



**Robert Kleinloog**  
Chairman

## Welcome to the 26th Annual Conference of the World Society of Cardiothoracic Surgery and the 17th Annual Congress of the South African Heart Association



**Alfonso J.K. Pecoraro**  
Co-Chairman

Dear Colleagues

On behalf of the organising committee we would like to welcome you to the 26th Annual Conference of the World Society of Cardiothoracic Surgery. The conference is jointly hosted by the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons of South Africa and the South African Heart Association and will incorporate the Annual Conference of the SA Heart Association. We hope that the inclusion of both disciplines of cardiac surgery and cardiology will embellish the programme and give credence to, and embody, the concept of the Heart Team.

The programme has been designed to feature topics of mutual interest to both surgery and cardiology with focused sessions during the afternoon that will ensure a stimulating and unique academic programme. In addition, original research will be presented during the oral presentations and poster sessions.

Cape Town is an international tourist destination and we encourage you to experience true South African hospitality during your stay.

We would like to thank every delegate, sponsor, researcher and speaker for their contribution and we are convinced that you will look back at this meeting with fond memories.

Welcome to Cape Town!