

Biography



Emeritus Professor
DOROTHEA LILLIAN BAXTER-GRILLO
(1931 – 2020)

Emeritus Professor Dorothea Lillian Baxter-Grillo a teacher of professors was born in Kingston Jamaica in 1931 to George Frederick a Medical doctor and Lillian Baxter a house wife where she was brought up in her earlier years.

She got married to Emeritus Professor Thomas Adesanya Ige Grillo in 1955 and they were married for 43 years when her husband passed on in October, 1998.

Dorothea Baxter-Grillo qualified as a Doctor from the Royal College of Surgeon, Dublin in 1955. She specialized in Paediatrics and went on to specialize in Anatomy. She got a PhD in Anatomy in Nigeria, making her the first person to achieve this feat. She went on to achieve many firsts in her professional career.

Dorothea and her husband, Professor Thomas Adesanya Ige Grillo were reputed to have started Anatomy as a course of study in Nigeria. Her husband was the first Nigerian Anatomist and he was working at the University of Ibadan while she was a paediatrician working at the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan. She continued with her passion of propagating scientific knowledge even after the death of her husband in 1998.

Dorothea Baxter-Grillo's teaching experiences spanned across the world but most of her teachings have been in Nigeria. She started teaching at the University of Ibadan; she was the first Professor of Anatomy at the University of Maiduguri. She also went on to teach at the University of Ife now Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife. Her last teaching appointment was at the Department of Anatomy, University of Benin, Benin, Nigeria where she had her final sent forth in December, 2019. A Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, a Fellow of Anatomical Association of Nigeria, a Professor of Anatomy in Jamaica and an Emeritus Professor of Anatomy in Nigeria where she last taught at the Department of Anatomy University of Benin. She worked at the University of Benin for over 30 years until last year, 2019, when she was ceremoniously retired and sent forth by the University to be with her family.

Grillo as she was fondly called, was a teacher of Professors, she taught close to 3 generations of doctors and other allied medical professionals in her active years of service and was still very much active and passionate about her job up until last year.

She was planning to move to be with her late husband's family in Nigeria and also travel to her home country Jamaica but death came calling and she passed in the morning of May 29, 2020.

Dorothea Baxter-Grillo will be sorely missed by her family, students, colleagues and the entire medical profession,