



THE SURGICAL GROUP

The surgical group has been busy, very busy, with organising the 2016 congress which will form part of the World Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons' 26th annual meeting this year. The meeting will be jointly hosted by SOCTS and SA Heart Association and will run from 8 - 11 September at the Cape Town ICC.

The provisional programme can be found on the website www.WSCTS2016.co.za.

The meeting will be honoured by the presence of international guests from 25 countries and, for the first time, a forum has been created where both surgeon and cardiologist can share the same stage and discuss and debate issues of common interest with ample opportunity for the sub-disciplines and special interest groups to present at fora established for that purpose, all under the theme of Back to the Future.

A training village will run for the duration of the meeting where hands-on sessions will be held in conjunction with the main programme.

Please follow the progress on Facebook and Twitter and make sure to visit the website and register timeously.

The issue of DSPs and PPNs is ongoing and proves to be more difficult to solve than anticipated. Legal opinion has been obtained, and together with the PPC of SA Heart® and SASCI, the funding industry will be approached. As soon as substantive information is available, it will be distributed to members through the various channels.

In April, surgeons from South Africa attended and participated in the first joint Israeli South African session during the annual conference of the Israel Society of Cardiology.

Rob Kleinloog
The Surgical Group



WORLD HEART FEDERATION ELECTIONS

On Monday, 6 June, during the World Congress of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Health 2016 in Mexico, the World Heart Federation held its General Assembly, during which elections were held for several positions, including that of World Heart Federation President-Elect, currently held by Professor David Wood.

Quoting from the WHF congress update newsletter:

**Johanna Ralston,
CEO, World Heart Federation:**

"Last night the World Heart Federation membership elected Karen Sliwa of South Africa as President-Elect, marking 2 firsts:

- our first female president and
- our first from the African continent.

Karen is Director of the Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa, where she is also Professor of Cardiovascular Research at the University of Cape Town. She will bring to the role of President a wealth of first-hand experience and expertise, with a specific understanding of the challenges of addressing CVD in lower resource settings. We are delighted to welcome her on board."



Professor Karen Sliwa speaking at the General Assembly.

Professor Sliwa is a clinician-scientist, having trained as an internal medicine specialist and cardiologist. She also holds a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and a PhD related to immune activation in heart failure. She has played a key role in promoting research and contributing to knowledge in diseases common in Africa.

“She will bring to the role of President a wealth of first-hand experience and expertise.”

Born in Germany, Professor Sliwa spent her childhood in Asia and underwent training in countries as diverse as India, the Philippines, Israel and Scotland, prior to settling in South Africa.

**Professor Karen Sliwa,
WHF President-Elect:**

"I am honoured at the trust the World Heart Federation membership has put in me to take the organisation forward. I would like to especially thank the emerging country Societies and Foundations who have supported me."

POPULAR CONGRESSES FOR 2016/2017

CONGRESS	DATE	CITY	COUNTRY
10TH ASIAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR IMAGING ASCI http://www.asci2016.com	4 - 6 August 2016	Singapore	Singapore
ESC CONGRESS 2016 http://www.escardio.org/Congresses-&-Events/Upcoming-congresses/ESC-Congress/Next-congress/ESC-Congress-2016	27 - 31 August 2016	Rome	Italy
26TH WORLD CONGRESS OF WORLD SOCIETY OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGEONS AND 17TH ANNUAL SA HEART CONGRESS http://www.wscts2016.co.za	8 - 11 September 2016	Cape Town	South Africa
HYPERTENSION SEOUL - 26TH SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF HYPERTENSION (ISH) http://www.ish2016.org	24 - 29 September 2016	Seoul	Korea
9TH ASIA PACIFIC HEART RHYTHM SOCIETY SCIENTIFIC SESSION http://www.aphrs2016.com	12 - 15 October 2016	Seoul	Korea
CSI AFRICA 2016 http://www.csi-congress.org/csi-africa.php	25 - 26 November 2016	Kampala	Uganda
ACC 2017 https://accscientificsession.acc.org	17 - 19 March 2017	Washington DC	USA
AFRICAPCR http://www.africapcr.com	23 - 25 March 2017	Gauteng	South Africa
EUROPCR http://www.europcr.com	16 - 19 May 2017	Paris	France
CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY http://www.escardio.org	26 - 30 August 2017	Barcelona	Spain
18TH ANNUAL SA HEART CONGRESS http://www.saheart.org	9 - 12 November 2017	Sandton	South Africa

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.

CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (CASSA)

At the beginning of 2016, Dr Anthony Stanley and Sr Judith Daniels left the CASSA EXCO. We are very grateful for all their contributions to our Society over the years and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Arrhythmia Cases and Controversies Symposium

The Cardiac Arrhythmia Society of South Africa will be hosting the Annual Specialist Symposium "Arrhythmia: Cases and Controversies" in February 2017. International speakers will include Dr Carsten Israel and Professor Johannes Brachmann.

The Symposium will take place over 2 weekends; 3 and 4 February 2017 at the Vineyard Hotel in Cape Town and 10 and 11 February 2017 at the Maslow Hotel in Johannesburg.

The draft programme and details regarding registration will be posted on the CASSA website (www.cassa.co.za).

ECG Atlas

CASSA is promoting the publication of "The ECG Atlas of Cardiac Rhythms" by Professor Rob Scott Millar. This book contains 95 full sized 12 lead ECGs covering the gamut of cardiac arrhythmias collected over the course of his career. The book has been well received by physicians, cardiologists



and emergency medicine doctors. A sample can be viewed on the website: www.ecgrhythmsatlas.com and orders can be placed on the CASSA website.

Accreditation

The accreditation of electrophysiologists and ICD implanters is ongoing. The requirements for accreditation can be found on the CASSA website.

Fellowship programmes

CASSA continues in its commitment to electrophysiology education and training. Any cardiologist wishing to participate in a fellowship programme is hereby invited to submit their application to the EXCO at glendamarcer@gmail.com or contact Glenda Marcer at 084 549 4244.

If you require any further information, please contact Glenda Marcer at 084 549 4244 or glendamarcer@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE



23 - 25 March 2017 | Gauteng | South Africa

Contact Europa Organisation Africa Tel: 01 | 325 0020 Email: info@eoafrika.co.za | Web: www.eoafrika.co.za

SA HEART ASSOCIATION TRAVEL GRANT

Feedback from ESC-HF congress (Florence, Italy, 21 - 24 May 2016)

The European Society of Cardiology's "Heart Failure Congress", is an annual event deemed to be the world's leading heart failure congress. It is well attended by clinicians and scientists who work together for the common purpose of promoting prevention, improving treatment strategies as well as updating guidelines for the management of acute and chronic heart failure.

Personally, the conference was particularly relevant to my professional development and also afforded me much in the way of personal growth. Firstly, I was given the opportunity to share my research with professionals from all over the world, as my preliminary data on "Galectin 3 plasma levels at baseline correlate with poor clinical outcomes in patients with peripartum cardiomyopathy" was accepted for a poster presentation.

I was very excited to present my results as it is a powerful way to gain international recognition for our expertise, gain valuable feedback and make useful connections and interact with all professionals involved in the fight against cardiovascular diseases.

Secondly, as the aim of our research project was to identify novel biomarkers that may assist in the diagnosis and prognosis of Peripartum Cardiomyopathy (PPCM), attending this congress was beneficial towards improving my knowledge.

Indeed, poor outcomes and biomarkers were highlighted at the congress with more than 8 poster sessions, 2 abstract sessions and one special how-to-session on "Biomarkers



The "Hatter Institute For Cardiovascular Research in Africa" attending the ESC-HF congress. From left to right: Dr Ferial Azibani (Post-doc), Prof Karen Sliwa (Director) and Mrs Olivia Briton (Project Coordinator).

in heart failure: what's new?" Interestingly, the use of Galectin 3 as a diagnostic and/or prognostic biomarker for cardiovascular diseases appears to be gaining momentum, and this was clearly evident at the Congress with over 40 studies referring to Galectin 3. Two studies really interested me:

- One "negative" study demonstrating that this biomarker is not associated with general ventricular remodeling, but is more specific for cardiac fibrosis.
- The second study correlates for the first time the severity of diastolic dysfunction to galectin 3 levels in heart failure patients with preserved ejection fraction.

Interact
with all
professionals.

I also had the opportunity to attend a special session on heart failure in pregnancy. I particularly enjoyed Professor Denise Hilfiker-Kleiner's talk on "Angiogenesis imbalance in Peripartum Cardiomyopathy". Professor Hilfiker-Kleiner is an expert in the field of PPCM and her presentation was interesting as she highlighted novel mechanisms in the pathophysiological signaling pathways, leading to vascular disturbances known to play a key role in the progression of the disease in PPCM.

Lastly, I was invited to join the meeting of European Society of Cardiology EURObservational Research Programme on PPCM to provide an input on blood sample processing for the "Biomarker" sub-study. The meeting emphasised new advances, updates and recommendations for the PPCM registry.

In conclusion, I was fortunate to be offered the opportunity to attend the Heart Failure congress and I believe that I will positively extract useful knowledge which I will apply to my ongoing research at the Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa and at the University of Cape Town.

Ferial Azibani

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH (SASCAR)

SAVE THE DATE

Annual South African Heart meeting, CTICC Cape Town: 8 - 11 September 2016

We would like to remind our members that the annual South African Heart Association meeting will feature exceptional basic sciences sessions on cardioprotection, cardiometabolic and cardiac regenerative aspects. Prof Derek Hausenloy will update us on the latest aspects of both preclinical and clinical findings in cardioprotection. Prof Rosalinda Madonna, a world expert in stem cells, will provide us with an overview on stem cell therapies for cardiac repair. Prof Sluijter will present the latest findings on microRNAs and cardiovascular disease. Prof Ferdinandy will highlight the functional genomics for cardioprotection. We are aware that the registration fee for this meeting is more expensive than previous years, but SASCAR has

committed to offer a bursary of R1 000 each to any SASCAR member (member at the time of submission of the abstract) presenting their research as an oral/poster presentation (20 bursaries will be made available, so do not delay your registration).

FOCUS ON OUR MEMBER

Prof Hans Strijdom (University of Stellenbosch), International project coordinator of the EndoAfrica study

The EndoAfrica –Vascular endothelial dysfunction

The putative interface of emerging cardiovascular risk factors affecting populations living with and without HIV in South Africa - study has received a grant from the ERAfrica programme (EU Framework Programme 7). The international research consortium consists of Hans, Prof Nandu



EndoAfrica Research team, University of Stellenbosch.
From left to right: Prof Hans Strijdom, Ms Emiliana Imperial, Dr Mashudu Mthethwa, Dr Ingrid Webster, Mr Hameer Vanmali, Ms Dawn Mahlangu, Dr Nyiko Mashele-Rapley, Ms Sana Charania, Dr Amanda Genis and Mr Frans Everson.

Goswami (Medical University of Graz, Austria), and Prof Patrick De Boever (Flemish Institute of Technology, Belgium) and Prof Tim Nawrot (Hasselt University, Belgium).

Study background

Vascular endothelial dysfunction is an early precursor of cardiovascular disease. Early detection of this event can provide clinical endothelioprotective intervention opportunities. Few studies have investigated the association between HIV-infection, antiretroviral treatment (ART) and endothelial dysfunction in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) populations. Various studies have been reporting increases in traditional cardiovascular risk factors (hypertension/diabetes mellitus/obesity/dyslipidaemia/smoking) in SSA populations, which could affect endothelial function. Additionally, very limited data are available on the cardiovascular effects of environmental factors, e.g. air pollution in SSA populations.

Aims and Design

EndoAfrica will investigate endothelial dysfunction as a putative common pathophysiological consequence of 2 societal/health challenges in South Africa, namely emerging cardiovascular risk factors (HIV-infection, ART, and increased prevalence of traditional cardiovascular risk factors), and air pollution exposure. This study will be conducted on populations living in Cape Town in patients with HIV-1-infection but not yet on 1st line ART, patients with HIV-1-infection on ART and participants without HIV infection (controls).

Baseline investigations will include measurement of endothelial function using flow mediated dilatation, screening for hypertension, diabetes, obesity, dyslipidaemia and smoking and measurement of air pollution exposure. Serum will be stored as nested case-control design for subsequent analysis of endothelial dysfunction biomarkers. Baseline investigations will be repeated at 18 months, and provision will be made for additional air pollution measurements to allow for temporal changes. Epidemiological studies are underpinned by animal and in vitro investigations in which the direct vascular and endothelial effects and mechanisms of first line ART regimens will be explored. This study will provide novel data regarding the overall prevalence of endothelial dysfunction, and effects of HIV infection and ART on vascular endothelial function in the study population. Information will be gained on the prevalence of traditional cardiovascular risk factors, and will reveal whether a relationship exists between air pollution exposure and endothelial dysfunction.



Prof Hans Strijdom and Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor, during a high-level event at which the EndoAfrica project was introduced.

In summary, this study will be the first of its kind to investigate the proposed questions. In view of the clinical advantages of the detection of endothelial dysfunction, Prof Strijdom's study could help identify people who are at risk of developing adverse cardiovascular events. The study findings could be used to compile educational/awareness material for health care workers and patients on cardiovascular risk factors associated with HIV-infection and/or ART, as well as possible cardiovascular risk posed by exposure to air pollution.

We would like to congratulate Prof Strijdom (Department of Medical Physiology, University of Stellenbosch) for leading such an interesting study and we look forward to reading the outcomes of his work.

Please, visit our website www.sascar.org.za for more details on our future workshops, our SASCAR Members and the latest information on the activities of the Society.

SASCAR Executive Committee:

S Lecour (chairperson), N Davies (vice-chairperson), S Dennis (Secretary), F Essop, D Van Vuuren and K Sliwa.

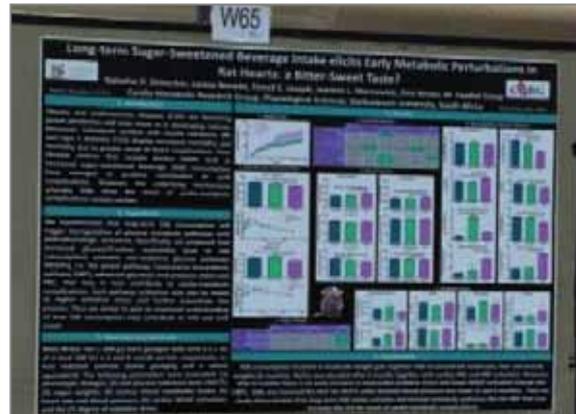


SA HEART TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

I would like to thank you again for the amazing privilege of awarding me the SA Heart Travel scholarship. Without it, I would not have been able to embark on an amazing journey to the USA, San Diego CA.

When I first arrived in San Diego I had no idea what to expect. I was used to attending much smaller conferences and recognising at least some of the faces around me. However, nothing could have prepared me for the volume of people/research on display at Experimental Biology. Approximately 13 000 people from all over attended this meeting, with 7 different disciplines running over a period of 6 days. The abstract book literally looked like a phonebook. It was difficult to choose which talks to listen to and which poster presentations to attend, however, being a student, the availability of food at talks often helped me to decide.

As fate would have it, my presentation was on the last day of the conference! Seeing the large number of attendees



Presentation of my poster

present and knowing that most of the people whose articles I had cited would be there, made me nervous, yet excited at the same time. I received great feedback from various researchers. I think most of them were amazed that we are able to do this kind of research, even though we are from a third world (developing) country.

This conference helped me to realise that our research here in South Africa is on par with the rest of the world. We are able to do research that is of international standards, but with only half of the amount of funding they have. I felt proud of our country and couldn't wait to come back to tell all the stories and let our research group know that we are able to compete with the rest of the world. I am very grateful that I was granted the opportunity to visit such a prestigious event and I truly hope that I will be able to continue my newly found love for travelling and sharing our research with the rest of the world.

Natasha Darne Driescher
Postgraduate Doctoral Student - Physiology
Cardio Metabolic Research



Abstract programme from the conference



TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

You are cordially invited to submit your application for the SA Heart Travel Scholarship of the third term 2016 to reach the SA Heart Office by 30 September 2016.

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 one 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 benefited 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.

WEBSITE LINKS

SA Heart	www.saheart.org
CASSA	www.cassa.co.za
HeFSSA	www.hefssa.org
PASCAR	www.pascar.org
PCSSA	www.saheart.org/pcssa
SASCAR (Research)	www.sascar.org.za
SASCI	www.sasci.co.za
ACC	www.acc.org
ESC	www.escardio.org
World Heart	www.world-heart-federation.org



Notice is hereby given that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION NPC WILL TAKE PLACE

ON FRIDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2016, AT 17H30 IN THE CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, CAPE TOWN.

The exact room is to be confirmed.



MOTIONS & NOMINATIONS

Motions to be tabled at the AGM are awaited to reach the SA Heart office by no later than 1 September. Please email your motion to erika@saheart.org.

Nominations for the post of **SA Heart Treasurer** (term 2016 - 2018) and **Vice President** (2016/2017) as well as for the **Board of Directors** of the SA Heart NPC are called for. Further we call for nominations for **members for all 4 of our standing committees**, i.e. Education Committee, Ethics and Guidelines Committee, Fulltime Salaried Committee and Private Practice Committee. You can submit your nomination from 14 July to close of business (12h00) on 12 August 2016 at <http://www.mpconsulting.co.za/client/voting/view/48>.

Voting for candidates will start on this website on 18 August and close on 5 September.

Please note that only paid up ordinary members can partake in the nomination and voting process.

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.

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants need to be fully paid-up members/associate members in good standing for at least one year.
- Applications must include
 - The applicant's abbreviated CV;
 - A breakdown of the anticipated expenses;
 - Ethics approval; and
 - Full details of the research.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Publications of related work 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:

Education Standing Committee
South African Heart Association
PO Box 3213
Matieland
7602

And submitted to the SA Heart Office electronically: erika@saheart.org

THE SELECTION PANEL WILL REVIEW APPLICATIONS ANNUALLY AND THE CLOSING DATE IS 30 SEPTEMBER 2016.

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.

LOUIS VOGELPOEL TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are invited for the annual Louis Vogelpoel Travelling Scholarship for 2017. An amount of up to R15 000 towards the travel and accommodation costs of a local or international congress will be offered annually by the Western Cape branch of the South African Heart Association in memory of one of South Africa's outstanding cardiologists, Dr Louis Vogelpoel.

Louis Vogelpoel was a pioneer of cardiology in South Africa who died in April 2005. He was one of the founding members of the Cardiac Clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital and University of Cape Town. He had an exceptional career of over more than 5 decades as a distinguished general physician, cardiologist and horticultural scientist. Dr Vogelpoel's commitment to patient care, teaching and personal education is remembered by his many students, colleagues and patients. Medical students, house officers, registrars and consultants benefited from exposure to his unique blend of clinical expertise, extensive knowledge, enthusiasm and gracious style.

A gifted and enthusiastic teacher he was instrumental in the training of generations of under-graduates by regular bedside tutorials. He served as an outstanding role model for post-graduates and many who have achieved prominence nationally and internationally acknowledged his contribution to the development of their careers.

All applications for the scholarship will be reviewed by the executive committee of the Western Cape branch of the South African Heart Association. Preference will be given to practitioners or researchers in the field of cardiovascular medicine who are members of the South African Heart Association and are resident in the Western Cape.

Applications should include: (1) A brief synopsis of the work the applicant wishes to present at the congress and (2) A brief letter of what the applicant hopes to gain by attending the relevant congress. The applicant should submit an abstract for presentation at the relevant national or international meeting. Should such an abstract not be

accepted by the relevant congress organising committee, the applicant will forfeit his or her sponsorship towards the congress. (Application can however be made well in advance of the relevant congress but will only be awarded on acceptance of the abstract.) A written report on the relevant congress attended will need to be submitted by the successful applicant within 6 weeks of attending the congress. The congress report will be published in the South African Heart Association Newsletter.

‘A gifted and enthusiastic teacher, he was instrumental in the training of generations of undergraduates.’

Applications should be sent to Prof Johan Brink, President of the Western Cape branch of the South African Heart Association, Chris Barnard Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Cape Heart Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town, Anzio Road, Observatory 7925 or alternatively email: johan.brink@uct.ac.za.

Previous recipients of this prestigious award include Sandrine Lecour, Roisin Kelle and Liesl Zühlke.

Applications close on 31 January 2017.