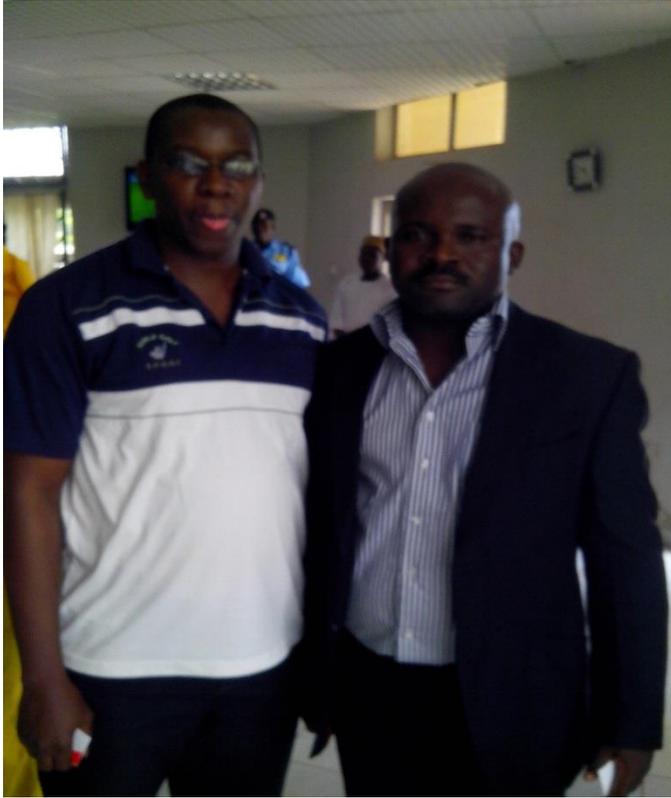
Prof Obi U Njoku addressing principal officers of the Federal University of Technology Minna during a courtesy call by NSBMB to the ViceChancellor, FUT Minna, Prof M.A. Akanji



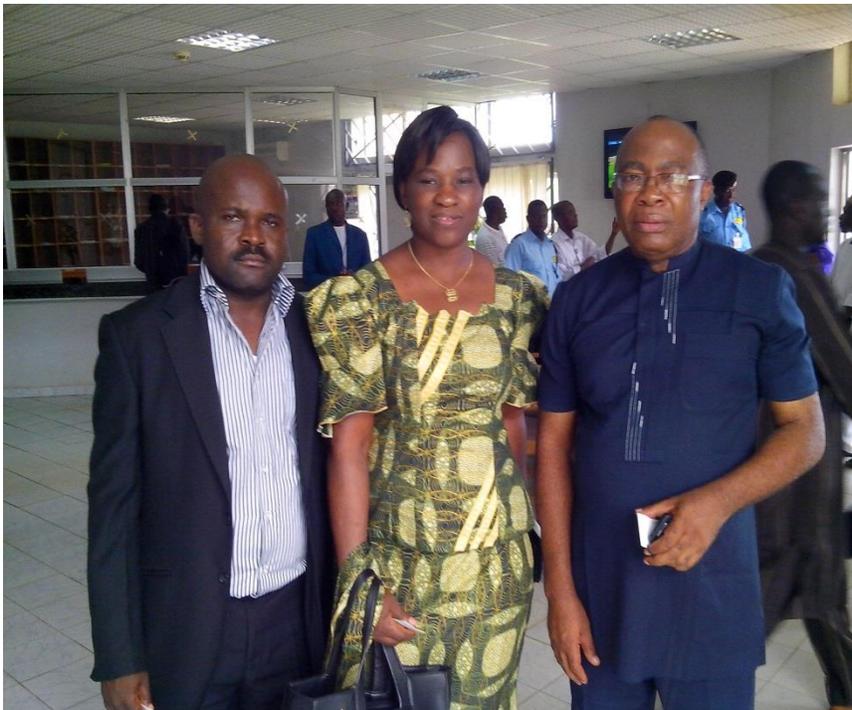
Prof Malomo of the University of Ilorin making a presentation to the Vice Chancellor, FUT Minna, on behalf of NSBMB during the courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor



Across section of NSBMB EXCO with the Principal officers of FUT Minna



Assistant Secretary and assistant editor NJBMB, Dr M.T. Yakubu with the secretary, Dr S.O.O.EZE



L-R: The Secretary, North central zonal co-ordinator and the Asstant Editor NJBMB, Prof F.C Chilaka



The North central zonal co-ordinator and the South East Zonal co-ordinator, Prof E.I. Akubugwo

## Payment of Backlog of arrears of Annual Dues

In order to reposition the society for the challenges ahead, members are kindly requested to pay up their annual dues and clear the arrears of all outstanding dues from 2008. The dues payable for all categories of members are stipulated as follows

Category	Annual Membership Dues				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Fellows	₦6,000.00	₦12,000.00	₦14,000.00	₦20,000.00	₦20,000.00
Professors	₦3,000.00	₦6,000.00	₦7,000.00	₦10,000.00	₦10,000.00
Associate Professors/Readers	₦3,000.00	₦6,000.00	₦7,000.00	₦10,000.00	₦10,000.00
Senior Lecturers	₦2,500.00	₦4,000.00	₦5,000.00	₦7,000.00	₦7,000.00
Lecturer I, II and Assistant Lecturers	₦2,000.00	₦2,500.00	₦3,000.00	₦5,000.00	₦5,000.00
Graduate Assistant/Junior Research Fellows	₦1,000.00	₦2,000.00	₦2,000.00	₦3,000.00	₦3,000.00
Postgraduate Students	₦1,000.00	₦2,000.00	₦2,000.00	₦2,000.00	₦2,000.00
Undergraduate Students/NYSC	₦1,000.00	₦1,000.00	₦1,000.00	₦1,000.00	₦1,000.00

All payments are to be made to any branch of Zenith Bank Plc

**Account Name:** Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

**Account Number:** 1011557956

For further enquiries on payment of Annual Dues, members are requested to make contact with their zonal coordinators or any member of the executives. Kindly send an SMS to the Financial Secretary, Dr. I.I. Ijeh on 08064719842 notifying her of any payment made to the bank.