

A LEGACY — OF — EXCELLENCE



A TRIBUTE COMPENDIUM

In Honour of

**PROFESSOR OMOLOLOLA
OLADUNNI IRINOYE**

On the Occasion of her Retirement

CELEBRATING A LIFETIME OF MENTORSHIP

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TRIBUTE TO AN EXCEPTIONAL SCHOLAR, MENTOR, AND MOTHER OF ACADEMICS

It is with profound gratitude, admiration, and respect that I pay tribute to a truly remarkable woman, an outstanding scholar, an exceptional mentor, and a rare gift to the academic community. Few people are privileged to encounter a teacher who not only imparts knowledge but also shapes destinies. I count myself immensely fortunate to have been supervised by Professor Omolola Oladunni Irinoye throughout my academic journey from my first degree, through my master's programme, and ultimately my doctoral studies. This unique privilege has allowed me to witness her unwavering commitment to academic excellence, intellectual rigour, and human development.

Professor Irinoye is a compassionate mentor whose greatest joy is seeing her students succeed. She will challenge you to think critically, work diligently, and pursue excellence without compromise. Her guidance extended far beyond thesis supervision; she encouraged confidence, inspired resilience, and these continue to guide my professional and academic life today.

I remember the day you accepted to supervise my doctoral thesis. Thank you for believing in me, guiding me, and helping me become the scholar I am today. Your mentorship remains one of the greatest blessings of my academic journey. May your legacy of excellence, integrity, wisdom, and service continue to inspire generations to come.

As you retire from active service, we celebrate not an end, but the beginning of a new chapter enriched by the remarkable legacy you have built. With heartfelt appreciation, respect, and best wishes for a fulfilling and rewarding retirement.

Dr. Cecilia Bukola Bello

Faculty of Nursing Science

Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti

AN EXTRAORDINARY TEACHER, AN EXCEPTIONAL MENTOR

Thirty years ago, you saw something in me that no one else did - not just a young, naïve undergraduate, but a little spark of talent that you lovingly called forth. You chose me for mentorship during my undergraduate years, supporting me through the challenges of being a paternal orphan navigating university life under very tense conditions. You were God-sent, a remarkable mentor and a beacon in my life. I fondly call you 'iyaniwura' because your role transcended the student-teacher relationship. You opened your heart, your wallet, and your home - no strings attached. You didn't just mentor me; you adopted me into your life. You laughed with me, cried with me, pushed me when I faltered, and celebrated me when I rose. You turned survival into triumph.

Today, I stand as a Professor of Nursing because you believed in me before I believed in myself. Though this story is mine, told from my own unique journey, I know it resonates across the many lives you have touched; lives you have consistently left better than you met them. Thank you for being more than a teacher; you were a lighthouse and a mother figure. When I took over the leadership of our great Department from you, you ensured I was well prepared for the weight and wisdom that leadership demands. Even from afar, your supportive oversight never wavered. You prayed, counselled and quietly stood guard over the future you helped to build. Your guidance in scholarship and in character has equipped your mentees to thrive both nationally and internationally. Legends do not retire they simply leave the stage for others to shine with the light they have ignited. Thank you for being our teacher, our mentor, our leader, and our inspiration. Your legacy is not only reflected in what you taught but, more importantly, in the countless lives you have transformed. It lives on powerfully through your mentees and in the enduring excellence of our great Faculty of Nursing Science, Obafemi Awolowo University. We celebrate you with profound gratitude and wish you a retirement filled with good health, joy, peace, and the fulfilment of seeing your remarkable legacy continue to flourish for generations to

come. Congratulations, Ma, on a truly well-deserved retirement. Happy retirement, our Legend!

Prof. Adekemi Olowokere

Faculty of Nursing Science, OAU, Ile-Ife



MORE THAN A SUPERVISOR, A MOTHER AND A MENTOR

I sincerely appreciate you, ma, for your support, mentorship and motherly role you played in my life. Knowing you began my academic journey.

Mummy, as I used to call you, your training brought my academic growth and success. You used your busy schedule to bring the real me out and help me navigate the challenges that came with research and postgraduate studies. Ma, you taught me how to pay attention to details and be meticulous. You constantly challenged me to think critically, work diligently, and believe in my abilities. What I admire most in you is your passion for nursing and your commitment to developing someone like me. Your mentorship has left a lasting impact on my personal development, and I consider myself fortunate to have learned under your guidance.

Ma, I am truly grateful for the knowledge you imparted, the time you invested and the confidence you had in me. You always lead by example, demonstrating professionalism, dedication, integrity, and excellence in all you do. These are qualities I will continue to emulate throughout my career. Thank you, mummy, for releasing yourself to train me when I didn't even meet up. I thank you for being such a dedicated supervisor, an exceptional mentor, and an instrument of positive change. Your influence remains with me long after the MSc journey came to an end.

I LOVE YOU, MUMMY.

Olusola Falade

College of Nursing, Asubiaro, Osogbo, Osun State



PROFESSOR OMOLOLA IRINOYE: A MENTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE AND A DESTINY MOULDER

"Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:29

There are certain individuals whom God strategically places in our lives, not merely as teachers or supervisors, but as mentors, pathfinders, and instruments of transformation. For me, Professor Omolola Irinoye is one of such rare individuals.

One of the best decisions of my life was pursuing my degree at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Beyond earning a degree, it was a journey that connected me to a remarkable woman whom God used significantly to shape my future. From my first encounter with her, I was inspired by her brilliance, confidence, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Her firm but supportive approach challenged those around her to always give their best.

By divine providence, she was assigned as my project supervisor. That marked the beginning of a mentorship relationship that profoundly influenced my personal and professional growth. She challenged her students to think critically, work diligently, and strive for excellence. What seemed demanding at the time later became one of the greatest gifts a mentor could give.

Throughout the years, I watched with admiration as God elevated her

from one level of greatness to another. Yet, despite her remarkable achievements, she remained deeply committed to raising others. She finds genuine joy in identifying potential, nurturing talent, opening doors of opportunity, and positioning others for success. She does not merely build careers; she builds people. Her greatest legacy is not found in the positions she held or the accolades she received, but in the countless lives she has touched, inspired, and empowered. Through her mentorship, she has built confidence, inspired dreams, and helped many become the best versions of themselves.

On behalf of the many lives you have impacted, thank you for believing in us, challenging us, inspiring us, and teaching us that excellence is not an option but a lifestyle.

Indeed, many women have done excellently, but you have surpassed them all.

Congratulations on a remarkable and impactful career, ma. Your legacy lives on.

With love, admiration, and gratitude,

Dr. Yetunde Olawale

Provost, Achievers College of Nursing Sciences, Akure.



PROFESSOR OMOLOLA IRINOYE: A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE, A LIFETIME OF IMPACT

Prof. Omolola Irinoye has been much more than a teacher and mentor to me; she has been a source of inspiration, guidance, and unwavering support. My first unforgettable encounter with her was during my undergraduate days. One day, she walked into our class and challenged us to identify one good thing about ourselves. As she looked around the classroom, she spotted me and remarked that I had a very good sense of

dressing. It may have seemed like a simple comment, but hearing such affirmation from someone like her was profoundly encouraging. It was one of those moments that remain etched in my memory because it demonstrated her unique ability to see potential and value in people.

At the beginning of my career, Prof. Irinoye played a pivotal role in shaping my professional journey. She was instrumental in encouraging and guiding me toward the academic path, helping me see possibilities that I might not have recognised on my own. Her confidence in me became a source of confidence in myself. Beyond academics, Prof. Irinoye has influenced my life in countless ways. She modelled what it means to possess an excellent spirit. One of the lessons I learned from her is that obstacles are never reasons to give up. She never accepts “it cannot be done” as a final answer. Whenever a task needs to be accomplished, she believes there is always a way forward, regardless of how difficult or impossible the situation may appear. Her resilience, determination, and problem-solving mindset have inspired many of us who have had the privilege of learning from her.

More importantly, she has impacted my life beyond the professional sphere. At a critical point when I needed to make one of the most important decisions of my life, she stepped in not just as a mentor but as a mother. She stood by me, fought for me, guided me through the process, and ensured that the decision was implemented smoothly and successfully. Her unwavering support, persistence, and commitment were instrumental to the success of that life-changing step. I remain deeply grateful for her sacrifices, encouragement, and belief in me.

Prof. Irinoye’s doggedness, excellence, compassion, and commitment to the success of others are qualities that set her apart. She has not only built careers but also nurtured lives, shaping generations of professionals who continue to carry forward the values she exemplified. As she retires from government service, her legacy remains firmly established in the countless lives she has touched, the minds she has inspired, and the leaders she has helped to develop, among whom I am a

proud beneficiary.

Thank you, Mummy, for your wisdom, your encouragement, your strength, and your unwavering belief in me. Your influence will continue to resonate for generations to come. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement. May this new season bring you joy, fulfilment, good health, and the satisfaction of seeing the fruits of the many lives you have transformed.

Dr. Aanuoluwapo Olajubu

*Department of Community-Public Health Nursing
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife*



YOU NEVER TAUGHT ME IN CLASS, YET YOU TAUGHT ME FOR LIFE

I did not sit in Prof. Omolola's class. She did not teach me directly. But her impact on my life has been deeper than any lecture hall. Prof. Omolola has been my mentor, my mirror, and in many ways, the reason I discovered my own potential.

Prof has a magical way of forcing you to learn. She will not do the work for you. She will not hand you shortcuts. Instead, she shows you how to do it, then steps back and watches you rise. That "tough love" is rare, and it works. Because of her, I stopped believing in "I can't" and started believing in "Let me figure it out."

She is one of the most intelligent, multitasking scholars I know. Yet her brilliance never intimidates. What stands out most is her integrity. Prof does not believe in impossibility. She does not take sides. She does not play favoritism. Whether you are her student, her friend, or a stranger, the standard is the same: Do things right.

I remember one day she said, loud and clear: “Who knows Olorunfemi? Tell him to come pick his form ooo... I will not attend to it; let him do the right thing.” That moment taught me more than any textbook. Responsibility. Accountability. No shortcuts, no matter who you are.

Prof. Omolola, you may not have taught me in class, but you taught me how to think, how to work, and how to stand. For showing me my potential and forcing me to grow into it, I am forever grateful.

As you bow out from this valedictory lecture, I pray that your light continues to shine. The seeds you planted in me will keep producing.

Thank you, Prof. You are truly a mentor par excellence.

Congratulations, and God bless you.

Dr. Olaolorunpo Olorunfemi

Achiever University, Owo, Ondo State



A LEGACY BEYOND CLASSROOM

Today, I struggle to find words strong enough to truly express the depth of the impact you have had on my life. You were never just a lecturer to me, you became a guide, a mentor, a mother, and a source of strength in ways I will never forget.

The memories we shared still linger in my heart. The time spent with you, Ma, taught me life lessons that go far beyond the classroom lessons I carry with me every single day, lessons that continue to shape me and are helping me succeed in ways I could never have imagined. You saw potential in me even when I doubted myself, and you nurtured it with kindness, patience, and dedication.

Because of you, I didn't just learn, I grew. I became more confident, more determined, and more aware of what I am truly capable of. Your words, your encouragement, and your belief in me have become a foundation I now stand on. For all this and more, I say thank you, Ma.

As you step into retirement, I sincerely pray that this new season brings you rest, peace, joy, and complete wholeness. You deserve nothing less after all you have given so selflessly.

Much love.

Ayobami Adeaga

United Kingdom



A LEGACY THAT WILL ENDURE

Today, we do not just celebrate your retirement, but we recognise and appreciate a legacy of scholarship, mentorship, and service.

As my supervisor, you shaped my understanding of ethical practice and advocacy; and as your supervisee, I acquired the capacity for scholarly thought, the skill of clear academic writing, and the confidence to present research with conviction. I also enjoyed the rare understanding extended when personal circumstances interrupted research, and all these are deeply appreciated.

Though you retire from the university, your influence endures through the students you have trained, the programs you have strengthened, and the lives you have positively impacted.

On the occasion of your retirement from public service (not from relevance), I wish to express my profound gratitude for your guidance and

mentorship in the field of community health nursing, and I pray that your retirement will be filled with health, peace, and fulfilment in Jesus' name.

Dr. Feyikemi Popoola

United Kingdom



A MOTHER'S HEART, A MENTOR'S STRENGTH

Professor Irinoye Omolola Oladunni has been much more than a professor to me. She has been a caring mother, a dependable mentor, and a steadfast source of encouragement.

When the University Management transferred me to the then Department of Nursing Science, I shared with Prof. my desire to pursue my Higher National Diploma (HND) through a part-time programme. She wholeheartedly supported my aspiration and encouraged me to write to the University Management for approval. Unfortunately, my request was declined on the grounds that the department was understaffed.

When I informed Mummy of the decision, she responded with remarkable wisdom and compassion. She simply said, "The Management employed both you and me. What do you expect me to do?" Although she could not override the University's decision, she encouraged me not to lose hope and assured me that everything would work out.

True to her words, Mummy became my backbone throughout my HND programme. Her encouragement, unwavering support, and genuine concern gave me the strength to persevere and successfully complete my studies. I will always remain grateful for her kindness and motherly care.

As you retire from active service, I pray that the Almighty God grants you

long life, sound health, unending peace, and abundant joy. May you continually reap the fruits of your labour, and may the countless lives you have touched remain a lasting testimony to your remarkable legacy.

Congratulations, Mummy, on your well-deserved retirement.

Mrs. Olonade Tope Taiwo

Confidential Secretary, Faculty of Nursing Science, OAU, Ile-Ife



A LEGENDARY MENTOR, AN ARCHITECT OF EXCELLENCE

Prof. Omolola Oladunni Irinoye, Intellectual Mentor, Builder of Scholars, Model of Hard work & Dedication, Legacy Architect of Nursing Standard, Pedagogue of Pedagogues and Legendary Trainer a.k.a. Our Mama, who will never see inability, or settle for mediocrity. On your 70th birthday and retirement, ma, I want to say congratulations and thank you. For many of the 70 years you have lived, you have given your life to nursing education and research. Thank you for your vision, discipline, and scholarly mentorship in the coordination of the OAU, Part-Time BNSc. programme when I was privileged to serve as the Class Rep. You built the foundation for us as the pioneering set, and we carry that legacy forward, with many of us currently serving as pillars in Nigeria and different parts of the world.

As my PhD supervisor, you did more than approve chapters. You mentored my mind thoroughly in resilience, sharpened my arguments, and taught me that nursing scholarship must serve people with compassion and integrity. You were patient when I was overwhelmed, firm when I needed discipline and proud when I finally succeeded. Through you, I learned that excellence is not an accident - it's a habit. You corrected my Research, but more importantly, you corrected my thinking, pushed me past my limits, and then celebrated when I surpassed them. You showed me that a true nurse educator builds

people, not just papers.

Ma, your wisdom will keep lecturing through my voice, my research, and my students.

"May your hands that planted so many seeds find rest in the shade of the trees."

Dr. (Mrs.) Helen Oladunni OLADELE

OAUTHC, Ile-Ife



A TRIBUTE TO A NOTEWORTHY MENTOR

Meeting you during my 500-level days, in the Special Topic Seminar class in the Department of Nursing Science, quietly sparked a profound connection. This bond was further strengthened when you became my supervisor for my RN research. Although I was already a Registered Nurse at the time, navigating that research with your guidance unleashed an aspect of my potential that I never knew was locked inside of me.

That was where our mentorship truly began. You uniquely noticed the fruits inside of me before the seeds were even planted. Your guidance, tutelage, counsel, and our thought-provoking conversations have consistently been eye-opening experiences. You taught me that there is absolutely no room for compromise when it comes to doing the right things and doing them well.

Thank you for taking a genuine, lasting interest in this girl, for seeing a woman of purpose in her long before she could see it in herself. You don't hand over answers, but better questions, to invent a better version of myself.

The world of nursing is richer because you chose to pour into it not just through research and practice, but through people. Through quiet moments of redirection when going off course, your honest words, and the emphasis on consistency of character that silently set the standard for how today now turns out.

As you step into this well-deserved season of retirement, please know that the seeds you planted do not retire with you. They live on in every room I walk into with confidence, every ethical decision I make without hesitation, and every student or colleague I dare to believe in, just as you believed in me.

Thank you for being the kind of lecturer, supervisor, and mentor that a student never forgets. Thank you for being you.

With the deepest gratitude and enduring admiration,

Dr Oluwasayo Bolarinwa Ogunlade

Department of Community-Public Health Nursing, OAU, Ile-Ife



ATRIBUTETOAREMARKABLEWORKAHOLIC

Professor Omolola Irinoye, as you retire from the Faculty of Nursing Science, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, today, I would like to celebrate your legacy as that of a woman whose impact reaches far beyond her official role. Your career was defined not only by excellence but by generosity, the kind of generosity that shapes people, strengthens institutions, and transforms communities. Working alongside you on projects aimed at improving health care delivery systems in low-income areas was one of the most formative experiences of my professional life. You approached every challenge with clarity, compassion, and an unwavering belief that quality health care should

never be a privilege. You taught me that research is not just about generating knowledge, it is about creating solutions that honour human dignity.

You were always ahead of your time, always asking how we could reach more people, remove more barriers, and make learning accessible to those who needed it most. Your leadership in this space has changed the trajectory of countless students and professionals who might otherwise have been left behind.

On a personal level, your mentorship has helped shape the researcher I am today. You challenged me, encouraged me, and believed in me long before I fully believed in myself. You modelled integrity, intellectual curiosity, and a work ethic rooted in service. For all of this, I remain deeply grateful.

As you step into this new chapter, please know that your influence continues in the systems you helped build, the programmes you strengthened, the students you inspired, and the younger colleagues, like me, whose careers you helped shape. Your retirement marks the end of an era, but your legacy will continue to guide us for many years to come.

Thank you for everything. I wish you rest, joy, and fulfilment in the journey ahead.

Professor Babajide Samuel AFOLABI

Director, Computer Centre, OAU



TRIBUTE TO AN ICON OF EXCELLENCE AND DOYEN OF NURSING

I proudly celebrate Prof. Omolola Oladunni Irinoye, my incredible supervisor and mentor. Thank you for your guidance in the often-

challenging academic terrain. Your profound wisdom, patience, and unwavering support have transformed my academic journey. Your brilliant mind inspired me. You didn't just teach me how to navigate realities and opportunities; you showed me how to live out a purpose with excellence. You did not just teach me how to research; but you also taught me how to think, persevere, and lead with integrity. Your legacy is etched into every milestone I achieve.

Happy birthday and retirement, Mummy! Your impact will resonate in the Faculty of Nursing Sciences, OAU, forever.

Dr. A. O. Komolafe

Department of Maternal & Child Health Nursing, OAU, Ile-Ife



A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE AND TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

It is an honour and privilege to celebrate an exceptional mentor, nurse educator, and leader whose unwavering commitment to excellence has inspired countless lives.

As my undergraduate dissertation supervisor, you challenged me to pursue the highest standards and taught me that true excellence is achieved through discipline, diligence, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to quality. Your uncompromising pursuit of excellence was sometimes misunderstood, but it always reflected your genuine desire to bring out the best in people and ensure that every task was approached with purpose, integrity, and excellence.

Your remarkable journey and emergence as a University Vice-Chancellor stand as a testament to your vision, resilience, hard work, and exemplary leadership. You have demonstrated that true leadership is not only about occupying positions but about inspiring people, transforming systems,

and leaving behind a legacy that continues to make a difference. Thank you for your invaluable mentorship, your commitment to developing others, and the lasting impact you have made in nursing education and beyond. Your influence extends far beyond the individuals you have taught and mentored; it lives on in the standards you have established and the generations of scholars and leaders you have inspired.

Congratulations, Ma, on your well-deserved retirement and your 70th birthday celebration. May this new chapter bring you renewed joy, excellent health, and fulfilment. Your legacy of excellence, leadership, and service will continue to inspire generations yet unborn.

Dr. K. O. Adewole

Department of Community-Public Health Nursing, OAU, Ile-Ife



A TRIBUTE TO PROF OMOLOLA IRINOYE ON HER RETIREMENT FROM OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY ILE-IFE

I celebrate a remarkable and an exceptional teacher and leader - Prof Omolola Irinoye.

I have had privilege to knowing Prof Irinoye since my undergraduate days, and one thing that has remained constant is her unwavering commitment to excellence. She is strict, straightforward and uncompromising when it comes to standards, yet beneath that firmness lies a genuinely loving and caring heart. She has always desired the very best for her students and colleagues, and her passion for nurturing excellence has shaped countless lives. Prof is one of the few people I have met who effortlessly manages what seems like a million responsibilities at once. Whether in academics, administration, community service, farming (smile)...

As a teacher, she does not merely teach to complete the syllabus; she teaches to transform lives. Her lectures challenged us to think critically, work diligently and pursue excellence in all endeavours. The values she has instilled in the generation of students will remain a lasting legacy.

Ma, your retirement from the service of OAU marks the end of an outstanding chapter of dedicated service and also opens the door to an even more fulfilling season. The impact you have made cannot be measured by your publications alone, but by the lives you have touched and the professionals you have shaped.

Thank you, ma, for your sacrifices, wisdom, discipline and unwavering commitment to the nursing profession and higher education. Some of us are better because we had the privilege of learning from you. As you begin this new phase of life, I pray that the lord grants you excellent health, renewed strength, divine peace and abundant joy. May He continue to bless the work of your hands and reward you richly for your years of faithful service.

Congratulations Ma

I wish you fulfilment, fruitfulness and many more opportunities to inspire generations

Adriel Tchokossa

Department of Maternal and Child Health Nursing, OAU, Ile-Ife



TRIBUTE TO A DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

Congratulations on a most well-deserved retirement. Today, we celebrate not just a career but a legacy built on excellence, compassion,

and an unwavering commitment to advancing nursing education and practice at Obafemi Awolowo University.

Professor, your years of dedicated service to the Department of Nursing Science, which transformed to the Faculty of Nursing Sciences in your lifetime have left an indelible mark on countless lives, students, colleagues, and the community, public health nursing. You have not only taught nursing; you have shaped nurses. Through your leadership, vision, and scholarly contributions, you elevated standards and inspired a culture of professionalism, critical thinking, and compassionate care.

I have been part of your era. Having been employed during your tenure, I witnessed your passion for nurturing young professionals. Your mentorship was practical and impactful. As you step into this new chapter of life, my heartfelt wish for you is good health and God's grace each day. May this season bring you rest, fulfilment, and the joy of seeing the seeds you have sown continue to flourish.

Thank you, Professor Omolola Oladunni Irinoye, fondly called 'Aunty', for your selfless service and your enduring legacy.

Funmilola Adenike FAREMI

Acting Head, Department of Community-Public Health Nursing.



A LEGACY THAT TRANSCENDS SERVICE

Today, we gather with deep gratitude and profound admiration to celebrate an extraordinary woman, an exceptional scholar, a dedicated mentor, and an inspiring leader.

She is a woman of many parts who contributed to my learning experience as an undergraduate and postgraduate student. I also learnt some

administrative skills from her when she was the head of the then Department of Nursing Science

While today marks the official conclusion of your active university service, your legacy cannot be retired. It lives on in every student she mentored and every colleague you encouraged.

May this new season bring you abundant joy, good health, divine favour, peace of mind, and many fulfilling years ahead. May your legacy continue to inspire excellence for generations to come.

Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement ma.
Happy 70th Birthday and Happy Retirement!

Dr. O. O. Oyediran

Department of Medico-Surgical Nursing, OAU, Ile-Ife



A VISIONARY MENTOR WHO INSPIRED EXCELLENCE

Professor Omolola O. Irinoye is more than an exceptional scholar; she is a woman of vision, resilience, and unwavering determination. As my MSc and PhD supervisor, she challenged me to pursue excellence and never settle for mediocrity. She has an uncommon ability to see possibilities where others see limitations and lives by the conviction that nothing is impossible. Her passion and energy for academic excellence for nursing profession are inspiring.

Like every great leader, she has her imperfections. She could be demanding, sometimes pushing her students and subordinates beyond what they thought they could endure. Yet, in retrospect, those high expectations produced resilience, discipline, and excellence. Behind her firmness was a sincere desire to see others succeed.

As you celebrate your 70th birthday and retire from active service, we honour a distinguished academic, an accomplished mentor, and a trailblazer whose contributions to Community-Public Health Nursing and nursing education will continue to shape generations to come.

Happy 70th Birthday and a fulfilling retirement, Ma. May this new season bring you good health, joy, peace, and the satisfaction of seeing the enduring legacy of lives you have impacted. Congratulations!

Dr Sunday J. Ayamolowo

Faculty of Nursing Science, OAU, Ile-Ife



BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BRIDGES, INSPIRING GENERATIONS

Today, I celebrate a life devoted to excellence, service, and purpose, a life that has inspired students, colleagues, and generations of nurses; a life whose footprints are deeply engraved in the sands of scholarship, leadership, and humanity. You were first my teacher, standing before us with knowledge wrapped in wisdom. You demanded excellence, inspired discipline, and awakened dreams we scarcely knew we possessed. Through your teaching, you challenged us to look beyond limitations and pursue greatness with commitment and determination.

Later, providence granted me another privilege: the opportunity to stand beside you as a junior colleague within the hallowed walls of Obafemi Awolowo University. In that capacity, I witnessed not only your intellectual brilliance and scholarly accomplishments but also your unwavering commitment to service and institutional development.

You never sought the easy path, for greatness has never been found in comfort. With diligence as your companion, integrity as your garment,

and purpose as your compass, you climbed every mountain placed before you.

You taught us that leadership is not about titles, but about sacrifice; not about applause, but about impact; not about occupying positions, but about lifting others. You demonstrated that true leadership is measured by the lives transformed and the opportunities created for those who follow.

History remembers those who dare to be pioneers. You became the first nurse in Nigeria to rise to the distinguished office of Vice-Chancellor not merely breaking barriers, but building bridges for countless others to cross. Your achievement became a beacon for the nursing profession, affirming that competence knows no limits and that excellence will always find its rightful place.

Through your remarkable journey, you have shown generations that nursing is more than care; it is leadership, vision, courage, and the quiet strength that transforms institutions and societies. Your work ethic has always spoken louder than words. While others admired the summit, you embraced the climb. While others waited for opportunities, you prepared diligently for them. You proved that persistence is the faithful companion of destiny and that commitment is the foundation of enduring success.

To many, you are a professor. To others, a mentor. To countless students, an inspiration. To colleagues, a dependable leader. To the nursing profession, a distinguished ambassador. To Nigeria, a woman whose story has expanded our national pride. Long after the celebrations have ended and accolades have faded into history, your influence will continue to echo in lecture rooms, hospitals, boardrooms, universities, and in the hearts of those you have inspired. May your light never dim. May generations yet unborn find courage in your story and strength in your example.

Thank you for proving that determination can rewrite history, that

service can elevate a profession, and that true greatness is measured by the lives one uplifts. Professor Omolola Irinoye, you have run your race with dignity, led with wisdom, served with excellence, and inspired with grace. Your name shall remain a melody of excellence, a testimony of resilience, and a lasting symbol of unwavering dedication, selfless leadership, and enduring impact.

With profound respect, admiration, and gratitude.

Dr. Oyeyemi Samuel

United Kingdom



A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR OMOLOLA IRINOYE ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

There are lamps that merely light a room,
and there are lamps that light a path
Professor, you have always been the second kind.
When we first reached out, still young in our vision,
still learning the shape of what we hoped to build,
you did not ask what we could offer you.
You asked only: how might I help this grow?
That is the mark of a true mentor
not the giving of answers,
but the giving of belief.
You opened your door before we knocked twice.
You answered when we called, not when it was convenient.
You crossed cities, crossed distance, gave your time freely—
not for a fee, not for recognition,
but because you saw in nursing research
a future worth traveling for.
Golden Lamp carries your name in its flame now,
though you never asked for that either.
Every award we give through LAMP,

every young researcher we lift,
carries a little of the light you gave us
when no one required you to give it at all.
Professor, as you step back from the halls
you have walked with such grace and rigor,
know that you do not step away from impact
you simply hand the lamp forward,
to hands you have already, quietly, made ready.
On behalf of Golden Lamp Leadership Initiative Africa,
and on behalf of myself, Oluyemisi Otitoloju,
thank you.

You were never just a guide.

You were proof that generosity and excellence
can share the same hands.

Wishing you a retirement as bright and unhurried as the wisdom you
always gave so freely.

With deepest gratitude and admiration,

Oluyemisi Otitoloju

CEO, Golden Lamp Leadership Initiative Africa



A TRIBUTE TO PROF. OMOLOLA IRINOYE ON HER 70TH BIRTHDAY AND RETIREMENT

Today, I join countless colleagues, students, friends, and well-wishers in celebrating an extraordinary woman, Prof. Irinoye, on the remarkable occasion of her 70th birthday and retirement.

It is difficult to express in words the depth of gratitude I feel for the profound impact you have had on my life and career. You have been far more than a professor you have been a mentor, a motivator, and a steadfast source of encouragement. Your unwavering belief in my potential, your wise counsel, and your generous support have played a

significant role in my academic and professional advancement.

Your commitment to excellence, integrity, and the pursuit of knowledge has inspired generations of students and colleagues. You have consistently led by example, demonstrating that true leadership is rooted in humility, compassion, and a genuine desire to see others succeed. I count myself immensely privileged to have benefited from your guidance and mentorship, especially in my pursuit of my PhD in Nursing at your Alma Mater, the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa.

As you retire from active service, you leave behind not only an outstanding professional legacy but also countless lives transformed through your dedication, kindness, and selfless investment in others. Your influence will continue to be felt in the achievements of those you have mentored and inspired over the years.

On this special milestone, I celebrate your remarkable accomplishments and thank you for the invaluable role you have played in shaping my journey. May this new chapter of your life be filled with good health, abundant joy, peace, and the fulfilment that comes from a life so meaningfully lived. May you continue to inspire and impact lives for many years to come.

Happy 70th Birthday and Happy Retirement, Prof. Irinoye. Your legacy is enduring, your influence immeasurable, and your contributions unforgettable.

With heartfelt gratitude and best wishes.

Dr (Mrs.) Olubunmi Lawal

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR OMOLOLA IRINOYE (IYANIWURA)

Today, with immense gratitude and admiration, I pay tribute to an exceptional scholar, mentor, leader, and mother figure, Professor Omolola Irinoye (Iyaniwura), as she marks the culmination of a distinguished academic career. My relationship with Professor Irinoye began as her research student, but over the years, it evolved into a mentorship that profoundly transformed my life. Beyond supervising my academic work, she entrusted me with greater responsibilities as her Personal Assistant and later as one of the Project Coordinator for her NGO. These opportunities shaped my professional journey and instilled in me invaluable leadership skills.

Professor Irinoye's influence extends far beyond the walls of academia. She invested not only in my intellectual development but also in my moral character. Through her example, she taught me integrity, diligence, humility, resilience, and compassionate leadership. Her life remains a testament to unwavering commitment, excellence, and service to humanity. One of the most remarkable demonstrations of her generosity was her dedication to my research work. She painstakingly guided every stage of the process, ensuring that the work met the highest scholarly standards. In an act of uncommon selflessness, she ensured that my research was published with me as the first author - a rare privilege that reflects her commitment to nurturing the next generation of scholars rather than seeking personal recognition.

Professor Irinoye's resilience in the face of challenges has always been inspiring. Her strength, determination, and unwavering faith have served as a source of encouragement to many who have had the privilege of working with her. Equally remarkable are her constant support, wise counsel, and fervent prayers, which have uplifted countless students, colleagues, and mentees throughout the years. To many, she is a distinguished professor. To others, she is a respected leader and mentor. To me, she has been all of these and much more; a guiding light, a trusted counselor, and a motherly figure whose belief in my potential helped

shape the person I am today. As you enter this well-deserved season of retirement, Professor Irinoye, may you find joy in the countless lives you have touched and the enduring legacy you have built. Your contributions to nursing education, research, leadership development, and human capacity building will continue to inspire generations to come. Thank you for your wisdom, sacrifices, encouragement, prayers, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Thank you for seeing possibilities in me and in so many others. Your impact is immeasurable, and your legacy will endure long after retirement.

Congratulations on a remarkable and fulfilling career. May your retirement be blessed with good health, happiness, peace, and the satisfaction of a life well spent in service to God, humanity, and the advancement of knowledge.

With profound gratitude and deep respect,
Morolake Ayanseeke Oshobu (Nee Ayanlowo)
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
Reading, UK.



TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR OMOLOLA IRINOYE

It is with deep gratitude that I pay tribute to Prof. Omolola Irinoye, an exceptional teacher and mentor.

I first met Prof. Irinoye in Part III when she taught us Community Health Nursing. Her classes were never just lectures they were highly interactive, intellectually stimulating, and challenged us to think critically. She had a unique ability to inspire learning and bring out the best in her students.

In Part V, I had another privilege of learning under her during my seminar

presentation. She taught me the art of effective public speaking, how to develop impactful PowerPoint presentations, and the importance of being a confident, bold, and assertive nurse.

Prof. Irinoye was more than a lecturer; she was a source of inspiration whose teachings have continued to shape my professional journey. It was truly a privilege to know and learn from you, Ma.

Your legacy will continue to live on in the countless lives you have impacted. Thank you, Prof. You were indeed a great blessing to the nursing profession and to all of us who had the honour of being your students. May your legacy continue to inspire generations to come.

Happy birthday and peaceful retirement ma

Adebukunola Olajumoke AFOLABI

RN, RM, RPHN, FWAPCNM, Ph.D.



A TRIBUTE TO AN EXCEPTIONAL PROFESSOR, MENTOR, AND NURSING ICON, PROF. OMOLOLA IRINOYE

Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement ma!!!!

I celebrate not just the retirement of an outstanding Professor of Nursing, but the remarkable legacy of a woman whose dedication, excellence, and expertise have contributed immensely to nursing education and the advancement of the nursing profession in Nigeria.

I count myself truly privileged to have benefited from your wealth of knowledge and exceptional tutelage at different stages of my academic journey. As both an undergraduate and postgraduate student, I had the opportunity to learn from a scholar whose commitment to excellence,

depth of knowledge, and passion for nursing education were truly inspiring. The lessons I gained under your guidance extended far beyond the classroom; they helped shape my approach to scholarship, research, professional practice, and lifelong learning.

Your contribution to nursing education and the nursing profession in Nigeria is profound. Through the many students you have taught, mentored, and inspired, your influence continues to reach healthcare institutions, universities, communities, and future generations of nurses. I am proud to be one of the many beneficiaries of your expertise and dedication.

As you retire from active service, I celebrate your remarkable accomplishments and the enduring legacy you have built. Thank you for sharing your knowledge so generously, for modelling excellence, and for contributing to the professional and academic growth of countless nurses, including me. May this new chapter bring you immense joy, fulfilment, good health, and the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of your years of dedicated service. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement, ma. Your legacy lives on in us, your students, and in the nursing profession you have served so exceptionally.

Mercy K. Aladegboye PhD

Clinical Research Nurse

University Hospitals Dorset, United Kingdom



A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE, MENTORSHIP, AND MOTHERHOOD: CELEBRATING PROFESSOR OMOLOLA IRINOYE, THE GOLDEN MOTHER OF NURSING

There are teachers, there are mentors, and then there are extraordinary

individuals whose lives become enduring blueprints for generations. Professor Omolola Irinoye has been that exceptional individual to me and to countless others whose lives and careers have been shaped by her wisdom, discipline, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

As my lecturer in the Department of Nursing Science at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, where I had the privilege of serving as class representative throughout my five years of undergraduate study, she taught us far more than the science and practice of nursing. She instilled in us discipline, excellence, integrity, leadership, and an uncompromising commitment to quality. At the time, many of us considered her standards incredibly demanding, but with the benefit of hindsight, I can confidently say that those high expectations were among the greatest gifts she gave us. They continue to influence the way I lead, teach, mentor, and serve today.

Professor Irinoye possesses a rare gift for recognising potential and intentionally nurturing it. She opened doors of opportunity for me by encouraging my interest in research, entrusting me with the supervision of undergraduate research projects while I was still a postgraduate student, and motivating me to publish my first academic papers. Even during moments when I procrastinated, her timely reminders and encouragement challenged me to refocus, work harder, and pursue excellence. Looking back, many of my early academic accomplishments would not have been possible without her confidence in my abilities and her willingness to invest in my growth.

Her influence extended beyond the classroom. She played a pivotal role in my first university lectureship appointment at Osun State University, where she entrusted me with the responsibility of contributing to the establishment of the nursing skills laboratory. She was a leader who empowered rather than micromanaged, who gave responsibility with trust, and who created opportunities for young academics to develop

their confidence and capacity. Those formative experiences became important building blocks in my academic journey and contributed significantly to the person and professional I am today as an Assistant Professor of Nursing in Ireland.

One moment that remains deeply etched in my memory was my visit to her home to inform her of my decision to relocate to Ireland shortly after securing the university appointment she had worked so hard to help me obtain. Although understandably disappointed, her concern was not about herself but about my family and my future. Her words were simple yet profound: "Wherever you go, never forget that your children and your family are very important." That wisdom has remained a guiding principle throughout my journey.

To many of us, she is affectionately known as Iya Niwùrà - the Golden Mother of Nursing. This name reflects not only our deep affection for her but also the immeasurable value she has contributed to nursing education, research, leadership, and humanity. Through her life and career, she has demonstrated that nursing extends far beyond bedside care; it is a profession with the power to influence education, research, policy, leadership, and societal transformation. As you transition from formal academic service, Professor, please know that your legacy is far from complete. It lives on through the countless nurses, academics, researchers, and leaders whose lives you have touched across Nigeria and beyond. Your impact is reflected in the professionals you have inspired, the scholars you have mentored, and the generations that will continue to benefit from the values you have championed.

Thank you for believing in us, challenging us, opening doors of opportunity, and inspiring us to become more than we ever imagined possible. Thank you for the sacrifices, the guidance, the corrections, and the unwavering commitment to excellence that have defined your remarkable journey. Happy retirement, Iya Niwùrà. Thank you for all you have sown into nursing and into our lives. We are better because of you,

and your legacy will continue to illuminate the path for generations to come.

Olayinka Aremu (Nee Ebisemiju)

Assistant Professor

Ageing and Health

University College, Dublin, Republic of Ireland



PROFESSOR OMOLOLA IRINOYE: A HARDWORKING AND BRILLIANT SCHOLAR

An ever-supportive mentor, a professor of high repute who cannot be intimidated. Your unwavering support during my Master's programme transformed my challenges into triumphs. I cannot forget the long hours in your office and at home. These words keep ringing in my ears: "Alice, that's the kitchen, cook anything you like and eat, don't worry about me". Your faith in my scholarship and insistence on my coming to academia brought me to where I am today. You were the first person to call me after my inauguration as the Chairman of the Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria, demonstrating your passion for my success in life. Ma, I remain grateful!

As you celebrate 70 years of life and your post-inaugural lecture, thank you for showing us what true academic greatness looks like. Happy Birthday and congratulations!

Dr Alice Ogundele

Chairman, Nursing & Midwifery Council Board/

Head, Department of Nursing Science Elizade University.

Beyond the Pages

These pages may end, but the story of your impact continues.

Every student you mentored, every life you encouraged, and every heart you touched carries a part of your remarkable journey.

Professor, your years of dedication have planted seeds of excellence that will keep flourishing for generations to come.

May this new chapter bring you abundant joy, good health, peace, and the satisfaction of knowing that your contributions have made an enduring difference.

Your legacy is written not only in history, but in the lives you have transformed.



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