I LEARNED with deep sadness of the untimely death of Professor Salim S. Abdool Karim, MRC, MD, FCPA, FACP, MA, on January 31, 2023, at the Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. Professor Karim was a renowned epidemiologist, public health expert, and scholar in HIV prevention, a mother of two daughters, and a devoted partner to his wife, Moni Gazi, to whom he was married for 35 years.

Professor Karim's contributions to the Aids Programme of Research in South Africa (APA) were significant, and his efforts to extend our understanding of how pandemics threaten human rights had a lasting impact. His passing was an immense loss to the global health community, as he was a key figure in the development of criminal justice and human rights policies. He was also a leader in the treatment and research of AIDS and tuberculosis, and was an honorary professorial title at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and an honorary professor at the University of Cape Town.

He was the only child of the late Professor Godfrey and Mrs. Pandyra Karim. After completing his medical degree at the University of Cape Town, he received a Rockefeller Scholarship to further his education at the University of Oxford, UK, where he completed his Ph.D. in Medical Microbiology in 1984. He returned to South Africa to join the University of Cape Town and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, where he became a leader in the field of virology and immunology. He was the only child of the late Professor Godfrey and Mrs. Pandyra Karim. After completing his medical degree at the University of Cape Town, he received a Rockefeller Scholarship to further his education at the University of Oxford, UK, where he completed his Ph.D. in Medical Microbiology in 1984. He returned to South Africa to join the University of Cape Town and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, where he became a leader in the field of virology and immunology. He was appointed as a founding member of the South African Medical Research Council in 2002 and was elected as a fellow of the South African Academy of Science in 2004.

In his professional career, Professor Karim was a key figure in the development of the South African National Department of Health's strategy for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. He was a leader in the development of the National Health Insurance program, and was a key figure in the development of the National HIV/AIDS Policy Framework. He was appointed as the first South African representative to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Board of Health on the Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases in 2009, and was elected as a fellow of the South African Academy of Science in 2004.

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