

ANNUAL REPORTS 2023

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIG) REPORTS

CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (CASSA)

Committee members

Dr Adelle Greyling (President), Dr Kaveshree Govender (Treasurer), Dr Andrew Thornton (Private practice), Dr Jane Moses (Education, Public practice), Prof Ashley Chin (Public practice), Dr Charle Viljoen (Ethics and Guidelines), Prof Rob Scott Millar (Accreditation), Mr George van der Merwe (Social media, Industry), Mr M. van den Berg (Industry), Mr Human Nieuwenhuis (Allied professionals) and Mrs G. Nichols (Secretary).

Last AGM of group / or proposed date of next AGM

Last AGM was held on 19 October 2022. The proposed date of next AGM is on 18 October 2023.

Succession plan and process

This year is not an Exco election year.

Educational events held or involved with through year

- The Andrzej Okreglicki Memorial Advanced ECG and Arrhythmia Interpretation Course meeting was held again this year.
- Several other educational webinars were held:
 - ECG webinar was held in April.
 - Cardiac clinical technologist journal clubs and pacing course continued.
 - Annual CASSA symposium was held in February 2023. It was an in-person meeting with international Faculty Dr Kim Rajjapan and Prof Erik Rosenthal, both from the United Kingdom.
 - CASSA participated in the SA Heart® programme last year, including hosting the pre-congress workshop.
 - CASSA hosted the SA Heart® Journal Club meeting in March.

Special achievements

- We continue to expand our online and social media presence.
- CASSA clinical technologist accreditation continues and is progressing well.

Challenges experienced

Industry support in the form of corporate membership. CASSA may experience financial difficulties in the near future.

Grants, sponsorships and mentorship programmes

- Industry support and third-party sponsorship remain challenging. Limited funds are available for educational grants.
- Registrar teaching continued including case support at provincial hospitals.

Goal for next year

We aim to continue to expand our online and social media presence. Regular webinars are planned both for ECG teaching and pacing and device troubleshooting.

Financial report submitted?

Yes a financial report was submitted.

Adele Greyling
President, CASSA

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CARDIAC IMAGING SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA (CISSA)

Committee members

Alfonso Pecoraro (President), Blanche Cupido (Treasurer), Philip Herbst, Anton Doubell, Ruchika Meel, Wayne Lubbe and Ntobeko Ntusi.

Last AGM of group / or proposed date of next AGM

The date of next AGM is on 27 October 2023.

Succession plan and process

AJK Pecoraro to step down as chairman; New Exec will be elected at AGM to take place during SA Heart® Congress.

Educational events held or involved with through year

Educational activities:

- CISSA will host a pre-Congress workshop during the 2023 SA Heart® Congress as well as a breakaway session and joint session with CASSA.
- SUNECHO was successfully hosted during April 2023 with 144 delegates attending.
- New Horizon's was successfully hosted from 17 - 19 November 2022.
- SACMR was hosted during August 2023 with a number of CISSA members contributing.
- Journal Club as part of the monthly SA Heart® series.

Accreditation

We are encouraged by the number of members, in particular cardiac physiologists that have accredited with international imaging societies. Members that need information or supervision should contract Mr Jan Steyn, via the CISSA executive team.

Financial report submitted?

No, to be submitted, but no funds utilised.

Alfonso Pecoraro
President, CISSA

HEART FAILURE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA (HeFSSA)

Executive Committee

Nqoba Tsabedze (President), Martin Mpe (Ex-Officio President), Nash Ranjith (Vice-President), Mpiko Ntsekhe (Treasurer), Tony Lachman (Secretary), Eric Klug, Karen Sliwa and Ntobeko Ntusi.

Last AGM of group / or proposed date of next AGM

Last AGM was held on 28 October 2022.

Succession plan and process

In addition to the constitutional process followed HeFSSA has embarked on a programme to engage proactively with "rising stars" of our community (predominantly early career cardiologists) to involve them in Society programmes.

Educational events held or involved with through year

HeFSSA HF management GP meetings:

- Polokwane: 15 October 2022 (41 HCP)
- Pretoria: 22 October 2022 (60 HCP)
- Ongwediva, Namibia: 5 November 2022 (25 HCP)
- East London: 12 November 2022 (40 HCP)
- Mbombela: 12 November 2022 (29 HCP)
- Windhoek, Namibia: 19 November 2022 (80 HCP)
- George: 19 November 2022 (14 HCP)
- Gqeberha: 19 November 2022 (42 HCP)
- Johannesburg: 11 March 2023 (91 HCP)
- Kimberley: 6 May 2023 (21 HCP)
- Bloemfontein: 13 May 2023 (23 HCP)
- Cape Town: 13 May 2023 (56 HCP)
- Mthatha: 18 May 2023 (68 HCP)
- Mossel Bay: 3 June 2023 (13 HCP)
- Richards Bay: 3 June 2023 (25 HCP)
- Somerset West: 3 June 2023 (16 HCP)
- Hermanus: 10 June 2023 (16 HCP)
- Klerksdorp: 10 June 2023 (21 HCP)
- Swakopmund: 10 June 2023 (10 HCP)
- Thohoyandou: 10 June 2023 (9 HCP)
- Durban: 1 July 2023 (60 HCP)
- East Rand: 1 July 2023 (53 HCP)
- West Rand: 1 July 2023 (35 HCP)
- Vanderbijlpark: 12 August 2023 (23 HCP)
- To be completed in 2023: Rustenburg, Mafikeng, Lenasia, Sasolburg and Witbank

HeFSSA Annual Specialist Symposium:

- 1st: 25 - 26 November 2022 with 72 Specialist HCP delegates.
- 2nd: 23 - 24 June 2023 with 80 HCP Specialist HCP delegates.

Special achievements

- HF Snapshot Survey Abstract submitted to SA Heart® Congress 2023.
- Launch of the HF Academy (5 CPD Modules) - HeFSSA Certificate issued on completion.
- Reactivation of HeFSSA GP Programme following COVID-19 with record 24 face-to-face meetings held across South Africa and Namibia, reaching almost 1 000 HCPs with plus 32 specialist faculty (mostly cardiologists).
- 2nd Annual HeFSSA Specialist Symposium (following 1st end 2022).
- Nutritional Update now CPD accredited (translates into 8 national languages) and e-distributed to more than 20 000 HCPs.

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Challenges experienced

- Optimising human resources as Executive Committee members' time is very constrained and at a premium as volunteers.
- Monthly operational meetings are augmented by numerous ad hoc and project specific meetings between leadership and management team.

Grants, sponsorships and mentorship programmes

- All programmes are offered free of charge (no registration) to HCP delegates (including travel and accommodation if needed).
- Mentorship: Rising Stars programme mentioned above.

Goal for next year

- Roll-out research to more sites across South Africa (3 sites).
- Expand the reach and impact (clinical implementation) of various educational programmes.
- Update HeFSSA Chronic Guidelines and expand to include Acute.
- Enroll 1 000 plus HCPs in HF Academy Course (with plus 500 completions).
- Continue to actively support community initiatives to engage and support NDOH.

Financial report submitted?

Yes a financial report was submitted.

Nqoba Tsabedze
President, HeFSSA

INTERVENTIONAL SOCIETY FOR CATHLAB ALLIED PROFESSIONALS (ISCAP)

Executive Committee

Selvan Govindsamy (Chairperson), Waheeda Howell (Past Chairperson), Isabel Bender (Vice Chair Nurses), Human Nieuwenhuis (Vice Chair Technologists) and Sabira Khatieb (Vice Chair Radiographers).

Membership drive

Our plan to visit Cath Labs and bring awareness to the organisation has been implemented, but this is a slow process. I intend on meeting all the Allies attending the SA Heart® Congress for further discussions on this matter.

Online modules

We have successfully updated all 4 online modules that we have on the ISCAP website, as well as the ISCAP CPD questionnaires. Upon completion of all 4 modules, we will issue a certificate of completion.

Webinars

We have completed 3 online webinars so far. The final webinar series is confirmed for 23 September 2023.

ISCAP poster

We have engaged with a company for funding for this project. We are in the process of finalising this with input from SASCI as to logo branding.

Journal Club

We will be again hosting a Journal Club on behalf of SA Heart® on 4 October 2023. Planning has commenced.

SA Heart® Congress 27 - 30 October 2023

We have finalised the ISCAP Programme, finalised the speakers, and have forwarded to Dr Farouk Mamdoo.

Virtual Cath Lab training

We have secured a virtual training session with the help of a corporate sponsor to facilitate a virtual training course. ISCAP will put together a programme for this course.

Conclusion

We are working toward greater presence for ISCAP, and creating a bigger footprint. The SA Heart® Congress programme is finalised. Current projects are the Journal Club, final webinar and the virtual training course.

Selvan Govindsamy
Chairperson, ISCAP

LIPID AND ATHEROSCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (LASSA)

Executive Committee

Prof David Marais (Chairperson), Prof Derick Raal (Secretary), Dr Dee Blackhurst and Prof Dirk Blom.

Last AGM of group / or proposed date of next AGM

AGM cancelled at 22nd SA Heart® Congress 27 - 30 October 2022 owing to unrest and lack of quorum. No AGM envisaged for 2023, uncertain about 2024.

Succession plan and process

Concern about continuity in LASSA but this depends on many factors that LASSA cannot influence. Approaches to Provincial Administration, universities, National Health Laboratory Service, SA Heart® as well as Department of Health.

Educational events held or involved with through year

- Journal Club for SA Heart®.
- Servier and Novartis education - Proff Blom and Raal.
- Lipidology courses (3 days) in Botswana and Zimbabwe, June 2023 (Marais).
- Lipidology course in Netherlands (June 2023, Marais).

Challenges experienced

- Lack of support for lipidology at tertiary institutions.
- Lack of career options for physicians or pathologists to pursue lipidology.
- Limited investigations for severe disorders in lipid and lipoprotein metabolism.

Grants, sponsorships and mentorship programmes

European Atherosclerosis Society national societies educational grant. (Lipidology courses in Botswana and Zimbabwe).

Goal for next year

Sustain a network of expertise in lipidology for South Africa and neighbouring countries.

Financial report submitted?

No, to be submitted.

David Marais
Chairperson, LASSA

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PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA (PCSSA)

It is a great pleasure to report on the activities of the PCSSA over the past year. Although we are a small special interest group of SA Heart®, we represent a large portion of South Africa's population. When you consider that 1 in every 500 children will be born with a cardiac defect, the number of children that will need our care, intervention and advocacy can be fully appreciated.

Executive Committee

The current Executive is now in their 2nd year of service. The Exco members are as follows:

Lindy Mitchell (President), Mamaila Lebea (Secretary), Jayneel Joshi (Treasurer), Darshan Reddy (Surgery, Private Sector), John Lawrenson (Education, Ethics), Ebrahim Hoosen (Public Sector) and Hopewell Ntsinjana (Ex-President).

We are working on the challenges of providing comprehensive, quality care to all children suffering from cardiac disease and defects in South Africa.

Financial Statements (31 March 2023)

Addendum A: Audited financial statements

Our Treasurer is Prof Jayneel Joshi. The PCSSA is still in a good financial position. However, our income is derived from the small amount of membership fees, as well as an Allan Grey investment account based on the profits of the WCC 2013. Our expenses for the last year were mainly sponsorship costs for members and nurses from every training unit to attend SA Heart® Congress 2022 in Sandton. No additional travel grants were allocated, as overseas travel to Congresses has still been limited.

Academics

SA Heart® Congress 2022

After the cancellation of the SA Heart® Congress in 2020 due to Coronavirus constraints, and the virtual Congress of 2021, we were all looking forward to an in-person Congress in 2022. The terrorist threat of a bombing put a severe damper on the proceedings and the attendance, with many delegates not feeling safe to attend. We still had a very good pre-Congress Workshop dealing with Interventional Cardiology, but thereafter attendance waned. Our thanks go to Prof Ebrahim Hoosen and Dr Darshan Reddy for putting together such a great programme, which many delegates were able to attend virtually, once alternative arrangements were made. A wide number of topics were covered, and we all benefitted from the expertise of the local and international invited faculty.

SA Heart® Congress 2023

After last year's disruptions, we are looking forward to this year's SA Heart® Congress. The Scientific Programme is in the capable hands of Profs John Lawrenson, Lindy Mitchell and Jayneel Joshi. We have a great imaging and interventions pre-Congress Workshop planned for Thursday, 26 October and as usual, the PCSSA will be responsible for an entire track at this year's Congress – focused on the interventional and surgical management of cardiac defects in children. A wide spread of important interventional and surgical aspects will be covered during the congress, with delegates benefitting from the input of local and international experts. In addition to our full parallel programme, PCSSA speakers will also deliver lectures in the plenaries.

SA Paediatric Association Congress 2023

The SAPA Congress 2023 will host a Unity Meeting where the leaders of the various interest groups in paediatrics in South Africa will meet and discuss challenges facing the care of children in South Africa. The PCSSA will attend and once again contribute to this meeting to raise awareness of cardiac disease in children, and to train our paediatric colleagues in important skills in managing these defects. We always encourage non-cardiologists to join our society, to encourage in particular pulse-oximetry screening in their local and particularly private practices, and to raise the profile of the PCSSA. There has always been great interest from general paediatricians for further cardiology teaching and we will explore new ways of doing this in the following year.

Congratulations

We welcomed 3 new Paediatric Cardiologists to our number in the last year. They faced the challenge of completing their examinations solely on-line, with typed CMSA examinations and Zoom panel orals. Congratulations to them for completing their fellowships so successfully – we look forward to seeing what new insights and innovations they can bring to our field. We also welcome our new Fellows around the country: work hard and make us proud. The PCSSA has brought in the Dr Gcina Dumani medal for outstanding achievement by a Fellow in Paediatric Cardiology CMSA examinations. Candidates who achieve their degree with an average above 80% will be awarded this award.

Congratulations to Dr Delinah Manzini – Limpopo's first full-time Paediatric Cardiologist based in Polokwane Provincial Hospital. Congratulations also to Dr Dudu Msiza – North-West Province's first full-time Paediatric Cardiologist based in Rustenburg Provincial Hospital (JST). They have a huge task ahead of them to try to establish sustainable services in their regions, and will be supported by the team in Pretoria at Steve Biko Academic Hospital.

Challenges

Inadequate number of trained Paediatric Cardiologists and Congenital Cardiothoracic surgeons

The current number of Paediatric Cardiologists and Congenital Cardiothoracic surgeons in South Africa is woefully insufficient to meet the great demand for this service. It has been estimated that with a disease rate of 1 in every 500 births, there should be at least one Paediatric Cardiologist for every 500 000 population. In South Africa, with a population of 60 million, we should therefore have at least 120 qualified Paediatric Cardiologists to adequately diagnose, manage and follow up children with cardiac disease and defects. Currently, we have only 45. The situation with Cardiothoracic surgeons who are trained in congenital cardiac surgery, is even more dismal. For our current population, we should have at least 60 fully trained, experienced Congenital Cardiac surgeons to operate the often-complex defects we see. Currently we have only 12. This is simply not enough to operate all the children who need surgical intervention, and the waiting lists for these surgeries just become longer and longer.

No Paediatric Cardiology or Congenital Cardiac surgery services in 3 of the 9 provinces in South Africa

The existing Paediatric Cardiac units, small in number as they are, are by necessity placed in central, large areas: Pretoria, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. There are no Paediatric Cardiac services in most of Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and Northern Cape provinces. Patients therefore need to travel vast distances, over long hours, in order to see a Paediatric Cardiologist. New units must be funded and developed by these provinces in order to serve their provinces' needs. The availability of surgical care and ICU beds is even more restricted. Currently, surgery for congenital cardiac defects is only offered in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban, Bloemfontein and Cape Town.

Insufficient dedicated training posts

To remedy the shortage of trained Paediatric Cardiologists and Congenital Cardiothoracic surgeons, an intensive training programme must be started at as many units as possible, spread widely throughout South Africa. Unfortunately, the number of salaried training posts is a problem. Many units have the capacity to train more specialists, but no salary to pay the Fellows while they train. There are currently only 3 salaried training posts in all the 7 training units across the whole of South Africa. Provincial governments again need to make the provision of salaried training posts a priority to serve the need in their provinces.

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UNIT	REGION/S SERVED	PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGISTS	CONGENITAL CARDIOTHORACIC SURGEONS	SALARIED TRAINING POSTS	AVAILABLE TRAINING NUMBERS
Red Cross / Tygerberg (Cape Town)	Western Cape Northern Cape	4 qualified 1 empty post 3 trainees (1 self-funded)	1 full-time qualified 1 semi-retired 1 trainee	2	3
Baragwanath / CMH (Johannesburg)	South Gauteng North West	7 qualified 3 self-funded trainees	None	None	9 (6 empty)
Nelson Mandela CH (Johannesburg)	Gauteng Limpopo	2 qualified 0 trainees	2 qualified	None	2 (2 empty)
King Albert Luthuli (Durban)	KwaZulu-Natal	3 qualified 2 self-funded trainees	1 full-time qualified 1 part-time qualified	None	4 (2 empty)
Universitas (Bloemfontein)	Free State	3 qualified 1 trainee	2 qualified 2 trainees	1	3 (2 empty)
Dora Nginza (Port Elizabeth / Umtata)	Eastern Cape	3 qualified 1 Umtata-funded trainee	None (1 in private: part-time)	None	2 (1 empty)
Steve Biko (Pretoria)	North Gauteng Mpumalanga Limpopo North West	3 qualified 1 self-funded trainee	1 semi-retired 1 full-time	None	3 (2 empty)

The situation is dire and needs urgent attention at a provincial and national level. Congenital Cardiothoracic surgeons especially are an extremely scarce resource and funding needs to be allocated to make up this deficit. As one HOD said: "Many units are only one motor bike or car accident away from having NO surgical service".

The year ahead

Several legacy projects were initiated after the World Congress in 2013 and are still ongoing.

These include:

- **PCSSA Website and information portal** – including a platform for families of children with cardiac disease.
- **Pedheart resource** – where information about common cardiac conditions has been translated into a number of local languages, in order to better counsel patients and their families about their heart problems.
- **Pulse-oximetry screening programmes** – a number of units have introduced pulse oximetry screening as standard of care in their neonatal areas. This is aimed at the early recognition and timeous management of children with congenital heart defects.
- **Research fund** – stimulate research and publications
- **Travel grants** – SCAI workshops annually to increase local skills
- **Congenital Heart Disease Week (7 - 14 February 2023)** – We had a fantastic Congenital Heart Disease Week this year where we raised awareness of heart disease in children on as many platforms as possible. Our members were heard nationwide on such far-reaching sites as Radio 702, Jacaranda Radio, Groot FM and Radio Sonder Grense to name but a few. We reached a larger audience this year than ever before, and we aim to do so again next year.

My thanks to all the members of the PCSSA for their hard work in caring for children with cardiac disease and defects in our country. Keep well and stay healthy.

Lindy Mitchell
President, PCSSA

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH (SASCAR)

Executive Committee

Dr Rabia Johnson (Chairperson), Prof Neil Davies (Educational representative), Prof Sandrine Lecour– (SASCAR accounts), Dr Balindiwe Sishi, Dr Frederick Michel, Dr Gerald Maarman, Mr Gideon Burger and Prof Barbara Huisamen (Secretary).

Last AGM of group / or proposed date of next AGM

The AGM was held on 17 August 2023.

Succession plan and process

- Neil Davies (Outgoing Chair). (ND)
- Chairperson: Rabia Johnson (RJ) (Newly appointed Chair).

Educational events held or involved with through year

Conferences 2022

SA Heart® Conference themed “Phyto-medicine for cardiometabolic health”.

- “Buchu (Agathosma) in health and disease” – Prof Barbara Huisamen (SA).
- “Potential of natural products to improve cardiovascular health: Evidence and mechanisms” – Prof Valérie Schini-Kerth (France).
- “Rooibos flavonoid consumption and benefits to cardiometabolic health” – Prof Jeanine Marnewick (SA).

Workshops

- Hybrid microscopy workshop held on 17 May 2023 (50 participants).
- Hybrid chemo-informatics workshop held on 26 - 28 June 2023
- SASCAR 2-day workshop on 14 - 15 September 2023 (Flow cytometry and electron microscopy, proteomics)

Quarterly update meetings 2023

17 February, 1 June and 17 August 2023.

SA Heart® Conference 2023

Three Sessions: Abstract, Theme 1 Oncology and Theme 2 Cardiometabolic Health and Infectious Diseases.

Special achievements

Workshop: 5th EU / SA cardiovascular research workshop

Prof Sandrine Lecour hosted the 5th EU / South African cardiovascular research workshop.

In May 2022, SASCAR hosted the traditional European / South African cardiovascular research workshop for its 5th edition. Traditionally organised every 2 years, the arrival of COVID-19 delayed the hosting of this event at the University of Cape Town.

Organised as a hybrid event, more than 80 postgraduate students, junior researchers and senior researchers attended to this event. Joint research themes between the 2 continents included novel aspects in cardio-oncology and cardiovascular risk factors. From a better understanding of the signalling molecules involved in cardio-oncology (kinases and lipoproteins) to the delineation of novel putative therapeutic drugs to protect against doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity, both European and South African delegates enjoyed a fruitful discussion which will hopefully pave the way for future North - South collaborations.

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Latest ongoing clinical trials tested in the field of cardioprotection in Cape Town and London were presented and discussed, including the remote ischaemic conditioning and COVID-19 trial that was recently published by Lukhna, et al in Cardiovascular Drugs and Therapy (2022) and the remote ischaemic conditioning and cardio-oncology trial published by Walker, et al, in JACC Cardio-oncology (2023). Part of the workshop was also an opportunity to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of different methodological techniques used to study cardiovascular research, including the use of zebra fishes, modern genomic techniques, and blood derived extracellular particles.

The informal atmosphere of the meeting gave an opportunity to students to feel at ease in interacting with the senior researchers, going back home with multiple tips and novel ideas to pursue their projects until the next workshop.

Challenges experienced

None.

Grants, sponsorships and mentorship programmes

None (About R20 000 was spent from the SASCAR budget for the mentioned workshop).

Goal for next year

Educational: Planned school outreach programme on NCD.

Financial report submitted?

Yes a financial report was submitted.

Rabia Johnson
Chairperson, SASCAR

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR INTERVENTION (SASCI)

Executive Committee

Hellmuth Weich (President), Dave Kettles (Ex-Officio President), Sajidah Khan (Vice-President), Cobus Badenhorst (Treasurer), Graham Cassel (Secretary), Chevaan Hendrickse (SASCI PPC), Ahmed Vachiat (STEMI SA), Selvan Govinsamy (ISCAP), Chris Zambakides, Jean Vorster, J. P. Theron, Shaheen Pandie, Jens Hitzeroth, Farai Dube and Arthur Mutyaba.

Last AGM of group / or proposed date of next AGM

The AGM was held on 04 March 2023.

Succession plan and process

In addition to the constitutional process followed SASCI has engaged proactively with early career Cardiologists and Allieds to involve them in especially society educational programmes.

Educational events held or involved with through year

Education remains at the forefront of our activities.

- **SASCI SA Heart® Journal Club Webinar** on 1 February 2023. Convenors Farai Dube and Arthur Mutyaba with International Faculty Dr Nicholas Ruthmann and Dr Sanjeeb Bhattacharya, and local faculty Prof Eric Klug and Dr Anthony Becker.
- **SASCI Discovery CAD Programme Webinar** on 16 February 2023. Moderators Chevaan Hendrickse, Hellmuth Weich with Faculty Tom Mabin, Darren Sweidan and Botho Mhozya (Discovery Health) with 68 attendees. This coincided with introduction of the enhanced benefit packages as well as launch on the Discovery Health ID platform that facilitates approvals. To date 95 private sector cardiologists have enrolled with the programme and Tom Mabin continues to be available to support members with queries.

- **SASCI Private Practice Lunch Session** on 3 March 2023 at AfricaPCR Congress. Faculty Chevaan Hendrickse, Dave Jankelow and Elsabe Klinck. The Session focused on Navigating the Complexities of Contemporary Private Practice.
- **AfricaPCR Course 2023:** Early March saw the successful return of this seminal interventional course to South Africa as a face-to-face meeting.
- **ISCAP Webinar Series – ISCAP Manual Module 1:** on 6 May 2023. Topics included a history of Coronary Angiography, Cardiac Anatomy and Physiology, ECG Interpretation, Coronary Pathology and Cardiomyopathies. Faculty: Selvan Govindsamy, Kerry Moir, Carmen November, Isabel Bender Shaune' Rajoo. Attendees: 200 plus.
- **ISCAP Manual Module 2:** on 24 June 2023. Topics included the roles and responsibilities of Cath Lab Allied Professionals, indications and contraindications of Coronary Angiography, basic concepts in Cardiac Catheterisation, and aseptis in the Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory. Faculty: Selvan Govindsamy, Shaune' Rajoo, Don Pardechi, Suriah Salam. Attendees: 120 plus.
- **ISCAP Manual Module 3:** on 12 August 2023. Topics included Radiation, Vascular Access, Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) and Coronary Artery Stents, and Right Heart Studies. Faculty: Suvina Gungapursad, Don Pardechi, Sr Suriah Salam, Selvan Govindsamy and Isabel Bender. Attendees: 110 plus.
- **ISCAP Manual Module 4 webinar:** on 23 September 2023.
- **Completion of all 4 CPD accredited Module questionnaires** (online) will result in ISCAP Certificate of Completion been issued.
- **SASCI-Mayo Fellows Summit Webinar** on 8 May 2023: Convener Sajidah Khan with Faculty: Greg Barsness (Mayo Clinic), Charles Jain (Mayo Clinic) and Sandhiran Nadar (IALH). Panellist: Jacques Doubell, Omphemetse Moedi and Daniel Iraguha with 53 attendees and excellent faculty-panel interaction.
- **The 19th Annual SASCI Fellows Workshop** was hosted from 18 - 19 August 2023 in Cape Town and was attended by Fellows and recently qualified cardiologists, with Convenor Jean Vorster. We had more than 70 HCPs delegates, 44 in-person from units across South Africa and even Mauritius, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and a number joined online for the Mayo Clinic Cardio Fellows Summit Webinar. The case-based programme format was well received and facilitated lively discussion. We had 11 Faculty members in attendance, ranging from senior to early career cardiologists who included Adie Horak, Mark Abelson, Bradley Griffiths, Jens Hitzeroth, Dave Kettles, Sajidah Khan, Menachem Levin, Ahmed Vachiat, Pieter van Wyk, Jean Vorster and Hellmuth Weich. The SASCI Mayo Summit Webinar was embedded within the Programme with the aim of providing the Fellows with an international perspective on local cardiac complications, such as the haemodynamic assessment of structural cardiac disorders and transcatheter evaluation of MR. The Mayo session was led by international faculty such Greg Barsness, David Holmes, William Miranda and Mackram Eleid.
- **SA Heart® Congress 2023 (end October):** SASCI track with Jens Hitzeroth as convener will ensure a high-quality interventional programme. On Saturday 28 October the focus will be on Complication Cases, Precious PCI, ACS in AF as well as Tips and Tricks with renowned international Faculty Luc Maillard, Azfar Zaman, Elvin Kedhi and Paul Knaapen supported by key local Faculty.
- **SASCI Visiting Professor:** Prof Thierry Lefèvre, Interventional Cardiology Department, Institute Cardiovasculaire Paris Sud, Institute Hospitalier Jacques Cartier, France, will be travelling to South Africa during March 2024 and spend time embedded at the various academic units.

Special achievements

ISCAP Cath Lab Manual and Course for Allied Professionals "Certificate of Completion" now issued on completion.

Challenges experienced

To optimise human resources as Executive Committee members time are under time constraints and at a premium as volunteers.

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Grants, sponsorships and mentorship programmes

- **AfricaPCR Course 2023:** SASCI facilitated the attendance of 27 cardiologists, Fellows, and Allieds through educational grants.
- **RC Fraser International Fellowship:** 1 month at Prof Simon Redwood's Cath Lab at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, London, has been awarded to Jacques Doubell from Tygerberg Hospital (September 2023).
- **SA Heart® Congress 2023:** SASCI continues to source funding for educational grants to support attendance of cardiologists but also Fellows and Allied professionals.
- **SCAI Fall Fellows Course,** Miami, Florida, United States of America from 1 - 5 December 2023: SCAI once again offered to support 3 Fellows from South Africa to attend this premier Fellows-only course in the United States of America. The recipients for 2023 are Sumanth Karamchand (United States of America), Reese Boosi (The University of the Witwatersrand) and Msimelelo Mgidlana (University of Cape Town).

Noteworthy such as regulatory, private practice, etc.

- The NHI Bill will be presented to National Council of Provinces in Parliament and SASCI will request the opportunity to submit and present our position as it relates to both private sector and public sector including tertiary institutions. We hope SA Heart® will join us in this submission.
- SASCI continues to address ongoing queries from funders on a day-to-day basis, for example a current hot topic is vascular closure, funder clawback period, as well as expression of opinion on new devices such as Myval and procedures such as Proximal Optimisation Technique (POT).
- Members also approach SASCI to provide guidance on various matters related to coding and the SASCI Coding Manual remains the principal document through which SASCI establish standards of practice as it relates to coding in a system that has not kept pace with developments in our field.
- Funding for procedures such as TAVI remains a concern and SASCI continue to engage Council of Medical Schemes to enforce their rulings. SASCI continue to urge the CMS to confirm the stances it has taken in the many TAVI matters that had been before it, in the form of a Benefit Definition, or a CMScript – all tools that are readily available to ensure patient rights are preserved.
- The Discovery CAD Programme continues to show traction in the market as seen by private cardiology members joining SASCI and expressing interest to join CAD.
- Medscheme is embarking on a programme designed to provide a similar CAD funding mechanism to the ultimate benefit of the cardiology patients. This programme also includes a peer review mechanism that allows SASCI to support and act on behalf of our members.

Goal for next year

ISCAP Cath Lab course: Enroll 500 Allieds (complete 50%).

Financial report submitted?

Yes a financial report was submitted.

Hellmuth Weich
President, SASCI