With deep regret, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Olufemi A. Bamiro, FNSE, FAS, announces the transition on Thursday January 21, 2010 of Professor Francis Douglas Martinson.

Professor Martinson was born on October 15, 1916 in Kumasi, Ghana. He entered the University of Edinburgh and graduated in July 1942 with Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, (MB; CH.B). He later passed his Fellowship examinations in October 1951 and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, FRCS (Edinburgh) in Otorhinolaryngology. He became a Fellow, Royal College of Surgeons, England FRCS (England) in October 1953.

Professor Martinson joined the services of the University of Ibadan as a Senior Lecturer at the University College in October 1956. In October 1963, he became an Associate Professor and in October 1967, a Professor of Otorhinolaryngology. Between October 1968 and 1979 he was the Head of Department and in January 1984, he served as Head of Department again for a brief period.

Professor Martinson held many positions during his training as a Medical Doctor. He was a House Physician and Resident Anaesthetist, Leith Hospital, Edinburgh, between January 1943 and July 1943; House Surgeon (General Surgeon) Sunderland Royal Infirmary between January 1944 and February 1945; Resident Surgical Officer, Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital between March 1945 and October 1945; ENT Registrar at the Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital and the Duchess of York Hospital for Babies, Manchester in November 1945; Clinical Assistant, ENT Department, Manchester Royal Infirmary, a post he held concurrently with that of a Registrar till July 1950. Between July 1950 and December 1953, he was ENT Registrar, Salford Royal Hospital, Park Eccles and Patricroft Hospital, Manchester. In January 1954, he became the Senior ENT Registrar, Royal Eye and Ear Hospital, Bradford, a position he held until he joined the services of the University College, Ibadan in 1956.

Professor Martinson was the recipient of many Honours and Distinctions. He was the Representative for Africa at the XIII World Congress of ORL in Miami, USA in May 1985. He was given a Merit Award in recognition of eight years’ service as a member of the Executive of IFOSAT at the Conference in Miami USA and he was awarded the Adesuyi Prize for his sterling contributions to health care in West Africa in October, 1985.
He authored several articles in learned international journals. He pioneered the study of Rhinophycomycosis and got international recognition for this. Professor Martinson retired at the age of 60 years in 1976 but graciously stayed on for another ten years to ensure that he trained a crop of other Otorhinolaryngologists for the West African sub-region.

May his soul rest in perfect peace. (Amen)