



**GAUTENG PROVINCE**  
HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TO: All Media**

**ATT: News Editors, Health Reporters**

**For immediate release**

**Friday, 22 May 2020**

### **GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MOURNS THE PASSING OF PROF ANTON CAREL STOLTZ**

The Gauteng Department of Health is saddened by the passing of Prof Anton Stoltz (59) who passed on the 20 May 2020 in Pretoria.

Prof Stoltz began his career as a biochemist and researcher. In 1983 he completed his Honors degree in Biochemistry with research into the physical properties of IgM molecules. His Masters degree in Biochemistry focused on Malaria. He then went on to study medicine and while doing his MMed (Internal medicine) he was selected to go to Belgium as a researcher to pioneer a new field in tuberculosis, working in the world class laboratories of Prof Johan Grooten at Ghent University and Patric De Baetselier at the University of Brussels. The function of mycolic acids in the cell wall of mycobacterium tuberculosis was at that stage unknown. He was asked to start a new field in lipid biochemistry and look at immunological properties of these long chain fatty acids. After 2 years, he published a paper on the innate immunity of mycolic acids. Papers that followed were in the use of biosensors to detect anti-mycolic acid antibodies and its use in a novel assay for tuberculosis.

Prof. Stoltz served in various capacities within the health sector as follows:

- Gauteng Health/ University of Pretoria (combined post): Principle Medical Subspecialist and Head of the Division of Infectious Diseases in Internal medicine.
- Foundation for Professional Development (NGO): Head of the Infectious Diseases Unit
- Medical Research Council: Principle Medical Researcher
- Ndlovu Care Group: Principle Medical specialist
- On the 01st of January 2010 he became the head of the Division of Infectious Diseases after HPCSA registration as a subspecialist in Infectious Diseases.
- He was an Internist and Infectious Diseases subspecialist with interests in the management of patients with MDR and XDR tuberculosis co-infected with HIV, diseases originating from Africa including severe malaria, schistosomiasis and drug resistant infections in ICU.

Prof Stoltz dedicated himself unconditionally to relieving the burden of infectious diseases. His research interests were in the field of infectious diseases, including resistant tuberculosis using novel Nano-particle medicine, resistant tuberculosis transmission/aerobiology and novel prevention of infection, HIV infections and the heart plus HIV and CMV co-infections, malaria pheromones and malaria drug reformulations.

He worked with various Intensive Care Units at the referral Academic hospital and he initiated an Infection Prevention and Control unit as well as antibiotic stewardship from several Communicable Disease Centre (CDC) grants. These projects were used as a platform to teach health care workers, students and hospital managers in correct management of infectious diseases and infection control practices. He was also a consultant to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the University of Pretoria's tuberculosis research programs, focusing on Nano-particle medicine and novel diagnostics in TB.

His dedication on managing infectious diseases was demonstrated whenever there were disease outbreaks, latest having been Ebola and Listeriosis epidemics, continuously caring for HIV and TB patients not only in Steve Biko Academic Hospital (SBAH) but in the cluster and beyond.

Prof Stoltz dedicated himself as a leader in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic despite facing personal setbacks in his own health. He covered the lengths and the breadth of Gauteng Province, selflessly sharing his expertise and resources to fight the SARS-COV-2 especially in the Ekurhuleni and Tshwane District Health Services. He is the mastermind behind the preparedness of the Tshwane District Health Services in combating this deadly virus.

He was the SBAH management's right hand in the fight of the COVID-19 battle and was given a broader mandate by CEO to lead and direct everyone including her in the management of COVID-19. All 19 patients that were admitted under his care have recovered and discharged.

Again, he proved his dedication to bettering the lives of others and he will forever be remembered for his clinical excellence, his dedication to research, his unfaltering leadership and his unwavering love for his children and wife.

"We have lost an academic, leader, mentor and clinician who contributed immensely not only in South Africa, but globally" said MEC Bandile Masuku. I wish to send my heartfelt condolences to Prof Stoltz's family, colleagues and the health fraternity, our thoughts and prayers are with you during this trying time, concludes MEC Masuku.

**Ends/**