

# OBITUARY

## Professor Keith Ambrose Newton

December 1953–February 2025



### **In Loving Memory of Professor Keith Ambrose Newton (09 Dec 1953 – 10 Feb 2025)**

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to dedicate this year's congress in Durban to honour the memory of Professor KA Newton.

Professor Newton completed the MBChB degree at the University of Natal in 1977. He then embarked on training in Internal Medicine at Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth, followed by subspecialty training in Gastroenterology at Groote Schuur Hospital (GSH) and the University of Cape Town (UCT) which he completed in 1988.

After a stint as Specialist/Lecturer in Gastroenterology at UCT/GSH he went into private practice in Cape Town before taking on the position of Physician/Gastroenterologist in the public sector in Port Elizabeth. He assumed his position as Chief Specialist/Associate Professor and Head of Department of Gastroenterology at University of KwaZulu-Natal and Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in 2005. Professor Newton was a longstanding member of the South African Gastroenterology Society (SAGES) and served the society with distinction in numerous portfolios including President.

Our paths crossed in January 2005, with Keith navigating his new role as Head and me as a first-year fellow learning to navigate

the gastrointestinal tract. Being the only fellow at that time afforded me the privilege of his full attention while training. A special bond developed over the years as we held each other's hand in our professional and indeed personal lives. Many who passed through the department will attest to Keith's razor-sharp intellect that extended beyond medicine, excellence in clinical care and a sense of humour that was second to none. There was rarely a day without laughter in the unit. He was immensely proud of the family of gastroenterologists that the department had trained. The few words he said to us at an intimate farewell in 2022 will endure. "Remember, I taught you all to always take care of each other." Certain that Keith would include the broader SAGES family in this reminder.

Professor Newton's 11-year battle with cancer is legendary and testament to his spirit of resilience and the incredible support from his family. Despite the physical and mental strain, he kept his sense of humour and continued to take care of us.

Keith was more than a colleague. He was a mentor, a friend and a father figure. The world has lost a beautiful mind and a wonderful person. We thank his wife Charmaine, son Warren and daughter Keisha for sharing him with us.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Dr VG Naidoo