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'A spotlight on science': Prof Salim Abdool Karim to receive honorary doctorate from DUT

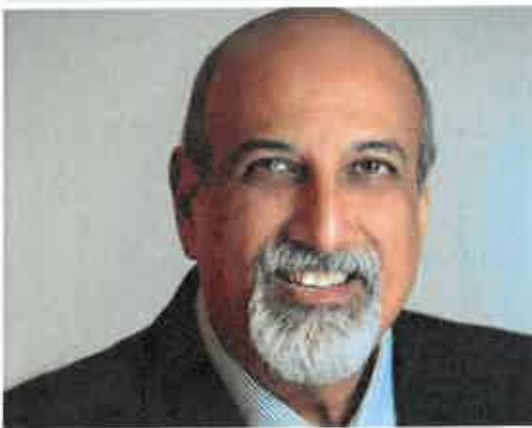
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DUT will confer an honorary doctorate on Prof Salim Abdool Karim, with the ceremony on Wednesday.

PHOTO: Supplied DUT

Epidemiologist Professor Salim Abdool Karim will receive an honorary doctorate from Durban University of Technology.

The institution said Karim played a critical role in informing the public and advising governments during the HIV/AIDS and Covid-19 pandemics.

Abdool Karim told News24 his latest accolade would shine the necessary spotlight on science.

Durban University of Technology (DUT) will confer an honorary doctorate to epidemiologist Professor Salim Abdool Karim during its last autumn graduation ceremony on Wednesday.

Karim has held several positions, including chairing the former Covid-19 Advisory Committee and is currently the Special Advisor to the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on pandemics.

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DUT said it would honour him for his contribution to HIV/AIDS and Covid-19 research.

"Prof Abdool Karim played a critical role in providing the public and the government with scientific advice on the coronavirus, how it causes Covid-19 and the prevention measures.

"His clinical research on TB-HIV treatment has shaped international guidelines on the clinical management of co-infected patients. He is a co-inventor on patents used in several HIV vaccine candidates," the university said.

Karim told News24 that he was pleasantly surprised to receive the notification from DUT. He said the recognition would "shine the spotlight on science".

He said:

Each recognition is quite special. Not because it is an honorary doctorate, but because of the importance they place on the work. It is another opportunity to spotlight the importance of science as a contributor to global health. It gives me a warm glow to have the opportunity to highlight, once again, the importance of science in improving health in our countries.

Karim said the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the role and importance of science in advising governments and decision-makers on appropriate responses and educating the public.

"My task is not to tell people what to do, but to give them as much knowledge and facts as possible so that when they make their decisions, they are based on facts and evidence. It is a role I treasure and have taken upon myself to provide that information. It is important to make science accessible," he said.

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As the advisor to the WHO Director-General, Karim said his mission is to share his expertise and help



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ready when it comes next time," he said.

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