

IN MEMORIAM — PROFESSOR PATRICK COMMERFORD (1947–2025)

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of **Professor Patrick Commerford**, who passed on Thursday 25th September, 5 days before his 78th birthday.

Professor Commerford was a towering figure in South African cardiology, having serviced as President of the SA Cardiac Society (1990–1994) and later as the first Vice President of SA Heart® after its formation in 1997. He was the Helen and Morris Mauerberger Professor of Cardiology UCT, and Head of the Cardiac Clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital, where he trained many cardiologists who went on to excel locally and abroad.

Professor Commerford's contributions extended beyond South Africa, serving on multiple international steering committees for landmark cardiovascular trials and most recently as Editor-in-Chief of *The Cardiovascular Journal of Africa*. He played a vital role in the development of the South African Medicines Formulary, and provided guidance to national and international health bodies on clinical research and regulation. His life's work stood at the intersection of scholarship, service and a deep concern for public health. His legacy is one of excellence, generosity, and humanity. He will be remembered with deep affection and respect, and profoundly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Anita, their four children, and seven beloved grandchildren. His family was a source of great joy and strength to him, just as he was to them.

Rest peacefully, Professor Commerford.

Prof Mpiko Ntsekhe

MD, PhD, FCP (SA), FACC, FESC, FRSSAf, MASSAf

The Cardiac Clinic Groote Schuur Hospital/University of Cape Town

SA EMU on Intersection of infectious and Non-Communicable Diseases

University of Cape Town, South Africa

