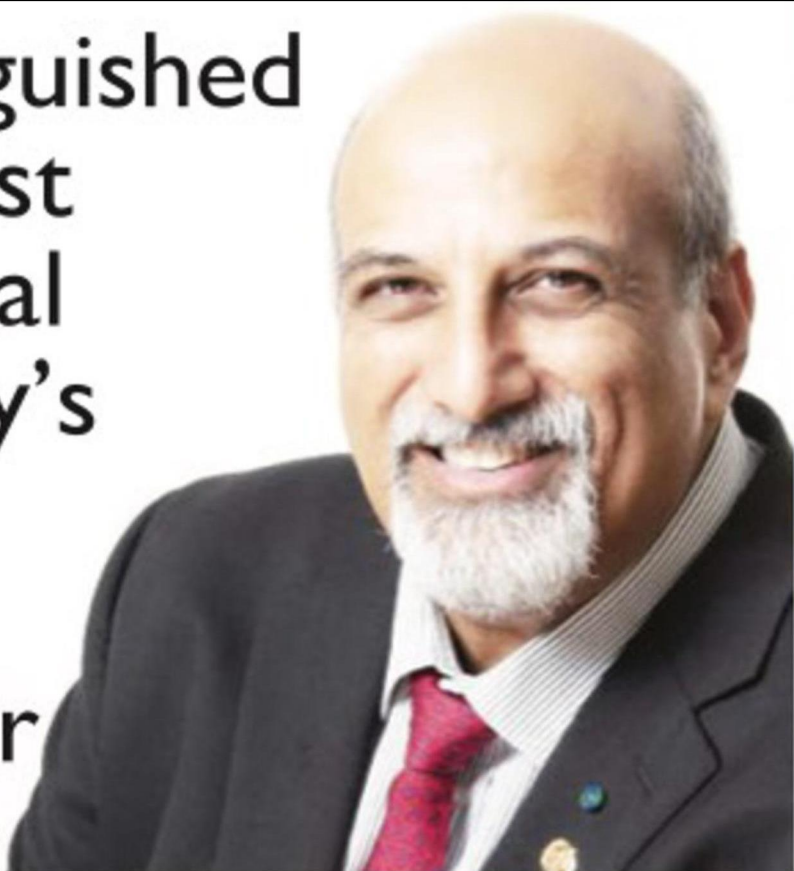


Distinguished scientist in Royal Society's august roll of honour

Professor Salim Abdool Karim



Distinguished HIV/Aids researcher and scientist, Professor Salim Abdool Karim, was inducted last week as a fellow of the prestigious Royal Society.

The London-based society's roll of honour includes many of the world's greatest scientists. They include Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.

Fellowship to the society is awarded to an individual who has made a substantial contribution to the improvement of natural knowledge, including mathematics, engineering and medical science. Karim is the director of the Centre for the Aids Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) in Durban. The modest scientist has won numerous local and international awards and has hailed his signing of the book as mind blowing.

The book was first signed in 1660 by Sir Christopher Wren and others who founded the society. "I felt truly humbled to be in such august company. I could never have achieved this without the amazing people that I work with, in and outside CAPRISA, in South Africa, Africa and around the world. It is humbling to be in the society's book," said Karim.

He chairs the UNAIDS Scientific Expert Panel and the World Health Organisation (WHO) strategic and technical advisory group on HIV. His contributions to microbicides for HIV prevention spans two decades. That culminated in the CAPRISA 004 tenofovir gel trial which provided proof-of-concept that antiretroviral drugs can prevent sexually transmitted HIV infection and herpes simplex virus type 2 in women. Karim is co-inventor on patents which have been used in several HIV vaccine candidates and his clinical research on TB-

HIV treatment has shaped international guidelines on the clinical management of co-infected patients.

The professor is an elected Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences, the African Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Science in South Africa, the Royal Society of South Africa and the American Academy of Microbiology. He is a Foreign Associate Member of the US National Academy of Medicine. He serves on the Boards of the New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet-Global Health, Lancet-HIV and the Journal of AIDS.

Two-year's-ago, he and his wife, Professor Quarraisha Karim, an NRF A-rated scientist and infectious disease epidemiologist at Capriska, were awarded the esteemed Institute for Human Virology Lifetime Achievement Award for exceptional HiV/Aids breakthroughs.

Karim's other awards include:

- The TWAS Prize in Medical Sciences which was awarded by The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World in 2008.
- Outstanding Senior African Scientist Award from the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership in 2011.
- The Allan Rosenfield Alumni Award for Excellence from Columbia University's Alumni Association in recognition for excellence in AIDS research.
- Science-for-Society Gold Medal Award from the Academy of Science in South Africa in recognition of excellence in the application of outstanding scientific thinking in the service of society.
- Medicine Award - Fellowship in Art & Science of Medicine (Gold) from the South African Medical Association in recognition for excellence in research on microbicides, vaccines and TB-HIV treatment.