

## **College of Fellows**

### **Citation: Professor Mpiko Ntsekhe**

Professor Mpiko Ntsekhe is the Helen and Morris Mauerberger Professor and Chair of Cardiology at UCT and the Head of the Division of Cardiology at Groote Schuur Hospital. The cardiac unit he leads is internationally regarded as the leading academic unit on the continent for both research and post-graduate training [1]. He obtained his medical degree from Columbia University in 1994 and his PhD from UCT in 2011. He is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology and a Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa.

His scholarly focus has been on the intersection of cardiac medicine and infectious disease in particular tuberculous pericarditis and the effects of HIV infection on the cardiovascular system.

Tuberculous pericarditis is one of the most life-threatening forms of tuberculosis when the infection causes disease affecting the pericardial lining of the heart. Professor Ntsekhe's research has investigated the presentation of this condition in the context of HIV co-infection, pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment. Over the last 15 years he has been co-Principal Investigator of a tuberculosis pericarditis research programme comprised of prospective registries, clinical trials, and mechanistic studies: the Investigation of the Management of Pericarditis in Africa (IMPI) programme. Within this research programme he has led studies that have described pathogenic mechanisms associated with phenotypes or outcome [2, 3] characterised in detail the effects of HIV on clinical presentation [4], distinguished important clinical phenotypes [5, 6], and defined the role of corticosteroids in treatment of the condition [7]. The findings have impacted recommendations and guidelines of local national and international societies and bodies such as the South African National TB guidelines and the World Health Organization guidelines on the treatment of TB in adults.

Before 2005, the only description of the cardiovascular manifestations of HIV came from the global north, where combination antiretroviral therapy (ART) was widely available, and the population demographics and underlying co-morbidities were very different to Africa. Over the last 15 years he has produced scholarly contributions that have characterised the epidemiology, aetiologies, natural history, treatment options and outcomes of cardiac disorders in people living with HIV in South Africa in the context of ART scale-up [8, 9, 10]. The impact of this work is that it has increased awareness of these conditions and knowledge of their presentation and treatment in the medical community of practitioners, thereby contributing to improved care of people living with HIV.

In recognition of his scholarly contributions at the intersection of cardiac disease and these two prevalent infectious diseases, Professor Ntsekhe is frequently invited to international cardiology meetings to present, and invited to write reviews [11, 12] for leading international cardiology journals and chapters for textbooks on pericardial disease and HIV-related cardiovascular disease. He is a recognized leader in the field of cardiovascular medicine in Africa. Expertscape's PubMed-based algorithm places him as the world's leading expert on tuberculous pericarditis, and in the top 0.1% of scholars on pericardial disease.

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