Psychiatric disorders as they presented in publications described, for the first time, of clearly evident psychiatric disorder and to have more symptoms, but fewer cases differences were that the Yoruba seemed this is truly remarkable'. The most salient between the cultures and life situations, concluded that 'in view of the contrast impressive than the difference; they Stirling County and the Yoruba were more and prevalence of psychiatric disorder in was that the similarity between pattern were later confirmed by the World Health exposed in Africa'. His observations of the community to which the mentally ill are environmental factors inherent in the his programme of treatment. Thomas Adeoye Lambo was born on 29 March 1923 in Abeokuta. But to under- stand Lambo's achievements, it is helpful to understand that Abeokuta had received a significant number of returned exiles from Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 1840 onwards. These returned exiles had mostly been Africans liberated by the British navy from slaving ships on the high seas, but some were also Africans who had returned from the West Indies, Nova Scotia and Britain after emancipation. These exiles were educated men, artisans and traders. They valued education and jointly with missionaries including Metho- dists, Baptists and the Church Mission Society built schools and churches in Abeokuta. It was into this vibrant and progressive milieu that Lambo was born. He was educated at one of the mission schools, Baptist Boys’ High School and studied medicine in Birmingham, England, graduating in 1948. He completed his house jobs at the General Hospital and Midland Nerve Hospital Birmingham. he trained as a psychiatrist at the Maudsley Hospital (1952–1954) before returning to Nigeria to set up the Neuropsychiatric Hospital Aro, where he worked until 1963 when he was appointed Professor of Psychiatry at University College Hospital Ibadan. He was later Dean of Medicine (1966–1968) and Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan (1968–1971). Lambo joined the World Health Organization in 1971 as Assistant Director General, with special responsibility for the Divisions of Mental Health, Non-communicable diseases, Therapeutics & Prophylactic Substances and Health Manpower Development. He later became Deputy Director of the World Health Organization in 1973, and worked in that capacity until 1988. He was honoured by many institutions during his life, including appointment to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (1974), Haile Selassie Africa Research Award (1970) and honorary doctorates from University of Benin, University of Birmingham, Kent State University, Université d’Aix-Marseille, Long Island University, and Catholic University of Louvain. He was awarded Nigeria’s highest honour, the National Merit Award.

Lambo’s most enduring legacies are the Neuropsychiatric Hospital Aro, which he built, and the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Ibadan where he was the foundation Professor and Head of Department. Aro remains the most important and prestigious psychiatric hospital in Nigeria. The Department of Psychiatry in Ibadan continues to make significant contributions to our understanding of psychiatric disorders in Nigeria and Africa, but, perhaps most importantly, continues to inspire young students to make psychiatry their choice of career. Many Ibadan graduates choose psychiatry and have in their turn developed academic departments within other Nigerian universities and elsewhere.

This is truly evidence that Lambo’s dedication to service, his energy and drive, his exceptional vision and innovative spirit served as a model for many of us.

His wife, Dinah Violet Adams, whom he married in 1945, and their 3 sons survive him.

Femi Oyebode