At the recent World Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons meeting hosted by the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons of SA and the SA Heart Association, Dr Robin Kinsley was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the surgical society. This was the first such award made by the society in recognition of the contribution to the discipline of cardiothoracic surgery.

As a student Dr Kinsley won the Medical Graduates Association prize for the best graduate in Medicine and this while able to play first league squash, hockey, rugby and cricket!

During his postgraduate studies he won several awards which included the Miller Award for best student in surgery and the Adams Traveling Fellowship, which took him to the Mayo Clinic where he was under the tutelage of Dwight McGoon.

He was appointed Professor of Cardiac Surgery at WITS in 1976 and served as head of department until he entered private practice where he established 2 premier units, first at the Morningside Clinic and later at the Sunninghill Hospital, where he initiated the Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa.

Dr Kinsley served as the first President of the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, the Cardiac Society of SA and the Faculty of Cardiothoracic Surgeons.

He has written extensively, over 80 original publications in scientific journals and contributed three book chapters on rheumatic heart disease and the surgery therefore.

He was awarded a medal by the World Society of Paediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery of which he is a founding member and consulting editor.

He has been recognised by the World Society as an honoured guest and invited to give the annual Aldo Castanada Lecture, one of his greatest achievements.

His humanitarian contributions were recognised in 1984 when he was awarded the prestigious Paul Harris medal by the Rotary Club of SA.

Robin Kinsley is honoured by his peers, students and colleagues.

Robert Kleinloog
“If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together” (African proverb).

Since 2012, we have visited many places with SASCI and will continue on our journey throughout 2017, gathering and spreading knowledge as we go. Our workshops will continue to be held in East London, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Cape Town.

Industry partners contributing to the workshops thus far have included the Campbell Institute, Medtronic and Boston Scientific. We are still hoping that a few more companies will come on board for the roadtrips. To date, the workshops have been very successful with attendees being awarded CPD points and the shared knowledge and interaction between allied professional colleagues contributing to improved and standardised patient care countrywide.

We are participating in the AfricaPCR congress in March. With the new congress format, it will be exciting to be part of the combined learning process and we hope that our contribution will add to the collective learning experience. We will be including a staff member from Namibia as a facilitator in one of the sessions, thereby hoping that the “allied forces” can be strengthened! The Cath Lab Manual will be going online in 2017. We will be updating a lot of the information and adding new chapters. ISCAP members will be asked to contribute.

I will be handing over to our vice-president, Sr. Waheeda Howell, in March. I know that ISCAP will continue to gather momentum and be a voice that echoes throughout the African continent. There are still so many opportunities and so much work that needs to be done.

As long as we keep moving, we can make anything happen.

Dianne Kerrigan
ISCAP Chairperson
## POPULAR CONGRESSES FOR 2016/2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONGRESS</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACC 2017</td>
<td>17 - 19 March 2017</td>
<td>Washington DC</td>
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<td>AFRICAPCR</td>
<td>23 - 25 March 2017</td>
<td>Crystal Towers, Cape Town</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.africanpcr.com">http://www.africanpcr.com</a></td>
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<td>EUROPREVENT</td>
<td>6 - 8 April 2017</td>
<td>Malaga</td>
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<td>HEARTFAILURE</td>
<td>29 April - 2 May 2017</td>
<td>Paris</td>
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<td>SUNECO</td>
<td>8 - 12 May 2017</td>
<td>Tygerberg Hospital</td>
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<td>EUROPCC</td>
<td>16 - 19 May 2017</td>
<td>Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY</td>
<td>26 - 30 August 2017</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.escardio.org/ESC2017">http://www.escardio.org/ESC2017</a></td>
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<td>MRA NEW PERSPECTIVE (29TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY FOR MAGNETIC RESONANCE ANGIOGRAPHY)</td>
<td>4 - 6 October 2017</td>
<td>Stellenbosch</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCT</td>
<td>29 October - 2 November 2017</td>
<td>Denver, Colorado</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<td>18TH ANNUAL SA HEART CONGRESS</td>
<td>9 - 12 November 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHA SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS</td>
<td>11 - 15 November 2017</td>
<td>Anaheim, California</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.sciencesessions.org">http://www.sciencesessions.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST HEART TRANSPLANT</td>
<td>2 - 5 December 2017</td>
<td>Groote Schuur; Cape Town</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact <a href="mailto:sonja@londocor.co.za">sonja@londocor.co.za</a></td>
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Please also consult the SA Heart website at www.saheart.org for constant updates to this list as well as local training opportunities offered by SA Heart, SIGs and other role players.
As we start the new year, we would like to wish all our members great success for 2017 and express our gratitude for their support during 2016.

3RD EUROPEAN-SOUTH AFRICAN CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH WORKSHOP

This was the main workshop of the 2016 calendar year for SASCAR and was held from 5 - 9 September in Cape Town. The workshop, which was facilitated by Prof. Sandrine Lecour and held at the University of Cape Town, was organised with the express aim of providing a platform for young researchers from different backgrounds and institutions to present their research and interact with other researchers, both formally and on a social level. As a joint venture with the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), it attracted over 85 participants including 15 European researchers and a diverse range of attendees from South Africa including participants from Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, Walter Sisulu University, University of Limpopo, University of the Western Cape, University of Cape Town and the University of Stellenbosch.

In order to facilitate inclusivity, specific bursaries were provided for attendees from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. All sessions were filled to capacity as delegates enjoyed a wide range of talks on cutting edge basic science topics such as biomarkers for cardiovascular morbidities, novel therapeutic approaches including stem cell therapy for myocardial infarction, cardiovascular risk factors, signaling and cardioprotection. Of particular interest was a session dedicated to highlighting the latest innovations in preclinical in-vivo imaging technology.

As in previous years, prizes for the best oral presentations by a South African and a European student were awarded. Mr Nicholas Woudberg (PhD student at the Hatter Institute) won the South African award for his talk on “HDL functionality and subclasses in black and white obese women” and Dr Daniel Bromage (PhD Student at University College of London) the European prize for his presentation on “A novel antibody specific to full-length stromal derived factor-1 alpha reveals that remote conditioning induces its cleavage by endothelial dipeptidyl peptidase 4”.

In addition, the EU students spent three days visiting different cardiovascular research facilities at the University of Cape Town and University of Stellenbosch. The South African students hosted the European students and ensured that their stay in Cape Town was enjoyable.
SAVE THE DATE

Annual meeting of the International Society for Heart Research (ISHR)

As in previous years, SASCAR will again host a joint session at the Annual meeting of the International Society for Heart Research (ISHR) European section that will be held in Hamburg, Germany, 24 - 27 July 2017. During this session dedicated to signaling in cardiometabolic diseases, Prof Barbara Huisamen from the University of Stellenbosch will deliver a talk on the role of ATM in insulin resistance associated with obesity. Travel grants will be made available for South African students (ICGEB fellowships and ISHR travel grants). Additional information can be found on http://www.ishr-europe.org/meetings.php. The deadline for abstract submission is 30 March 2017 and for grant application is 15 April 2017.

SMALL ANIMAL ULTRASOUND WORKSHOP

A training workshop was held immediately after the 3rd EU/SA Cardiovascular workshop at the Lionel Opie Preclinical Imaging Facility (LOPI) at the University of Cape Town. SASCAR organised a full day training programme conducted by Dr Sandra Meyer, the specialist technician of Visualsonics, the manufacturer of the Vevo® High-Frequency Ultrasound System. This is the only commercially available imaging platform that enables the researcher to obtain in vivo anatomical, functional, physiological and molecular data simultaneously, in real-time with a resolution down to 30μm. Real time demonstrations of a variety of functional cardiac procedures were observed by the 10 attendees. It was exciting to observe that through the combined knowledge and experience of Dr Meyer and participants at the workshop, progress was made in the translation of ultrasound guided cardiac injections to use in the rat model. This particular technique, which is a great refinement for many cardiac procedures performed on small animal models, is presently confined to the mouse model.

SASCAR APPRECIATION AWARDS

The SASCAR workshop was also an opportunity to award South African researchers in the field of basic cardiovascular research. Prof Derek Yellon (University of London), Prof Amanda Lochner (University of Stellenbosch) and Emeritus Professor Lionel Opie (University of Cape Town) received awards to acknowledge their outstanding contribution to basic science and in recognition of their dedicated efforts to promote cardiovascular research in South Africa.

SAVE THE DATE

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Annual South African Heart Association congress

The 18th Annual South African Heart Association congress will take place in Johannesburg, 9 - 12 November 2017. Specific sessions focusing on basic cardiovascular research will form part of the programme. Additional information can be viewed on http://saheartcongress2017.co.za.

SASCAR Executive Committee

Dr Derick van Vuuren (Secretary), Dr Bali Sishi, Prof Sandrine Lecour, Dr Wayne Smith, Prof Karen Sliwa and Prof Faadie Essop.
Dr Nqoba Tsabedze is a clinical cardiologist and PhD student and involved in the following projects:

**Dilated Cardiomyopathy**

This study was conducted in patients with dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) of unknown aetiology with the aim of describing the clinical characteristics of the condition, determining the relative frequency of the various primary and secondary causes, comparing the clinical characteristics of idiopathic DCM to those of DCM due to primary or secondary causes, establishing through pedigree analysis the modes of inheritance of idiopathic DCM, identifying genetic abnormalities and correlating genotypic to phenotypic presentation with respect to age of onset, clinical presentation and prognosis.

Since obtaining ethics clearance in July 2015, 62 participants with dilated cardiomyopathy of unknown origin have been identified. Twenty-three of the index patients, together with their respective family members, have been successfully counseled and enrolled in the study. To date, we have processed 136 study participants. A total of 19 index probands have had comprehensive research cardiac MRI scans done (the ESC recommended cardiomyopathy protocol was used). These scans have been done at Midstream MediClinic by Professor Leonie Scholtz, at a discounted rate of R5 000 each.

Each family pedigree has been interrogated by a clinical geneticist for a family history of heart failure. ECGs and a comprehensive research echocardiogram have been done on all participants. The echo includes speckle tracking to assess global longitudinal strain (GLS) as GLS has been proposed to identify patients with early left ventricular systolic dysfunction before ejection fraction decreases.

Blood samples have been stored for future analysis.

Achievements thus far have included an agreement being reached with Vanderbilt University to sequence the DNA samples. I have been admitted as an executive member of the Heart Failure Society of South Africa (HeFSSA) for 2017/2018 period. In addition, I had the opportunity to participate in the following scientific meetings: Idiopathic/Familial Dilated Cardiomyopathy, Novartis Expert Master class, 27 - 28 February 2016, Cape Town; Innovation in
Clinical Care in Heart Failure, October 30 - 31 2015, Barcelona, Spain; the European School of Genetic Medicine and the 29th Course in Medical Genetics, May 8 - 12 2016, Bertinoro, Italy; the AMAC Entresto Speaker Training meeting held on 24 September 2016, Bangkok, Thailand; The African Cardiomyopathy and Myocarditis Registry Programme “IMHOTEP” held at the University of Cape Town, 7 - 9 October 2016 and the Heart Failure Scientific Forum, 4 and 5 November 2016, Dubai.

Regarding publications, a draft manuscript of a systematic review article on the “Genetics of dilated cardiomyopathy in people of African origin” has been written and is currently being reviewed. I hope to complete my PhD by publications (a minimum of 2 publications is planned). An MMed project, using the family pedigree data from this study, is being completed by Dr Claude Bailey.

Specific challenges relating to the research are firstly, funding. Since the projected target is 100 participants with dilated cardiomyopathy, with each cardiac MRI scan costing R5 000, a total of R500 000 for the cardiac MRIs alone is needed. Secondly, my PhD protected time as a clinician scientist comes to an end on 28 February 2017. I will probably need another 6 - 9 months to finalise my research report and planned publications. I intend applying for the Discovery Award and MRC clinician scientist fellowship to allow me to complete the PhD timeously.

Grants received thus far include, in 2015, R75 000 from the Carnegie corporation, R50 000 from the South African Heart Association (for 2016), R100 000 from SAMA (for 2016), a R5 000 MFREF award. In 2016, R75 000 from the Carnegie corporation and R8 000 from MFREF have been awarded.

My supervisor for the project is Professor Pravin Manga (HOD Internal Medicine and Cardiology). Local collaborators include Professor Amanda Krause (clinical geneticist), Professor Michelle Ramsay (Director SBIMB), Professor Leonie Scholtz (Cardiac MRI Radiologist at Midstream MediClinic), Dr Claude Bailey (clinical geneticist co-investigator) and Dr Nadia Carstens (bio-informatics expert).

**PERI-PROCEDURAL MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION**

Peri-procedural myocardial infarction (PMI) is a recognised complication of percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) and well documented in developed countries. There is a paucity of data from developing regions, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, on the prevalence of PMI despite an increasing incidence of CAD and concomitant increase in PCI.

Dr Tsabedze, et al. have recently published work from the Division of Cardiology at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic hospital. These researchers used the third universal definition of myocardial infarction to analyse pre-and post PCI cardiac biomarkers among a group of consenting adults undergoing coronary intervention. Their findings were that PMI occurred in 10.5% of participants undergoing PCI. The research group recommends that large multicenter studies are required in our demographic region to better define risk factors associated with PMI. The full publication can be found on: N. Tsabedze, et al., Periprocedural myocardial infarction during percutaneous coronary intervention in an academic tertiary centre in Johannesburg, Int J Cardiol (2016), http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijcard.2016.12.177.
The European Society of Cardiology (ESC) has again offered a number of waived registration fees to attend the annual ESC congress (Barcelona, Spain, 26 - 30 August 2017) to SA Heart.

To qualify for this programme, you have to be a cardiologist in training and under the age of 40 years.

To apply, please contact the SA Heart office (erika@saheart.org), submitting a copy of your ID document and confirmation letter from your head of department.

Please note this programme covers the ESC congress registration fees only, travel and accommodation are on own account.

We thank the Directors of the Board and members of the SA Heart National Council, who will commit time out of practice to meet on 7 April 2017. Only with a dedicated team can we work to the betterment of our Association and Cardiovascular community at large.

**18th Annual Congress of the South African Heart Association**

9 - 12 November 2017

“Fundamentals to Innovation” will challenge the horizons of cardiovascular disease and will stimulate a creative exchange of ideas. Our exciting programme will explore developments that will shape the future and beyond. Join us for 4 days of innovative education, ground-breaking science, interactive debates and discussions.
An exciting 2017 lies ahead. The annual CASSA clinical symposium will take place in Cape Town on 4 February 2017 and in Johannesburg on 11 February 2017. The symposia will address cases and controversies on the topics of sudden cardiac death and heart failure, devices, atrial fibrillation and supraventricular tachycardia. We are privileged to have two arrhythmia experts from Europe Professor Johannes Brachmann and Dr Carstens Israel, who will conduct the workshops in conjunction with local electrophysiologists. CASSA is also privileged to have received an invitation to participate in a joint session with EHRA on “Pacing indications” at the annual EHRA-CARDIOSTIM meeting in Vienna in June 2017.

These activities follow on the success of the CASSA workshops held at the 17th annual congress of the South African Heart Association meeting in Cape Town. The workshops discussed challenging ECGs, EP and device cases. CASSA was privileged to host Prof Gerard Hindricks and Prof Bernard Gersh as guest speakers at the plenary and CASSA sessions at the main congress. Professor Hindricks is the current president of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) and we were pleased that EHRA has committed to working and collaborating with CASSA in fostering both educational programs and research in South Africa as well as assisting with training of future electrophysiologists.

We would also like to thank Dr Andrew Thornton, whose term as CASSA president came to an end in September 2016, for his contribution and leadership over the past 4 years.

Three cardiologists, Dr Adele Greyling, Dr Haroon Mia and Dr Vernon Freeman have recently returned from overseas training fellowships. They join a small but increasing number of CASSA-accredited electrophysiologists in South Africa. We wish them all the best as they start their careers in this field. Dr James Russel (PASCAR fellow in cardiac pacing) from Sierra Leone has recently started his training in cardiac pacing at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town with the intention of starting a pacing service in Sierra Leone later this year.

Dr Ashley Chin
CASSA president, on behalf of the CASSA executive committee.
This dedicated conference on Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) took place in Cairo in mid-January and was co-organised by the Aswan Heart Centre and the Pan-African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR). Over a 4 day period, presentations and seminars covering the spectrum of RHD-related topics such as the genetic and geographic determinants of the disease, vaccine development, secondary prevention programmes and cardiac surgery for RHD, were discussed. Representing SA Heart, and also an invited faculty member, was our president, Prof Liesl Zühlke. Several other SA Heart members participating at the meeting were Prof Bongani Mayosi, Prof Peter Zilla, Prof Ana-Olga Mocumbi from Mozambique, Dr Christopher Hugo-Hamman and Dr Makrexeni from the Dora Nginza Hospital in the Eastern Cape.

During the pre-conference workshops held on the first day, PASCAR working groups provided updates on progress made towards implementation of the AU (African Union) Communiqué. This continental declaration, endorsed by all African heads of state, represents a framework to eradicate rheumatic fever and RHD on the African continent. Each working group focused on one of the 7 key components in the Communiqué, and outlined their achievements as well as challenges encountered thus far.

Prof Sir Magdi Yacoub, during his speech at the official opening of the conference, had noted that while rheumatic heart disease (RHD) had almost disappeared from the western world, it continued to represent a significant burden of disease in many developing countries. He did, however, express optimism in the health community’s ability to address this issue, stating “we are ready to meet the challenge, to get rid of RHD”.

The official first day of the meeting concentrated on presentations on the epidemiology and global RHD burden, as well as the genetic and geographic determinants of disease. Prof Zühlke presented an overview on patient registries and their usefulness in providing data on RHD. On the second day, discussions centred around RHD prevention and screening, pathology, and RHD management. One of the highlights was a debate entitled “Echocardiographic Screening for Subclinical RHD: Added Value or Added Cost?” Dr Craig Sable spoke in support of subclinical screening, emphasising the potential cost-effectiveness of such an approach using non-physician health workers. This proposal was opposed by Prof. Ganesan Karthikeyan, who suggested that echo screening should be used as a research tool rather than as a strategy for RHD programmes, stating that in most settings this approach would be prohibitively expensive. On the 3rd and final day of the conference, the focus of sessions turned to existing global, national and regional initiatives tackling RHD. Dr Hugo-Hamman presented on work done in RHD in Namibia.

The conference also provided an opportunity for informal discussions, networking and forging new relationships and collaborations. Stating that one outcome of the conference would be the Cairo Accord, Prof. Yacoub thanked participants for attending, and said he was “overwhelmed by the amount of knowledge” that had been shared at the meeting.

Our special gratitude goes to Alastair White from the World Heart Federation who compiled the report on each days proceedings for RHD Action (http://rhdaction.org/) adapted for this report.
TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

You are cordially invited to submit your application for the SA Heart Travel Scholarship of the first term 2017 to reach the SA Heart Office by 31 March 2017.

This scholarship is available to all members and associate members residing in South Africa. Its primary goal is to assist junior colleagues, thereby ensuring their continued participation in local or international scientific meetings or workshops.

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be fully paid-up members/associate members for at least 1 year.
- Applications must include the following:
  - Full details of the meeting/workshop;
  - An abbreviated CV of the applicant; and
  - A breakdown of the expected expenses.
- Applications must reach the Association a minimum of 3 months ahead of the scheduled event.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acceptance of an abstract at the scientific meeting to be attended. (If acceptance of the abstract is pending, the application must still be submitted 3 months prior to the event with a note stating when the approval is to be expected. In such a case the scholarship might be granted conditionally – and proof needs to be submitted once the abstract has been accepted.);
- Invitation to participate at the meeting as an invited speaker;
- Publications in a peer-reviewed journal in the preceding year;
- Applicants from a previously disadvantaged community; and
- Applicants younger than 35 years of age.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE ADDRESS TO:

The President of the South African Heart Association
PO Box 3213
Matieland
7602
And submitted electronically to erika@saheart.org

Applicants that have benefitted from a SA Heart Travel Scholarship in the past 3 years need not apply. Preference is further given to members who have never benefited from a SA Heart Scholarship.
Society for Magnetic Resonance Angiography
29th Annual International Conference

MRA: New Perspectives
Stellenbosch, South Africa 2017
October 4th – 6th
Stellenbosch, South Africa

Pre-Conference Educational Workshop
MRI/A advanced concepts: October 3rd

President: James Carr
Organizer: David Saloner
THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

The research scholarship is available to all full and associate members of SA Heart Association living in South Africa. It is primarily intended to assist colleagues involved in much-needed research to enhance their research programmes.

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<td>■ Applicants need to be fully paid-up members/associate members in good standing for at least one year.</td>
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<td>And submitted to the SA Heart Office electronically: <a href="mailto:erika@saheart.org">erika@saheart.org</a></td>
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One scholarship to a maximum amount of R50 000 will be awarded annually.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED ACCORDING TO THE ACCOMPANYING RESEARCH PROTOCOL WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE:

■ An abstract (maximum 200 words);
■ A brief review of the literature (maximum 200 words);
■ A brief description of the hypothesis to be investigated (maximum 100 words);
■ A detailed methodology (maximum 500 words); and
■ References.

Members who have received this scholarship in the past 3 years need not apply.