



**PASSING OF A
COLLEAGUE
PROFESSOR EMERITUS THE
HON.
GERALD LALOR, OM, OJ, CD**



The University of the West Indies, Mona, regrets to inform you that our former colleague, **Professor Emeritus Gerald Lalor**, passed away on Sunday, August 22, 2021.

Professor Lalor joined The UWI Mona family in 1960 as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry. In 1969, he was promoted to the rank of Professor and served as Head of the Department of Chemistry from 1969 to 1972. He was subsequently promoted to Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University in 1974 and was later appointed Principal in 1991, where he served until his retirement in 1996.

Professor Lalor was a trailblazing Jamaican geochemist with a strong interest in research. In 1984, he established the Centre for Nuclear Sciences (CNS), now known as the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences (ICENS). This initiative resulted in the acquisition of the SLOWPOKE (Safe Low-Power (K)ritical Experiment) Reactor, the only nuclear research reactor in the Caribbean. Professor Lalor led a research team that developed a geochemical map of elements in Jamaican soils which aids in the detection of contaminated land and provides important information for government planning agencies. He also established the Biotechnology Centre; spearheaded the implementation of programmes for hearing impaired students; facilitated the education of the disabled; and supported the development of microcomputer applications. He served on many regional and international committees focused on Science, Metrication, and Education as well as Jamaica's Electoral Advisory Committee.

Professor Lalor's distinguished contribution to local and international development in science, technology and innovation, and service across the private and public sectors was recognized by his colleagues and his countrymen. In 1980, the Government of Jamaica conferred the national honour, Order of Distinction, Commander Class (CD), on Professor Lalor. In 1990, he was awarded the Order of Jamaica (OJ), and in 2003, he received the National Medal for Science and Technology. In 2019, Professor Lalor was bestowed the fourth-highest Jamaican honour, Order of Merit (OM).

In light of his death, The UWI flags will be flown at half-mast on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, and on the day of his funeral.

The University extends condolences to the family and friends of the late Professor Lalor.

Career Timeline of Professor Gerald Lalor

Year	Post
1948	Pathology Technician, Government Pathology Lab
1953	Chemist, West Indies Chemical Works Limited, Jamaica.
1954-1960	Chief Chemist, West Indies Chemical Works Limited, Jamaica.
1954-1974	Abstracter, Chemical Abstracts.
1960	Assistant Lecturer in Chemistry, The University College of the West Indies.
1960-1963	Lecturer in Chemistry, The University of the West Indies, Mona
1963-1968	Senior Lecturer in Chemistry, The University of the West Indies, Mona
1966	Honorary Research Associate, Harvard University.
1968	Reader in Chemistry, The University of the West Indies, Mona
1969 -1972	Head, Chemistry Department, The University of the West Indies, Mona.
1969	Professor of Chemistry, The University of the West Indies, Mona
1970	C.I.D.A Visiting Fellow, Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories, Canada.
1970	Regional Editor, Revista Latin-Americana Química.
1972	President, Jamaica Association of Scientists.
1973	Research at the University of Rome on reactions of haemoglobins.
1974 - 1996	Pro-Vice-Chancellor, The University of the West Indies, Mona
1978	Initiator and Director of Project Satellite. Project Satellite was the first experiment in the Caribbean on the use of satellite communications in education and public service.
1979-1982	Director of Caribbean Regional Communications Study. This was a feasibility study to determine how modem telecommunications could contribute to University programmes and outreach. The project report formed the basis of distance teaching in the Caribbean.
1982- 1996	Director, The University of the West Indies Distance Teaching Experiment.
1983 -1996	Director, Centre for Nuclear Sciences, The University of the West Indies.
1986 - 1994	Chairman, Scientific Research Council of the Government of Jamaica.
1990 - 1991	Deputy Principal, Mona Campus of The University of the West Indies.
1991 - 1996	Principal, Mona Campus of The University of the West Indies.
1996 - 1982	Selected Member Electoral Advisory Committee of Jamaica.
1996 - 2011	Director General International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences.

Professor Gerald Lalor's Award Timeline

Year	Award
1979	Institute of Jamaica Centenary Medal
1980	Commander of the Order of Distinction
1981	Special Award of the Jamaica Society for Scientists and Technologists for the Development of Science
1987	Fellow of the Jamaica Society of Scientists and Technologists.
1987	Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences
1988	Inaugural Fellow of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences
1990	Order of Jamaica. Figure 54
1991	Sir Phillip Sherlock Award for Excellence
1992	Gold Musgrave Medal of the Institute of Jamaica. Figure 55
1994	Induction into the Hall of Fame of the Professional Societies Association in Jamaica
1998	Norman Manley Award for Excellence. Figure 56
2003	Fellowship of the Institute of Jamaica
2015	Inducted into the CARISCIENCE Hall of Fame
	Fellow of the African Scientific Institute
	Corresponding Fellow of the Cuban Academy of Sciences
	CARICOM/CARISCIENCE Science Award
	Fellow of the Jamaica Institute of Management
2019	Order of Merit