



*In Memoriam:*

**Professor Gabriel Chukwujekwu Ezeilo**

*MBBS (Lond), DTM&H (Liverpool), MSc (Roch. N.Y), MD (Lond), FRCP (Glas), FRCP (Edin)*

**(1934 – 2011)**

Even as we continue our research in unraveling the misery of life, the inevitable sometimes do occur. Death is as much a part of life as life itself. No physical being has ever been known to be immortal. And in the words of Shakespear in Julius Ceaser, “Death will come when it will come”.

In this issue we celebrate the life of our teacher, mentor, role model and a great inspiration to many of us who know him physically and through his works. Professor Gabriel Chukwujekwu Ezeilo was a great physiologist of note who passed on November 22, 2011 after a protracted battle with Cancer.

Professor Ezeilo was among the first generation of Nigerian physiologists. He was in the same group with Professors Amure, Dosekun, Ojo and others. He was one of the founding fathers of the Physiological Society of Nigeria (PSN). He became the second President of PSN in 1980. He served the Society meritoriously and in 2010, he was honoured with a Fellowship award of the Society. Professor Ezeilo’s classical work on neutropenia among blacks is considered a reference point in that field of study. However, his most famous work is the chapter on blood in “An Introduction to Physiology” by JH Green which is read in many medical schools across Africa.

As a person, he was a fine gentleman. I first met him in 1987 at the Annual Scientific Conference of the Society which he hosted in Enugu Campus of University of Nigeria. I was introduced to him as a young budding physiologist and he offered me shelter for a day or two. When he became the Provost, College of Medicine, Nnamdi Azikwe University, Nnewi he also invited me to join in pioneering the new College, but I could not take up the appointment. Such was the kindness Professor Ezeilo was known for. He trained many students and quite a number of these students are holding prominent positions all over the world. He also taught physiology in other parts of the world including Zambia, Malawi and Papua New Guinea. He would be greatly missed by members of his family, colleagues and friends.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

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