

**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

**DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE, 2013**

**CITATION**

**Gordon Akanzuwine Awandare**, your working relationship with the University of Ghana dates back to 1999 when you were appointed as Principal Research Assistant at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research. You concurrently pursued a Master of Philosophy programme in Biochemistry, graduating in 2002. You were employed as a lecturer in the then Department of Biochemistry in September of that year, and obtained a PhD in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, in 2007.

You were promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer in March 2011 and have been the Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology since August 2013.

You won the Royal Society Africa Award twice; in 2011 and again in 2014, and the prestigious National Institutes of Health investigator-led grant in 2011. You have won several grants through collaborations with top scientists, and have also supported and guided junior colleagues in your Department to win grants and fellowships. Through one of such grants, you have been able to establish one of the best research laboratories in the University, and have generally uplifted research and grantsmanship in the Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology and the Faculty of Science and helped to bring a much needed vitality to the Sciences.

You have a respectable number of academic publications to your credit, serve as scientific reviewer for several journals in your field, and as external examiner in a number of universities. You are currently Principal or Co-Principal Investigator of grants running into millions of Ghana cedis. Perhaps your most significant achievement to date has been leading a team to develop one of the winning proposals from the University of Ghana, for the establishment of a World bank funded African Centre of Excellence (ACE) for Cell Biology and Infectious Pathogens, situated jointly in the Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research. The project will significantly enhance the training of graduate students in the Sciences, and will also provide state of the art research laboratories, lecture and seminar rooms and upgrade ICT infrastructure in the new College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

**Gordon Awandare**: in the 12 years since you became a Senior Member of the University of Ghana, you have distinguished yourself in the areas of grantsmanship and research. You are living proof that young people can make it in academia, and that it is never too early to start setting academic and personal goals, and to work hard towards achieving them. You are an inspiration to your colleagues and a mentor to your students, and you continue to strive to make the sciences more attractive to young people and to encourage them to take up careers in the field.

In recognition of your immense contribution to research and scholarship in the University and in acknowledgment of your potential in the years ahead, the University of Ghana is proud to confer on you the **DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE, 2013**.

We congratulate and salute you.

AYEKOO!

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**Mr. Kofi Annan**  
Chancellor

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**Professor Ernest Aryeetey**  
Vice-Chancellor

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**Mrs. Mercy Haizel-Ashia**  
Registrar

**July 26, 2014**