



## The 2024 International Day of Immunology Celebration by the Nigerian Society for Immunology

The Nigerian Society for Immunology (NSI) joined the rest of the world to celebrate the International Day of Immunology (IDI) on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The theme of this year's IDI was – Immunity through the Ages: Navigating the Science of Ageing and Immunity.

The NSI organized a webinar to mark the day with three presentations from renowned immunologists within and outside the Country. The first presentation on the main theme - Immunity through the Ages: Navigating the Science of Ageing and Immunity – was delivered by Dr. Alhassan Hussaini, an Associate Professor of Immunology in the Department of Immunology, School of Medical Laboratory Science, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, North-West Nigeria. He holds a Ph.D. in Medical and Molecular Immunology from Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) and he is a member of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine and Nigerian Society for Immunology.

In his lecture, he reiterated on the processes of development of the immune system from the foetus to adulthood and old age. He emphasized on the importance of immunization in childhood, and how with aging, the body system accumulates dedicated immune cells due to antigen exposure and how they can be compromised with increasing susceptibility to diseases and cancers as observed in various aged populations.

The second presentation titled: Immunology of the Aged (Maintaining healthy immunity in the later stage of life), was delivered by Professor Gabriel Oyeyinka. He is a Professor of Immunology and former Head of the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, University of Ilorin, North-Central Nigeria. He holds a Ph.D in Immunology from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria and was once a visiting scholar to the Department of Chemical Pathology, University of Ghana Medical School, Accra, Ghana. He was also a member of the Nigeria National Task Force on Poliovirus Containment, and a former treasurer of the Nigerian Society for Immunology. He was a former Treasurer to NSI.

Professor Oyeyinka emphasized that ageing is time dependent and usually associated with autoimmune responses, elevated circulating immune complexes and inflammaging. He suggested healthy routines including eating and sleeping well, avoiding smoking and alcohol, being physically active, amongst others as a means to maintaining healthy immunity in old age.

The third presentation for the day titled: Advancing the field of Immunology across Africa – The role of FAIS, was presented by Pa Tamba Ngom, the President of the Federation of African Immunological Societies (FAIS). He described the aims, objectives, activities and governance processes of FAIS as well as collaboration efforts within Africa, where he emphasized that not much of collaboration in immunological research has occurred amongst

African countries. He therefore encouraged members to build collaboration, which is the main goal of FAIS.

Earlier in his address, the NSI President, Professor Ganiyu Olatunbosun Arinola, appreciated the roles of FAIS and IUIS in the upliftment of immunological practice across Africa and Nigeria in particular. He went down the memory lane of how NSI has contributed to FAIS activities in the past and sought for a stronger collaboration especially in assessing grants for immunological research in Nigeria. Kindly, find below the welcome address of NSI President.

A total of 138 participants cutting across the academia, government functionaries and corporate organizations attended the event. Participants were from Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, South Africa and some European countries.

The full video of the event is available on the NSI website: <https://immunologynigeria.org/nsi-intl-day-of-immunology-2024/>

### **WELCOME ADDRESS**

#### **NIGERIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT THE YEAR 2024 CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF IMMUNOLOGY**

The Executives and Members of the Nigerian Society for Immunology (NSI), welcome all of you to this 2024 World Immunology Day. The NSI is a non-governmental scientific society founded in 1971 with the following objectives:

1. To foster the interests of scientists in the field of Immunology,
2. To explore the frontiers in Immunology,
3. To promote exchange of scientific ideas between specialists in Immunology and other related areas,
4. To be of service to mankind by the use of manipulations based on the understanding of the immune system.

Since resuscitation of NSI in 2021, following a long rest, the NSI has been operating smoothly and has continued working to meet her objectives. Members of NSI are actively involved in the activities of Federation of African Immunology Societies (FAIS) and International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS) at Committee levels. Abstracts submitted by members of NSI were accepted for presentation at the 18th International Congress of Immunology 27 November - 2 December 2023 | Cape Town, South Africa. Four members of NSI won travel grants to attend the congress. We hope for more sponsorship from the parent Societies (FAIS and IUIS) in subsequent programmes.

The NSI has a journal; Nigerian Journal of Immunology (NJI) which is now publishing regularly. Manuscripts for publication are received from authors within Nigeria and outside Nigeria. The link to the journal could be found on NSI website for more information. The NJI is expecting quality manuscripts for publication from all of you.

Members of NSI have strong research collaboration. Their research outputs have impacted positively on health policies.

The 2023 International Day of Immunology focused on COVID-19 which was then, a global health problem. We are happy to have survived the episode. The theme for this year's IDI is "Immunity through the ages: Navigating the science of aging and immunity". It shows that

IUIS care for both young and old, and also wants everyone to grow up as healthy senior citizens, so that the “Young shall grow, but the old ones shall not die now”. I am sure the lecturers for today will meet our expectations.

I urge all attendees of today’s event to visit the website of NSI (<http://www.immunologynigeria.org.ng/>) for further information on our various activities.

Thank you for your attendance, attention and contribution.

With highest esteem regards,

Professor Ganiyu. O. Arinola (President, NSI). e-mail address: [immunology.nigeria@gmail.com](mailto:immunology.nigeria@gmail.com), [drarinolaog64@yahoo.com](mailto:drarinolaog64@yahoo.com), +234-80-9812-1520

**FAYS** **NSI** NIGERIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY FOUNDED IN 1971 **IUIS**

**NIGERIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY**

Celebrates the **2024 International Day of Immunology**

**Immunity through the Ages: Navigating the Science of Aging and Immunity**

**S P E A K E R S**

**Dr. Hussaini Alhassan**  
Associate Professor of Immunology,  
Head, Department of Immunology,  
School of Med. Lab. Science,  
Usmanu Danfodiyo University,  
Sokoto, Nigeria  
**Immunity through the Ages:  
Navigating the Science of  
Aging and Immunity**

**Prof. Gabriel Oyeyinka**  
Professor of Immunology and  
Former Head, Department of  
Med. Lab. Science,  
University of Ilorin, Nigeria  
**Immunology of the Aged  
(Maintaining Healthy  
Immunity in the Later  
Stage of Life)**

**Pa Tamba Ngom**  
President, Federation of African  
Immunological Societies  
**Advancing the field of  
Immunology across Africa:  
The role of FAIS**

**MONDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

**10:00 AM**  
NIGERIA TIME

4:00am EST  
9:00am GMT  
10:00am WAT  
11:00am CAT

**VIRTUAL**  
Please click the link below to register

**PARTICIPATION IS FREE**

**HOST**  
**PROF. O. G. ARINOLA**  
President,  
Nigerian Society  
for Immunology

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