

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Omowunmi Sadik

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Sadik, Omowunmi A., 1964-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Omowunmi Sadik,
Dates:	July 10, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:14:11).
Abstract:	Chemistry professor Omowunmi Sadik (1964 -) was director of the Center for Advanced Sensors & Environmental Systems (CASE) at the State University of New York at Binghamton. She was also elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE). Sadik was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 10, 2013, in Binghamton, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_175
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Professor, chemist, and inventor Omowunmi “Wunmi” A. Sadik was born in 1964 in Lagos, Nigeria. Growing up in Nigeria, Sadik was introduced to science by her father, who was a pharmaceutical technician. There were three physicians, one civil engineer, and two nurse practitioners in her family as well. In high school, Sadik was interested in physics, chemistry, and biology. She graduated from the University of Lagos in Nigeria with her B.S. degree in chemistry in 1985 and her M.S. degree in chemistry in 1987. Sadik received her Ph.D. degree in chemistry in 1994 at Wollongong University in Australia. She was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Research Council (NRC) from 1994 to 1996 to conduct research at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In 1996, Sadik was appointed as an assistant professor of chemistry at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton. From 2000 to 2003, Sadik held visiting appointments at the Naval Research Laboratories, Cornell University, and Harvard University. In 2002, she was promoted to associate professor of chemistry at SUNY-Binghamton; and, in 2005, Sadik became a full professor and was appointed director of SUNY-Binghamton’s Center for Advanced Sensors & Environmental Systems (CASE). Sadik’s research interests are in surface chemistry with a focus on sensors, environmental chemistry and conducting polymers. She has co-authored over 135 peer-reviewed research papers and patent applications, has given 121 keynote and invited lectures, as well as contributed 178 conference lectures, posters, symposia and workshops. Sadik was awarded four U.S. patents for her work on biosensors.

In 2011, Sadik chaired the inaugural “Gordon Conference on Environmental Nanotechnology.” She was appointed to the National Institutes of Health Study Panel on Instrumentation and Systems Development, and has made contributions to scientific and government organizations such as the Environmental Protection Agency, American Chemical Society and National Science Foundation. Sadik has received over \$5 million in funding and contracts

both from the private sector and government agencies. In 2012, Sadik co-founded the Sustainable Nanotechnology Organization (SNO), a non-profit, international professional society dedicated to advancing sustainable nanotechnology around the world through education, research, and promotion of responsible growth of nanotechnology.

Sadik has been awarded Harvard University's Distinguished Radcliffe Fellowship, the NSF Discovery Corps Senior Fellowship, the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Research, the Australian Merit Award, the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Inventor, and National Research Council (NRC) COBASE fellowship. Sadik was elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry in 2010 and of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) in 2012.

Professor, chemist and an inventor Omowunmi "Wunmi" A. Sadik was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 10, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Omowunmi Sadik was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 10, 2013, in Binghamton, New York, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Chemistry professor Omowunmi Sadik (1964 -) was director of the Center for Advanced Sensors & Environmental Systems (CASE) at the State University of New York at Binghamton. She was also elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE).

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Sadik, Omowunmi A., 1964-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Sadik, Omowunmi A., 1964- --Interviews

African American chemists--Interviews.

African American professors--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

State University of New York at Binghamton.

Occupations:

Chemistry Professor

HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Omowunmi Sadik, July 10, 2013. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual

(Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Omowunmi Sadik, Section A2013_175_001_001, TRT: 1:28:15 ?

Omowunmi Sadik describes her family background in Nigeria. Sadik's mother, Omo Shalewa Agboola, was born in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1937, and belonged to the Yoruba ethnic people of Nigeria. Sadik's maternal grandmother worked as a trader throughout her life, and her grandfather was a train engineer. Her father, Tahir Bello Agboola, was born in Lagos around 1924. His family moved to Lagos from the city of Abeokuta in Ogun State, Nigeria, where his uncle was revered as the high chief of the Ikereku area. Sadik's father worked at her grandfather's cocoa plantation and export business. He completed his education through a correspondence program at the University of London, and became a pharmaceutical technologist. In this section of the interview, Sadik describes the traditions of the Yoruba people and their rich oral history. She also reflects upon the need to preserve these cultural traditions in the modern era.

African families--Nigeria.

African mothers.

African fathers.

Lagos (Nigeria).

Yoruba (African people).

Video Oral History Interview with Omowunmi Sadik, Section A2013_175_001_002, TRT: 2:28:46 ?

Omowunmi Sadik was raised in Lagos, Nigeria. In this section of the interview, she describes her memories of growing up in the Ita Faji area of Lagos. Sadik's father, Tahir Bello Agboola, was trained as a pharmacist, and also had a career as a businessman, exporting cocoa from Nigeria. Sadik attended St. Paul's Breadfruit Elementary School in Lagos, and recalls her father helping her to learn science and mathematics while she was there. He practiced Islam, and insisted that his children practice some form of faith. Sadik talks about her siblings, describes her maternal grandmother's store in Lagos, and discusses her likeness to her parents. She also talks about her interest in African history, and discusses the Yoruba Civil War, the history of the Egba people, the establishment of the city of Abeokuta, Nigeria's independence from Great Britain in 1960, and the Biafran War in the late 1960s.

Childhood--Nigeria--Lagos.

African fathers.

Education--Nigeria--Lagos.

Islam.

Nigeria--History.

Video Oral History Interview with Omowunmi Sadik, Section A2013_175_001_003, TRT: 3:28:20
?

Omowunmi Sadik attended high school at Premier Grammar School, a boarding school in Abeokuta, Nigeria, where she gained a solid foundation in the sciences and mathematics. Sadik talks about her mentors in high school, and her interest in testing concepts that she learned in her science classes. After graduating from school in 1980, Sadik returned to Lagos, where she began to prepare for the Higher School Certificate (HSC) Examination, and qualified early for college by passing the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) Examination. She describes her decision to enroll at the University of Lagos (Unilag) and major in chemistry. She recalls having to convince her mother of her decision, and her interest in organic chemistry. Sadik reflects upon the importance of education in Nigeria, and the trend of students returning to Nigeria after studying abroad in the 1970s and the 1980s. She also discusses religion in Nigeria.

Education--Nigeria.

Boarding schools--Nigeria.

Examinations.

University of Lagos.

Chemistry.

Religion--Nigeria.

Video Oral History Interview with Omowunmi Sadik, Section A2013_175_001_004, TRT: 4:30:00
?

In 1982, Omowunmi Sadik began her bachelor's degree at the University of Lagos (Unilag) in Lagos, Nigeria. She describes the foundational education that she received there, and her interest in analytical chemistry. Sadik also reflects upon her experience as a woman in science in Nigeria. In 1985, she continued to pursue her master's degree at Unilag, and conducted research on determining the level of heavy metals in Nigerian fruits and vegetables. Sadik went on to work as a researcher at the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR), which influenced her to pursue a Ph.D. degree at the University of Wollongong in Australia. Sadik received an Australian Merit Scholarship to support her studies in Dr. Gordon Wallace's research group. She discusses her doctoral dissertation, entitled, 'New Sensing Techniques Using Conducting Electroactive Polymers'.

University of Lagos.

Chemistry.

Women in science--Nigeria.

Food--Analysis.

Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research.

University of Wollongong.

Conducting polymers.

Video Oral History Interview with Omowunmi Sadik, Section A2013_175_001_005, TRT: 5:28:53
?

Omowunmi Sadik earned her Ph.D. degree in chemistry at the University of Wollongong in Australia, where she worked in the field of conducting polymers. She describes her tough decision to leave her husband and children in Nigeria, and her experience in Australia. In 1994, Sadik received a National Research Council (NRC) fellowship to pursue her postdoctoral training at the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) facilities in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she worked on developing environmental sensors. In 1996, Sadik was appointed as a faculty member in the department of chemistry at the State University of New York (SUNY) Binghamton, where she continued to expand her work with sensors. In 2002, she became the director of the Center for Advanced Sensor Research and Environmental Systems (CASE). In this section of the interview, Sadik explains the details of her research on environmental sensors, and their applications as bio-sensors and for nanoparticles.

University of Wollongong.

Education--Australia.

United States. Environmental Protection Agency.

Biosensors.

State University of New York at Binghamton.

Nanoparticles.

Video Oral History Interview with Omowunmi Sadik, Section A2013_175_001_006, TRT: 6:30:26 ?

Since 1996, Omowunmi Sadik has served on the chemistry faculty at the State University of New York (SUNY) Binghamton, where she received tenure in 2002. In this section of the interview, Sadik discusses her passion for research, and her work with sensors, particularly biosensors and those used for detecting pain levels and HIV antigens, sensors for nanoparticles, and the applications of conducting polymers in chromium detoxification and water purification. She also talks about the demographics of her research group, funding for her research, training undergraduate and graduate students, her involvement in mentoring and service at SUNY Binghamton, and her role as a visiting research scientist at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory. In 2010, Sadik was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Chemistry Society (RCS). She reflects upon the impact of African professionals on the black community as well as the wider community in the United States.

State University of New York at Binghamton.

Chemistry--Research.

Biosensors.

Conducting polymers.

Mentoring in education.

United States. Naval Research Laboratory.

Royal Society of Chemistry (Great Britain).

Video Oral History Interview with Omowunmi Sadik, Section A2013_175_001_007, TRT: 7:19:31 ?

In this closing section of the interview, Omowunmi Sadik reflects upon her career and her legacy, and shares how she would like to be remembered. She talks about her children and her family, and describes her hopes and concerns for the African American community. Sadik takes pride in the students whom she has mentored, and gives an example of how she was able to help one of her students. She also talks about her collaborators at the State University of New York (SUNY) Binghamton, and the Center for Advanced Sensor Research and Environmental Systems (CASE). Sadik closes the interview by describing her photographs.

Reminiscing.

Mentoring in education.

State University of New York at Binghamton.
Photographs.