

Solly Marks was a mentor to doctors

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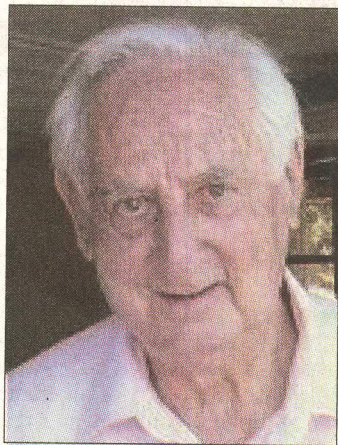
EMERITUS professor Solly Marks, known as the father of gastroenterology in South Africa, has died at his home in Bishopscourt. He was 85.

Professor Stuart Saunders, former vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town, said Morris had been a wise mentor to young doctors.

"He was an extraordinary man and a very good friend," said Saunders.

Groote Schuur Hospital spokesman Alarie Jacobs thanked Marks "for the contribution he made to the hospital".

Marks was born on October 23, 1926, to Philip and Leah Marks in Cape Town. The family moved around South



WISE: Emeritus professor Solly Marks has died, aged 85.

Africa, seeking a healthy environment for young Solly, who suffered from asthma.

He attended various schools including Sacs, St Andrews in Bloemfontein and Woodstock High, matriculating as the top pupil at Union High School in Graaff Reinet in 1942 at 16.

Marks obtained a BSc degree from UCT and then graduated as a doctor in 1949. In 1953, he went to Edinburgh for training and then joined the Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia in 1956.

He returned to Cape Town in 1959 and established an internationally recognised gastro-intestinal clinic at Groote Schuur and the South African Gastro-intestinal Society (Sages) in 1962.

In 1990, Marks was elected a fellow at UCT and in 1993 he was awarded the Salus Gold Medal by the Department of

Medicine.

His daughter, Karen Tollman, said Marks had been "no ordinary man".

Friends and family described him as intellectual and creative with his own unique catchphrases they dubbed "Sollyisms". One of them was: "A fish only gets caught if it opens its mouth."

Marks contributed to more than 400 publications.

Karin Fenton of Sages described him as "a wonderful person who will be sorely missed by the entire gastroenterology community, nationally and internationally".

Marks is survived by his wife Inge, three children and grandchildren. He was buried last Sunday in Pinelands.