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# EDITORIAL

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## Tribute to Gordon Mthuthuzeli Siboto (31/12/1951 - 10/09/2008)



It is not commonplace to do so, but it is just and fitting that we pay tribute to Gordon Mthuthuzeli Siboto in this issue of the *SAOJ* for his contribution to orthopaedic surgery in South Africa.

The passion for orthopaedics that grew in him from his early days in Umtata, working with his long-time mentor, Chris McConnachie, culminated in his accepting a position at Groote Schuur hospital in 1992. Despite his desire to work in Umtata, he did fulfil the expectation of his life's ambition in Cape Town – to do the best he could for all, to dedicate his life to the betterment of his patients and to impart what knowledge and expertise he acquired to the generations of future orthopaedic surgeons with whom he worked. His conduct as a human being and an orthopaedic surgeon served as an outstanding example to the trainees with whom he worked – making him ideal as a tutor and mentor for the generations of registrars who trained at UCT with him.

His teaching, guidance and surgical assistance with difficult and problem cases were widely appreciated around the country.

His clinical strength in orthopaedics lay in Trauma, and in particular, his interest in pelvic and acetabular fractures gained him international recognition. In acknowledgement of these attributes, shortly before he became ill, he had been invited by Chris Curwen to participate in a meeting in the UK as a guest speaker, a meeting he was unfortunately not able to attend.

A year ago Steve Roche suggested producing an edition of the *SAOJ* as a tribute to Gordon. To celebrate the contributions made by him, this issue of the *SAOJ* contains work partially prepared by him before his death and subsequently completed by Drs Selvey, Nortje and Roche, with whom he had worked. In addition there are three papers selected from presentations by registrars Drs Hobbs, Pelser and Kasipersad at the most recent J&J Registrar Congress in Durban which are presented here as 'Instructional Articles' dealing with aspects of trauma. It was felt appropriate that the trainees themselves, in the form of the registrar contributions should be involved and included in this tribute to Gordon's teaching and mentorship, to the unselfish effort and commitment made by him in trying unflinchingly to 'deliver the goods' to the orthopaedic profession and the public he served.



Prof Johan Walters  
Guest Editor

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