



## Guest Editor, Dr David Jankelow

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# A Masterclass

SA Heart® 2021: "A Masterclass" is almost here (29 - 31 October) and we are now getting really excited.

I wish to thank the SA Heart® board and the programme committee for entrusting me to again chair the Congress. This is our first virtual meeting and we are now in a new realm. Our programme, through a unique platform, EventMobi, will explore the latest science and advancements in the treatment of heart disease. We wish to stimulate a creative exchange of ideas with much collaboration and learning.

We obviously look forward to future face to face meetings, but a virtual meeting provides us with the opportunity to gather an almost unimaginable faculty - "the rock-stars of cardiology" - who will provide for a current overview of cardiovascular medicine. The most eminent local and international key opinion leaders are from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Israel, Italy, Ireland, Austria, Denmark, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, France, Canada, United States, Nigeria, Mozambique, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The vast majority of the presentations have already been recorded to ensure continuity, and to mitigate against the risks of power outages and broadband failure. Interactivity will be ensured with all chairs and speakers online for a twenty minute panel discussion at the end of each session. The latter will obviously also include moderated questions from the wider audience.

It has taken almost ten months of intense planning and organisation and "the dream team" of EventOptions have carefully guided us. Larra Jackson with her expertise in the virtual space and Sue McGuinness, who has organised many past successful SA Heart® congresses. In addition, Rob Millar has stepped in as our partner liaison – his role has been invaluable and we are grateful to the device and pharmaceutical industry for their generous support. We will host a large virtual exhibition with live interactive booths. We have built industry time into the programme for delegate engagement and I appeal to all attendees to visit every stand. SA Heart® values the role of industry, without which we could not hold any such meetings.

I am ecstatic that Lord Sebastain Coe will deliver the opening keynote address (29.10.2021 at 16h30) entitled, "The winning mind: what it takes to make a champion." He is a 4-time Olympic medallist, President of World Athletics, a former member of parliament and was chair of the Olympic Games, London 2012. His journey is inspirational. He recently told me that he has very strong views with respect to disease prevention and inequalities in healthcare delivery, made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The European Society of Cardiology (ESC) will integrate into SA Heart® 2021. The co-chairs of their 2021 Guidelines will present an update as to what is new in these latest clinical recommendations. We have included 5 joint plenaries with the ESC - valvular heart disease, heart failure, cardiac pacing and cardiovascular disease prevention.

We are delighted that Professor Eugene Braunwald will participate with a presentation, "Will coronary atherosclerosis be terminated?" Almost 3 decades ago, Professor John Barlow introduced him to President Nelson Mandela at the Division of Cardiology, Charlotte Maxeke Hospital. I reminded Professor Braunwald about this, to which he replied that meeting Nelson Mandela was one of the highlights of his life!

In addition, there will be plenaries – arrhythmias: an approach to common problems, coronary disease update, COVID-19: the heart of the matter, trials and tribulations, an abstract session, multimedia case-based presentations, as well as parallel paediatric, basic science and allied cardiac professional programmes. I look forward to an interesting CVD Imbizo (Women in Cardiology). The leadership shown in the latter is a lesson to each and every one of us clinicians. In addition, our annual cardiology for non-cardiologists symposium will be taken national. We will be giving all of these physicians and family practitioners access to the entire congress on the Saturday. This will also ensure that more delegates will visit the exhibition, which will add to industry-delegate engagement.

Our closing speaker is Professor Paul Friedman from the Mayo Clinic. He is an electrophysiologist and heads up their artificial intelligence cardiology programme. Paul will look to the future with an enlightening talk, "AI the next frontier – implications for Africa." Many of you will know that I am excited as to how disruptive technologies will enhance expertise and free us up from repetitive tasks, so that we can get back to the business of caring for our patients.

Professor Anton Doubell graciously messaged us to say that "SA Heart® 2021 is just like the Olympics, only the best will participate." I can't wait, so please go to [www.saheartcongress.org](http://www.saheartcongress.org) and register. It is going to be a scintillating cardiological and educational experience. I hope to see you all online on Friday 29 October.

My very best to you all.

**David Jankelow**