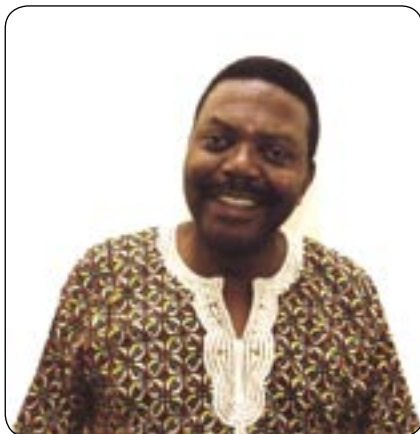


# Tribute to: Prof. Sam WP Mhlongo

MBBS, LRCP, MRCS, MSc. Med (London), MRCP (UK)



Professor Sam Mhlongo was born on 31st July 1940 in South Africa. He left the country in 1963 when many activists were being re-arrested under the 90-day Law. After spending some few months in Tanzania, he went to Britain where he studied medicine as a United Nations fellow first at university of Cambridge (pre-clinical) and Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, University of London (clinical). After graduating in medicine in the early 70s, he did various jobs in London and in the United States of America. Between 1975 and 1977, he was a cardiology resident at University of Pennsylvania and Mount Sinai Hospital, New York respectively. In 1978, he returned to the United Kingdom.

He later completed vocational training in General Practice and obtained his MRCP in 1990. Concurrently, he studied for the Master's degree in General Practice and was awarded the

MSc. Med in 1991. Between 1991 until his return to South Africa in 1998, he was a senior lecturer in General Practice at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, University of London. On his return to South Africa, he worked in the department of Family Medicine & Primary Health Care, Medunsa first as a senior family practitioner & senior lecturer and was later appointed Chief Family Practitioner and Professor in the same department in September 1999. He officially retired in July 2005 and continued to assist the department in teaching, research, curriculum development and administration until his untimely death on 6th October 2006.

He had membership of a number of organizations which included the African National Congress (Houghton branch), President Mbeki's Aids advisory panel, African Cultural Reclamation Forum, Postgraduate Education and Training (Medical) subcommittee of the Health Professions Council of South Africa and Higher Degrees Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Limpopo (Medunsa Campus) to mention a few. He was also the chairman of the Pfunanani Research Trust and President of the African-Caribbean Medical Association (1989-1996). He was a regular participant at the Second Renaissance (Il Secondo Rinascimento) conferences held in Milan, Italy between 2000 and 2006.

During his leadership, the department of Family Medicine & Primary Health Care, University of Limpopo (Medunsa Cam-

pus) played a leading role in enabling countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Zambia, and Swaziland to train family physicians through the Masters in Family Medicine vocational training program. The establishment of the Pfunanani Trust was to develop research capabilities amongst the black health care professionals. He published widely in both scientific journals and lay press on various issues including poverty, squalor and Aids. He was instrumental in the introduction of Social Science in Medicine in the M Med (Family Medicine) curriculum at the University of Limpopo (Medunsa Campus), which continues to be facilitated at all years of study. His main interests were in chronic diseases of lifestyle namely hypertension, diabetes; evidence-based practice, social science and politics. He was passionate about transformation in the new South Africa and was recently appointed to the editorial board of the South African Family Practice journal, where he made his mark through meticulous reviews of scientific articles for publication. He leaves behind his loving wife Maria and 3 children (Nandi, Shaka and Zwide). He will be sorely missed for his jokes, understanding, experience and wisdom on many issues that traverse medicine, politics, general knowledge and science.

## **Prof. Gboyega A Ogunbanjo**

Associate editor: SA Family Practice & Dept. of Family Medicine & PHC University of Limpopo (Medunsa Campus)