



Lifetime Achievement Award

Naomi Dinky Levitt

I was overjoyed to hear that SEMDSA was going to honour **Dinky** with the “**Lifetime Achievement Award**”. It is always an honour and a great pleasure for me to be asked to say something about Dinky.

I think that Dinky is a shining example that it is possible to strike a successful balance between being a scientist/clinician/mother/wife/friend and political activist

Although she may be slightly miniature in height, she has a giant reputation both locally and internationally as an excellent clinician scientist, especially in the epidemiology of chronic disease, notably diabetes and obesity. She has a colossal name in Africa, and when one attends any scientific meeting anywhere on our continent Dinky's name is the 1st mentioned when we are seen to be from South Africa. In addition, it is always mentioned with a tone of warmth, admiration, and respect. And when one looks at what Dinky has achieved over the past 25 years it is easy to understand the admiration and respect bestowed upon her by her colleagues:

- Over 250 manuscripts in international journals
- Over 7500 citations (magical number of 10 000 citations)
- Multiple chapters in books
- Trained multiple post-graduate students
- Has trained multiple Endocrinologists
- 100s of under-graduate students

All of this achieved whilst being an attentive, caring and involved mother to 3 children, a loving wife and performing clinical duties and steering a division in the face of decreasing numbers of personnel and an increasing burden of disease as diabetes and obesity sweep through our country and continent. One needs only spend a few minutes with Dinky the clinician to immediately be struck by the compassion, caring and empathy for patients that she has managed to retain despite an ever increasing need to move through our clinic lists quickly

Dinky, through your compassionate heart and support, you have put smiles on many faces. Your leadership made working in the Division of Endocrinology easy and enjoyable.

Personally, I would like to thank you for opening up many opportunities for me and for being so passionate about the well-being of all the people that work with you.

Professor Joel Dave

