

TRIBUTE

IN MEMORY OF DR STEVE ANDREWS (1970 - 2009)

Dr Steve Andrews died unexpectedly on 27 June 2009 at the age of 39. He is survived by his wife Lyndall and daughter Sarah.

Steve qualified as a medical doctor from the University of Cape Town in 1993. In 1997 he attained Membership of the College of Family Practitioners (SA), being awarded the medal for the best candidate. In 2004 he obtained a Master's degree in Bioethics from the University of Cape Town. Steve was involved in the design and implementation of large HIV programmes in both the public and private sectors. He was a medical advisor for the Aid for AIDS managed care programme, the Médecins Sans Frontières Khayelitsha Antiretroviral Programme, and Strategic Evaluation Assessment and Development Consulting (which evaluates PEPFAR-funded programmes). He ran a busy private practice in Cape Town, focusing on patients needing salvage antiretroviral therapy. Steve served the Southern African HIV Clinicians Society with distinction: he was a member of the executive committee from 2001, served on several treatment guideline committees, and founded the society's regular Cape Town journal clubs.

Steve's strong sense of justice resulted in his becoming a treatment activist who worked closely with the Treatment Action Campaign. He provided cheap generic fluconazole in defiance of patent regulations prior to the Pfizer fluconazole donation, and was an active participant in various campaigns to lower the price of antiretrovirals. Despite his prominent role in these campaigns, Steve was the site principal investigator of a large number of pharmaceutical industry trials, which allowed many of his patients to access antiretrovirals before the public sector scale-up and, latterly, access to drugs potentially useful for salvage therapy.



Steve was an outstanding postgraduate teacher. He conducted many training sessions for primary care doctors in southern Africa and ran a website offering HIV training. His passion and marvellous self-deprecating sense of humour disarmed the most hardened sceptic. His seminars on ethical aspects of HIV were particularly memorable – he would get the most jaded doctors up on their feet, arguing passionately.

Steve's death is a tragic loss not only to the Society but to the wider HIV community. South Africa has lost an HIV champion. We extend our condolences to his family, friends, colleagues and patients.

GARY MAARTENS