

# Marks leaves behind research legacy

Professor Solly Marks, 85, who died on Friday October 19, leaves behind a rich legacy.

One of the many things Dr Marks will be remembered for is establishing the Gastroenterology Clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital.

He was Head of Clinic from 1959 to 1970, and again from 1978 to 1992.

Dr Marks, who lived in Bishopscourt, helped pioneer the concept of parietal cell mass and its relationship to acid secretion in the mid-1950s.

For the next 40 years, he took part in innumerable clinical and therapeutic studies in patients with acid-related diseases.

He also stressed the importance of an etiologic approach to the classification, diagnosis, and treatment of pancreatitis.

He also documented the natural history of alcohol-induced pancreatitis in the Western Cape.

Dr Marks was born in Cape Town in 1926.

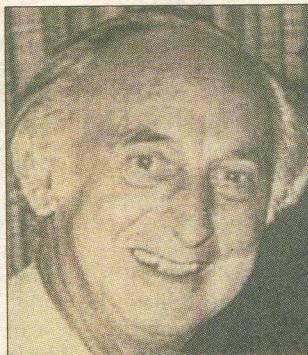
He obtained his BSc and MB from the University of Cape Town, in 1946 and 1949, respectively.

He served his registrarship in gastroenterology at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, from 1953 to 1956. He was a Research Fellow and Instructor in gastroenterology at the Fels Research Institute and Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, America, from 1956 to 1959.

He was awarded an ad hominem Associate Professorship in 1983, and was appointed to the newly created post of Professor of Gastroenterology in 1986.

In 1990, Dr Marks was elected a Fellow of the University of Cape Town.

The Department of National Health and Welfare also awarded him the Salus Gold Medal in 1993, for



■ Solly Marks was a pioneer in the medical field.

his contributions to medicine. He was an Emeritus Professor of Gastroenterology since 1995.

Dr Marks has enjoyed a close relationship with SAGES – the South African Gastroenterology Society.

He was a founder member of the society in 1962, and was president from 1962 to 1977 and remained a life-president ever since.

His extensive research experience and collaborative skills were reflected in over 400 publications.

These dealt mainly with basic, clinical, and therapeutic aspects of peptic ulcer, pancreatitis, and small and large bowel disease.

They included about 50 invited chapters in various textbooks of gastroenterology.

Dr Marks also served on the editorial boards of a number of journals, and was an honorary member of many gastroenterological societies.

He is remembered as a legacy for his achievements and mentorship in the field of gastroenterology, both nationally and internationally.