

41st Congress of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM)

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Order Reference 2014663868-812963

Location WAHVM London main venue Imperial College
London South Kensington Campus London United Kingdom

Date and Time 10/09/2014

Ticket type Conference dinner: Friday 12th September

Price £30

Attendee Olufayo Babalobi



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WORLD ASSOCIATION OF HISTORY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE WAHVM
CONGRESS 2014, IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON 10-13TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Title:
HISTORY OF ONE HEALTH IN NIGERIA: A TRIBUTE TO LATE ONE HEALTH
PIONEERS IN NIGERIA

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Background:

This paper arose from a number of interviews the author conducted during his 2011-2012 sabbatical leave as a Veterinary Academic Consultant with the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET)/ US Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) Animal: Human Interface (AHI) Project, Nigeria; respectively with:

1. Prof James Steele at his 99th birthday anniversary/20th Annual James Steele lecture at the Texas School of Public Health, at the Texas School of Public Health, Houston Texas USA in April 2012. Prof James Steele had been in Nigeria as a Guest Lecturer and External Examiner to the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Ibadan, in the seventies. As the "father of veterinary public health," Steele dedicated his life to investigating diseases transmitted from animals to humans—Zoonoses. The results of his efforts, including the development of a rabies vaccine and the founding of the veterinary division of the Centers for Disease Control in 1947, have helped save countless lives. His work introduced the principals of veterinary public health to the world. (<https://www.uth.edu/media/story.htm?id=e0df28c4-d1cf-4331-b426-b06d187e8abd>) Also known as "Mr. Veterinary Public Health"

2. Prof Gabriel Esuruoso on Monday April 30th 2012, at No 2, Olalere Tokun Street, Bodija Ibadan, his residence. Prof G.O Esuruoso, a veterinarian, who studied Immunology for his PhD at the College of Medicine, University College Hospital, Ibadan; and was the facilitator and pioneer Head, Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine University of Ibadan. Also known as the "Father of Veterinary Public Health in Nigeria"

3. Prof Oyewale Tomori in his residence at Akobo, Ibadan on 1st May 2012, Workers' Day. The pioneer Vice-Chancellor of Redeemers' University, he is a Veterinarian, who graduated at the Ahmadu Bello University in 1971, became a Consultant Virologist and Head, Virology Department, as well as the Director of the Postgraduate Institute for Medical Research (PIMRAT), both at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, and later WHO Consultant Virologist for Africa. Prof Tomori is the Nigerian One Health model. Professor Tomori received his DVM from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and his PhD in Virology of the University of Ibadan. (http://www.who.int/immunization/sage/members/bio_tomorifen/)

4. Dr Abdulsalami Nasidi on 17th August 2012 in Dr Nasidi's Nigerian Center for Disease Control (NCDC) office at 50 Halle Selassie Street, Asokoro, Abuja FCT, Nigeria. A MBBS and PhD Virology holder, He headed the Federal Vaccine Production Laboratory in Yaba for 7 years; while there he introduced a new method for the production of yellow fever vaccine, which was used successfully for the control of the 1986/1987 yellow fever outbreak in Benue State, Nigeria. Dr Nasidi was the Chief Epidemiologist, Federal Ministry of Health in the late nineties and currently the Project Director, Nigeria Center for Disease Control NCDC

INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

1. History

- derived from the Greek noun 'historia' meaning 'inquiry or research.'
- Learning by inquiry about the past of mankind.
- "unending dialogue between the present and the past." - E. H. Carr
- "a narrative of what civilized men have thought or done in the past time." Will Durant

(<http://www.pinkmonkey.com/studyguides/subjects/worldhis/chap1/w0101101.asp>)

- the branch of knowledge dealing with past events.
- acts, ideas, or events that will or can shape the course of the future.

(Random House Kernerman's Webster College Dictionary)

History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new. (Ecclesiastes 1:9 New Living Translation)

2. One Health

- One health is the collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally to attain optimal health for people, animals, plants and our environment." - http://www.onehealthinitiative.com/news_archived.php
- all collaborating efforts of various human occupations and professions, co-labouring as companions working together united to achieve a common mandate, purpose and responsibility of making man to be at ease with other biological and non-biological components of a world environment. (Babalobi ICIED, 2012)

3. Nigeria
 - Colonized by Britain 1885
 - Amalgamated in 1901
 - Independent 1960
 - Population 175 million

4. History of the Veterinary Profession in Nigeria

- 1904: Earliest reference to the veterinary profession in Nigeria: Veterinary Captain Carr of the Royal Armed Veterinary Corps to Nigeria.
- 1914: Establishment of the Veterinary Department and recruitment of two veterinary officers, G.E. Owen and F.R. Brandt
- 1954: First Nigerian Veterinary Doctor, Dr. Bukar Shuib, graduated from the University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom.
- 1963: First Nigeria Veterinary Faculty started in Nigeria at University of Ibadan by a Briton Dr Desmond Hill
- 1967: the first veterinarian wholly trained in Nigeria, Dr. Basil Ikede graduated, jointly trained by the two veterinary faculties in Nigeria-the University of Ibadan and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (VCN 1985)

5. History of One Health in Nigeria

Prof Oyewale Tomori has traced One Health activities in Nigeria to the Virology Department, College of Medicine/University College Hospital (UCH) of the University of Ibadan as far back as in 1969, soon after the outbreak of Lassa fever. According to him:

'There was a Rockefeller laboratory in Ibadan which was known as Arbovirus Research unit, funded by Rockefeller but based at the UCH. They were involved with the investigation of virus diseases in the country at that time Lassa fever broke out. We had people of different professions. There was Joan Kemp, who was a veterinarian; there was Venom Lee who was an entomologist. There was another Nigerian, Adegbite who was also a veterinarian and David-West (now retired Professor) who was also there. The team that went to investigate the Lassa fever outbreak was led by a veterinarian. And then we had people like Prof Esuruoso and Prof Montefiore, who actually was a bacteriologist but he was a person who appreciated people's talents, it didn't matter to him whether you were a technologist, virologist or whatever. Once he needed a solution, he made use of everybody. That was the beauty of his nature and that brought us together. In fact among the people in the Teaching hospital, he was the closest I worked with because he understood perfectly what the whole essence of (One Health) was'.

In his inaugural lecture at the University of Ibadan in 1977(?), Prof Esuruoso displayed a figure which showed three people standing together. One was the Dean of Agriculture, one was the Dean of Medicine and one was the Dean of Veterinary Medicine among them. And the Dean of Agriculture was asking the Dean of Veterinary Medicine, what do you have to do with my plants? Why do you talk of veterinary preventive medicine and

you are referring to plants? I told him, the Dean of Medicine told him that also, it is because your plants are what my animals eat... and each part of it, they can poison, they can contribute to health, and they can contribute to disease. And then the Dean of Medicine was asking the Dean of Veterinary Medicine, why are you treating your patients, which are lower value animals and things like that. The Dean of Veterinary Medicine was telling the Dean of Human Medicine that you have forgotten that I am also human, and that as human being you eat most of my animals. Don't you know that they can transmit something to you? That we live in the same environment and we are coming closer.

So even as far back as in that 1977 Inaugural Lecture figure in which 3 Deans were exchanging views, it is clear that One Medicine approach is the main approach in global (public health).

According to Dr Nasidi, the One Health Concept in Nigeria was first touted in Nigeria by Dr Thomas Monath who in 1986 was impressed by the way, Dr Oyewale Tomori (a veterinarian) and Dr Nasidi (a Medical Doctor) were working together seamlessly (on virology issues) and thus exclaimed: "This is One Health in action", and invited the two to dinner. All this while, Dr Nasidi's medical colleagues at the Ibadan medical school stood against him working closely with Dr Tomori.

CONCLUSION: A TRIBUTE TO LATE ONE HEALTH PIONEERS IN NIGERIA

Within the last two years, the One Health World witnessed the demise of three pioneers of One Health:-

1. Prof Gabriel Oluwole Esuruoso, the Father of Veterinary Public Health in Nigeria, who died on 26th January 2013 aged 80 (University of Ibadan Bulletin 3070 Special Release 20 February, 2013).
2. Prof James Steele, often referred to as the "father of veterinary public health", who died Nov. 10 2013, aged 100 years old."
3. Prof David Goldsmith Montefiore- passed away recently on June 10 2014, aged 85. My workplace University of Ibadan official bulletin recently on 04th July 2014 made a Special release No 3381 announcing the Obituary of Prof David Goldsmith Montefiore- passed away recently on June 10 2014, aged 85. Prof Montefiore, a retired Professor of Medical Microbiology who had a lifelong career at the University of Ibadan between 1960 and 1989, a long part at the Arbovirus Unit in the University College Hospital, before the establishment of the Department of Virology, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan and is credited to be have pioneered One Health practice in Nigeria through the Arbovirus unit (see <http://bulletin.ui.edu.ng/node/346>).

Professor Oyewale Tomori, the President of the Nigerian Academy of Science, who worked the late Prof Montefiore as a young Veterinarian and later became the first WHO Regional Virologist for the African Region described Prof Montefiore with this deserving Epithet:

"... He was a person who appreciated talents; it didn't matter to him whether you were a technologist, virologist or a cleaner. Once he considered you part of the solution, he called on you to use your talent. That was the beauty of his nature and that brought us together. In fact among the people in the Teaching hospital, he was the closest I worked with because he understood perfectly what One Health was all about, long before people became aware".

I had hoped to meet personally with him to interview him during the forthcoming 41st Congress of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM) to be held at Imperial College London, UK from the 10th to 13th September 2014. Alas, that will never happen.

Adieu, Prof Montefiore, describe by James Steele as "the Englishman... one that was so enthused about fusing veterinary and human medicine". As late Prof James Steele asked me during the April 2012 Texas interview (and by extension the present generation) "So what progress have you made (are you making) to maintain that? This is a standing challenge to the present generation of One Health professionals- Agriculturists, Bio-Medicals, Physicians, Veterinarians and associated (public health) professionals

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPRECIATION

- i. Dr Lora Davis, Resident Veterinary Advisor, Nigeria Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme NFE LTP/ CDC One Health Office Animal Human Interface Project, CDC-Country Office, Abuja, Nigeria. 2008 to 2013. Lora facilitated my sabbatical leave with her as a Veterinary Academic Consultant with the responsibility of developing a model One Health Curriculum with other stakeholders for the African Field Epidemiology Network
- ii. Dr Peter Cowen, of North Carolina State University. A long time professional friend and well-wisher who facilitated my 2012 interview with James Steele. A DVM graduate of University of Ibadan (1974-1979), he was in final year when late Prof Esuruoso invited late Prof Steele as External Examiner to the University of Ibadan. He later had his post-DVM graduate studies under the supervision of Prof Calvin Schwabe and James Steele respectively.
- iii. The Organizers of WAHVM 2014, particularly Dr. Angela Cassidy, Administrator, WAHVM congress 2014 and Dr. Abigail Woods, Lead Organiser, WAHVM congress 2014; for accepting my abstracts for presentation.
- iv. This wonderful interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary audience for your attention