

IN MEMORIAM

**Mphako Charles Martin Modiba
(1 November 1952 - 28 October 2010)**

Professor Mphako Charles Modiba, the eldest son of Matome Titus and the late Salome Maletlabo Modiba, was born on 1 November 1952 at Pietersburg Hospital. He matriculated from Hwiti High School in 1971. He followed his calling in the field of medical science with dedication, empathy and a drive to impart his knowledge with those who had the opportunity and

privilege to be his audience.

He was awarded his MB ChB in 1976 at the University of Natal. He topped the graduation list and was awarded the most prizes at the Hippocratic Oath Ceremony for best final-year student for obstetrics, gynaecology and surgery as well as the student who showed the greatest promise in the final exam. He did his internship at Baragwanath Hospital.

He returned to Baragwanath and Natalspruit in 1979 as a medical officer, after spending a year studying at Natal University, and joined the registrar circuit at Baragwanath Hospital from 1980 until 1983. He was admitted as a Fellow of the College for Surgeons in 1982 and received the Michael and Janie Miller Prize for Surgery in the same year for his outstanding performance in the College examinations. He obtained his MMed in Surgery at Wits University with a dissertation on 'The effect of anterior highly selective vagotomy and posterior selective vagotomy on gastric emptying and mucosal histology'. His supervisor for this thesis was Professor Buddy Lawson. This was also the title of his presentation at the Surgical Research Society and the abstract was published in the *South African Journal of Surgery* in 1984.

He was registered as a general surgeon in 1984 and was appointed as a specialist at Baragwanath Hospital. Thereafter he became actively involved in research and started writing and co-authoring a

number of papers.

He was awarded the Michael and Janie Miller Travelling Fellowship in 1985 on the basis of his promise in academic surgery and as a result visited the well-known hepatic unit of Professor Les Blumgart at the Hammersmith Hospital in London for six months. Shortly after his return to Johannesburg he was promoted to senior surgeon at Baragwanath.

In late 1989 he was awarded the North-Western University Faculty Fellowship, working in Dr J S Wolf's transplantation research unit in Chicago to further his studies in kidney transplantation. It was during this period that he developed his interest in renal transplantation.

It is also during this period that he did the bulk of the work on his Doctorate in Philosophy, which he was awarded when he moved to the Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa). His supervisor for this work was Professor Bert Myburgh and the thesis was entitled 'The effect of distal splenorenal shunting on hepatic perfusion and function of patients with bleeding oesophageal varices in schistosomiasis'. In 1990 he was one of two black surgeons at Baragwanath Hospital who could perform full transplants and the only black specialist in kidney and liver surgery.

He was a Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Limpopo, Medunsa Campus, for 18 years. He was a dedicated clinician. He was well respected and duly acknowledged for his responsibility towards training and encouraging young African doctors to pursue further studies and specialise. He trained 31 African surgeons, of whom 14 were admitted as Fellow of the College of Surgeons (SA).

To his family he was a devoted and loving husband, a responsible and caring father, a playful and enthusiastic grandfather who will be sorely missed. He is survived by his four sisters, his two brothers, wife Lebetsi Maud Modiba, his children Matome Titus Modiba (son) and Mosa Mmankwana Flora Sibanyoni and two grandchildren Khushulwayo and Kgotso Sibanyoni.

Robala ka khutso Kgomo!

Mamoroke Lehobye (cousin of Charles Modiba)

BOOK REVIEW

HIV/AIDS in South Africa. 2nd ed.

Edited by S S Abdool Karim and Q Abdool Karim. Pp. 608. R490.00. Cambridge University Press, South Africa. 2010. ISBN 978-0521-147-934.

Knowledge around HIV has evolved extremely rapidly over the past three decades, providing formidable challenges for the editors and writers of any reference text on the subject to remain up to date and relevant. Given such challenges, the recently published second edition of *HIV/AIDS in South Africa* is a remarkable achievement that serves as a broad-ranging and current overview of all aspects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa. In addition, the book provides a historical record of the epidemic and the evolution of responses to

it over the past 25 years and insights into what may be expected in the decades to come.

The book is divided into seven sections dealing with: the epidemiology; HIV virology and immunology; risk factors and prevention issues; particular focal groups in which transmission is occurring; the social, economic and other impacts of AIDS; treatment issues; and a final section on what the future holds. Each of the sections contains between 2 and 6 chapters. In all, there are 32 contributors, the majority local scientists, clinicians or public health practitioners. As such the book serves as a comprehensive overview from the basic virology of HIV replication in CD4 cells to epidemiological insights regarding what social and cultural factors drive transmission to the downstream effects on the national economy and the micro-economy

of households. For any person wishing to get a thorough overview of all aspects of HIV/AIDS in South Africa this book could be read from cover to cover. It is also the most comprehensive reference text on HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

The first edition was published in 2005. In this second edition chapters have been updated and a chapter on positive prevention interventions has been added. Several chapters are of particular interest or provide novel overviews. The chapter entitled 'Cellular immunity in HIV: a synthesis of responses to preserve self' provides a detailed overview of the immunology of HIV describing the immune response to HIV, the mechanisms leading to progressive immunodeficiency and what factors influence the variability observed between individuals with respect to these processes. I would highly recommend this chapter for any doctor needing to cover this topic for a postgraduate examination. The chapter 'Barrier methods' unpacks the issues around condoms for HIV prevention, discussing their efficacy, distribution, use and barriers to use and interventions to promote their acceptability. Quarraisha Abdool Karim's chapter entitled 'Heterosexual transmission of HIV – the importance of a gendered perspective in HIV prevention' explores how power imbalances related to gender and age as well as migrancy that is a legacy of apartheid have fuelled the epidemic and resulted in young women being disproportionately affected. Mark Heywood's

chapter 'Picking up the pieces: the end of AIDS denialism and its aftermath' explores how AIDS denialism and its repercussions played a role in the downfall of the Mbeki presidency and how the new government has taken a different course in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The chapters that cover treatment aspects of HIV provide broad overviews of the issues and are not clinical guidelines (there are many other texts that fulfil that role). In many of the chapters the challenges that we face are highlighted and strategies for reducing the spread and impact of the epidemic are discussed. These are well summarised in the final chapter, 'The future of the HIV epidemic in South Africa', that is written by the editors.

I hope there will be further editions of this book that continue to provide an updated reference on the epidemic in South Africa. As the epidemic and our response to it progress there will be issues to be expanded upon in future editions, such as the resurging epidemic among men who have sex with men, rapid HIV tests that have become the most widely used diagnostic tests in South Africa and male circumcision as a prevention measure.

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