



Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Cape Town

TEL: +44 (0)20 7611 8888 Direct: 8421  
FAX: +44 (0)20 7611 8545 Direct: 8735  
E-MAIL: [j.farrar@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:j.farrar@wellcome.ac.uk)

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*Dear Professor Phakeng*

On behalf of Wellcome and particularly all my colleagues ~~here~~ who worked with Bongani Mayosi over a number of years, I ~~wish~~ to extend our deepest sympathy for the recent loss of your colleague and friend.

Bongani had a close relationship with Wellcome at different levels and over a number of years. As you are no doubt aware, he completed his PhD at one of our centres of excellence, the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics in Oxford in 2003. He also was a Wellcome grantholder and sponsor on applications, including those from early- and intermediate level researchers, whom he clearly had a passion for in supporting.


His rare skill of bringing together different disciplines and specialities from the very mechanistic to applied was transformative for both his own career and public health research in sub-Saharan Africa. He was a visionary research leader with a modest demeanor and a great sense of humour. This was especially evident in his contributions to the H3Africa Initiative and Wellcome's Science Expert Review Group, on which he served.

As Chair of H3Africa's non-communicable diseases (NCD) working group he helped shape its scientific direction and philosophy. H3Africa has achieved global recognition for its success in bringing genomic science to the African continent. Bongani was at the forefront of this research and was one of the first awardees under the umbrella of this initiative. His work contributed significantly to a field which is in urgent need for a stronger evidence base towards the prevention, management and treatment of chronic conditions, which remain at a steep increase in low- and middle-income settings including sub-Saharan Africa.

Given his clinical background, combined with his broad knowledge of non-communicable diseases and expertise in cardio-metabolic genetic epidemiology, Bongani was an invaluable member of our Expert Review Group in Population Health.

His death must be a tragic loss for you and his colleagues at UCT and the scientific community beyond - he will be greatly missed.

Our condolences also extend to Bongani's family, whom I have written to separately. Audrey Duncanson will attend the funeral on behalf of Wellcome.

With our deepest sympathies  


Dr Jeremy Farrar  
Director of Wellcome