

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN,
PROFESSOR K. O. ADEBOWALE, *mni, FAS* AT THE 629TH INAUGURAL LECTURE ON
THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER, 2026 AT THE TRENCHARD HALL.**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration)

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation & Strategic Partnerships)

Registrar

Bursar

University Librarian

Provosts of the College of Medicine and of Postgraduate College

Deans of Faculties and of Students

Directors of Institutes and Centres

Heads of Department

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

The 629th University of Ibadan Inaugural Lecture will be delivered by Professor Taiwo Akeem of the Department of Surgery on behalf of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences.

Taiwo Akeem Lawal was born on 29 August 1974 into the family of Alhaji and Alhaja Bashiru Lawal of Oje-Alafara, Ibadan. His educational journey began at Abadina Primary School, from where he proceeded to Methodist Grammar School, Bodija, Ibadan. In January 1993, he was admitted to the University of Ibadan to study Medicine and Surgery. He graduated in May 2000 and undertook his housemanship at the University College Hospital, Ibadan. He thereafter served his fatherland under the National Youth Service Corps Scheme in Nasarawa State between July 2001 and June 2002.

Professor Lawal commenced his residency training in October 2002 and, in October 2008, passed the Final Fellowship Examination of the West African College of Surgeons. He was subsequently appointed Consultant Paediatric Surgeon at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, in May 2009.

His academic career at the University of Ibadan began in February 2012 as a Lecturer I. He rose to become Senior Lecturer in 2015 and was promoted to the distinguished rank of Professor of Surgery on 1 October 2020.

Professor Lawal is a scholar of considerable academic breadth. He holds a Master of Science degree in Epidemiology and Medical Statistics from the University of Ibadan, as well as a Doctor of Medicine degree from Hannover Medical School, Germany. His commitment to scholarship and professional development has taken him to several notable institutions around the world. He was a DAAD Scholar between October 2006 and April 2008 and subsequently received fellowships and scholarships from the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, USA; the International Society of Surgery Foundation to Yokohama, Japan; and the International Paediatric Association to Melbourne, Australia. He was also the recipient of the International Guest Scholarship of the American College of Surgeons in 2016.

He was selected for the prestigious International Deans' Course Africa in 2023/2024, reflecting his continuing commitment to strengthening leadership and higher education in Africa.

As a researcher, Professor Lawal has made substantial contributions to surgical sciences and medical education. He has successfully attracted competitive research grants to the University, holds two patents, and has published more than 170 journal articles. His scholarly influence is further

demonstrated by over 10,000 citations on Google Scholar and an h-index of 45. He is listed in the top 2% of scientists in the world.

His accomplishments have earned remarkable recognition. In 2025, he was elected a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Medicine, the Academy of Medical Sciences, and the African Academy of Sciences. This triple recognition is a fitting acknowledgement of a career devoted to excellence in medicine, research and scholarship.

Professor Lawal has also distinguished himself through administration and service to the University. He has served on virtually all major committees concerned with the training of undergraduate and postgraduate students. He has served as Sub-Dean, Undergraduate, and Sub-Dean, Postgraduate. In August 2024, he became the Dean of Clinical Sciences.

His service extends beyond the University of Ibadan. He serves as an examiner for the West African College of Surgeons and as Paediatric Surgery Representative on the Faculty Board. He has also held visiting academic appointments at Northwestern University, Chicago, Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, and Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus.

Taiwo Lawal is happily married to Folake Lawal, a Professor of Community Dentistry in this University, and they are blessed with four children.

I now invite Professor Taiwo Akeem LAWAL to deliver his lecture titled – **“Creating passageways in dark alleys: the bumps, the spurs and the speed-breakers”**