

Tribute to
Prof Gita Ramjee





The Aurum Institute pays tribute to Professor Gita Ramjee

“The world has lost a bold and compassionate leader in the response to HIV.”

Professor Gavin Churchyard: Group CEO, The Aurum Institute

The Aurum Institute is deeply saddened by the death of its Chief Scientific Officer Professor Gita Ramjee. Professor Ramjee was a world renowned scientist, who worked tirelessly to find HIV prevention solutions for women.

“The world has lost a bold and compassionate leader in the response to HIV,” said Professor Gavin Churchyard, Group CEO of the Aurum Institute. “Gita Ramjee firmly believed in health as a fundamental human right. Her ground-breaking research in HIV prevention contributed to the global response to HIV and AIDS. Our thoughts during this difficult time are with her family, colleagues and the many people her life and work touched,” he added.

Prior to taking up her appointment as Chief Scientific Officer: HIV Prevention at The Aurum Institute, Professor Ramjee was Chief Specialist Scientist and Director of the HIV Prevention Research Unit at the South African Medical Research Council. She held Honorary Professorships at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of Washington in Seattle and University of Cape Town.

Professor Ramjee was a critical player in the field of HIV prevention clinical trials and was acknowledged internationally for her expertise in the field of microbicide research, including a Lifetime Achievement Award for HIV Prevention. In 2018, she was honoured with the “Outstanding Female Scientist” Award by the European Development Clinical Trials Partnerships (EDCTP) for her life’s work that has focused on finding new HIV prevention methods.

Professor Ramjee has published more than 200 research articles. She was a reviewer and editor of several scientific journals and a member of several local and international committees and advisory groups including the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC).

“The Aurum Institute and the global HIV research community will mourn Gita Ramjee’s passing and celebrate the huge contribution to the response to HIV she made in her life,” said Churchyard.



“ The HIV epidemic has disproportionately affected women. I strongly believe that my calling in life is to find methods that empower women to take control of their HIV prevention and reproductive health rights through informed choices. ”

Prof Gita Ramjee,
Chief Scientific Officer
HIV Global





messages

A message from Professors Quarraisha and Salim Abdool Karim

Gita Ramjee was not only a colleague, but she was a dear friend, a scientist and scholar in HIV prevention, a mother of two sons, a grandmother and a wife to her husband Pravin.

On behalf of CAPRISA, Quarraisha and I wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends. Her passing is an immense loss and has left an indelible void in HIV research and treatment, particularly on the African continent.

Gita Ramjee was the Chief Scientific Officer: HIV Prevention at the Aurum Institute. For several years she held the position of Chief Specialist Scientist and Director of the South African Medical Research Council's HIV Prevention Unit as well as Clinical Professor of Global Health, in the Department of Global Health, in the School of Medicine, at the University of Washington, Seattle. She held an Honorary Professorship in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, in the UK and was an honorary scientist at CAPRISA.

She was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh and received several awards and accolades for her scientific work. More recently, in 2018, she was awarded the EDCTP/ European Union Outstanding African Female Scientist award and in 2017 she received the SAMRC Gold Medal Scientific Achievement Award. She was a member of several local and international committees and published more than 200 research articles.

She epitomised dedication and commitment to her scientific calling – to control the HIV epidemic through clinical scientific rigour. I recall my first discussion with her while she was a post-doc with Prof Coovadia doing research on kidney disease – her passion, commitment and dedication

to science shone through so clearly that I recruited her to join me at the MRC a few months later. She climbed through the ranks at the MRC to eventually succeed me as the Head of the MRC's HIV Prevention Research Unit. She was an excellent role model of what can be achieved through sheer determination and hard work. It was a privilege to mentor and work with Gita over the past 26 years. Known for her unwavering tenacity she embarked on new challenges with boldness and enthusiasm.

This was the key to her success – her innate ability to persevere.

In an interview in 2018, her poignant words summed up the chutzpah of Gita Ramjee, “I did not dream that the love of my job, my passion and drive would get me this far! If I was much younger and not committed to my family life, I think I would like to have done a medical degree after my PhD.”

Professor Ramjee trained as a basic scientist at the University of Sunderland in the United Kingdom. She completed a Masters degree in the role of aflatoxins in childhood malnutrition at the former University of Natal. She received a MRC scholarship to pursue her PhD which focused on the role of proteinuria in childhood kidney diseases. Thereafter, she worked with me leading the COL-1492 vaginal microbicide trial for the prevention of HIV among a group of sex workers working along the trucking route between Durban and Johannesburg. She later commented that the trial was her introduction to HIV prevention among high risk populations. Her commitment to clinical research in HIV prevention was exponential and she was an investigator on almost all microbicide trials since then.

I have fond memories of Professor Gita Ramjee – her passion, drive and tenacity which she believed are ‘critical traits to have for scientific excellence’. She will be remembered for her commitment to finding ways to empower women to protect themselves from HIV and for making a difference in the lives of so many researchers and research participants over the years.



Deputy President Mabuza conveys condolences on the passing of Professor Gita Ramjee

Deputy President David Mabuza, in his capacity as Chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), wishes to convey condolences on the passing of former Chief Specialist Scientist and Director of the South African Medical Research Council's (SAMRC) HIV Prevention Research Unit, Professor Gita Ramjee. Professor Ramjee succumbed to complications emanating from the novel coronavirus, COVID-19.

Professor Ramjee was renowned for her work on finding HIV prevention methods that were conducive to the lifestyles, circumstances and perceived risk factors that South African women face as well as in the attempts to find an effective HIV vaccine.

She was internationally recognised for her expertise in the field of microbicide research, including receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award for HIV Prevention and honoured with the “Outstanding Female Scientist” Award by the European Development Clinical Trials Partnerships for her life’s work that has focused on finding new HIV prevention methods.

Additionally, Professor Ramjee was a reviewer and editor of several scientific journals and a member of a number local and international committees and advisory groups, including the Academy of Science of South Africa and SANAC.

“The passing of Professor Ramjee comes as a huge blow to the entirety of the healthcare sector and the global fight against HIV/AIDS. In her, we have indeed lost a champion in the fight against the HIV epidemic, ironically at the hands of this global pandemic.

In her honour, we should heed the call to flatten the curve by strengthening our responses to this global pandemic as well as continue the fight to achieve zero new HIV infections. We would like to convey our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Professor Ramjee as well as to the medical research community. May her soul rest in peace,” said Deputy President Mabuza.

Deputy President Mabuza further appealed to all South Africans to adhere to the regulations of the lockdown and ensure the spread of the novel coronavirus is halted and the battle against the virus is won.

Dear Pravin, Shaniel and Rushil

My condolences for the passing of your wife & mother. She left us way too early. The current circumstances make it even harder now that you cannot be together.

I have very nice memories of Gita and in fact of all of you. Shaniel and Rushil, you may not remember, but I often had dinners at your home when I visited your mom for work. She and I shared our first experiences in HIV prevention research for women, and went also to Bollywood movies to the disbelief of your father. She became an extremely good leader and example for many of us in the field. Your mom and I stayed in touch even after we did not do trials together anymore.

I will miss her deeply and will keep you in my thoughts, Lut (Van Damme).

Lut Van Damme, MD, PhD
Senior Program Officer
Global Health Program – HIV
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived... it is what difference we have made to others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

Nelson Mandela

Gita has indeed made a significant impact to the lives of many. Her contribution to the research arena is a precious legacy left by her that will fuel the fight against HIV, COVID19 and other diseases. May she rest in peace as we continue this fight for her.

With heartfelt condolences from
Dr Khatija Ahmed and the Setshaba Research Centre team.

messages

To the family, friends and colleagues of Professor Gita Ramjee

The University of South Africa learned with deep sadness of the untimely passing of Professor Gita Ramjee from complications related to COVID 19. Prof Ramjee was a tireless champion of Science, especially in the field of HIV prevention and reproductive health rights through informed choices, as well as TB prevention and eradication, amongst others. She was a highly regarded NRF B-rated researcher.

At the time of her passing Prof Ramjee was the Chief Scientific Officer at the Arum Institute. Prior to that she worked at the South African Medical Research Council as the Division Head and then Director of the SAMRC's HIV Prevention Research Unit. Prof Ramjee's work in the area of HIV prevention not only secured much needed funding but it also earned her a number of awards and accolades including a Lifetime Achievement Award at the international Microbicide Conference, the Gold Award for Scientific Excellence from the SAMRC, an Honorary Clinical Professorship in the Department of Global Health at the University of Washington in Seattle, and an Honorary Professorship in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at the London

School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in London. Professor Ramjee's passing comes as a huge blow to our healthcare sector and especially, to her colleagues, who are engaged in the ongoing global fight against HIV/AIDS. It is even more tragic that she should pass as a consequence of a viral pandemic; something which she understood all too well, and to which she had dedicated her life and her career.

The Council, Executive, Senate, management, staff and students of the University of South Africa would like to express our very sincere and heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family, loved ones, colleagues and friends on their tragic loss. May her soul rest in peace.

Yours faithfully

Professor Mandla Makhanya
Principal and Vice Chancellor
University of South Africa



messages

A tribute to Gita Ramjee

On 9 March, I checked out of my hotel in Brazil. We had just finished a fascinating meeting on the integration of HIV with other health programmes and diseases. There was plenty of elbow-bumping and embarrassed smiles about the lack of embraces with Brazilian and global colleagues. We knew the wave must be coming, but the beaches still looked beautiful. We even really did drink Corona beer with supper.

I was excited and booked to go straight on to Boston for the 2020 edition of CROI, the conference on retroviruses and opportunistic infections. Apart from the consistently high quality of the science presented at CROI, I always love the corridors. There was always plenty of time to meet up with friends and colleagues, many of whom have been together over the past 25 years or more of the HIV pandemic. I saw Gita Ramjee at every meeting, and was looking forward to seeing her again.

Tragically, it was not to be. My phone pinged with an email announcing that the conference was no longer happening in Boston, but would be delivered virtually.

Gita was already in London on her way to the meeting from South Africa. Hearing that CROI was “virtualized”, Gita was delighted to stay on in London for a few more days. She was spending more time in London lately because she wanted to be with her sons and grandson, who live there. She visited the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where she holds an honorary professorship for her work on HIV prevention trials. My colleagues there tell me that she was on her usual good form—kind, collaborative, straightforward and full of integrity and determination to make things happen. She flew back to South Africa that weekend and gave a talk at the London School remotely on 17 March. Two weeks later, she died, one of the first deaths from COVID-19 in South Africa.

Gita is an extraordinary testament to resilience and determination. She was born in Uganda and escaped from the Idi Amin regime. She continued her schooling in India and then went to university in the United Kingdom. There she met her future husband, a South African, also of Indian heritage. She

moved to the Transvaal with him, but hated the segregated life, which contrasted so obviously with the more open society she had found in the United Kingdom. So they moved to Durban, which suited them better, and she began to build the two pillars of her life—her family and her career.

Her career as a strong leader of research on HIV prevention, specifically on women, particularly underprivileged women and sex-workers, has brought her global acclaim—lifetime scientific awards for excellence from South Africa, an Outstanding Female Scientist Award from the European Development Clinical Trials Partnerships, honorary degrees. To me, she was always a friendly face and someone to meet and talk to, not only about the science, but also about our sons and grandsons, London, Durban and beyond.

The COVID-19 wave is breaking over us now, and its power is awesome. Gita was a very early casualty of the African epidemic because she was a global superstar. Her death is a stark warning. Millions of poor people living in southern and eastern Africa, many of them living with HIV, are now facing a devastating challenge. The weak health and social systems, the dependence on piece work, the crowded housing, the lack of water and electricity all make it a horrible prospect. The death toll will rise steeply, in part because of direct infections with the virus, but even more so because of the impact on the overstretched health systems and weak social protection safety nets. How are the millions of scared people living in crowded, shared accommodation and dependent on their daily wages to buy food expected to maintain physical distance?

Gita believed in and fought for the rights and welfare of sex workers. Back in 2007, she told the Guardian newspaper, “The stories they used to tell us were horrific. That’s when I knew I wanted to be involved in the prevention of HIV infection in women.” I know that she would want us to step up and meet the challenge of COVID-19, not only as a public health crisis, but even more so as a challenge to inequity, poverty and lack of global solidarity.

Peter Godfrey-Faussett
Senior Science Adviser
UNAIDS



UNAIDS is deeply saddened by the death of pioneering HIV scientist and researcher Gita Ramjee

UNAIDS is shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Gita Ramjee, who died of COVID-19 related complications on 31 March 2020. Her death is an immense loss to the HIV prevention research community. UNAIDS offers its full support to all efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 and prevent more loss of life.

“I am deeply saddened at the news of the passing of Gita Ramjee,” said Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS. “She was an eminent scientist who dedicated her life to HIV prevention for women and girls in Africa. Her death is a huge loss at a time when the world needs her most. My condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.”

Ms Ramjee is globally recognized for her ground-breaking research in the field of HIV prevention technologies for women. In 1996, she led a trial on vaginal microbicides for the prevention of HIV among a group of sex workers in Durban, South Africa. The trial was her introduction to the HIV community and was the beginning of her commitment to women-initiated HIV prevention technologies that she pursued with unwavering dedication and commitment for more than two decades.

She held the position of Chief Specialist Scientist at the Aurum Institute, where she worked to improve the health of people and communities through HIV prevention, research and innovation. She previously held the positions of Chief Specialist Scientist and Director of the South African Medical Research Council’s HIV Prevention Unit and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Global Health, University of Washington. She was also an Honorary Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Ms Ramjee received several distinguished awards and accolades for her scientific contributions. In 2018, she was awarded the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership/European Union Outstanding African Female Scientist Award. She also co-chaired the Microbicide Conferences in 2006, 2008 and 2010 and in 2012 was honoured with the conference’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

UNAIDS mourns her untimely passing and will endeavour to honour her memory by continuing to support global efforts to find methods that enable women to take control of their HIV prevention and reproductive health and rights through informed choices.

A Tribute to an iconic leader

I have worked under the leadership of Prof Ramjee for 11 years. In that time I gained extensive knowledge and experience as a young researcher. She was a strong, courageous and highly accomplished women in the field of HIV prevention. She has shaped the professional lives of many of her staff including myself. In her capacity as a director she was known to be a perfectionist and expected the same of her staff. This quality was also embedded in me and has helped me with my professional career in clinical trial research. She provided me with the opportunity to complete my masters in medical science at the HPRU under her guidance and supervision. During this time I was going through some personal difficulties and she sat me down and spoke to me like a daughter providing me with advice, support and encouragement to never give up and always give off my best. Thank you Prof Ramjee for your caring and support during that difficult time in my life, it is much appreciated and valued. Like many of her staff I am proud to say that I worked at the HPRU. When news of her death reached people I was bombarded with phone calls and messages from staff that worked with her all expressing their shock and sadness at her untimely passing. She has touched and shaped the lives of many people. The HPRU will never to be the same without you. Under your leadership you took HPRU to great heights and made us proud as a nation.

Prof Ramjee your legacy in the fight against HIV/AIDS will always be remembered in the scientific community. The world has lost a great leader and human being and she will be sorely missed. Rest in peace Prof.

Kind Regards

Resha Boodhram

Gita's perseverance and her work ethics will remain with me always. She had a presence about her, as soon as she walked into a room you had to take notice and listen intently to whatever she had to say. She was always immaculately dressed and portrayed herself as the successful professional woman, that she was. She expected the best from us at all times and we always strived to do the best that we could do. I will forever be grateful for the opportunities that she has provided me with and the guidance to further develop my career. Her loss will be felt for years to come, and she will not only be missed by me, but by a large part of the research world.

Aruna Bhoola

messages

EDCTP HONOURS PROF GITA RAMJEE

Yesterday, Professor Gita Ramjee, Chief Scientific Officer of the Aurum Institute in South Africa, passed away due to complications of a COVID-19 infection. Many in the EDCTP General Assembly, the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Secretariat worked with and knew her well. We are sad and shocked by this loss.

Dr Michael Makanga: “We have lost a long serving member of our Scientific Advisory Committee and a dear and formidable colleague in the fight against infectious diseases. Prof. Gita Ramjee sadly succumbed to COVID-19, one more victim of this ravaging pandemic. This is a very heavy loss to the global scientific community and South Africa. We extend our sincere condolences to her family. May her soul rest in peace.”

Prof. Ramjee was a world-renowned scientist, known for her contribution to the fight against the HIV epidemic in South Africa and globally, focussed on HIV prevention solutions for women. She published more than 200 research articles.

At the opening ceremony of the Ninth Forum in Lisbon, EDCTP awarded its 2018 Prize for Outstanding Female Scientist to Prof. Gita Ramjee, at the time Chief Specialist Scientist and Director of the HIV Prevention Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council, Durban, South Africa.

She was lauded for her extensive experience in HIV prevention methods for women and her investigations of women-initiated HIV prevention options. She conducted large-scale trials of antiretroviral-based oral and topical prophylaxis. Her excellence in clinical research and capacity building had brought her the Life Time achievement award in HIV prevention by a panel of international peers. She was also a recipient of the South African MRC Gold Award given for scientific excellence.

The European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership



E D C T P

I met Gita almost 19 years ago when I started HIV work in South Africa. We have come a long way, and she has been a great part of all the successes. Gita will be sorely missed by so many. But as the family, I can only imagine your shock and grief. Although she made an impact in the world, her real legacy is the love within the family and the children to carry on family traditions.

My sincere condolences,

Wendee M. Wechsberg, Ph.D., Principal Researcher and Director

Substance Use, Gender and Applied Research

Director, RTI Global Gender Center

Adjunct Professor, Maternal & Child Health, Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC

Adjunct Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC

Adjunct Professor, Psychology in the Public Interest, NCSU, Raleigh, NC

messages |

I just wanted to let you know how shocked and dismayed I was to hear about Gita's death from Cov-2. She was a real champion of HIV prevention, especially for underserved women, and will be sorely missed.

Please pass on my condolences and thoughts to the family and colleagues at Aurum, who I am sure are devastated by this news.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Eric Hunter, Ph.D.
Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar
Emory Vaccine Center



All of your American friends are in mourning for Gita. She just send me a note about her move to Aurum and I was thrilled, of course. Thank you for your public statements that have been very suitable. And worst is yet to come. I am sure that Aurum, as with YSPH, will be working tirelessly to tackle this additional defining epidemic of our time.

Sten H. Vermund, MD, PhD

Dean |Yale School of Public Health

Anna M.R. Lauder Professor of Public Health

Professor of Pediatrics | Yale School of Medicine

Mail: YSPH | PO Box 208034 | New Haven, CT 06520-8034

Courier or Visitor: 60 College St., Rm 212 | New Haven, CT 065103201

A message from Grant van der Wal, MD of Altron Karabina.

On behalf of Grant and the entire Exec team at Altron Karabina, we would like to extend our sincere condolences for the passing of Chief Scientific Officer, Prof Gita Ramjee. I did not know her personally, however she seemed to be a remarkable woman and a real gift to Aurum and to the fight against the HIV epidemic.

Altron Karabina is very sad to hear of this loss to Aurum and our thoughts are with those that worked closely with her at Aurum and with her loved ones and colleagues at The Aurum Institute.

Regards

Garth

Altron Karabina

messages |

I wanted to express my deep condolences on the passing of Gita Ramjee to her family, the Aurum Team and all South Africans.

I will always remember Gita as such a passionate advocate for HIV prevention and women's rights. Her all-too-early death is a loss not only for her family and colleagues, but for all of us living in Africa.

Sincerely

Stewart

Stewart Reid MD, FRCP(C), MPH

Lusaka, Zambia

Tel 260 966 747 677





TAC @TAC · Mar 31

TAC sends its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Prof Gita Ramjee, whose passing has been confirmed. She was a pioneer in the HIV response. May her soul rest in power.

Treatment Action Campaign



Meg Doherty @mdoherty_hiv · Mar 31

WHO and all the HIV department sends its deepest condolences to Prof Gita Ramjee's family and all of S Africa. This is a terrible loss. In solidarity.

Meg Doherty, Director, Global HIV, Hepatitis, STI Programmes at World Health Organization. Infectious Disease Specialist and Epidemiologist



Eusebius McKaiser @Eusebius · Mar 31

RIP Professor Gita Ramjee: a brilliant and world class HIV prevention scientist. This is a massive loss to us all. She died of COVID-19 related complications.

Eusebius McKaiser, Author, Host of The Eusebius McKaiser Show



Shaun Mellors @ShaunMellors · Mar 31

Rest in peace Dr Gita Ramjee. You were an incredible role model, mentor and inspiration to me and so many others. It was a pleasure to work for you and travel part of a journey with u. [@Auruminstitute](#) [@CAPRISAOOfficial](#) [@Bhekisisa_MG](#) [@FPD_SA](#) [@SA_AIDSCOUNCIL](#) auruminstitute.org/about-aurum/ne...



Shaun Mellors, South African HIV activist



José M Zuniga @JoseM_Zuniga · Apr 1

Saddened to learn about loss of a colleague to [#Covid_19](#); Prof. Gita Ramjee, CSO of [@Auruminstitute](#) and former head of the [@MRCza](#) [#HIV](#) Prevention Research Unit, was a passionate researcher and staunch advocate for women's health; [#RestInPeace](#)

President/CEO of IAPAC (International Association of Providers of AIDS Care)



Adam Burgener @Adam_D_Burgener · Apr 1

RIP Gita. You were a dedicated person giving your professional life to helping women with HIV. I admired your strong nature and sense of humour. I'll miss our conversations. My condolences to your family.

Canadian microbiologist in infectious disease



AVAC @HIVpxresearch · Mar 31



Deeply saddened by the loss of an [#HIVprevention](#) pioneer, Gita Ramjee. She was a tireless champion of science, research, women's reproductive health and rights -- and may we all build on her legacy and make her calling, her dream a reality

AVAC, Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention



TheVARG @vaccineadvocacy · Mar 31



We join the world in celebrating the life, the [#leadership](#), the [#courage](#) and the [#bravery](#) of one of our own today. Gita Ramjee. [#scientist](#) [#researcher](#) [#advocate](#) [#women](#) . Thoughts are with her loved ones and her colleagues [@Auruminstitute](#) [#Covid_19](#)

Vaccine Advocacy Research Group



Ellie MacPherson @eleanormacp · Apr 2

Such a heart breaking loss. Her dedication to highlighting women's plight during the HIV epidemic inspired me throughout my PhD RIP Gita Ramjee
unaids.org/en/resources/p...



Social Scientist



Kirby Institute UNSW @KirbyInstitute · Apr 2

The Kirby Institute is mourning the loss of Professor Gita Ramjee, a global leader in HIV prevention research, who has died from COVID-19 complications in Durban, South Africa.

The Kirby Institute UNSW, Sydney



Prof Thuli Madonsela  @ThuliMadonsela3 · Apr 1

What a loss at a time like this. Heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Prof #GitaRamjee who dedicated her life to turning the tide against HIV and AIDS. Now #Corona #COVID19 has taken her away. #RIPGitaRamjee

Social Justice activist, former SA Public Protector



Lana Marks  @LanaMarks · Apr 2

The entire PEPFAR and healthcare community has lost a mighty warrior in Professor Gita Ramjee. May her memory be a blessing to her family, and to the countless people whose lives she has touched.

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 16



US Ambassador to SA, Lana Marks



PATH  @PATHtweets · Apr 1 

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Gita Ramjee, a renowned HIV researcher who dedicated many years of her life to finding HIV prevention solutions for women. PATH extends our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues.

PATH



AfNHi @AfNHi_Tweets · Apr 1 

Our heartfelt sympathies to the family & friends of a highly valuable & respected HIV prevention champion, Gita Ramjee

The effects of her passing are already being felt as she made many great contributions which will not soon be forgotten

You are all in our thoughts and prayers

African led network of HIV prevention research advocates



Grassroot Soccer SA @GRSSouthAfrica · Apr 2



Our deepest condolences from the whole of [@GrassrootSoccer](#) to Prof Ramjee's family, friends, and the [@Auruminstitute](#) community during this terrible time. Her work has been instrumental in the prevention of HIV for women and girls and she will be greatly missed <3



Grassroots Soccer SA



Ken Mayer @khmayer1 · Apr 1



Gita was a passionate and articulate advocate for women's health, and brilliant researcher and educator. Such a terrible loss in this cruel pandemic. Her hard work will not be forgotten. So sad. [@Auruminstitute](#)

Ken Mayer, Infectious disease physician, public health researcher, social activist, working at Fenway Health, and Harvard




Karyn Maughan  @karynmaughan · Mar 31

Prof Gita Ramjee was working on trials for a gel that could potentially reduce HIV infection

“Young women in South Africa need more HIV prevention options,” she said when the trials were announced last year.


Now she is gone, a [#Covid19](#) casualty

A huge loss to SA, and the world 

Legal journalist



#UnBullShitable @pozcandy · Mar 31

The passing on off world renowned HIV prevention researcher prof Gita Ramjee  is a loss for the research world .

We pledge to continue to find HIV prevention options . [#covid19](#) just became real and very personal. Rest in Power Mbokodo. [@apha_sa](#) [@tianjohnson](#)

Yvette Raphael, Activist, Feminist



Linda-Gail Bekker @LindaGailBekker · Mar 31



We will miss you - we will carry on the fight RIP Gita [#Covid19inSA](#)

Deputy director, Desmond Tutu HIV Centre and immediate Past
President of the International AIDS Society



Asmita Parashar @AsmitaParashar · Mar 31




My sister, the brilliant Professor Gita Ramjee.. I am absolutely and completely
heartbroken..

Asmita Parashar, Life Skills and Global Business Coach



All India Mahila Congress  @MahilaCongress · Apr 1

Heart Breaking News 

Gita Ramjee, Prominent Indian-origin Virologist in South Africa, passed away after Contracting Coronavirus.

Our condolences to her family and friends.

We salute her outstanding commitment and we are indebted to her research.

All India Mahila Congress



Ryan Brown @ryanlenorabrown · Apr 1

S. Africa's latest COVID19 casualty was Gita Ramjee, a renowned HIV activist and campaigner for the rights of women with HIV. I interviewed her a few years ago about an HIV vaccine trial here and she was bursting with hope. This is an unspeakable loss:

Ryan Brown, Johannesburg Bureau Chief, Christian Science Monitor



Magda Szubanski AO  @MagdaSzubanski · Apr 2 

Devastating. 😞 World renowned HIV scientist Professor Gita Ramjee dies of COVID-19 complications Thank you for all you have done for humanity. Vale Prof Ramjee 🙏

Magda Szubanski Actress: Mrs Hoggett in Babe & Babe Pig in the City



Anant Bhan  @AnantBhan · Apr 1 

This is devastating news.
Gita Ramjee was a star Indian-origin South African global health leader in [#HIV](#) prevention. A virologist by training
She has done stellar work. What a loss!!
Renowned Virologist Gita Ramjee Dies Of COVID-19 In South Africa

Anant Bhan Researcher-Bioethics/Global Health/Policy



UW Global Health @uwdgh · Apr 1

Words cannot express our sorrow for the passing of Dr. Gita Ramjee from complications of COVID-19. Dr. Ramjee, South African MRC, was a wonderful colleague and friend who made major contributions to HIV prevention. @UW Global Health were fortunate to have her as clinical faculty.

University of Washington Department of Global Health





Elton John AIDS Fdn @ejaf · Apr 2

We're deeply saddened to see the news about Gita Ramjee's passing.

Ms Ramjee dedicated her life to improve the health of people and communities through HIV prevention and research and she will be dearly missed. Our thoughts are with her family during this time.

Elton John AIDS Foundation



Corey Johnson - FLATTEN THE CURVE & STAY HOME  @Coreyi... · Apr 2 

A warrior against HIV/AIDS tragically has been lost.

RIP Gita Ramjee.

“The passing of Professor Ramjee comes as a huge blow to the entirety of the health-care sector and the global fight against HIV/AIDS” - South Africa’s Deputy President David Mabuza

Corey Johnson, New York City Council Speaker



ViiV Healthcare  @ViiVHC · Apr 2 

“We are mourning the loss of world renowned virologist Gita Ramjee, who has died from [#COVID19](#). She was a brilliant researcher, a tireless advocate for HIV prevention, especially for women and girls, and she was a friend. She will truly be missed.” Dr. Kimberly Smith Head of R&D

ViiV Healthcare



Momentum Metropolitan Holdings @MomMetZA · Apr 4



The Momentum Metropolitan Foundation salutes its former board member Prof Gita Ramjee who passed away in Durban on Tuesday from COVID-19 related complications.

Momentum Metropolitan Holdings



ACT UP NY  @actupny · Mar 31



Rest in power, Prof. Gita Ramjee.

Act Up NY



Lady Fair Mngadi @ladyfairmngadi · Mar 31



This is sad news indeed , for Dr Gita Ramjee's family and the country
She had a beautiful heart ,, she supported my business as her Private personal
trainer ,, you will be missed Dr Gita 💔

Ladyfair Mngadi entertainer, fitness trainer



Tasha Headrick @TashaHeadrick · Mar 31



#GitaRamjee you were loved and you will never be forgotten. I am so saddened to
hear of your passing. You saved so many of us and I am so sorry we couldn't save
yours. Broken.



Tasha Headrick, Transgender and HIV activist



K.L. Loveley - Author @K_L_Loveley · Mar 31



RIP Prof Gita Ramjee and thank you for the good work you have done for mankind.
There is no justice in the world.

K Loveley, retired nurse and author

Rest in Peace

Prof Gita Ramjee