

Biography of Professor Abiodun Falodun

Professor Abiodun Falodun is an internationally renowned Pharmacist and Natural Product Chemist, and a leading expert in anticancer drug discovery. Professor Falodun completed his Postdoctoral research training with Professor Dr. Peter Langer, Professor Dr. Udo Kragl (Germany), Professor X Qiu SCBG, CAS China and Professor Mark Hamann (USA).

He has BPharm (Pharmacy) from the University of Benin. He received his M.Sc and Ph.D in Pharmaceutical Chemistry with emphasis on Natural products from the same University, in 2003 and 2007 respectively. He is a fellow of the American Fulbright.

He held postdoctoral positions in Research, south china botanical Gardens, Quanjou, China (2009), then with Professor Dr. Iqbal Choudhry at the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Research, University of Karachi, Pakistan in 2010. In 2011 and 2012, he proceeded to the Institute of Chemistry, University of Rostock, Germany, as a visiting scholar.

In 2013, he was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholar at the University of Mississippi, USA, to execute advanced research in the discovery of drugs used in the treatment of cancer. His work has focussed on the characterization of natural products, their biological activities of use to biomedicine, and their pathways of their biosynthesis. This also expanded into anticancer research on Nigerian medicinal plants, where he isolated and characterized some novel anticancer agents with promising antiproliferative and pro-apoptotic effect.

Professor Falodun has to his credit, numerous academic honours, grants and awards including the prestigious Fulbright award (African Senior Research Scholar), recipient of the May & Baker Professional Service award in Pharmaceutical Sciences. His research in the area of drug discovery for the management of threatened abortion in pregnant women attracted the attention of scientists from different parts of the world. Hence, he was also offered the "Distinguished Services Award" by May and Baker Pharmaceutical Company, for meritorious services.

He commenced his academic career as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Benin in 11th August, 1999. He was upgraded to the rank of Lecturer II in 2003. From then on, he rose rapidly through the academic rank. Lecturer I 2005, Senior Lecturer 2007, Associate Professor 2011. He was appointed Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, in 2014.

He has been Head of Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Benin. He has also served in several committees of the University, including being Chair of the Committees on Inaugural Lectures.

He is a member of several professional bodies, that include the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Institute of Public Analysts of Nigeria, Phytochemical Society of Europe, Swiss Chemical Society, American Chemical Society etc. He is a reviewer for the World Health Organization (WHO) for specifications for Pharmaceutical products.

Professor Falodun's strong grantsmanship accomplishments have been demonstrated by winning internal and external competitive research grants such as the Africa-US Network Centers of Excellence in Water and Environmental Science and Technology (2011 - 2015); award funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

His research group (Natural Product Research Group-NPRG) is actively involved in the bioactivity guided isolation, characterization, structure determination and optimization through synthesis of compounds from natural Product mostly of plant origin. Professor Falodun has presented research seminars and lectures at national and international scientific meetings. He has supervised numerous undergraduate, MSc and PhD students. Most of his doctoral students benefited from his research grants by way of carrying out their projects in the United States of America and Europe.

He has contributed reasonably to the development and advancement of knowledge with over 120 scientific papers, reviews and book titled 'Stereochemistry in Pharmacy and Medicine', co-authored with Professor EOP Agbakwuru. Professor Falodun currently serves as Editor-in-Chief for Tropical Journal of Natural Product Research. He is a reviewer to numerous international journals, an external examiner to several Universities and a professorial assessor to some Universities.

He is currently the pioneer Coordinator, Center for Distance Learning, University of Benin with a mandate to run undergraduate accounting in open and distance learning (ODL) mode. Due to his resourcefulness in the UNIBEN distance learning programme, he was recently appointed as Director of Benson Idahosa University Distance Learning School (BIU-DLS), where he is currently serving his sabbatical leave appointment.

He also served as the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) University of Benin where he brilliantly and professionally displayed excellence in the academic and research capabilities of the University. He instituted and initiated a lot of academic, entrepreneurial projects which earned him several commendation letters from the Vice Chancellor of the University of Benin-Professor FFO Orumwense. He pioneered the first Eminent lecture series of the University, University of Benin Annual Research Day, Grantsmanship workshop, Hall of fame award, UNIBEN Fish, UNIBEN drug production factory (methylated and Hydrogen peroxide) among others.

More importantly, he pioneered the use of computer-based test in the conduct of internal and external examinations in the University of Benin.

Professor Falodun also served as a member of the Governing Council of the University of Benin, where he made useful contributions to the advancement of the University and earned him commendation from the UNIBEN Governing Council.

Professor Falodun is happily married to Dr. (Mrs.) Ehizogie Joyce Falodun of the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Benin, and they are blessed with four children.