

■ HEALTH

# SA researcher makes a jolly good Fellow

## STAFF WRITER

**WORLD-RENOWNED** South African Aids researcher and scientist, Professor Salim Abdool Karim joined some 40 leading scientists globally, when he was inducted as a Fellow of the prestigious Royal Society recently.

The society is the world's oldest science academy. Established in 1660 by Royal Charter, the Royal Society has included many of the world's leading scientists over the past four centuries, from Sir Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin to Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking. To qualify for a Royal Society Fellowship, an individual must have made a "substantial contribution to the improvement of natural knowledge, including mathematics, engineering science and medical science".

Karim is director at the Centre for the Aids Programme of Research in South Africa (Caprisa), Caprisa Professor of Global Health at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University in New York, and Pro Vice-Chancellor (research) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Karim said the significance of the occasion "hits you when you have to go up during the induction ceremony to sign 'the book' – the same book that was signed back in 1660 by Sir Christopher Wren and others who founded the Royal Society.

"I felt truly humbled to be in such company – and I know that I could never have achieved this without the amazing people that work in Caprisa and our many collaborators," said Karim.



**SOUTH** African scientist, Professor Salim Abdool Karim, stands in front of the poster of new fellows. Each of the new fellows delivered a 10 minute presentation on their research.