

TRIBUTE

DR DAVE SPENCER

It was with great regret that the Society accepted Dave's resignation from the Executive Committee. Dave has been a stalwart member of the Society for many years; his teaching involvement with the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) and other courses within southern Africa has enabled many working within the profession to gain invaluable knowledge. At a time of confusion about the role of nutrition in HIV-infected people, Dave has been the leading light in introducing the Society's comprehensive guideline on nutritional issues.

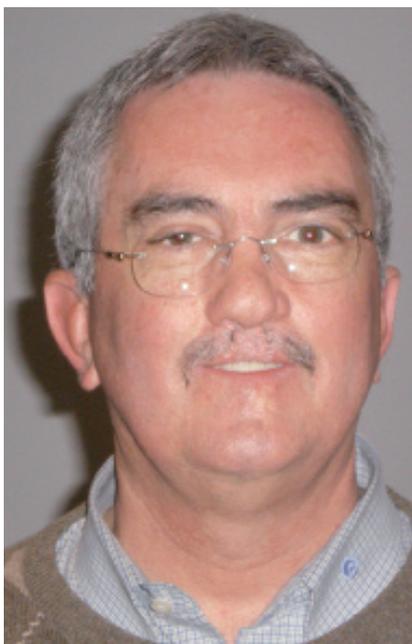
Past President of the Society, Professor Des Martin, recalls Dave's outstanding record:

It has been both an honour and a privilege for me to have been a colleague and friend of this remarkable clinician for the past two decades. An outline of his career provides valuable insights as to his beliefs, philosophies and guiding principles, which have evolved over time.

After completing his undergraduate training at the University of Cape Town, Dave worked at the Mseleni Mission Hospital in KwaZulu-Natal. He was subsequently a Senior House Officer at Edendale Hospital in Pietermaritzburg and then at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town.

There followed a defining period in his life when for a while he put the practice of medicine behind him and studied theology at the All Nations Christian College, which is situated near Cambridge in the United Kingdom. His deep spiritual, moral and ethical values were defined and refined during this time. He carried these values into his medical life, where they were always a guiding inspiration to him.

He subsequently returned to medical practice as a medical registrar under Professor Bothwell and Professor Seftel. He completed his MMed, and it is noteworthy that his dissertation was on the haemorrhagic fevers of Africa, signalling an interest in infectious diseases (ID) that he pursued later in his career. He studied palliative care at McGill University in Canada and, on his return to South Africa, fell into trouble with the political regime of the day as he was a conscientious objector to undergoing military service. He worked for a while at the Oshikati State Hospital, Namibia; again his passion for ID was reinforced, and he travelled to the USA and spent two years studying ID at the Case Western University as an ID resident. Here he was mentored by two



dozens of ID – Fred Robbins and Emmanuel (Manny) Wolinsky. Professor Wolinsky's forte was mycobacterial diseases, and Dave developed a close interest in these diseases, which he maintains to this day.

Dave then returned to South Africa and once again was invited by Professor Bothwell to be a consultant in ID/haematology/oncology. At that time the AIDS epidemic in South Africa was making significant inroads, and Dave became head of the HIV clinic at Johannesburg General Hospital. After a few years in this post, he entered private practice with a special interest in ID and the practice of HIV medicine, and he continues to be an invaluable resource in the private sector.

Dave is renowned as a lecturer and teacher in the field of medicine that is his love. He is a sought-after speaker at CME meetings and other academic events. His book *The Clinical Practice of HIV Medicine* is a summation of his experience as a practitioner in this field and is to be found on the desks of many practitioners. He has always been committed to imparting his knowledge through lectures, guidelines and one-on-one teaching in his clinic, and many a practitioner has benefited from these sessions. Owing to his background and beliefs, he has been able to instil the need to assess the patient more broadly rather than by just paying attention to the physical components of the disease.

A remarkable humanitarian, clinician and friend.

DES MARTIN

The Society, its members and the whole clinical profession extend their gratitude to Dave.