



Tribute to David Sieff

23 September 1936 – 30 October 2024

This tribute relates to the very sad loss of my colleague and friend David Sieff.

David always had a great passion for the pharmacy profession giving his time and life unselfishly to his profession which set an expressive example to his colleagues.

He qualified at the Witwatersrand Technikon in 1967, attaining the Diploma in Pharmacy. He worked in all sectors of the pharmacy profession – as a detail representative, community pharmacist, hospital pharmacist and a hospice pharmacist. He was the owner of Libra Pharmacy in Berea, Johannesburg from 1974 to 1990.

He was very involved with the Golden Mortar since 1974 and was appointed as Editor in 1985. He ensured that the profession was always well-informed with pharmacy news and education.

He was a regular attendee at Annual General Meetings of the PSSA and SAACP and rarely missed AGMs, conferences, committee meetings and continuing education sessions.

He regularly scrutinised the minutes of the meetings he attended for correctness.

Photography was one of his hobbies. In the early days David became famous for taking photos with his camera at conferences and of presenters at pharmacy gatherings and was often challenged with the remark "have you got a film in your camera David?"

David's many awards and recognitions within the pharmacy profession bear testament that his was a distinguished career of considerable importance:

- Honorary Life Membership of the National Association of Community Pharmacists
- Honorary Life Membership Southern Gauteng Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society
- Honorary Life Membership of the Southern Gauteng Branch of the South African Association of Community Pharmacists
- Jack Bloom Award
- Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa

I was honoured when in 2023, I moved a Motion to award David with the prestigious Julius Israelsohn Award for dedicated, unstinting and exemplary service to the Pharmacy profession, in particular the South African Association of Community Pharmacists (SAACP).



David Sieff and Bernard Lapidus were instrumental in nominating and seconding me as Chairman of the SAACP Branch Committee – by this action David initiated my involvement with the SAACP and PSSA which initiated my own involvement within organised pharmacy.

In addition to his passion for his work and the various Committees he served on, Dave was a devoted and caring family man. He is survived by his wife Rita, two daughters, Michelle and Robyn, sons-in-law and grandchildren, who he adored. Heartfelt condolences are extended to his family.

Even to the very end when his health was failing, and he was growing weak in mind and body his focus was on the profession and the Golden Mortar.

I salute you my friend in your passing, the time we spent and shared together and what you have contributed to your profession.

May you rest in peace my friend – you will be sadly missed by all.

Gary M Köhn

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of our loyal Branch supporter and the person who tirelessly kept us all informed through his work on the Golden Mortar publication, David Sieff. Our sincerest condolences go out to his family as we all feel the weight of this profound loss.

David was one of our most special colleagues, a true character, and, as we often said, a real mensch. He was much loved by the PSSA

Southern Gauteng Branch, to which he contributed so much and was regarded by many as a father figure. David's dedication to the Golden Mortar was unwavering, and he remained a tireless, committed editor for many years. We could always rely on him as a solid, trusted, and fair sounding board on all things pharmaceutical.

David's selfless contributions were recognised with the prestigious and seldom-awarded Julius Israelson Award for his exceptional service to Community Pharmacy, and he was honoured as a senior Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society in recognition of his distinguished involvement in the profession. His professional contributions extended to hospital pharmacy, and he was actively involved in our society's affairs until very recently.

Known for his profound respect toward others, his passion for learning, and his commitment to his profession and patients alike, David also had a sharp sense of humour and an enthusiasm for Branch activities that will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the PSSA Southern Gauteng Branch, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his beloved wife, Rita, and to his family during this difficult time.

Val Beaumont

Chairman: PSSA Business Committee

A tribute to David Sieff

David was a dedicated pharmacist who never missed a single branch committee meeting. A true gentleman, he always ensured that we adhered to the constitution of the Society.

David was always ready to lend a hand, especially when it came to correcting the minutes. On the first day of my chairmanship of the SAACP SG branch, he told me he was always available to help whenever needed.

Who can forget David's presence during our virtual meetings? He was always the one to propose the adoption of minutes, having reviewed them thoroughly beforehand. His preparation and dedication to every branch meeting were unmatched.

At the PSSA conference, those who attended will surely remember David with his camera, capturing moments as he always did.

He was a gentle giant, a dedicated pharmacist whose passion for his profession never wavered.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Tshif Rabali

President of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa

In loving memory of David Sieff ("Uncle Dave")

It is with deep sadness that the South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists (SAAHIP) announce the passing of David Sieff, fondly known to many as "Uncle Dave".

Uncle Dave was a remarkable pharmacist whose unwavering dedication to his profession and patients left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of getting to know him. His commitment to excellence and his passion for healthcare set him apart as a true pioneer and inspiration in our field.

Beyond his professional achievements, Uncle Dave was a man of immense kindness, generosity, and compassion. His warm presence and tireless willingness to guide, support, and uplift those around him made him a cherished colleague and friend. He brought joy, wisdom, and comfort to countless lives, leaving a legacy of healing and hope that will continue to inspire us all.

Uncle Dave's contributions extended far beyond his work. He was a beacon of positivity, always ready to share a kind word, a helping hand, or a moment of laughter. His enduring impact on our profession and the countless individuals he touched is a testament to the extraordinary person he was.

As we mourn the loss of an exceptional colleague and dear friend, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May they find solace in the memories of his remarkable life and the knowledge that he was deeply respected and loved by all who knew him.

Uncle Dave's legacy will forever remain a part of SAAHIP and the broader healthcare community. Rest in peace, Uncle Dave—you will be profoundly missed but never forgotten.

Rashmi Gosai

Chairperson of Southern Gauteng

South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists