

ANNUAL REPORTS 2023

BRANCH REPORTS

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH

Branch committee

Ahmed Vachiat (President), Lebea Maimela (Vice), David Jenkelow (Treasurer), Farouk Mamdoo, Riaz Dawood, Ricardo Goncalves, Ruchika Meel, Richard Nethononda, Antoinette Cilliers, Pravin Manga, Don Zachariah and Rob Leibbrandt.

Last AGM of group / or proposed date of next AGM

The AGM will be held in the last quarter of 2023.

Succession plan and process

Elections at AGM.

Educational events held or involved with through year

Prof Paul Knappen Lecture

- Held on 24 January 2023.
- Sponsored by Vertice.

Prof Bernard Gersh Lecture

- Held on 24 April 2023.
- Sponsored by Novartis.

Special achievements

None.

Challenges experienced

Fellows involvement.

Grants, sponsorships and mentorship programmes

R50 000 to SA Heart® (50% restricted to Johannesburg Branch members and 50% unrestricted).

Goal for next year

Education seminars.

Financial report submitted?

Yes a financial report was submitted.

Ahmed Vachiat

President, Johannesburg Branch

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KWAZULU-NATAL BRANCH

Branch committee

Rohan Lutchman (President), Andrew Asherson (Treasurer), Pumeshin Bisetty (Secretary), Rob Dyer (Ex officio president), Darshan Reddy, Spa Zulu, Andiswa Mzimela and Himal Dama.

Last AGM of group / or proposed date of next AGM

Supply when?

Number of committee meetings in year

Four committee meetings were held this year.

One included all branch CME meetings held since the new leadership. The KwaZulu-Natal branch, prior to this, was inactive / stagnant. I therefore felt that it was pertinent to acknowledge the improvement

Prof Ralf Birkemeyer from Germany

- Held on 25 October 2022.
- Reasonable attendance of 15.
- Small meeting venue (extended to cardiologists only).
- Was good to kick off the first KwaZulu-Natal branch CME in over 2 years.

Prof Paul Knaapen from the Netherlands

- Held on 19 January 2023.
- Excellent turnout of over 50 delegates.
- Mixed group (cardiologists, nurses, techs, rads).

SA Heart® National Journal Club Virtual platform

- Held on 07 June 2023
- Well received as it dealt with the stress, strain and mental health issues within our fraternity.

Prof Elliot Smith from the United Kingdom

- Held on 08 June 2023
- Smaller meeting.
- More focused on cardiologists. Good turnout of 20.
- Nice to see a merging of the generations in KwaZulu-Natal.

Special achievements, impact or progress made

Since the new leadership, the KwaZulu-Natal branch seems more cohesive with better attendance amongst the cardiologists. Both the older and younger generations are well represented at the meetings. We have managed to host 4 CME meetings thus far, 3 face-to-face, 1 virtual. Whilst 2 were aimed purely for the cardiologists and were held at small venues, 1 meeting included all KwaZulu-Natal Branch SA Heart® members, and was very well supported across the allied and medical fraternity.

Challenges experienced

Cardiology in KwaZulu-Natal is still divided

- It is not easy getting everyone together into the same room. This stems largely from the politics amongst the older generation. An improvement has, however, been noted. But there is still a long road to travel.

Branch bank account

- The missing accounts have been an enigma, Fortunately, the money has not taken a walk. Thank you Erika for all the efforts! There is still some work to do, but we are not too far off.

Membership

- It is difficult getting new members to enroll with SA Heart®. I appeal at each meeting, but there is a general reluctance. How do I change this?

Goal for next year

Two more CME (branch meetings before the end of the year).

Cardiac imaging meeting.

- Aimed for mid-September.
- Local cardiologists and radiologists.

Local TAVI programme or use of OCT.

- Late November.
- Local Faculty (Dr Asherson or myself).

Start a local monthly journal club / challenging clinical case forum amongst the various practices in KwaZulu-Natal.

Financial report submitted?

Yes a financial report was submitted.

Rohan Lutchman

President, KwaZulu-Natal Branch

PRETORIA BRANCH

Branch committee

Iftikhar Ebrahim (Chairperson).

Last AGM of group / or proposed date of next AGM

Pre-COVID-19.

Succession plan and process

Expand branch committee to include cardiologists and allied professionals.

Educational events held or involved with through year

- The first face-to-face meeting of 2023 took place on 15 March 2023 with Dr Alkesh Magan, an endocrinologist from Johannesburg, as the Faculty. The meeting was sponsored by Pharma Dynamics and Novo Nordisk, attended by approximately 25 delegates.
- Second face-to-face meeting planned for September.

Special achievements

None.

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Challenges experienced

- To get colleagues involved in the Branch leadership structure.
- To ensure colleagues attendance of face-to-face meetings.

Grants, sponsorships and mentorship programmes

- No grants.
- All programmes are offered free of charge (no registration) to HCP delegates.

Goal for next year

- Expand Branch committee to include cardiologists and allied professionals.
- Host 3 face-to-face meetings.
- Include scope of meetings to include general practitioners.

Financial report submitted?

Yes a financial report was submitted.

Iftikhar Ebrahim

Chairperson, Pretoria Branch

WESTERN CAPE BRANCH

Branch committee

Chevaan Hendrickse (President), George Comitis (Vice President), Lloyd Joubert (Treasurer), John Lawrenson (Secretary), Blanche Cupido, Anton Doubell, Mpiko Ntsekhe, Barend Fourie and Natercia da Silva.

Last AGM of group / or proposed date of next AGM

Supply when?

Succession plan and process

No succession plan in progress. We will address this at further meetings.

Educational events held or involved with through year

2023 has been a readjustment to normality.

- In January 2023, we commenced with a very informative session on chronic total occlusion intervention. The international speaker was Prof Paul Knaapen who addressed the topic, "Wiring it". The meeting took place at the Crystal Towers, Cape Town and was sponsored by Vertice.
- The early part of the year was dominated by international Congresses and preparing for Africa PCR.
- In July 2023, we hosted the SA Heart® National Journal Club. Presenters included Dr Faizel Lorgat, Dr T. Pillay, Dr George Comitis and Dr Chevaan Hendrickse. The evening was well attended.
- We had wanted to schedule a Registrar M. Med / Research presentation evening, but may need to schedule this for the new year given the abundance of commitments and functions planned over the latter part of the year.
- Our closing session of the year will take place at Crystal Towers. This will be an evening hosted by the Western Cape branch and sponsored by Medtronic. We plan to host Prof Michael Bohm and his team who will be presenting various topics around heart failure. The evening has required tailoring of the agenda due to time and cost constraints. We budgeted for R50 000 and did not plan for a nationwide broadcast, but may plan a similar seminar next year with a broader reach, if feasible.

Special achievements

No major feedback on this topic.

Challenges experienced

- The challenge has been co-ordinating events around the general timetable as there are many Congresses and parallel meetings at play at any given time.
- More frequent brainstorming of ideas for branch meetings i.e. topics and implementation.
- The time pressure challenges of private practice also make daily and important administration a little challenging, but this is a minor issue.
- My Board has been very supportive and I still have to learn the art of skillful delegation.

Grants, sponsorships and mentorship programmes

The Western Cape Branch has generously allocated R100 000 toward sponsorships of delegates for the upcoming SA Heart® Congress 2023.

Goal for next year

- Start with a bang!
- Start with a Registrar / Researcher evening.
- Dedicate a slot to cardiac rehabilitation.
- Have at least 4 academic meetings excluding the Western Cape Journal Club.
- Incorporate the private sector more actively into meetings.

Financial report submitted?

Yes a financial report was submitted.

Chevaan Hendrickse
President, Western Cape Branch