A presence that still looms large

On July 27 2008, the family of Professor Bongani Mayosi and the academic community were shocked to learn that this respected University of Cape Town professor had taken his own life. Now a book has been published celebrating his life and his achievements in the field of cardiology. In the foreword to Doctor of Hearts: The Biography of Bongani Mayosi, a former colleague, Professor Salim Abdool Karim, pays tribute to the activist and doctor.

As the customary Cape Town midsummer lawn or is old eastern evening in 2004, I was sitting alone with a glass of wine in the back yard of my home in Constantia, trying to sort out the diverging realities of my life. In the following days, I was to be one of the few who were called to assist the family in the process of the memorial services.

I was born and raised in apartheid South Africa. I graduated from the University of Cape Town, but I was denied the opportunity to study cardiology at the University of Cape Town because of my skin color. I was a qualified cardiologist but I was not allowed to work in academia. I was denied the opportunity to work in top research institutions.

It was in 1994, when I was 30 years old, that I finally got to work in the USA. I was appointed to the department of cardiology at the University of Cape Town. I was appointed as head of the department of cardiology at the University of Cape Town.

He was a tireless worker and an excellent teacher. He was known for his dedication to the field of cardiology and for his contributions to the medical community. His work on the treatment of heart disease was groundbreaking and his research on the genetics of heart disease was revolutionizing.

Throughout this entire task, he was a great pleasure to work with, and he was meticulous in his work and productive. I worked with him for many years, and he was always willing to help and provide guidance. He was a true colleague and a friend, and I will always remember his contributions to the field of cardiology.