

Highest honour for academic

SANTHAM PILLAY

BEING able to help the sickly was the reason local medical researcher Professor Jamila Adam began her studies nearly three decades ago.

The head of the biomedical and clinical technology department at the Durban University of Technology (DUT), Adam will be honoured by the executive council of the International Association of Biotechnology and Pharmacy later this year.

She will receive the Honorary Fellowship Award at the association's sixth annual convention and international conference to be held in India in December.

Adam has received many accolades over a career spanning 27 years — including being awarded a doctorate in clinical

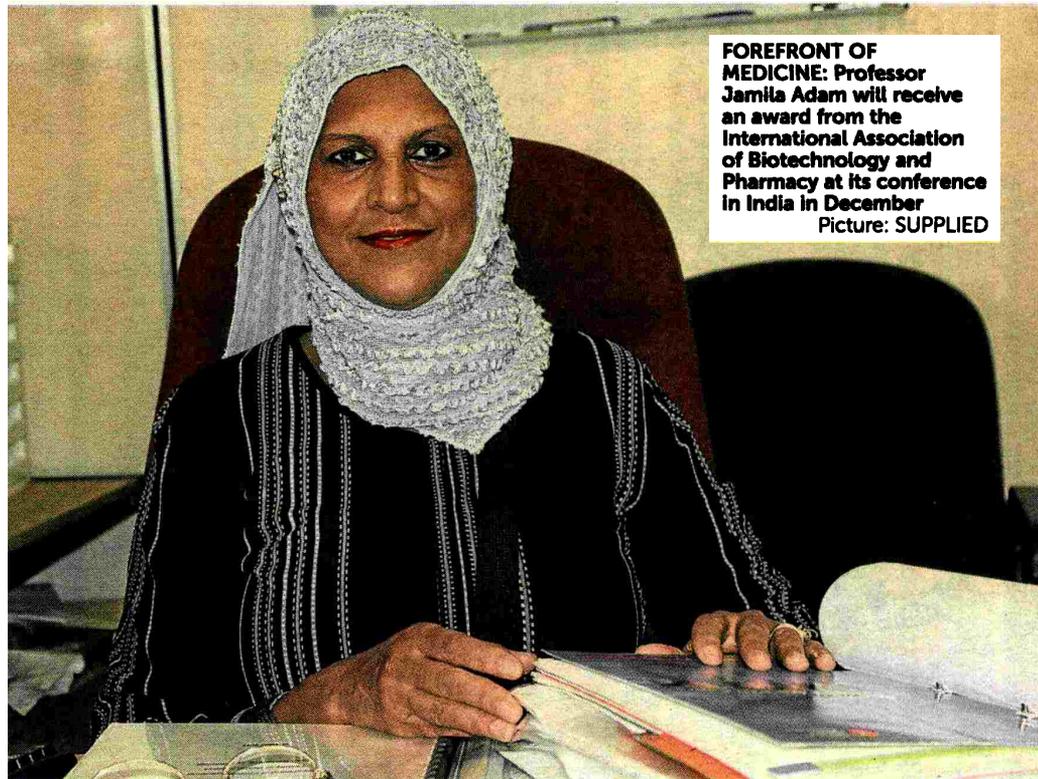
DUT professor in line for medical research award

technology in 2005.

However, the mother of four ranks her upcoming award as one of her finest.

"This is a prestigious award, which comes at the pinnacle of my career," said Adam.

Adam has presented and published research papers at both national and international levels covering Clinical Intervention Studies in, amongst others, cardiology, nephrology, critical care and cardiovascular perfusion. One of her PhD students has developed a unique technology in cardiovascular perfusion which



FOREFRONT OF MEDICINE: Professor Jamila Adam will receive an award from the International Association of Biotechnology and Pharmacy at its conference in India in December
Picture: SUPPLIED

has been patented and is in the process of commercialisation globally.

"My biggest challenges include trying to motivate staff and students whilst also trying to instill harmony in everything I do. The recognition instills confidence in me to take more challenges at professional level," she said.

Adam will also be presenting a paper at the two-day conference.

Titled "The effect of optimising cerebral tissue oxygen's saturation on markers of neurological injury during coronary artery bypass graft surgery", her paper deals with neurological outcomes in patients undergoing heart surgery.

The Overport resident said the award had personal significance for her, but bringing honour to the institution she works for was equally important.

"My ambition is to highlight the DUT globally in biomedical and clinical technology as a centre for excellence.

"The acknowledgment of numerous years of work which has placed us at the forefront of medical and clinical technology research is the greatest honour. The acceptance of my work by the international community speaks volumes," she said.