



## Prof. Stuart Saunders – a personal tribute

**To the Editor:** I was one of the luckiest interns of my year, the recipient of a serendipitous allocation to the Helen Brown firm with Stuart as my registrar. He was a born leader, a consummate clinician, and intuitively knew when to allocate responsibility to junior staff. He remained in my life despite his onerous chores. When I was ill in bed, he visited me at home, diagnosed Bornholm's disease, and reassured me that matters could only improve. Later he spent an hour on the phone to convince me to stay in the country, and not take up a post in Australia. I shall be forever grateful.

As Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, he would often pop up unannounced and uninvited to various class reunions

to congratulate the graduates, and then quietly slip away. At this stage of his life I only heard him complain once (with tongue in cheek), 'I have become the stomach of the university!' – a reference to the innumerable formal dinners that he was obliged to attend. Whatever he did, was for the benefit of his beloved alma mater.

Fare thee well, dear Stuart.

### Vincent Harrison

*3 Hurley Road, Mowbray, Cape Town, South Africa  
vincentcostelloharrison@gmail.com*

*S Afr Med J* 2021;111(5):384. <https://doi.org/10.7196/SAMJ.2021.v111i5.15692>