

Memories of Stephen Hough (27.08.1947–05.12.2014)

Published online: 12 May 2015

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Stephen Hough has passed away after a short but heroic battle against cancer. The true character of Stephen was displayed when he acted as organizer, chairman and speaker at the National Osteoporosis Foundation of South Africa (NOFSA) congress 6 weeks before his untimely death. Stephen was at his happiest when dealing with NOFSA. He was the inspiration and the caretaker of NOFSA and deserved the name

of Mister Bone South Africa. He cared deeply for patients suffering from osteoporosis and acted as their advocate. He made it his mission to educate the South African medical fraternity on best practice. He made a massive contribution to research on osteoporosis and diabetes and was the founder of the department of endocrinology at Stellenbosch University, where he later became the chairman of Internal Medicine. He was an example of excellence. He was a valuable member of the Board of the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) and was scheduled to chair a session on bone disease and diabetes in Milan in March 2015. I was fortunate to be associated with Stephen as a student, an intern, a registrar, a consultant and a friend. He was a magnificent teacher, a true academic, an inspiration for all, a true friend and the best travelling companion. His sense of humor enlightened all around him. He will be surely missed by all his friends and academics around the globe. We sympathize with Tereza and the children on their great loss.

Tobie de Villiers (Vice-Chairman NOFSA)

There is a thunder rolling in the mountain that we'll never hear again and a smile from a grandson but the thunder's tears bring rain.

Stephen Hough was a giant in stature, and a gentleman born of generations no longer making them. He was a lover of friends, with friends, a tsunami of them, now bemoaning the silence we all must hear and bear.

Stephen was a serious man, deeply committed to an excellence that rages on as one of his legacies. He and Tereza were the prince and princess of osteoporosis in South Africa, a couple who lit the room with fun, laughter and gaiety, who elevated education and married NOFSA and IOF as leaders.

On behalf of all of the members of IOF I bow to, and thank, Stephen and Tereza for their commitment to the advancement of science in South Africa and internationally.

For now we now can only cry and be sad at our loss, but we hope, in time, within us, a strength like Stephen's will come so we can honour him, celebrate life, his life and his contributions as an icon, a beacon for youth to never desist from exploration.

Ego Seeman (Board Member IOF)