

Meet the SA Heart® Sub-editors



RUCHIKA MEEL - EDITOR

Prof Ruchika Meel is a general cardiologist at Sandton Medi-Clinic and an associate professor at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. She has an interest in clinical cardiology and cardiovascular imaging. She has a passionate interest in research with to date 1 book publication, 4 book chapters and 47 research articles and over 60 congress presentations. Her Masters of Medicine research dissertation, awarded cum laude, was entitled "Time to fibrinolytics for acute myocardial infarction and reasons for delays at Steve Biko Academic Hospital, Pretoria". Her PhD thesis was an investigation of myocardial mechanics in chronic rheumatic mitral regurgitation. She is currently involved in research projects related to aortic aneurysms. She is actively involved in supervising and teaching MMED students, undergraduate and postgraduate medical students. She is a Fellow of European Society of Cardiology and European Association of Cardiovascular imaging. She is an executive member of the Cardiac Imaging Society of South Africa and education committee. She has received multiple awards for conference presentations and was the recipient of Carnegie doctoral and post-doctoral awards. She was awarded the prestigious T.H. Bothwell research prize in Internal Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand school of clinical medicine annual awards ceremony. She has recently been appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of the South African Heart® Association Journal.



ASHLEY CHIN

Prof Ashley Chin is a cardiologist and director of pacing and electrophysiology at Groote Schuur Hospital and UCT Private Academic Hospital. He is an associate professor at the University of Cape Town and an accredited electrophysiologist and device specialist by the International Board of Heart Rhythm Examiners (IBHRE). He is a Fellow of the Heart Rhythm Society (FHRS) and European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA). He is the immediate past president of the Cardiac Arrhythmia Society of Southern Africa (CASSA). He serves as an executive committee member of the African Heart Rhythm Association (AFHRA) and on the educational board of the World Society of Arrhythmias (WSA).



JOHN LAWRENSON

John Lawrenson is the former head of the paediatric cardiology service of the Western Cape Province. He is still actively involved in research and teaching at Red Cross Children's and Tygerberg Hospitals.



ELENA LIBHABER

Prof Elena Libhaber has a degree in Chemistry from the University of Buenos Aires, MSc in Biochemistry, University of Tel Aviv, MSc in Research Methodology and Statistics and PhD in Physiology from the University of the Witwatersrand. She is now a visiting professor of Research Methodology and Statistics at the Health Sciences Research Office and at the School of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand and honorary associate professor of the Department of Medicine at the Faculty of Health Sciences at University of Cape Town. To date she has supervised a multiple of PhD, MSc, and MMed students. She is in charge of the biostatistical support at the Wits Health Sciences Faculty Research Office. Also collaborates with the Cape Heart Institute of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town. To date she has over 95 peer-reviewed published articles.



MAMOTABO MATSHELA

I am a qualified cardiologist and associate professor of medicine, and an advanced cardiovascular researcher. Apart from being a cardiologist with continued interest research, I'm a cardiovascular imaging specialist primarily focusing on advanced echocardiography and also cardiac MRI.

For at least a decade now I have been much focused on advanced research and special areas of interest among others include qualitative research, cardiovascular health disparities, cardio-oncology, cardio-obstetrics, pericardial diseases, heart failure, and pulmonary hypertension. I have presented and chaired both local and international sessions mostly on multimodality imaging. Most of my research presentations encompasses subclinical myocardial mechanical dysfunction (application of speckle tracking) in cardiovascular diseases particularly in pericardial diseases and heart failure.

I have been a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology (previously IAACC) and European Society of Cardiology for at least 7 years, actively participating within multiple committees and councils including stroke, cardio-oncology, heart failure, imaging (radiology), myo-pericardial and more. For a couple of years now I have consistently participated at both the ACC and ESC conferences, as an attendee, presenter and chairperson. In addition, I am a Fellowship of the pulmonary vascular research institute (FPVRI) since 2010 to-date.

Furthermore, I have been a regular member of the American Heart Association (AHA) since 2013, then subsequently a premier professional member of the AHA for 3 years now and active within the following councils i.e. Council on Clinical (CLCD, primary) and CVS radiology and Intervention (secondary), and also participate within the women forums.

I have been a member of the SAHA, previously part of the South Africa Heart Association's education committee before moving to the Mayo Clinic for my doctoral and post-doctoral studies. While away I continued as an international member of the SAHA. During my educational endeavours with the Mayo Clinic, I continued to serve within the education committee (MRFA) as an educational chair for the Mayo 2 Clinic International Fellows where I actively participated in multiple meetings and also involved with arranging conferences and other gatherings.

Ever since I also served as a tutor, lecturer, mentor and supervisor (co-supervisor) and expanded all these duties to South Africa where I continue as a mentor for B.Tech, Masters and PhD students.

Although I have just joined the "Joint Medical Holdings' group", I continue as a research collaborator with the Mayo Clinic (and University of KwaZulu-Natal) and also within the executive educational programme of the University of Minnesota while at the same time continuing to champion my collaborative research and clinical endeavours with others.

Last but not least, thank you for inviting me to be part of the SA Heart® Journal as a sub-editor. It will be an honour and privilege to be part of this organisation and wish to play my part and contribute immensely towards the mission of this Journal. I do understand the role and responsibilities of the sub-editor and looking forward to contributing, face challenges and forge growth moving forward.

Hopefully I will bring my skills, valuable interests and academic knowledge to the Journal.

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KEIR McCUTCHEON

I grew up in Johannesburg and completed my BSc, MSc and MBBCh (in 2003) at the University of the Witwatersrand. I then completed my FCP (SA) (Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital and the Wits Academic Hospital circuit) and cardiology (Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital) in Johannesburg in 2012. I worked as a consultant cardiologist in Johannesburg for 3 years while completing my PhD research before moving overseas for further training. In 2018, I completed a 2-year fellowship in interventional cardiology in Belgium (University Hospitals, Leuven (UZL)). After my fellowship, I was appointed as permanent staff / interventional cardiologist at UZL and assistant professor at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL). In mid-2021 I moved to Newcastle upon Tyne in the United Kingdom and after 18 months in the NHS, I opted to start my own cardiology practice in Windhoek, Namibia, where I live with my wife, Lindsay, and 2 daughters.



PHILASANDE MKOKO

Dr Philasande Mkoko is a European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) certified cardiac electrophysiology specialist. Philasande graduated with a MBChB degree at MEDUNSA in 2008 and did his internship at Groote Schuur Hospital from 2009 - 2010. He spent a year of community service at Livingstone Hospital and Dora Nginza Hospital in 2011. He returned to Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town to train in Internal Medicine. He graduated with a MMed degree at the University of Cape Town in 2015 and an FCP (Internal Medicine) in 2015. In 2016, he spent time as a consultant physician and head of the Department of Medicine at Dora Nginza Hospital Internal Medicine in Gqeberha. He graduated with a Certificate in cardiology from the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa in 2019, a Certificate in interventional electrophysiology with the European Heart Rhythm Association in 2021 and a MPhil (Cardiology) in 2022. Philasande worked as a cardiologist and clinical lead in cardiac pacing and electrophysiology at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital and the University of the Witwatersrand from 2022 - 2023. Philasande specialises in percutaneous treatment with catheter ablation of abnormal heart rhythms, including atrial fibrillation (AF), ventricular tachycardias (VT), premature ventricular complexes (PVCs) and advanced heart failure management with cardiac resynchronisation and implantable cardioverter defibrillators.



ARTHUR K. MUTYABA

Dr Arthur K. Mutyaba is a cardiologist at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital where he is interventional cardiologist and director of the cardiac catheterisation laboratory. He completed undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the University of Cape Town before undertaking a fellowship in interventional cardiology at Sunninghill Hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa. In his current role, he oversees the daily clinical and administrative activities of the catheterisation laboratory as well as the training of 8 cardiology Fellows.



ANUPA PATEL

Dr Anupa Patel is a senior cardiologist and clinical lecturer at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital and the University of Witwatersrand where she is the imaging lead in the Division of Cardiology. She has training and experience in advanced cardiac imaging including echocardiography and cardiac CT and has a special interest in structural heart disease.

**DARSHAN REDDY**

Dr Darshan Reddy is a cardiothoracic surgeon practicing at the Lenmed Ethekwini Hospital and Heart Centre in Durban.

Dr Reddy completed his undergraduate medical degree at the University of Cape Town and his cardiothoracic surgical training at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, completing both a Masters in medicine and the Fellowship of the Colleges of Cardiothoracic Surgeons of South Africa. Dr Reddy spent a year as a visiting clinical lecturer in paediatric cardiac surgery at the University of Michigan and has a special interest in the surgical treatment of paediatric and congenital heart disease.

Dr Reddy holds leadership positions in the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), the World Society of Paediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery (WSPCHS), and the African Society of Paediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery (ASPCHS). His interests include complex neonatal cardiac surgery and rheumatic mitral valve repair.

**MUHAMMED TALLE**

Dr Muhammed Talle graduated with an MBBS from the University of Maiduguri (Nigeria) in 1998 and joined the services of the College of Medical Sciences, University of Maiduguri, as a medical research Fellow in 2002. He obtained a Fellowship from the West African College of Physicians in Internal Medicine / Cardiology in October 2008. He had 2 years of additional training in cardiology at Tygerberg Hospital / Stellenbosch University as a supernumerary international Fellow from 2008 - 2010. Dr Talle also obtained a MSc in human physiology from the University of Maiduguri (2007), and a MSc (MedSc) in cardiovascular sciences with distinction from the University of Glasgow (2015). He was awarded a PhD in medicine by Stellenbosch University in December 2023.

Currently, he is a professor of medicine at the University of Maiduguri and an honorary consultant physician / cardiologist at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital. His areas of interest include hypertension, cardiomyopathy, heart failure, sudden cardiac death, cardiac imaging, biomarkers, and nephrocardiology. Dr Talle is involved in national and international collaborative research and has published more than 70 papers in peer-reviewed journals. In addition to serving on the editorial board of Borno Medical Journal and Nigerian Journal of Cardiology, he is a reviewer to numerous academic journals.

Dr Talle is an assessor at the West African College of Physicians. He served as a member of the National Research Fund Screening and Monitoring Committee (2019 - 2023), responsible for assessing proposals and monitoring the conduct / progress of research funded by TETFund in Nigeria; and is a member of the Standing Committee on Research and Development (TETFund, 2020).