

**Khaya Mfenyana**  
**for the Doctor of Science in Medicine (*honoris causa*)**

Professor Khaya Mfenyana is a family physician and a leader in health professions education. He graduated with an MBChB from the University of Natal in 1977, obtained his master's in Family Medicine at the Medical University of South Africa in 1984, and was awarded a Fellowship of the College of Family Physicians (FCFP), South Africa by peer review in 2009.

Professor Mfenyana was at the forefront of strategic leadership and development at the University of the Transkei with the establishment of the Department of Family Medicine, where he was its founding Head of Department, and the Faculty of Health Sciences at Walter Sisulu University (WSU), where he was the first Executive Dean from 2008 to 2012. Prior to the latter he had been instrumental in the process of transition from the University of the Transkei, and ultimately he became Interim Vice-Chancellor and Principal of WSU from 2014 to 2016.

Professor Mfenyana's pioneering work in problem-based learning led to the methodologies employed by WSU in its medical education programme. His name is an integral part of the creation of a community-based approach to health professions education, as well as the development of the commitment to social accountability. This pedagogy was only taken up by UCT and the University of the Witwatersrand decades later.

Professor Mfenyana has demonstrated a lifetime of commitment to primary health care, manifested in his contributions to rural development and the essential role of communities in the education and training of health professionals. His dedication to ensuring that rural communities have access to quality primary health care services that are appropriate and effective cannot be overemphasised. Further, his global citizenship drove him to involvement at the highest levels of the leadership and governance of the health professions in South Africa.

Professor Mfenyana led within his local academic environment, within the national regulatory framework of the HPCSA, and the national higher education milieu. His contributions have included chairing the South African Committee of Medical Deans, and chairing the Professional Conduct Review Committee and Education Training and Quality Committees of the HPCSA. He was further a panel member for the consensus study on reconceptualising education and training of an appropriate health workforce for the improved health of the nation, spearheaded by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf); redrafting the Framework and Manual for Institutional Quality Audits of the Council on Higher Education (CHE); and Board Member of the Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC). His work has extended into Africa: he was one of two external inspectors of the School of Medicine of the University of Namibia and was President of the World Organisation of Family Doctors for the Africa Region.

Professor Mfenyana's multiple, life-long, contributions to community-based healthcare training, and his roles as researcher and teacher make him a worthy recipient of an honorary doctorate from UCT.