

Bio-sketch

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Bongani Mayosi was born in Mthatha, South Africa, graduated in medicine at the University of KwaZulu Natal in 1990, gained the Fellowship of the College of Physicians of South Africa in 1995, and obtained a DPhil at the University of Oxford in 2003. His doctoral thesis was on '*Genetic determination of cardiovascular risk factors in families.*'

Dr Mayosi worked first as an intern and medical officer at Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth, and thereafter as a senior house officer and registrar in medicine and cardiology at the University of the Cape Town affiliated hospitals. He was awarded the Nuffield Oxford Medical Fellowship to study cardiovascular genetics at the University of Oxford from 1998 to 2001. In August 2001 he joined the University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital where he works as a researcher, teacher, and clinician in internal medicine and cardiology. He was awarded an *ad hominem* associate professorship in October 2003, and elected to the Fellowship of the European Society of Cardiology in 2004, the Fellowship of the American College of Cardiology in 2005, and the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 2006. On 1 January 2006, he was appointed as the 7th Professor and Head of the 90-year old Department of Medicine at the University of Cape Town and Chief Physician at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa.

Mayosi has published widely in both local and international journals and books on various topics related to cardiovascular medicine (over 240 original articles, letters, editorials, book chapters, and published abstracts – May 2010). His academic work focuses on heart diseases of the poor, i.e., cardiomyopathy, tuberculous pericarditis, and rheumatic fever. These conditions, though major killers in Africa, receive little research attention, either in South Africa or globally. Uniquely, he employs a wide range of investigative approaches, from molecular to clinical to population-based methods, in his efforts to improve the understanding and control of these health problems. In addition, he is at the forefront of efforts to close the 'know-do' gap with respect to heart diseases of the poor, encouraging policy makers to increase investment in evidence-based control programmes.

Dr Mayosi is a recognised national, continental, and international leader in his field. He receives regular invitations to speak at meetings in Africa, Australasia, Europe and North America. In 2005, he was awarded the National Research Foundation President's Award and elected to the Membership of the Academy of Science of South Africa in recognition of his achievements. In 2009, President Jacob Zuma of South Africa conferred upon him the highest honour that the country can bestow, the *Order of Mapungubwe in Silver*, for excellent contributions to medical science.

Mayosi is married to Nonhlanhla, a dermatologist, and they have two daughters, Vuyi and Gugu, their pride and joy.