

Citation for Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim

Quarraisha Abdool Karim is an internationally respected scholar, researcher, scientist and epidemiologist. Through her pioneering scientific work in HIV and AIDS she has empowered and continues to empower millions of women, particularly in rural South Africa. Her visionary leadership and indeed social conscience to address the devastation of the HIV and AIDS pandemic has led her to vigorously pursue scientific studies in HIV/AIDS, which spans over two decades, in the evolving epidemiology of the disease. A gifted scientist and admired for her tenacity Quarraisha Abdool Karim's research has had a palpable and profound impact on communities- the poor and vulnerable in our society.

In addition to her research, she has extensive policy and implementation science experience. Her contributions extend to HIV treatment, where she is a key investigator in the research team that defined when to initiate antiretroviral treatment in TB-HIV co-infected patients that was the basis for the World Health Organisation's international policies and guidelines on TB and HIV co-treatment. Her seminal contributions on prevention strategies and the evolving epidemiology has received wide global acclaim. An accomplished author she has published extensively, with over 160 peer reviewed publications, in high impact journals that include *Science*, *Nature*, *Lancet* and the *New England of Medicine*.

Respected for her exemplary leadership skills she led the highly acclaimed CAPRISA 004 Tenofovir gel trial announced in 2010. The results were heralded as one of the Top 10 scientific breakthroughs of 2010 by the journal *Science* and was also among the top two articles for *The Lancet's* "Paper of the Year" also in the same year. Central to her work is her unwavering commitment to scientific knowledge generation in Africa. As a testament to this commitment she led and successfully implemented the Southern African Fogarty AIDS International Training and Research Program through which more than 300 young South African scientists have received post graduate training in HIV and TB research through Columbia University in the US.

Recognised for her distinguished scientific contributions in HIV/AIDS Quarraisha Abdool Karim is the recipient of several prestigious international and national awards including the 2013 African Union Kwame Nkrumah award for Science and Technology, the 2012 Prize for Medical Sciences from The World Academy of Sciences and she was inducted to the Order of Mapungubwe by the President of South Africa in 2013.

She is currently the Chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council's Prevention Task Team and is the Vice-President of the African Academy of Science (Southern African Region). She was the founding National Director of the South African National HIV/AIDS and STD Program in the Mandela government. She is Associate Scientific Director at CAPRISA and Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia University in New York.