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UCT alumnus honoured by Hospital for Special Surgery in New York

Dr David L. Helfet, director of Orthopaedic Trauma Service at the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS), in New York, has been honoured with the HSS Lifetime Achievement Award for his incredible contributions to the world of medicine.

According to Todd J. Albert, MD, surgeon-in-chief and medical director at HSS, Dr Helfet, who graduated with his MBChB from the University of Cape Town Medical School in 1975, can be credited with growing the HSS Orthopaedic Trauma Service into a world-renowned programme and providing vital healthcare to numerous individuals for the past 30 years (<http://www.beckersspine.com/sports-medicine/item/25571-hss-to-honor-dr-david-helfet-with-lifetime-achievement-award-5-things-to-know.html>). He is President of the National Orthopaedic Trauma Association and *New York Magazine* annually ranks him as one of the "Best Doctors in New York".

He is also a professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and the director of the Orthopaedic Trauma Service at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Having published over 250 papers in peer reviewed journals, Dr Helfet has contributed extensively to the orthopaedic trauma field.

In an interview with HSS that was shared on 17 June 2015, Dr Helfet said, "I was always destined to become an orthopaedic surgeon. My dad was a tremendous role model; he was a wonderful human being. He was a great doctor, famous doctor and very family oriented; and he set high standards for all of us. I was very interested in trauma, the more complicated trauma, so I think I just naturally gravitated towards it."

Dr Helfet is also the designated Orthopaedic Trauma specialist for the Fire Department of New York, the New York Police Department and the New York State Police.

After graduating from UCT, Dr Helfet completed his residency at John Hopkins University in the USA.

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