

## SA HEART® CONGRESS 2017 - MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Dear Colleagues, Industry partners and members of the cardiovascular community**

The South African Heart® Association is pleased to welcome you to the 18th Annual Congress of the South African Heart® Association, held for the first time at the Sandton Convention Centre.

We are thrilled that you have joined us at this, our annual meeting, which brings together professionals from all aspects of the cardiovascular community to share knowledge and expertise, network with colleagues and faculty, and consider the fundamentals of cardiovascular medicine as we highlight innovation and invention.

My thanks to the scientific committee, under the leadership of Dr David Jankelow, and the amazing Europa Africa Organisation team who have crafted a wonderful scientific programme to address all interests and expertise, with streams on interventional cardiology, imaging, paediatric cardiology, cardiac surgery, adult heart diseases, intensive care and nursing.

The South African Heart® Association is proud to present our first congress in this wonderful venue as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of one of the greatest innovations in our discipline. Chris Barnard was not only a surgeon, but also a true innovator with strong roots in the fundamentals of cardiology and cardiac surgery.

We wish you all a stimulating and exciting conference experience as we take the values of Chris Barnard forward, in our congress, and in our work.

**Liesl Zühlke**  
**SA Heart® Association President**



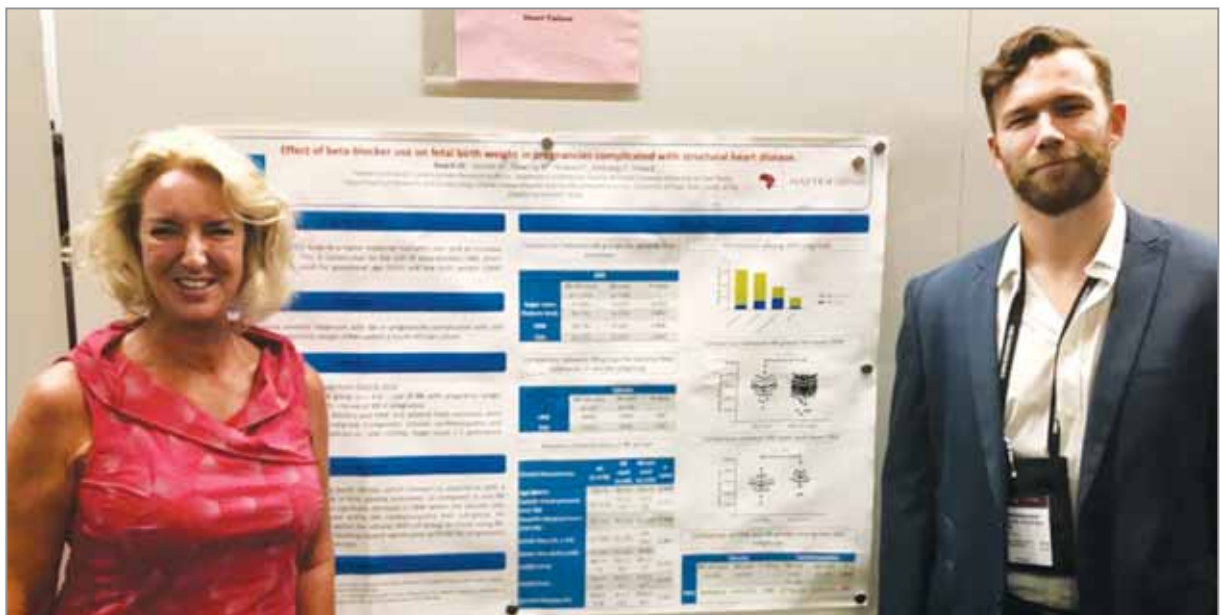
FEEDBACK FROM ESC CONGRESS 2017



**DR JOHANN BAARD, RECIPIENT OF A HEFSSA EDUCATIONAL AWARD, PRESENTED ON “BETA-BLOCKER USAGE FOR STRUCTURAL HEART DISEASE IN PREGNANCY” AT THE ESC CONGRESS IN BARCELONA**

The European Society of Cardiology Congress is an established world-leading congress where scientists, and clinicians alike, meet to share their prevention and

treatment strategies on all aspects of cardiovascular disease. This congress provided me with the opportunity to share my research on “Beta-blocker Usage for



Prof Karen Sliwa (Director) and Dr Johann Baard (Research Officer) from the Hatter institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa at the ESC Congress 2017.



PPCM Investigators meeting at ESC Congress 2017, Barcelona.

Structural Heart Disease in Pregnancy" in poster form and thereby gain valuable feedback from leading experts in this particular field. Not only was this a great opportunity to gain recognition for our research and institution, but it also allowed for networking with other professionals interested in the field of cardiovascular disease in pregnancy. In particular, I made connections with those wishing to collaborate with our institute in the future as we have a unique cohort of subjects.

Another beneficial aspect of attending the congress was the knowledge gained and the opportunity it allowed to observe what other researchers in this field are focusing on. It helped me gauge which aspects I should focus on going forward and to evaluate what would be most beneficial for our institute and the burden of cardiovascular disease in pregnancy in South Africa. I will highlight a few of the outstanding talks from which I gained a wealth of knowledge. There were updates on Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) and its epidemiological data, from both South Africa and China, presented by our own L.J. Zühlke and Y. Chen, respectively. Prof P. Zilla presented on the timing of surgical intervention in RHD patients, which is highly relevant for the group of patients we work with. An entire section was dedicated to posters focusing on the outcomes of pregnancy in women with congenital heart disease, shedding light in particular on atrial septal defect repair in pregnancy.

I also had the opportunity to attend investigator meetings for other observational studies we are involved with, namely the ROPAC and PPCM studies. Meeting with other investigators from around the globe resulted in me developing new ideas on how to improve patient recruitment as well as the quality of our research.

‘ Another beneficial aspect of attending the congress was the knowledge gained. ’

In conclusion, I was fortunate to be offered the opportunity to attend the ESC congress through a HeFSSA educational award and I believe that I will use my newly gained knowledge positively in my ongoing research at the Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa.

## POPULAR CONGRESSES FOR 2017/2018

CONGRESS	DATE	CITY	COUNTRY
CSI AFRICA <a href="http://www.csi-congress.org/csi-africa.php">http://www.csi-congress.org/csi-africa.php</a>	1 - 2 December 2017	Nairobi	Kenya
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST HEART TRANSPLANT <a href="http://www.londocor.co.za/index.php/events/calendar-view/medical-congress/50th-anniversary-of-the-first-heart-transplant">http://www.londocor.co.za/index.php/events/calendar-view/medical-congress/50th-anniversary-of-the-first-heart-transplant</a>	2 - 5 December 2017	Groote Schuur, Cape Town	South Africa
1ST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HYPERTENSION IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS (ICHCA) <a href="http://www.htpaediatrics.com">http://www.htpaediatrics.com</a>	9 - 11 February 2018	Valencia	Spain
CASSA SYMPOSIUM JOHANNESBURG <a href="mailto:elouise@shiftideas.co.za">elouise@shiftideas.co.za</a>	17 February 2018	Johannesburg	South Africa
23RD EUROPEAN HEART DISEASE AND HEART FAILURE CONGRESS <a href="http://www.heartdiseases.conferenceseries.com">http://www.heartdiseases.conferenceseries.com</a>	19 - 21 February 2018	Paris	France
JIM (JOINT INTERVENTIONAL MEETING) <a href="http://www.jim-vascular.com">http://www.jim-vascular.com</a>	22 - 24 February 2018	Milano	Italy
CASSA SYMPOSIUM CAPE TOWN <a href="mailto:elouise@shiftideas.co.za">elouise@shiftideas.co.za</a>	24 February 2018	Cape Town	South Africa
ACC SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS <a href="https://accscientificsession.acc.org">https://accscientificsession.acc.org</a>	10 - 12 March 2018	Orlandao	United States of America
AFRICA PCR <a href="http://www.africapcr.com">http://www.africapcr.com</a>	25 - 27 March 2018	Cape Town	South Africa
86TH EAS CONGRESS <a href="http://www.eas2018.com">http://www.eas2018.com</a>	5 - 8 May 2018	Lisbon	Portugal
ESC CONGRESS <a href="http://www.escardio.org">http://www.escardio.org</a>	25 - 29 August 2018	München	Germany
TRANSCATHETER CARDIOVASCULAR THERAPEUTICS (TCT) 2018 <a href="http://www.crf.org">http://www.crf.org</a>	21 - 25 September 2018	San Diego	United States of America
AFCC - 23RD AESAN FEDERATION OF CARDIOLOGY CONGRESS <a href="http://afccbkk2018.com">http://afccbkk2018.com</a>	29 September - 1 October 2018	Bangkok	Thailand

## POPULAR CONGRESSES FOR 2017/2018 continued

CONGRESS	DATE	CITY	COUNTRY
19TH ANNUAL SA HEART® CONGRESS <a href="http://www.saheart.org/congress2018">http://www.saheart.org/congress2018</a>	4 - 7 October 2018	Sun City	South Africa
34TH WORLD CONGRESS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE <a href="http://www.wcim2018.com">http://www.wcim2018.com</a>	18 - 21 October 2018	Cape Town	South Africa
AHA SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS <a href="http://ahascientificsessions.org">http://ahascientificsessions.org</a>	10 - 14 November 2018	Chicago	United States of America

Please also consult the SA Heart® website at [www.saheart.org](http://www.saheart.org) for constant updates to this list as well as local training opportunities offered by SA Heart®, SIGs and other role players.

## SA HEART® ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



All members are invited to the SA Heart® AGM starting at 17h30 on Friday 10 November in the Bill Gallagher Room of the Sandton ICC.

Ordinary members of SA Heart® are urged to partake in the online election of office bearers of SA Heart®. Details have been circulated via email.



## WEBSITE LINKS

SA Heart®	<a href="http://www.saheart.org">www.saheart.org</a>
CASSA	<a href="http://www.cassa.co.za">www.cassa.co.za</a>
HeFSSA	<a href="http://www.hefssa.org">www.hefssa.org</a>
PASCAR	<a href="http://www.pascar.org">www.pascar.org</a>
PCSSA	<a href="http://www.saheart.org/pcssa">www.saheart.org/pcssa</a>
SASCAR (Research)	<a href="http://www.sascar.org.za">www.sascar.org.za</a>
SASCI	<a href="http://www.sasci.co.za">www.sasci.co.za</a>
ACC	<a href="http://www.acc.org">www.acc.org</a>
ESC	<a href="http://www.escardio.org">www.escardio.org</a>
World Heart	<a href="http://www.world-heart-federation.org">www.world-heart-federation.org</a>



## ANNUAL REPORTS 2017

### THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION 2017

#### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

This has been an extremely busy year and it is hard to believe that we are facing the last quarter of 2017. I hope that you have enjoyed a productive and fulfilling 2017 thus far. In terms of SA Heart®, it has been a challenging year, but also one filled with new opportunities and collaborations.

#### SA Heart® and the cardiology community

This year a major aim was to further the reach of SA Heart® to the broader community - including the public, departments of Health and affiliated cardiac associations. In terms of cardiac associations and cardiac events, we continued to strengthen our links with the ESC Congress and WHF. SA Heart® was invited to the World Summit of Circulatory Disease which was held in Singapore under the auspices of the WHF (as well as the summit held in Khartoum, Sudan, which we were sadly unable to attend) and we contributed to the discourse regarding the tackling of NCDs and circulatory disease in developing countries. We have been invited to join the Global Coalition on Circulatory Disease under the auspices of the WHF. We also partook in at least 3 major international meetings this year - the World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery in Barcelona in July 2017 (attended by several SA Heart® members as delegates and faculty), ESC Congress in Barcelona in August 2017 (again a large representation from SA Heart® as delegates and faculty) and PASCAR in Khartoum, Sudan. Several other international meetings, e.g. EuroPCR and EACTS, had significant SA Heart® representation. SA Heart® hosted a joint session in Barcelona at the ESC Congress which was very well attended indeed and we will host a further session this November at the American Heart Association where Profs Ntusi and Engel will represent SA Heart®. At ACC in the USA in March we were represented by Prof Delport who also presented the STEMI SA project, another SA Heart® initiative. As SA Heart®, we contributed to 2 important papers this year: Infective Endocarditis Guidelines (just recently published in the SA Heart® journal) and the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) Guidelines endorsed by SA Heart® (<http://saheart.org/cms/attachment/97>).

#### SA Heart® and the community

SA Heart® has also had a busy year in the social media and the press. Our Facebook and Twitter sites are active and busy with some posts reaching over 500 people and videos with over 700 views. Our Facebook site is <https://web.facebook.com/SAHeartassociation/> and our Twitter handle is @SAHeart\_ZA with our hashtag #SAHeartforyou. World Heart Day 2017 was celebrated in Cape Town, Durban and a few other centres and we were able to participate in some of the events. This is an important opportunity to highlight the importance of CVD and



Prof Liesl Zühlke, Prof Pamela Naidoo (Heart and Stroke Foundation SA) and Prof Karen Sliwa celebrating World Heart Day.



Prof Pamela Naidoo, Prof Karen Sliwa, Minister Mbombo (MEC) for Health Western Cape, Prof Liesl Zühlke and Dr Keith Cloete visiting the aquarium.

the prevention and control avenues which we can use. Please like our posts and follow us on Twitter. We hope to focus on active interventions next year as well as posting patient and community information. If you have any suggestions, we look forward to hearing from you. There were several media moments this year as well - Expresso for Rheumatic Heart Disease Week, Drum magazine to focus on Congenital Heart Disease and The Cape Times in Cape Town to draw attention to heart disease prevention, together with several radio interviews, especially during Heart Month. You can read some of these here (<https://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/opinion/its-vital-to-curb-heart-disease-among-our-women-young-people-11520749>). SA Heart® is increasingly being contacted for quotes and interviews in response to the burden of cardiovascular disease in this country, an important position for us to assume. We hope to outsource some of the social media activities in the coming year in order to create a social media strategy with definitive goals throughout the year.

### **SA Heart® and the Department of Health**

In the course of this year, SA Heart® was also involved in a special initiative to engage with the Department of Health around the vision for cardiovascular disease 2030. A core group, consisting of Profs Mokotoko, Sarkin, Smit, Zühlke and Drs Mabin and Singh, facilitated by the Crossroads initiative, met several times to plan a proposal to government which culminated in a presentation by Dr Singh (with less than 48 hours' notice!). You can read the proposal here (<http://saheart.org/agm-reports/viewFile/41>) and access the PowerPoint presentation to government here (<http://saheart.org/agm-reports/viewFile/40>). We are continuing this engagement with a further meeting with the National Department of Health. Our cardiovascular Imbizo within the Congress is also geared to have these important conversations. We are trusting that SA Heart® will assume a position as an opinion leader in the CVD space as we in the country, and in the continent, continue to grapple with these important questions.

### **Every member is important**

It is very encouraging to see new members within the branch committees, as well as within SIG executives and on our national council. Together with the experienced members, these new members are bringing enthusiasm and new energy into our association. It is critical that the cardiology and cardiovascular community increasingly represent, and include, new fellows and registrars who become involved in different areas of our association. Please remember that there are science, research and educational opportunities for all members, especially those in training.

At the end of 2016, we awarded the SA Heart® research grant to Dr Riette du Toit and a travel grant to Dr Bradley Griffiths which he used to present at EuroPCR in 2017. This year we were disappointed at the few applicants for the quarterly travel grant and annual research grant. Please apply for these, as well as for allied grant opportunities such as those within the ESC Congress or ACC (with endorsement from central office and regular paid-up membership to SA Heart®).

I encourage everyone to register via the membership portal, thus ensuring that you may nominate, vote and stand for positions in the future, but also so that we are able to contact you for such relevant opportunities. Each year we are concerned at the lack of participation in the nomination and voting rounds and this year, sadly, was no different. Please ensure that your information is up to date on the portal so that we can register a different response in the future. We also encourage everyone to use our website to access information, calendars and future meetings. We also use our Facebook and Twitter site for dissemination of this information.

### **Some notable achievements in our community**

We have had some important achievements, recognised nationally and internationally, in our community over the past year. Our Vice President, Prof Lungile Pepeta, Head of Paediatrics and Paediatric Cardiology at Dora Nginza Hospital was appointed as Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Nelson Mandela University in January 2017. He will be the first dean of this medical school and thus has an enormous responsibility resting on his shoulders. He is currently also serving as the President of the Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa and Executive Member of the South African Paediatric Association. We wish Lungile well in his new position.

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## ANNUAL REPORTS continued



Dr Scherman, Profs Zilla and Bezuidenhout and Heather Coombes.



Prof Alexandre Mabazaa, Prof Karen Sliwa, Prof Etienne Gayat and Dr Ferial Azabani.

Prof Peter Zilla's team recently attained first and second place in the annual innovation award division of the European Association of Cardiothoracic Surgery (EACTS) in Austria. SAT (Strait Access Technologies) is a UCT spin-off company of the Chris Barnard Division that was founded in 2008. Its goal is to develop heart valve prostheses for mainly young patients with rheumatic heart disease who live in low- to middle-income countries and who have no access to open heart surgery. The team have developed heart valve devices that are affordable, durable and easily implantable. The prize winners were Dr Jacques Scherman and Dr Gottardi, from Austria, who spent time at SAT to develop a balloon product to be used during endo-vascular implants. Read the official report of the prestigious event here – excerpts of the EACTS Newsletter Sunday, 8 October 2017 (<http://saheart.org/home/agm-reports/viewFile/42>).

Another innovation prize was recently awarded to Paediatric cardiologist, Dr Nikki Van Niekerk, for her work on pulse oximetry screening. This work screened new-borns for critical congenital heart disease and won a film award this year to highlight the need for early diagnosis and screening in this population. The YouTube video can be viewed at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBxC3LK8j9Y&feature=share>).

Our immediate past-president, Karen Sliwa, will be awarded an honorary doctorate from the Sorbonne University in Paris in October. This is a singular honour and we congratulate Karen on this tremendous achievement in recognition of her work in Africa, and in particular her mentorship of students and researchers across our continent.

Finally, in what has been hailed the “biggest breakthrough in South African cardiology since Dr Chris Barnard's first heart transplant” nearly 50 years ago, South African and Italian medical researchers have identified a gene that is a major cause of sudden death among young people and athletes. Prof Bongani Mayosi, a former SA Heart® President, led the team that discovered the gene, called CDH2, which causes arrhythmogenic right ventricle cardiomyopathy (ARVC). Heartiest congratulations to him and the team on this amazing discovery, published in *Circulation Cardiovascular genetics* (<http://saheart.org/client/publications/viewFile/60>).

Our community is one of cutting edge innovators and leaders. Please let us know if there is a notable achievement in your branch, or SIG, so that we can spread the news on our website and social media in order to continue inspiring our fellows and registrars.

### Fundamentals to Innovation

Our congress is almost here and we owe Europa Organisation Africa, under the guidance of Sue McGuinness, a huge debt of gratitude. Sue and her team took over the congress organisation in May this year after SA Heart® released MCI from their contract. It has been quite a challenging time, especially with the current financial climate, the extremely modest financial result of the 2016 congress and our new venue, but Sue and her team, together with David Jankelow



and his team, have done an amazing job in a very short period of time. We are all looking forward to what is sure to be a wonderful congress and outstanding scientific meeting. This year we will also be recording some of the sessions which will go onto a new portal called "Your SAHeart" which will allow members, who have not attended the event, to listen to the major talks and gain CPD points. We hope to expand this initiative next year and to thus provide a new opportunity for education through this portal.

Dr Iftikhar Ibrahim and the Pretoria branch will be hosting the 2018 congress. We are still in negotiations regarding the venue, but the exciting theme is "What is the future?" This congress is our premier event so please plan your clinics and programme around it!

### **Important joint activities**

These have continued with excellent issues from our SA Heart® journal launched together with a new journal website. We encourage all to continue contributing, especially your original research for consideration. SHARE has had a good year with presentation at Africa PCR and the ESC Congress and continued funding for 2018. Our regional branches have all been very active with several local meetings with high attendance. Our ethics and guidelines committee, under the direction of Dr Eric Klug, has been reviewing key documents throughout the year and SASCI, together with Drs JP Theron and David Jankelow, have provided important advice related to private practice matters. Finally, Prof Ntusi and Dr Tawada Batau have provided educational and research support to those working in full-time salaried positions. We anticipate further developments in this area over the next year as we find ourselves on a more stable financial footing.

This year I have relied heavily on members of the National Advisory Council, the SA Heart® executive committee, the heads of all the standing committees (with representatives from all SIGS), the editor of the SA Heart® Journal and the chairperson of SHARE, as well as the chairs of each of the SIGS and regional branches and board of directors, some of whom are stepping down after these coming elections. I would like to thank each one of you for your commitment to SA Heart® and the time and energy given to your portfolios.

I would also like to express my thanks to Prof Karen Sliwa-Hähnle, in her immediate past-president capacity, for her engagement in all things SA Heart® and her kind assistance. My thanks and appreciation also to the entire National Council, SIG presidents, Prof Ntsekhe and Elizabeth Shaafsma from SHARE, Profs Doubell and Lecour and the team from our Journal. The Committee chairs: Profs Ntusi (full-time salaried), Dr Klug (ethics and guidelines), Dr Tawanda Batau (education) and Dr JP Theron (private practice) are to be commended for their support and assistance this year. My sincere thanks to the members of the SA Heart® Board: Prof Francis Smit, Prof Pravin Manga, Dr Hopewell Ntsinjana, Dr Paul Adams, Dr Sajidah Khan and Dr Vash Mungal-Singh who have provided sage advice and commitment during this year.

Please support your executive and the committees by actively participating and communicating your concerns, ideas and praises. Any Association is always only as vibrant and enthusiastic as its individual members are. I look forward to partnering with you all to elevate the message of CVD in South Africa and to consolidate the wonderful efforts of the previous SA Heart® executives.

My personal thanks and utmost appreciation goes to Ms Erika Dau, who is amazing in her tireless devotion to our association and who constantly gives of her commitment, eye for detail and her boundless energy. We are very lucky to have her in our association.

I look forward to meeting you all at SIG, branch and committee meetings, or SA Heart® Congress 2017. Please feel free to email me directly with any comments, suggestions or concerns.

**Liesl Zühlke, SA Heart® Association President**

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## ANNUAL REPORTS 2017

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

##### Members

Tawanda Butau (Chairperson), Johan Brink, Ashley Chin, Antoinette Cilliers, Ruan Louw, Martin Mpe, Andiswa Nzimela, Mpiko Ntsekhe, Hopewell Ntsinjana and Nqoba Tsabedze.

##### Sub-committee

All heads of cardiology departments

##### SA Heart® events calendar

The number of events taking place during the course of the year has grown tremendously, so much so that there is now a need for a central calendar to try and avoid clashes and duplication. There are many events that are now regular and consistent features (SunEcho, New Horizons Echocardiography, Crossroads, HeFFSA lecture series, CASSA symposium, cardiology Fellows meeting) and some that are becoming well established and well attended (ISCAP lecture series). Sadly, as a result of this, the SA Heart® lecture series has become a casualty. Having been asked to be a speaker myself for this event, I felt (in consultation with committee members) that this particular series was an unnecessary duplication. It remains a challenge for the committee to come up with a unique educational event that can be rolled-out across the country. The Cardiac disease in Pregnancy symposium is a new and exciting educational event that is an ideal learning opportunity for members to increase their knowledge about this special group of vulnerable patients. Lecture series on hypertension and lipidology have also been presented countrywide and have kindly been supported by our industry partners.

##### Current status of training in cardiology

One of the tasks allocated to me at our national executive meeting was to formalise the function of the Education committee. I felt it was necessary to keep the society at large apprised with the current status of training at the various training units. Below is a summary of the number of trainees, both adult and paediatric, at each of the training units.

It should be noted that though the above numbers appear reasonable overall, a significant percentage of these posts are self-funded, or supernumerary posts. I have not indicated the through-put of candidates at each unit as this information is now regularly published in the SA Heart® journal. Armed with this information, the next step should be to assist the heads of departments, where possible, with the education-related needs of the various training units.

INSTITUTION	NUMBER OF ADULT FELLOWS	NUMBER OF PAEDIATRIC FELLOWS
UFS	2	0 – Posts frozen
WITS – CM	8	1
WITS – BARAGWANATH	5	4
UCT - GSH	6	N/A
SU - TBH	5	N/A
RXH	N/A	2
UKZN	5	2
UP	3	3
WSU - PE	N/A	2
SMU - GM	3	N/A

UFS = University of Free State; Wits - CM = University of Witwatersrand - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital; Wits - Baragwanath = University of Witwatersrand - Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital; UCT - GSH = University of Cape Town - Groote Schuur Hospital; SU - TBH = Stellenbosch University - Tygerberg Hospital; RXH = Red Cross Children's Hospital; UKZN = University of KwaZulu-Natal; UP = University of Pretoria; WSU = Walter Sisulu University - Port Elizabeth Hospitals; SMU - GM = Sefako Makgatho University - George Mukhari Hospital; N/A = not applicable/sub-speciality training not available.

In addition, the role of the education committee should be to ensure that the overall quality of educational activities remains at the highest level. Numerous challenges lie ahead regarding to the funding structures of educational activities and congresses in 2018. Perhaps the committee may have a bigger role to play going forward.

### **International representation at meetings**

SA Heart® remains well represented at international meetings, such as EuroPCR and ESC, both by attending delegates as well as speakers which facilitate, or chair, various sessions. Our society is becoming more recognised which, in turn, is fostering many collaborations in training and research. Locally, AfricaPCR has become an established event with many regional and international delegates attending.

I would like to thank the out-going Chairperson of the Education Committee, Martin Mpe, for his assistance in handing-over to the new committee and his continued assistance in the educational activities of the organisation. It remains logistically difficult for the committee to meet, but I thank members for their continued willingness to serve.

**Tawanda Butau, Chairperson of the Education Committee**

## **ETHICS AND GUIDELINES COMMITTEE**

### **Members**

Eric Klug (Chairman), Cobus Badenhorst, George Comitis, Antoinette Cilliers, James Fulton, Firoza Motara, Pro Obel, Les Osrin and Alfonso Pecoraro.

### **Overall vision**

- Review and contribute to all Guidelines involving structures of SA Heart®
- Review requests for Guideline endorsements by other organisations
- Review requests and provide guidance on ethical issues
- Develop a public awareness campaign relating to Evidence Based Medicine – twitter/facebook
- Develop a communication channel with Department of Health
- Develop a communication channel with private health funders
- Develop a relationship with ESC Guideline Committee

### **Guideline activities 2017**

- Intravenous iron national consensus paper – in press
- Sugar tax – comments contributed
- CRT-P/CRT-D/ICD SHARE registry document – in planning
- Acute MI WHF Guideline for low income countries – rejected
- Revised HFrEF guideline (2013) – meeting October 2017
- Revised dyslipidaemia guideline (2012) – meeting November 2017

### **Requests in pipe-line**

HS Troponin NSTEMI Guideline

### **Ethic Activities 2017**

No consultation was sought regarding substantive ethical issues. This aspect of the committee needs to be developed.

**Eric Klug, Chairman, Ethics and Guidelines Committee**

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## ANNUAL REPORTS continued

### PRIVATE PRACTICE COMMITTEE

#### Members

Jean Paul Theron, David Jankelow, Martin Mpe, Jeff Harrisberg, Mark Abelson, Larry Rampini, Daryl Smith and Andrew Thornton.

The work of the SA Heart® PPC remains closely intertwined with that of the SASCI PPC.

For a report on the activities please refer to the PPC section of the SASCI annual report.

#### **Jean Paul Theron, Chairman, Private Practice Committee of SA Heart®**

### SA HEART® FULLTIME SALARIED PRACTICE COMMITTEE

#### Members

Ashley Chin, John Hewitson, Paul Adams, Lungile Pepeta and Makoali Makotoko.

This year's agenda focused on defining the role of this committee, as many of its previous functions seemed to overlap with other SA Heart® SIGs. We provided input to the cardiovascular section of Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List for Primary Healthcare (2016 - 2018). We contributed to the discussions on the future of cardiology in South Africa and a Comprehensive Cardiovascular Disease Action Plan, in conjunction with the National Department of Health. Prof Makotoko has been particularly active as a member of the steering committee for the Strategic Operational Plan for Cardiovascular Disease in South Africa. There has been talk about how the Salaried Practice Committee may contribute to streamlining the tender processes to improve the availability of cardiovascular medicines in public hospitals; however, there has not been any progress on this as unique challenges, related to institution- and province-specific issues, seem to exist.

Going forward, the committee will focus on aligning the curriculum for training of cardiologists with the national agenda. Furthermore, there have been suggestions that the committee consider its role in efforts to combat the rising tide of NCDs, and in particular cardiovascular disease in South Africa.

#### **Ntobeko Ntusi, Chairperson of the SA Heart® Fulltime Salaried Committee**

### SA HEART® JOURNAL AND NEWSLETTER

#### Editor

Anton Doubell

#### Sub-Editors

Sandrine Lecour – basic sciences, Ntobeko Ntusi – cardiac imaging and adult cardiology, Jacques Janson – cardiac surgery, Derick van Vuuren – digital communication and Stephen Brown – paediatric cardiology and intervention.

#### Editor SA Heart® Newsletter

Sajidah Khan

This was the inaugural year for the restructured editorial team of the SA Heart® Journal and good progress was made towards achieving our objectives.

- Sandrine Lecour's input as the sub-editor for basic science has ensured regular contributions of high standard from the basic science community. She is also developing standard operating procedures for the submission and review of articles.

- Derick van Vuuren, who is looking after digital communication, including the optimisation of our online journal, development of an online submission system and an online review process has seen to it that on-line electronic submission of manuscripts was initiated during this year.
- Jacques Janson (surgery portfolio), Ntobeko Ntusi (cardiac imaging/adult cardiology portfolio) and Stephen Brown (paediatric cardiology/intervention portfolio) have provided valuable input to ensure that the Journal continues to grow in their respective fields.

During this year the Editorial Board was also restructured and expanded. The current board members are:

Lesley Burgess, Johan Brink, David Celemajer, Annari Ellmann, Bernard Gersh, Philip Herbst, Neale Kalis, Pravin Manga, David Marais, Bongani Mayosi, Shamir Mehta, Ana Mocumbi, Mpiko Ntsekhe, Stefan Neubauer, Vuyisile Nkomo, Rob Scott Millar, Alta Schutte, Peter Schwartz, Derek Yellon and Liesl Zühlke.

The Journal continues to produce quarterly issues and aims to feature an article from each sub-editor's portfolio in each issue.

#### Some highlights from this year's issues:

- **First quarter** – featured interesting contributions relating to paediatric cardiac care (catheter ablation in children and a review on the management of heart failure in children) as well as a basic science paper regarding the protective effects of fenofibrate. Also featured was an interesting review on the diagnosis of rheumatic heart disease in areas with a high prevalence of endomyocardial fibrosis.
- **Second quarter** – featured another basic science contribution on myocyte differentiation. Clinical contributions included an excellent review on bicuspid aortic valve disease and an approach to device detected atrial fibrillation.
- **Third quarter** – contained a thought provoking commentary on a "sugar tax" for South Africa and a position statement from the SA Heart® Association on infective endocarditis prophylaxis. This issue also featured 2 reports of original research regarding rehabilitation after coronary artery bypass surgery and parental stress in families of children undergoing cardiac surgery for congenital heart disease.
- **Fourth quarter** – the Congress issue of SA Heart® will feature the abstracts of the 18th Annual SA Heart® Congress.

Members of SA Heart® are called upon to support the Journal. There is still a hesitancy amongst academics at our cardiology training centres to submit their research to the SA Heart® Journal. In order to grow the Journal we need to feature more original research. The future of the Journal is in our hands.

#### Anton Doubell, Editor, SA Heart® Journal

### SA HEART® REGISTRY – SHARE

#### Members

Mpiko Ntsekhe (Chairperson), Erika Dau, Elizabeth Schaafsma, Karen Sliwa, Francis Smit and Adriaan Snyders.

SHARE is now into year 3 of its focused device and disease based prospective registry format based on the Euro-observational programme of the ESC.

The main objectives for SHARE, as outlined previously, were:

- To have 3 prospective registries up and running on the new SHARE database platform as proof of concept. These registries would serve as a blueprint for all future SHARE-related registries.

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- Limit SA Heart®'s financial commitment to the registry project to funding of the staffing component of the SHARE committee, and have each registry project financially independent through industry grants and other funding vehicles.
- Begin to disseminate the data and information generated from the projects through publication and presentation of abstracts and papers.

Two registries were established in late 2014. Drs Jacques Sherman and Hellmuth Weich lead the SHARE-TAVI registry. After a slow start, all TAVI sites in the country are now active participants with the overall case capture rate sitting pleasingly above 85%. Part of the success of the TAVI project is due to some very productive and positive interaction with major funders, who have embraced the registry and who are happy to use a report printed directly from the registry database as part of their motivation/evaluation for decisions relating to funding. This has helped to speed up the process of decision making, which had previously required considerable back and forth communications between operators and the funders, delaying procedures unacceptably and leading to unnecessary morbidity and mortality in these very sick high-risk patients.

More than 360 procedural data entries have been captured to date, and over 48% of patients have now completed at least 1 year of follow up. We are now reaching the landmark of 20% of TAVI patients who have been successfully followed up for 2 years. We are now in a position to offer more substantive data for publication and are busy with the first manuscript on the SA TAVI data. This year abstracts have been accepted and presented locally at AfricaPCR 2017, at EuroPCR 2017, the ESC 2017 in Barcelona, and also at this year's SA Heart® Congress. In the interim, TAVI participants have been invited to 2 - 3 feedback meetings annually, utilising other organised meetings such as AfricaPCR and SA Heart® congresses as a forum to gather participants together conveniently for dissemination of information.

Prof Karen Sliwa of the Hatter Institute at UCT and Dr Priya Soma-Pillay lead the SHARE Cardiac Disease and Maternity Registry (CDM). Recruitment into the second SHARE registry has also increased steadily after a relatively slow start. Now that the database logic has been tested, and approved, the number of active sites is growing steadily. Although it was intended that both private and state institutions would be represented in the CDM registry, the low incidence of disease seen at private institutions has been a limiting factor to participation by these centres. We would like to encourage clinicians in private practice, who see maternal cardiac disease somewhat more frequently, to join. As Prof Sliwa's responsibilities at WHF have increased, she has handed over the lead in reporting on this registry to Dr Ferial Azibani, and we welcome her addition to the team. Please contact Prof Sliwa or Elizabeth Schaafsma should you wish to join this growing registry.

SHARE has received expressions of interest from several parties regarding the development of registries under the SHARE banner. Several contenders are currently being considered, evaluated and developed amongst them registries on PHT, PCSK9 inhibitors and devices in HF. Fund-raising has remained a priority for the continued development and running of all the registry programmes, and we are tremendously grateful to Medtronic and Edward Life Sciences for the very generous grants which supported the setup of the registries and which have been extended for a further 3 years. This will enable the maintenance of the registries over the next 3 years, as well as very important 5 year follow-up data to be collected. It will also be used to support the continued analysis and publication of the outcomes, which has been one of the cornerstone aims of the SHARE registries.

We look forward to continued growth in 2018 as we generate the type of local data and information that will influence and improve clinical practice, patient care and public policy in the future. The committee remains thankful to individual members of SA Heart®, the SA Heart® Exco, industry partners, funders and hospital groups for their continued support for SHARE, and of course, most importantly, to the participants at all our sites.

**Mpiko Ntsekhe, Chairperson, SHARE Committee**

## STEMI SA

STEMI SA has had a very successful year with good progress having been made in various projects.

### STEMI SA Forum outcomes

We started off in March with the STEMI SA Forum Meeting with Cardiologists and representatives from Industry, hospital groups, emergency physicians, GPs, EMS and nurses, as well as representatives from various professional societies. Raveen Naidoo, National Director of Emergency Services and Disaster Management, Department of Health, also contributed to the discussions. The current status of STEMI management in South Africa, ideal patient flow process, standardisation of treatment algorithms for STEMI treatment, training needs and data collection were discussed. A need for treatment guidelines was evident, as well as for training packages customised for region (context) and profession.

#### Task forces were established:

- to compile national guidelines;
- to develop training packages;
- to improve patient referral networks; and
- to standardise data fields for the STEMI SA Registry across institutions and sectors.

The development of national guidelines was temporarily put on hold, while the other initiatives have shown considerable progress over the last 6 months.

### Develop training packages

Rhena Delpont chairs the education committee. Close collaboration has evolved between representatives from Medtronic, Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) and UCT. The purpose of the core group was to update and expand the collection of slides previously made available by cardiologists and by industry support. We have now updated the master slide set and compiled modular sets that are customised for different target groups. The next step is that sub-groups of the STEMI Forum, who expressed their willingness to participate, develop structured training programmes and customise materials (e.g. treatment algorithms) in collaboration with their professional group/society/opinion leaders. The main outcomes for the workshops are the ability to diagnose STEMI, the ability to manage STEMI employing a pharmaco-invasive approach, and the building of networks for timely referral within a structured approach.

Training in regions across South Africa will commence in February with support pledged by Industry and Hospital groups to provide venues and resources for hands-on simulated training. Currently, education meetings, targeting all healthcare workers at First Medical Contact are still ongoing on an ad hoc basis by volunteering cardiologists.

### Improvement of patient referral networks

Ahmed Vachiat has taken the lead in this focus area in the public sector and has held educational meetings with his main referral centres, developed clear referral protocols and letters and actively participates in the STEMI SA Research project. BI is tasked with mapping the distribution of regional interventional services, as well as referral hospitals, to inform the presentation of clear guidelines for structured referral at the educational workshops.

### Standardisation of data fields for the STEMI SA Registry across institutions and sectors

Rhena Delpont chairs this task force. The aim of this work group was to develop a National STEMI Registry with the ultimate aim of constituting a Universal Registry for Africa as a Stent-Save-a-Life (SSL) Region – Rhena is currently leading this initiative for SSL for the Africa Region. Ahmed Vachiat and other cardiologists, professional societies, like the Resus Council of South Africa, and representatives of private hospital groups, academic institutions and EMS have participated in the process of defining data fields. Consensus has been reached on the registry fields. Individual institutions add variables of personal interest to their own data sets. The registry is the backbone of the STEMI SA research project which employs patient outcome and adherence to international STEMI management guidelines as

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primary outcomes for the study. The research extends beyond PCI, across the referral pathway, covering domains like current EMS models for patient transfer, quality improvement of patient management, and the effectiveness of training interventions. Five academic institutions are currently involved in STEMI research, some still at an early stage. Within a few weeks the electronic system for data capturing will be implemented in a select group of hospitals. The app will be used at minimal cost to STEMI SA and is currently being customised for our requirements. Cardiologists have the choice to capture the data using a hard copy questionnaire, or alternatively, using the electronic platform that allows uploading of the ECG and the creation of a patient report in PDF format. Some hospitals employ a patient management booklet that provides instructional/informational elements, e.g algorithms, allows capturing of patient progress and treatment records, and also incorporated data fields that are relevant to the STEMI study, without duplication of effort. Relevant data is captured electronically by the hospital group and will be exported to the STEMI registry.

### Some other STEMI SA activities

This list of activities is by no means exhaustive but showcases contributions of STEMI SA Members during 2017.

- Invited presentation on STEMI management in South Africa at the ACC.17 (Rhena Delport).
- Participation of STEMI SA members in a STEMI Session at EuroPCR 2017.
- Invited contributions by members at the Stent-Save a Life forum that was launch at EuroPCR 2017 (Sajidha Khan, Adriaan Snyders, Rhena Delport).
- Attendance of STEMI India Live by Ahmed Vachiat, Rhena Delport and Raveen Naidoo.
- Participating in STEMI Africa in Kenia by Dave Kettles.
- Commencement of a collaboration with the Heart and Stroke foundation and the SA Stroke Programme (Angels Programme) in areas of common interest.

### I thank the team for their contribution:

Rhena Delport	Project Manager
George Nel and Medsoc	Logistic administration and finances
Ahmed Vachiat	Representing Public Health
Abner Moloele and Carica Combrinck	Assisting with administration
Medtronic and BI	Supporting the education initiative
Dave Kettles	Serving as STEMI SA Ambassador
Boehringer Ingelheim, Medtronic and Biotronic	Our primary industry supporters

### Adriaan Snyders, Champion/Chairman, STEMI SA and SSL Africa

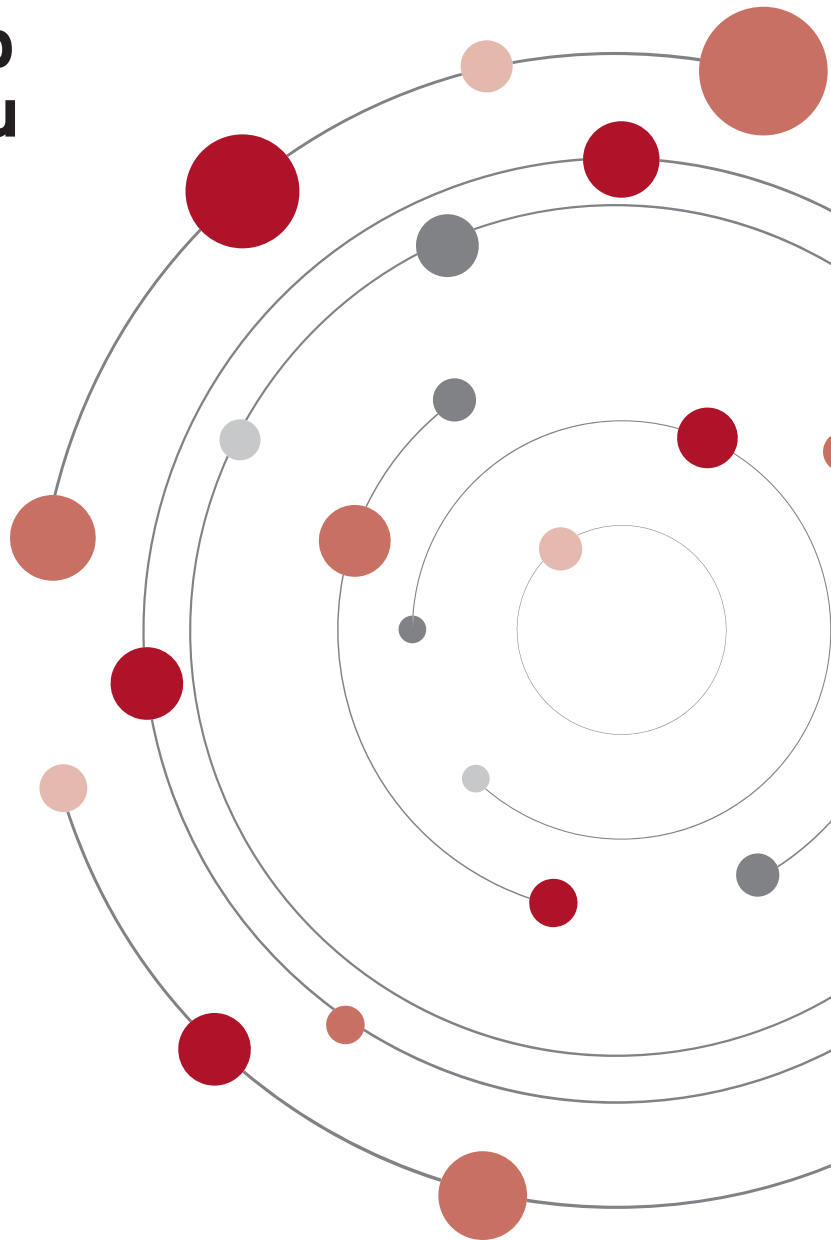


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## ANNUAL REPORTS

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIG) REPORTS

#### CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, CASSA

CASSA has been involved in the writing and review of scientific statements and guidelines and in endorsing these guidelines. This is a first for CASSA, to be able to contribute to international guidelines. CASSA has endorsed a recently published guideline entitled “Antithrombotic therapy in atrial fibrillation associated with valvular heart disease” which was published in Europace in 2017.

#### Collaboration with Heart Rhythm Society (HRS)

Members of the CASSA Exco met with the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) at their annual meeting in Chicago in May 2017. Opportunities for collaboration were discussed. CASSA is privileged to be hosting Michael Gold (ex-president of HRS) at the SA Heart® Annual Congress 2017.

#### Medical Aid Code Meeting

A medical aid code meeting was held in Cape Town in August 2017. This was attended by many electrophysiologists and appropriate billing codes were discussed for various electrophysiological and device procedures.

#### Ongoing Education

The quarterly ECG quiz published in the SA Heart® Journal and the 6 monthly “Dr Andrzej Ogreclicki Memorial Advanced ECG and Arrhythmia Interpretation Course” continues to promote the teaching of ECG interpretation by cardiologists and cardiology senior registrars.

#### CASSA Accreditation

The past year saw 3 cardiologists, Drs Adele Greyling, Haroon Mia and Vernon Freeman, being newly accredited by CASSA as electrophysiologists and device specialists. We wish them all the best in their future careers in South Africa.

I would like to thank CASSA corporate members for their ongoing support for the organisation.

They are Medtronic, Amayeza-Abantu, Biosense-Webster, Boehringer Ingelheim, Biotronik, Boston Scientific, Bayer Pharmaceuticals and Inova Pharmaceuticals.

**Ashley Chin, President, CASSA**

#### CARDIAC IMAGING SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA, CISSA

During the current year several CISSA endorsed events were conducted namely:

- SUNECHO echocardiography course
- New Horizon’s echocardiography course
- Cardiac MRI course of South Africa

The yearly joint CISSA/Mayo echocardiography workshop is scheduled for the 8th of November 2017 and will feature both local and Mayo speakers.

CISSA believes accreditation in echocardiography is important to raise the standard of echocardiography. As such it is now possible to sit for the British Society of Echocardiography (BSE) examination in South Africa and to complete accreditation via local supervisors.

The scope of cardiac imaging is increasing and CISSA will be working hard to establish dedicated fellowships to enable members to acquire additional skills.

**Alfonso Pecoraro, President, CISSA**

## **HEART FAILURE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA, HEFSSA**

The Heart Failure Society of South Africa (HeFSSA) has several programmes planned to ensure that we achieve our goals for the society for 2017.

### **HeFSSA Executive**

The HeFSSA Executive is the driving force behind these programmes: Martin Mpe (President), Eric Klug (Ex-Officio President), Jens Hitzeroth (Vice-President), Darryl Smith (Treasurer), Nash Ranjith (Secretary) and Karen Sliwa, Len Steingo, Tony Lachman, Makoali Makotoko, Nqoba Tsabedze and Ntobeko Ntusi with George Nel (Executive Officer).

### **HeFSSA Medical Practitioners' Programme**

The HeFSSA Medical Practitioners' Programme (primarily for GPs) continues to be of great value to the medical community, as well as the pharmaceutical and device industry, and it is also the main vehicle used to achieve our heart failure educational goals. The programme started in 2010 and for the 2016 event, approximately 500 GPs attended. We offer the course annually, both in metropolitan as well as rural areas. This programme is in its 7th consecutive year and continues to be generously supported by pharma industry members such as Servier, Pharma Dynamics and Novartis and also from device companies, Medtronic and Boston Scientific.

The theme for 2017 is "The Patient Journey: Feel Good and Live Long" and the topics being addressed include heart failure with preserved ejection fraction, heart failure with mid-range ejection fraction, treatment options, decompensated chronic heart failure and kidney dysfunction and heart failure. The case-based slide compendium for this year's programme was compiled by Martin Mpe, Nash Ranjith, Ntobeko Ntusi and Nqoba Tsabedze. The faculty members include distinguished South African cardiologists with an interest in heart failure such as Martin Mpe, Len Steingo, Simon Beshir, Jens Hitzeroth, Darryl Smith, Eamon Maree, Adriaan Snyders, Cobus Badenhorst, Alan Koopowitz, Dave Kettles, Makoali Makotoko, Jean Vorster, Nico van der Merwe, Adrian Horak, Innocent Segamwenge, Khulile Moeketsi, DP Naidoo, James Potts, Sizwe Mthiyane, Nqoba Tsabedze, André Lochner and Ntobeko Ntusi. This year's meetings will be hosted in Johannesburg, Windhoek, Nelspruit, East London, Vanderbijlpark, Potchefstroom, Rustenburg, Bloemfontein, Polokwane, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, Durban, George and Pretoria. If you are interested in becoming involved in this programme, please contact the HeFSSA office.

### **HeFSSA HF Guideline and Treatment Algorithm**

Jens Hitzeroth has, during the first half of 2017, put a huge effort into updating the HeFSSA HF Guideline and Treatment Algorithm to reflect current best practice based on the ESC 2016 guidelines, recent landmark publications and the South African clinical experience. We thank Jens for this endeavour which was supported by various executive committee members focusing on their areas of expertise with heart failure in select patient groups. We plan to publish the updated Guidelines and Treatment Algorithm in the SA Heart® Journal and SA Medical Journal with an official launch at the SA Heart® Congress 2017.

### **Heart Failure Device Therapy Module**

Eric Klug has, with support from the HeFSSA exco and CASSA, developed a "Heart Failure Device Therapy Module" to be launched on the SHARE Registry platform. Ultimately, we hope that this clinical dataset will be supported by Medical Aid reimbursement and, at the very least, prove to be less cumbersome for funding approval (also replacing separate motivation forms currently required by funders).

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### **SA Heart® Congress**

HeFSSA will be involved in the SA Heart® Congress, 9 - 12 November 2017, at the Sandton International Convention Centre. All HeFSSA members are requested to attend the HeFSSA sessions as well as the AGM. HeFSSA further invests in education by hosting the annual Cardio Update for Non-Cardiologists. The update will take place on Thursday 9 November 2017 from 12h00 - 17h00 with Len Steingo and Nqoba Tsabedze as the programme convenors. We expect 100 medical practitioners to attend the meeting and the faculty consists of local Johannesburg cardiologists as well as younger colleagues and HeFSSA exco members

### **Cardiologists and our Clinical Referral Network**

Nqoba Tsabedze has prepared a 2-day specialist workshop programme focused on Cardiologists and our Clinical Referral Network. The objectives are to update current knowledge and experience focused on specialist heart failure treatment and device therapies. This course hopes to standardise practice in complicated heart failure management. The target audience includes heart failure nurses, clinical technologists, GPs managing heart failure patients, physicians and cardiologists. The 2-track workshop will most likely take place in the first quarter of 2018.

In addition, we hope to impact on medicines supply at clinic level in the public sector ("down referral"), working with private managed care organisation(s) to ensure adequate training for frontline staff, nurses and pharmacists, as well as enhancing their systems when dealing with patients. Please do approach Martin Mpe and Eric Klug if these are areas you wish to get involved in.

### **HeFSSA HF Clinical Snapshot Survey**

HeFSSA HF Clinical Snapshot Survey is planned for later in 2017 or early 2018. Makoali Makotoko is spearheading this initiative which we will launch nationally and which will hopefully become an annual audit of HF in South Africa, allowing us to reflect year on year and in due course, over extended periods. This survey could ultimately inform resource alignment and investment in HF networks.

HeFSSA is supported by loyal corporate members committed to programmes in heart failure (through unconditional educational grants). Our sincere appreciation goes to Boston Scientific, Medtronic, Pharma Dynamics, Servier, Amayeza, Biotronik, Meda Pharma and Novartis for their continued support. The HeFSSA website is continually updated to remain relevant. Please visit the website at [www.hefssa.org](http://www.hefssa.org) and contact the HeFSSA office to contribute in order to ensure that the items stay updated and relevant.

HeFSSA encourages all parties who want to be involved in heart failure to contact George Nel, HeFSSA Executive Officer at [info@hefssa.org](mailto:info@hefssa.org).

**Martin Mpe, President, HeFSSA**

### **INTERVENTIONAL SOCIETY OF CATH LAB ALLIED PROFESSIONAL, ISCAP**

I am very excited about the election of 3 vice chairpersons, Isabel Bender, Sabira Khatieb and Human Nieuwenhuis, from each of our constituent groups (nurses, radiographers and clinical technologists). Each geographical territory (listed on the next page) has a regional chairperson and representation from the 3 constituent groups. These regional committees, with the help of the national ISCAP team and society office, focus on developing quality educational programmes for allied professionals from across South Africa. Through this structure we hope to effectively attend to your specific needs as an allied member of ISCAP-SASCI.

**I would like to thank my Committee and Co-opted members for their continued contributions.**

**Gauteng:**

Isabel Bender (Vice Chair Nurses as well as Regional Chairperson), Kerry Moir (Radiographer), Jamie-Leigh Hayes (Technologist) and Ramabai Zwapano (Nursing).

**Western Cape:**

Carmen November (Regional Chairperson), Sabira Khatieb (Radiographer), Human Nieuwenhuis (Technologist) and Maggie Petersen (Nursing).

**KwaZulu-Natal:**

Noelene Nichols (Regional Chairperson), Selvan Govindsamy (Radiographer), Ameena Amod (Technologist) and Hilary Gibbs (Nursing).

**Free State:**

Marisa Fourie (Regional Chairperson) and Marlet Bester (Technologist).

**Eastern Cape:**

Keri Meyer (Regional Chairperson), Ronelle de Glanville (Radiographer), Elzanne Oosthuizen (Technologist) and Naomi Oosterbroek (Nursing).

**Co-opted:**

Gill Longano (Education and Training) and Amy Wolf (Congresses).

**Industry Liaison:**

Marelize Snyman, Tina Fairfield and Karien Meyer.

**Ex-Officio Chairperson and Cath Lab Manual – Dianne Kerrigan**

Dianne Kerrigan and the Boston team continue to work tirelessly to move our ISCAP Cath Lab Manual from hardcopy to a web based virtual e-learning tool (eventually available world wide). We expect to “go live” at the SA Heart® Congress 2017.

**We have truly had amazing educational meetings in 2017 and the remainder of the year is jam-packed with opportunities to upskill yourself in your own home town. Through unconditional educational grants, ISCAP is also able to support allies from outlying cath labs (Mossel Bay, East London, Nelspruit and even Windhoek) to attend our meetings.**

**ISCAP Radiographers meetings 2017**

ISCAP is focused to provide ongoing training for all cath lab allies. ISCAP was privileged to host their first ISCAP radiographers' workshops on 6 and 13 May in Johannesburg and Cape Town, respectively. We identified that radiographers in general had a need for specific training and the topics discussed at the workshops were:

- POPI Act
- Role of the Radiographer in Interventional Procedures
- Infection Control: Sterile versus semi sterile. Superbugs - CRE MRSA
- Radiation Protection Services

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These workshops were not confined to only cath lab personnel but included attendees from surgical theatres, paediatric services and general radiographers. We are looking forward to new possibilities for 2018.

Thank you to our sponsors, Boston Scientific and Siemens, for their unconditional grants in this regard, making the leap forward possible.

### ISCAP National Lecture Series 2017 (supported by Medtronic)

On **10 June 2017**, 40 allied professionals attended our workshop in Gauteng which was supported by Medtronic. The following topics were discussed:

- **Tips and tricks for Radial Approach** – Dr Pieter van Wyk
- **Does the use of diabetic devices reduce the risk of heart attacks, stroke, kidney and vascular disease?** – Hestie Dreyers
- **Patient and practitioners' rights and obligations in the cath lab** – Esme Prins van den Berg

During this workshop, we had the privilege of hosting 2 of our close collaborators from the Namibian Interventional Society for Cath Lab Allied Professionals (NISCAP), Lorraine Gaweses and Regina Mafwile.

On **22 July 2017**, we hosted the second workshop of this series at the Crystal Towers Hotel in Cape Town. A massive number of 74 allied professionals attended this workshop! We were privileged to listen to Dr Shaheen Pandie, Melissa King and Michael Bagraim.

On **26 August 2017**, we hosted the third workshop of this Medtronic-supported series at Ibhayi Guest Lodge in Port Elizabeth and 25 allied professionals attended this workshop. We were privileged to listen to Dr Butau, Melissa King and Henry Lerm.

On **16 September 2017**, we hosted the fourth workshop of this series at Endless Horizons, Durban and 40 allied professionals attended this workshop! We were privileged to listen to Dr Andrew Asherson, Melissa King and Suren Naidoo.

**The last of this workshop series will take place on 7 October at Leopard and Lace Guest House, Bloemfontein.**

ISCAP thanks Medtronic for their continued and longstanding support of our lecture series and programmes.

### ISCAP National Lecture Series 2017 (supported by Boston Scientific and Siemens)

On **5 August 2017**, ISCAP hosted the first workshop for 2017 in Bloemfontein. We had a very good turn-out of 30 allied professionals. The following topics were discussed:

- **Diagnostic Tools, IVUS/FFR - What information do you get out of these technologies?** – Dr Nico van der Merwe
- **IVUS image interpretation** – Dr Nico van der Merwe
- **Emergency equipment every Cathlab needs** – Marisa Fourie

On **12 August 2017**, we hosted the second workshop of this Boston/Siemens series at Crystal Towers Hotel in Cape Town. With a brilliant turnout of 75 allied professionals, we were privileged to listen to Dr Charles Kyriakakis and Shanaaz Omer.

On **2 September 2017**, we hosted the third workshop of this series at the Boston Educare Training Facility in Bryanston, Gauteng and 42 allied professionals attended this workshop. We were privileged to listen to Dr Zambakides and Isabel Bender.

The next workshops of this series will take place:

**14 October:** KwaZulu-Natal – Durban Endless Horizons

**4 November:** Eastern Cape – Port Elizabeth Ibyani Guest House

Thank you to Boston Scientific and Siemens for the unconditional grant which made this lecture series possible.

### **ISCAP National Lecture Series 2017 (supported by Paragmed, Volcano and Torque)**

On **2 September 2017**, ISCAP hosted the first of this lecture series at the Crystal Towers Hotel in Cape Town. We had a very good turn-out of 51 allied. The following topics were discussed:

■ **PFO - Latest Update** – Dr Harold Pribut

■ **Essential communication and conflict handling skills when working with patients and Cath Lab colleagues** – Magriet Badenhorst

■ **Coronary Interventions in the High Bleeding Risk Patient** – Dr Piet Wessels

On **9 September 2017**, we hosted the second workshop of this Paragmed/Torque/Volcano series at Leopard & Lace Guest House in Bloemfontein and 29 allied professionals attended this workshop. We were privileged to listen to Dr Danie Buys, Magriet Badenhorst and Dr Piet Wessels.

Thank you to Paragmed, Torque Medical and Volcano for their unconditional grant which makes this lecture series possible.

### **Please Save the Date for the upcoming workshops of this Lecture Series:**

**30 September:** Port Elizabeth Ibyani Guest House

**21 October:** Midrand Protea Hotel

**4 November:** Durban Endless Horizons Boutique Hotel

If you require more information for the above workshops, kindly contact the ISCAP Office – [joh-ann.nice@medsoc.co.za](mailto:joh-ann.nice@medsoc.co.za).

**Waheeda Howell, Chairperson, ISCAP**

### **LIPID AND ATHEROSCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, LASSA**

The Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society of Southern Africa (LASSA) remains affiliated with both the Society for Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes of South Africa (SEMDSA) and the South African Heart Association (SA Heart®). LASSA is linked to the International Atherosclerosis Society (IAS). The committee members are from academic institutions and endeavour to sustain a network so that expertise is available to medical practitioners, scientists and the public. The committee is led by Prof David Marais assisted by Prof Derick Raal as secretary, Dr Dee Blackhurst, Prof Dirk Blom and Dr Chiman Rajput. There has, however, not been any improvement in support for developing lipidology at any of the health science faculties, despite the increasing recognition of common disorders such as familial hypercholesterolaemia and serious other disorders which deserve diagnosis and management. Attempts to raise funds through grants, business support or philanthropy in order to preserve expertise have not met with success. Since LASSA is small and has limited expenses, its finances remain intact.

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## ANNUAL REPORTS continued

In March last year LASSA hosted a session on familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH) in Cape Town. The proceedings are being written up but there has been a delay due to the inclusion of the new entity of polygenic familial hypercholesterolaemia. Prof David Marais was an invited speaker at the 2nd Netherlands Lipid Association meeting near Utrecht in May 2016. He visited Prof Frank Visseren at the Utrecht Medical Centre. The Dutch are very aware of severe dyslipidaemias and have made genetic investigation as well as special treatments available according to best practice. Dr A.J. van der Walt received a travel award at the LASSA meeting in 2015 and attended the 84th Congress of the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS) from 29 May - 1 June 2016 in Innsbruck, Austria. The report indicated that attention was being paid to the emerging monoclonal antibody against proprotein subtilisin/kexin type 9 (PCSK9) for severe hypercholesterolaemia but that other issues, such as obesity, remain important. Lysosomal acid lipase deficiency is also being recognised as a severe disorder for which enzyme replacement has become available. There was a session at the 17th Annual Congress of SA Heart® and the 26th Annual Congress of the World Society of Cardiothoracic Surgery held on 9 September 2016 that was supported by LASSA. Prof Kees Hovingh from the Amsterdam Medical Centre was the international guest speaker along with Profs Blom, Raal and Marais. Lipidology in Cape Town benefited from the collaborative visit of Dr R Huijgen and Ms A de Jong, as well as Mr X van Delden, a medical student who was on elective assignment. The projects engaged were an investigation into families with novel mutations in PCSK9 and the response to treatment in FH.

Profs Blom and Raal continued with their excellent exploration of new modalities of treatment for dyslipidaemia in general, and FH in particular. It is clear that monoclonal antibodies to PCSK9 lower low density lipoprotein (LDL) powerfully and safely in heterozygous FH and in many cases of homozygous FH. Though expensive, this treatment could make a dramatic difference to a subset of FH in which treatment is not effective or tolerated. LASSA is in a good position to contribute to improved management for FH by making available its clinical expertise and potentially also laboratory investigation where diagnosis is not clear. Dedicated lipid clinics remain only in Johannesburg and Cape Town. Since neither the National Health Laboratory Service nor private pathology laboratories provide special investigations for these severe disorders, laboratory investigation of complex problems remains limited to the laboratory in Cape Town where funding and staff are limited.

The 13th LASSA congress was held on Sunday 7 May. An overlap session with SEMDSA was followed by a general meeting to elect a new committee. A more focused lipid meeting will be considered in future as the Sunday afternoon sessions are generally poorly attended. A travel grant from Amgen was awarded to Dr T Botha.

### **D. Marais, President, LASSA**

## **PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA, PCSSA**

### **The Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa welcomes 2 new paediatric cardiologists, Mahlubandile Nxele and Lenise Swenson, to its ranks.**

**Mahlubandile (Andile)** obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from Rhodes University and then attended the University of Natal Medical School where he obtained his MBChB degree in 1994. He returned home to Port Elizabeth for his internship and served as a medical officer at Livingstone Hospital. He then worked as a general practitioner in Motherwell for about 6 years.

He joined the Department of Paediatrics and Child at the Dora Ngiza Hospital, Walter Sisulu University where he completed his Fellowship in Paediatrics in 2009. He then joined the Division of Paediatric Cardiology and qualified as a Paediatric Cardiologist in the March/May 2017 cycle of the College of Medicine Examinations.





He is interested in Dilated Cardiomyopathy and non-invasive imaging. Andile currently works as a Paediatric Cardiologist at the Dora Nginza Hospital in Port Elizabeth.

**Lenise Swanson** completed her undergraduate medical degree at the University of Cape Town in 2004 and then moved to Kimberley in the Northern Cape to start her career as a junior doctor. During her time in the Northern Cape, she developed a passion for child and maternal healthcare and spent a fair amount of time working as a medical officer in paediatrics.



She returned to Cape Town where she obtained her post-graduate degree in Paediatrics and her Master of Medicine degree through Stellenbosch University. She obtained her Certificate in Paediatric Cardiology during the March/May 2017 College Examinations.

At present, she works as a senior research officer in Paediatric Cardiology at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital and the University of Cape Town.

### **The Red Cross War Memorial Hospital bags 3 Associate Professors in Paediatric Cardiology: John Lawrenson, Rik de Decker and Liesl Zühlke.**

**John Lawrenson** completed his MBBCh degree at the University of the Witwatersrand. He then attended Stellenbosch University where he obtained his Master of Medicine degree in Internal Medicine and the Fellowship of the College of Physicians of South Africa. He developed an interest in congenital heart diseases and thereafter worked in Paediatric Cardiology at the Red Cross War Memorial Hospital. He pursued further training in Paediatric Cardiology at Leuven University in Belgium. In 2016, John was admitted as an Associate Fellow of the College of Paediatricians of South Africa. He has been Head of Paediatric Cardiology Services of the Western Cape and Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University for many years. His interests include echocardiography and the life-time management of patients with complex heart disease.



**Rik De Decker** is a consultant Paediatric Cardiologist in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Cape Town and Director of the Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. As a generalist cardiologist, he is involved in the management of children with heart diseases, including the utilisation of advanced echocardiographic, catheterisation and other tertiary investigations to assess and prepare children for interventions such as cardiac surgery and interventional catheterisation. He is also a clinical geneticist with an interest in the genetic aetiology of congenital heart disease and a focus on the detection of the syndromic associations of children with heart disease. Having previously completed a Masters' degree in Zoology, he remains acutely aware of the importance of research and the enriching value of a wide diversity of academic connections.



He is also a mountain rescue doctor, previous convenor of the MCSA (CT) Mountain Rescue team, current rescue committee member and tutor/instructor, MCSA national rescue sub-committee member and national ICAR-Medcom representative for the MCSA and WSAR. When not at work, he prefers to spend time in the wilder and steeper parts of the world. He holds a MSc (cum laude), MBChB, DCH (SA), FC Paed (SA) and Cert Medical Genetics.

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**Liesl Zühlke** trained as a Paediatric Cardiologist in Cape Town and Dusseldorf, Germany. Her major research interests are in Rheumatic Heart Disease and Congenital Heart Disease. A paediatric cardiologist in the Department of Paediatric Cardiology at Red Cross Hospital, she was instrumental in the development of the Rheumatic Heart Disease Registry (the REMEDY study) and is currently the national leader of the INVICTUS study, which aims to enrol over 30 000 rheumatic heart disease patients.



She has received a number of awards including an academic excellence award from Discovery, NIH Fogarty Fellowship, Wellcome CIDRI and Thrasher awards and the Hamilton Naki Scholarship. She is the immediate Past President of the Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa, President of the South African Heart Association and the Chairperson of the Pan African Society of Cardiology, Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery Task force. She was one of the organisers of the 6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery 2013, the World Congress of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Health 2016 and was on the Organising Committee for the World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery in 2017. A previous board member of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of South Africa, she is now on the board of the Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research and is co-director of Rheach (Rheumatic Heart Disease-Evidence, Advocacy, Communication and Hope), the recipient of one of the largest grants from Medtronic Philanthropy for work in Rheumatic heart disease.

She has also recently established a research unit for paediatric and congenital heart disease, the Children's Heart Disease Research Unit, which is based at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town. She is currently a collaborator with the Institute of Health Metrics (IHME) and co-author on several Global Burden of Disease publications. She has leveraged funding for several major research projects in South Africa and the rest of Africa, with new collaborations internationally, a recent one being an MRCUK Global Challenges Research Fund – Foundation Award, with colleagues at Manchester university.

Liesl holds a MBChB, DCH(SA), FC Paed (SA), Cert Cardiology (SA), MPH, FESC, FACC and PhD.

### **Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University and Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital are set to become the seventh Paediatric Cardiology Unit in the country.**

**Mamokgethi Rangaka** is in the process of setting up a paediatric cardiology unit at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University and Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital. She is the ninth born in a family of eleven children and comes from a staunch catholic family in Soweto. She completed her MBChB degree at Medunsa in 1995, obtained the Fellowship in Paediatrics in 2002 and started working as a general paediatrician in 2003 at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital. She has always been interested in paediatric cardiology and together with her colleague, Dr Nkohane, has been responsible for paediatric cardiology services at her hospital.



It was a challenge providing comprehensive cardiac care since they were not trained as paediatric cardiologists. The majority of their patients had to be referred to Steve Biko Academic Hospital for further management. She attended Inkosi Albert Luthuli Academic Hospital in Durban in 2008 to commence training in paediatric cardiology but that was interrupted by a family tragedy and she had to return to Dr George Mukhari Academic hospital after a period of 6 months. She joined the Paediatric Cardiology unit at Steve Biko Academic Hospital, University of Pretoria under Professor Takawira in 2014. The cardiology team at Steve Biko Academic Hospital were very supportive and she successfully completed her training in 2016 and returned to Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital this year.

Her team runs a clinic for  $\pm$  20 outpatients per week and have approximately 10 admissions weekly. On average, they perform 2 cardiac catheterisations per week. They have started interventional work and performed their first percutaneous Patent Ductus Arteriosus closure on 20 April with the assistance of Prof Takawira. "I aim and strive to have a successful and accredited fully functional unit that can start training fellows and expand the paediatric cardiology services in our region".

### **The first Paediatric Electrophysiologist in South Africa comes from Port Elizabeth**

After graduating from the University of Pretoria in 1999, **Adele Greyling** did her internship and community service in George Provincial Hospital. She then spent 4 years training in Leeds and Sheffield at The Sheffield Children's Hospital in the UK and passed the Fellowship of The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in 2005.

On her return to South Africa, she spent another 2 years as a registrar at the University of Pretoria where she obtained the FC Paed (SA) in 2007.

From 2008 to 2011 she worked as a paediatrician in private practice in Port Elizabeth. In 2011, she joined the Division of Paediatric Cardiology, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at Dora Nginza Hospital and obtained the Certificate in Paediatric Cardiology in 2014. She spent 2015 and 2016 in Leuven, Belgium, as a fellow in Cardiac Electrophysiology. There she gained experience in a high-volume unit in the treatment of cardiac arrhythmias (both with implantable cardiac devices as well as invasive electrophysiology) in the adult GUCH and paediatric population. She passed The European Heart Rhythm Association certification examination in Cardiac Implantable Electronic Devices in 2015, and in 2016 the examination in Clinical Electrophysiology.



Since her return to Port Elizabeth in January 2017, she is the Head of the Division of Paediatric Cardiology at Dora Nginza Hospital and has also established a new electrophysiology service for the public sector in the Eastern Cape Province.

### **Lungile Pepeta, President, PCSSA**

## **SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH, SASCAR**

The South African Society for Cardiovascular Research (SASCAR), an interest group of the SA Heart® Association, was created in October 2009.

The SASCAR Executive Committee elected in September 2016 for a 2-year term of office is: Prof Neil Davies (Chairperson), Dr Derick Van Vuuren (Secretary), Prof Sandrine Lecour (Treasurer), Prof Faadiel Essop, Prof Karen Sliwa, Dr Balindiwe Sisi and Dr Wayne Smith.

### **Workshops and meetings**

Since our last report, SASCAR has organised several well attended workshops and meetings on a range of topics:

#### **3rd European-South African Cardiovascular Research Workshop**

A workshop organised by Prof Sandrine Lecour was held from 5 - 9 September 2016 in Cape Town. This workshop hosted by SASCAR at UCT provided a platform for young researchers from different nationalities and institutions to present their research findings and interact with other junior and senior researchers, both formally and on a social level. Being a joint venture with the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), it attracted more than 85 participants

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including 15 European researchers and students and a range of attendees from South Africa that included Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, Walter Sisulu University, University of Limpopo, University of the Western Cape, UCT and Stellenbosch University. As one of the overarching goals of this series of workshops is inclusiveness, bursaries were provided by SASCAR for attendees from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. Delegates enjoyed a broad range of talks in packed sessions on cutting edge topics in basic cardiac science such as biomarkers for cardiovascular morbidities, stem cell therapy for myocardial infarction, cardiovascular risk factors, signaling and cardioprotection. The workshop was reported on in the European Heart Journal (April 2017 v38: pages 930-931).

### **Preclinical Imaging Workshop, University of Cape Town**

A training workshop was held at the Lionel Opie Preclinical Imaging Facility (LOPI), UCT. A full day training programme was conducted by Dr Sandra Meyer, the specialist technician of Visualsonics, the manufacturer of the Vevo® High-Frequency Ultrasound System. This is the only commercially available imaging platform that enables the researcher to obtain in vivo anatomical, functional and physiological data simultaneously in real-time with a resolution down to 30µm. Real time demonstrations of a variety of functional cardiac procedures were observed by the 10 attendees. Through the combined knowledge of Dr Meyer and participants at the workshop, progress was made towards the translation of ultrasound guided cardiac injection to use in a rat model. This particular technique, which is a significant refinement for many cardiac procedures performed on small animal models, is presently confined to the mouse model.

### **Statistical principals and Statistica Software training workshop for post-graduate students**

SASCAR held a statistics training workshop targeting postgraduate students at the University of Cape Town Health Faculty campus. The workshop, hosted by Dr Wayne Smith from the Hypertension in Africa Research Team at North-West University, covered basic statistical principles and training in the Statistica software package. Apart from fitting in with the SASCAR objective of developing young cardiac researchers, the growing concern in the scientific community that poor statistical practices are likely contributing to the irreproducibility crisis in the biomedical sciences added further impetus for holding this workshop. Topics covered included basic statistical concepts and statistical challenges faced in both experimental and basic epidemiological studies. The event was very well attended and well received by students from University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University (Main Campus and Tygerberg campus) and University of the Western Cape.

### **SASCAR at the ISHR meeting**

For the third consecutive year, SASCAR was invited by the International Society for Heart Research (ISHR), European section to hold a joint session at their annual meeting held in Hamburg, Germany from 24 - 27 July 2017. In a well-attended session entitled "Signaling in cardiometabolic diseases", Prof Barbara Huisamen from the University of Stellenbosch presented her latest and novel data on the role of the protein ATM in insulin resistance associated with obesity. Mr Nicholas Woudberg (PhD student at the Hatter Institute, University of Cape Town) presented data from a joint research project between the Hatter Institute and the Non-Communicable Disease Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council, demonstrating that alterations in HDL subclass distribution and function resulted from an exercise intervention conducted in obese women.

Four postgraduate students/fellows from South African institutions (including 3 SASCAR members) attended the meeting, most of them receiving a travel grant from the ISHR and/or the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) to attend this meeting.

SASCAR looks forward to an exciting 2018. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all members of the executive committee for their efforts over last year and, in particular, to those who directly ran workshops.

**Neil Davies, President, SASCAR**

## **SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR INTERVENTION, SASCI**

It has really been an honour to continue at the helm of our society, which serves several key functions in our cardiology community and in the wider healthcare sector. Let me say “thank you to all” who have supported me and this society so generously and warmly. A “thank you” as well to all who contributed at so many levels. “Thank you” for the hard work and loyalty over the years.

I would like to thank SASCI members for attending the AGM during the AfricaPCR Course and for their contribution to the election of a new executive committee and office bearers. A society is only as strong as its membership and highly reliant on individuals willing to get involved and to provide guidance to the cardiology environment that we operate in.

### **SASCI executive committee**

D. Kettles (President), F. Hellig (Ex-officio President), Hellmuth Weich (Vice-President), C. Badenhorst (Treasurer), G. Cassel (Secretary), S. Khan, Gavin Angel, M. Ntsekhe, M. Makotoko, A. Vachiat, C. Zambakides, J. Vorster, G. Angel, S. Pandie and JP Theron. Thank you to the SASCI executive committee, your contributions make us what we are. SASCI industry liaison, Andrew Sartor, remains until AGM 2018. Dr Adriaan Snyders and Prof Rhena Delpont have worked tirelessly on the STEMI project. A special thank you to them.

### **Special general meeting**

During the special general meeting of 26 January 2017 members approved that the SASCI NPC (legal structure) would be dissolved and a new SASCI NPO was established as a Voluntary Non-Profit Association Governed by a Constitution. This decision was made with diligent professional inputs in order to comply with current laws and regulations and with other Professional Societies. The SASCI 2017 AGM saw the adoption of the new SASCI NPO Constitution and began formation of the new SASCI legal entity. The functioning and activities of SASCI will not change, this is simply a legal requirement.

### **SASCI Private Practice Committee**

The SASCI Private Practice Committee has been under the leadership of JP Theron, Jean Vorster, David Jankelow, Gavin Angel, Graham Cassel and Andrew Thornton (CASSA). I am very grateful for their tireless work, the many hours invested and the many issues that were settled. I believe that many of us have only limited insight into the impact their contributions have had on our daily private practices. Some of the issues they have dealt with include:

**SASCI Coding Handbook remained unchanged for 2017.**

### **Competition Commission and Health Market Inquiry**

SASCI commissioned a snap survey amongst its members on some of the issues that were raised during Set I of the Health Market Inquiry (HMI) Hearings in Pretoria. The Survey was managed by an independent third party and we had no access to, or insight into, the source data. This data was submitted directly to the Competition Commission of South Africa. HMI subsequently conducted their own practitioner survey, the report of which is not public “yet”.

### **The issue of “self-determination” of cardiologists**

Please consider this carefully as it is going to be a very big issue for us going forward! Legally, SASCI has been unable to negotiate on behalf of cardiologists, for example with funders. Such behaviour could be considered collusion, and thus subject to substantial penalties in law. To enable us (as a body of cardiologists) to be self-reliant without contravening the horizontal collusion clause of the Competition Act, the PPC decided that we attend and present our case at the Competition Commission HMI hearings as well as approach the Competition Commission (CC). The CC responded to an incognito letter from our legal adviser to request guidance as to what CC will consider an appropriate legal structure within which we (cardiologists) may collaborate as a group with respect to fees charged for services.

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The CC has indicated that the proposed route will be through application for exemption from certain onerous sections of the Competition Act. Several other specialist groups are considering, or pursuing, exemption.

### **SASCI Annual General Meeting**

At the 2017 AGM, SASCI members provisionally approved the budget to continue exploring an application for exemption (the projected cost of the application for exemption will be close to R 1 million in the next year or 2 in legal and other fees which is equivalent to approximately 1/3 of SASCI's current cash on hand). If an exemption is granted, it will be limited to a period of about 4 years and then the process will have to be repeated (but at lower cost).

Legal opinions gained since the AGM have rendered conflicting opinions ranging from "no possibility to gain exemption as practitioners" (a watchful waiting approach, to allow others to seek exception) to "grounds for exemption from the Act is under section 10 of the Act: Section 10(3)(b)(iii) allows for exemptions of agreements and practices that change the productive capacity to stop the decline in an industry. In this regard, the Practitioners can apply for exemption on this ground by proving that not allowing this exemption, there will be a decline in the profession of interventional cardiology in the market. Section 10(3)(b)(iv) allows for exemptions on grounds of economic stability of, again, an industry. There must therefore be economic proof of decline or loss of economic stability in the professional market in order to succeed with an exemption application." The second opinion will require significant practice data collection (and it costs to do so) and employing an advocate (with his/her team) to take the case to HMI. A final decision on the next steps to be followed have not yet been reached. At this stage it seems more sensible to wait and see how other specialist groups fare in their applications, rather than pursuing an extremely costly process with little prospect of meaningful benefit for now.

### **Elsabe Klinck Associates**

They have been appointed on a monthly retainer to advise SASCI/PPC on matters pertaining to the HPCSA Global fee issues, CMS PMB process (with Adriaan Snyders leading the way), HMI Outcomes Measures, TAVI Medihelp, etc. Members are requested to bring issues to our attention to allow us to minimise the impact on individual practices.

Our private practice committee believes that to secure the independent future of interventional cardiologists, we should be able to negotiate freely with funders as a representative body. We could then, within the limits of the law and coding guidelines, advise funders on how our members will code, and at what rates. We are considering moving forward in creating a Cardiac Business Unit (CBU), and within this a negotiating forum. We could then serve our private practice members with commercial advice, and negotiate effectively with funders on their behalf. This would, of course, involve fulltime management and part time clinical coding support and we envisage that such a business unit membership would cost a cardiologist (who is a member of SASCI) roughly R2 500 per month. The main benefit envisaged would be accepted billing guidelines, reduction in the effort of motivations and approvals follow up, reduction in disputed and thus unpaid bills, representation at the highest level, including in the setting of fees, and much assistance in hopefully very occasional cases of dispute resolution.

We thank our members in advance for their inputs to our private practice committee in response to these complex proposals. Remember, our only goal is to ensure your representation and strengthening of your position as a service provider which is often overlooked in the bigger scheme of private practice negotiations between funders and hospital groups. Our experience is that service providers, unless strongly represented, will be bullied and coerced into unacceptable arrangements. We can be stronger together.

## **Education remains the key pillar of our Society - The following initiatives took place:**

### **SASCI PASCAR and SCAI Master the Complex Meeting**

Boston Educare, in collaboration with the Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), the South African Society of Cardiovascular Intervention (SASCI) and the Pan-African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR) Interventional Group offered a Master the Complex Course in Johannesburg, South Africa on 27 and 28 January 2017. The Conveners of the course were Dave Kettles (SASCI, RSA) and Harun Otieno (PASCAR, Kenya) with key international faculty members being James Blankenship (President of SCAI, USA), Arun Kalyanasundaram (USA) and Simon Walsh (UK, Live Case) and regional practitioners acting as session chairpersons and case presenters. South African and sub-Saharan African cardiologists attended this course which focussed on both the experienced interventionalists as well as operators at the cusp. The meeting was well attended by about 50 practitioners and the course was a balanced mix of interesting clinical case presentations and discussions by faculty and attendees.

**The next MTC edition is planned for end January 2018, so watch this space.**

### **Visiting Professor Programme and National Evening Lecture Series**

The Visiting Professor Programme 2017 was a huge success. Dr Jacques Koolen, from the Catharina Hospital in the Netherlands, visited South Africa from 24 July - 16 August. His passion for teaching and the quality of his lectures and discussions accentuated the standard that has become core to this programme. Not only did he give of his valuable time, knowledge and expertise, he also gave a part of himself to the patients, doctors and staff at the hospitals where he was positioned. Please see Dr Koolen's Open Letter in the previous SA Heart® Newsletter.

The combined SA Heart® Branch and SASCI evening lecture series were held in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Durban and Cape Town. The topic of his talk was "Selecting an optimal revascularisation strategy for my patients with left mainstem stenosis in 2017: making sense of the evidence". The 2017 VPP Evening Lecture series was definitely a huge success according to the feedback received from the 198 delegates who attended the 5 meetings. There were great presentations which led to lively interactive discussions. We thank Medtronic and Pharma Dynamics for their continued unconditional support for this venture.

We are privileged to announce that Prof David Holmes (USA) has agreed to travel to South Africa during February and March 2018 as the SASCI VPP for 2018. We are most excited to host and learn from one of the grand masters in interventional cardiology.

**Boston Scientific RC Fraser International Fellowship:** Pieter Aucamp (Cardiology Consultant at Universitas Hospital) was at Prof Simon Redwood's (Professor of Interventional Cardiology, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist) unit in March 2016 and the feedback regarding his experience and participation have been very positive.

**Dr Bradley Griffiths, from the University of Stellenbosch, is the recipient of the award for 2017 and will visit Prof Redwood's unit in November 2017.**

**SCAI Fall Fellows Course:** South African interventional cardiology fellows once again attended the Annual SCAI Interventional Cardiology Fall Fellows Course in Las Vegas, USA. The SCAI programme is a crucial extension of our local fellows' training and the successful candidates in 2016 were Rohan Lutchman, Anil Kurian, Mohammed Alteer, Khulile Moeketsi and Tangeni Auala (Namibia). Feedback received from Dr Auala on her experience and participation was very positive "it was absolutely fantastic – practical, innovative and inspiring!". It is an intense 5-day course but the format of the course is engaging and allows for easy understanding and retention of information. The course was a balanced mix of interesting clinical case presentations and discussions by faculty and attendees, didactic lectures, small group sessions, informative exhibitions and demonstrations. This programme is sponsored by SCAI, SASCI and Boston Scientific.

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The 4 South African recipients for 2017 are: Deya Ramachandran (University of KwaZulu-Natal), Mfundo Mathenjwa (University of Witwatersrand), Arthur Mutyaba (University of Cape Town) and H.W. Snyman (Stellenbosch University).

### SASCI Fellows Workshop

Since 2005, the SASCI Coronary and Vascular Workshop for fellows and junior consultants has proven to be a resounding success. This is an integral part of SASCI's public and private partnership which exposes "cardiologists in training" to operators in the private sector as well as colleagues from other public-sector units in South Africa and beyond.

The 2017 event was held at Kloofzicht Lodge in Muldersdrift and was attended by 80% of cardiology fellows in South Africa as well as a few recently qualified South African cardiologists, 1 colleague from Mauritius and 4 from the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Tanzania; in total 44 doctors and 13 industry members. The Conveners of the 2017 Edition were Jean Vorster, Graham Cassel and Gavin Angel with faculty members being Dave Kettles, Adie Horak, Mark Abelson, Pravin Manga, Agneta Geldenhuys and Shaheen Pandie. The programme was well received by all delegates and feedback was exceptionally positive from faculty, delegates and industry alike.

Seven fellows used the opportunity to present cases from their units and the 2 best cases were selected to receive free registration at the SA Heart® Congress 2017 from SASCI. Congratulations to the recipients, H.W. Snyman and Menachem Levin. Excellent quality presentations were also received from Chishala Chishala (Groote Schuur Hospital), Brian Kiggundu (Tygerberg Hospital), Zimasa Jama (Groote Schuur Hospital), Menachem Levin (Charlotte Maxeke Hospital), Lorrita Kabwe (Tygerberg Hospital), HW Snyman (Tygerberg) and Brad Griffiths (Tygerberg).

I was asked to close the meeting by reflecting on my view of the next 10 years in interventional cardiology! Our organisers are always thinking creatively and keeping our meetings varied and stimulating!

**The SASCI Fellows Workshop 2018 will be held at Crystal Towers in Century City, Cape Town over the weekend of 23 - 24 March, immediately preceding the AfricaPCR Course.**

**Research projects:** This year has seen huge strides made in the STEMI project, with active recruitment of patients into a national registry, and a "hub and spoke" project moving forward rapidly in Johannesburg. Thank you to this very active committee, and particularly to Adriaan Snyders and Rhena Delpont who continue to work tirelessly (see more detailed STEMI SA report elsewhere).

The following corporate members have been committed to our society and the support of cardiology education in South Africa: Ascendis, Amayeza Abantu, Angio Quip, Aspen Pharma, Baroque Medical, B Braun, Biotronik, Boston Scientific, Condor Medical, Edwards, Medtronic, Obsidian, Siemens, Paragmed, Pharma Dynamics, Sanofi, Disa Vascular, Terumo, Torque Medical and Volcano. We are looking forward to continuing our collaboration with you. We thank you for your generosity and acknowledge your immense contributions.

I wish to assure our members that the SASCI Exco will continue to work tirelessly to represent your interests and to endeavour to educate and inform interventional cardiologists in our country. We deeply value and need your support. Please feel free to get involved at any time.

Let us know how we can be of further assistance to you as you continue to deliver the best service possible to your patients.

**Dave Kettles, President, SASCI**



## **SOCIETY OF CARDIO-THORACIC SURGEONS, SOCTS**

In the wake of the WSCTS (World Society of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons) congress organised by SOCTS in 2016, the surgical group has taken a participatory role in 2017. The presidency of the WSCTS was handed over to Dr Yuri Pya at the 27th meeting of the WSCTS in Astana on September 1, when Dr Kleinloog delivered the presidential address and gave a presentation. The congress was attended by 2 000 surgeons from 30 countries.

A thoracic surgical programme was organised by Tony Linegar during the SATS meeting which was very successful. The invited guests were Dr Kostas Papadopoulos, from Leeds, and Peter Licht, from Austria. This was a very useful meeting for both cardiothoracic and thoracic surgeons alike.

SOCTS will participate in the SA Heart® meeting in November, the programme being organised by Martin Sussman and Agnetha Geldenhuys. During the meeting the 4th combined meeting between the South African and Israeli cardiac surgical societies will take place.

Apart from the normal disappointing iterations from the funding industry, our Society has had a major problem with the implementation of Preferred Provider Networks and DSPs. The unsuitability of these financial models within cardiac medicine has been discussed at many meetings and unfortunately, our exuberance after our initial talks with Discovery, has been dampened somewhat. The Society will continue its efforts to have these practices abolished. A date for the biennial meeting of the Society in 2018 has not been confirmed.

**Robert Kleinloog, President, SOCTS**

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### BRANCH REPORTS

#### BLOEMFONTEIN BRANCH

The Bloemfontein Branch of SA Heart® has an uneventful year. We managed to have our monthly academic meetings, but it was rather poorly attended. We tried to alternate the academic discussions with clinical cases, but this did not make any difference in the attendance. We did host other international speakers and the meetings were well supported, especially by the allied professionals.

Our STEMI project almost died a "sudden death" as we ran into a problem with the supply of Metalyse. The batches which we had received from the company were almost at the expiration date, which led to financial losses. This was taken up with Boehringer, and fortunately, a solution was found.

The branch also financially supported a number of post-graduate students with their research projects.

#### **Nico van der Merwe, President**

#### JOHANNESBURG BRANCH

The Johannesburg branch committee remains as:

Dr David Jankelow (President and Treasurer), Prof Antoinette Cilliers (Secretary), Dr Hopewell Ntsinjana, Dr Eric Klug, Dr Andrew Thornton, Dr Darryl Smith, Prof Pravin Manga, Dr Ahmed Vachiat, Dr George Dragne and Dr Gavin Angel.

Dr Don Zachariah was co-opted onto the committee and the congress programme organising group.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing away of our friend and colleague, Dr Gcina Dumani. Gcina was a soft-spoken and important member of the branch and of the SA Heart® 2017 Scientific Programme Committee. We extend our deepest condolences to his family. He will be missed by all of us.

In view of our organising the SA Heart® 2017 congress, we have only held one branch meeting this year. On 25 July, we co-hosted Dr Jacques Koolen as the SASCI visiting professor. Dr Koolen delivered a very interesting lecture, "Selecting an optimal revascularisation strategy for my patient with left main-stem stenosis; making sense of the evidence".

I am extremely grateful and indebted to the SA Heart® 2017 Scientific Organising Committee for their input, advice and support for our upcoming congress to be held at the Sandton Convention Centre from 9 - 12 November 2017. I am humbled to have been appointed to lead and chair this congress. We are planning an extremely engaging meeting. The date is drawing near and we are all really excited!

Our theme is "Fundamentals to Innovation", which will showcase innovations in cardiovascular medicine. Developments from Africa and South Africa will be highlighted. We aim to challenge the horizons of cardiovascular disease and stimulate a creative exchange of ideas. Our exciting programme and illustrious faculty will explore developments that will shape the future and beyond.

Our faculty includes many eminent local and 22 international opinion leaders.

#### **An outline of our programme includes:**

- Pre-congress African Cardiovascular Summit with the press, media, funders, deans of faculties, hospital groups and health departments - to discuss the challenges of treating heart disease in Africa and South Africa.

- Pre-congress echocardiography symposium – CISSA and Mayo Clinic.
- Pre-congress symposium, Cardiology for non-Cardiologists.
- Pre-congress and parallel cardiac surgical programme.
- Opening plenary session to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the first heart transplant. The author, Donald McRae, will offer an international perspective on the transplant race. Kelly Perkins, who underwent a heart transplant in 1995 and is a mountain climber and motivational speaker, will speak on "My Story, My Mountain, My transplant". We are honoured to have Prof John McMurray from Glasgow as the keynote speaker. He will address the topic of "Innovations in the management of heart failure".
- Full parallel paediatric cardiology programme.
- SASCI (focus on STEMI), CASSA, Allied professionals and SASCAR parallel programmes.
- Innovations in cardiovascular medicine; innovations for the prevention of heart disease; multi-modality cardiac imaging; coronary revascularisation, structural intervention and arrhythmias, digital health; Sandton Sunday Soapbox/How do you do it?
- ESC to hold 2 interactive case-based learning sessions for their latest guidelines.
- SA Heart® 2017 will encompass 4 days of innovative education, ground-breaking science, interactive debates and discussions.

I am also extremely grateful to Sue McGuinness and her team from Europa Organisation Africa, our PCO for SA Heart® 2017. I have been blown away by their professionalism and attention to detail in this regard.

Our financial position remains very good.

Pharmadynamics are the sponsor of our meetings. We are extremely appreciative for this financial support without which it would be difficult to hold our symposia.

Once again I am honoured to have served in the positions of President and Treasurer of the Branch. I do however, feel that it is time for some of the younger members to take over the branch activities. I will be in discussions with the younger academics in this regard. I will be happy to remain as branch Treasurer. We will be holding a branch AGM at the SA Heart® 2017 Congress.

**David Jankelow, President and Treasurer**

### **KWAZULU-NATAL BRANCH**

There is not much to report from the KwaZulu-Natal branch, except to state that the branch is active and holds regular meetings. Apart from this, there is little other activity.

Support is limited to a few hard-core, predominantly older members; the younger members are either too busy or don't see the need to support the organisation. Despite this, we continue to encourage participation. The final meeting and AGM for this year will be held on 25 October 2017 when a new management committee will be elected. Best wishes to the new committee.

**R.K. Naidu, Chairperson**

## ANNUAL REPORTS continued

### PRETORIA BRANCH

It gives me great pleasure to report back on our SA Heart® Pretoria Branch Activities for 2017.

Our focus is to serve the educational needs of our branch members (cardiologists, EP specialists, surgeons, fellows and allied professionals). Our approach is very much to focus on the MDT (multi-disciplinary team).

- Our first meeting took place on 24 February at the regular venue, Kream. Eleven doctors and 29 technologists attended the event where a lecture was given by Dr Priya Soma-Pillay (UP) on the topic of “Hypertension and Pregnancy”. The attendees found the topic very informative.
- For our second meeting we asked Dr Razeen Gopal, a cardiologist and electrophysiologist, to speak on “Atrial fibrillation management: Is the old rate vs. rhythm debate still applicable with recent advances in therapy? The difficult patient: which anticoagulant and is there any benefit in appendage closure?”
- Our third meeting was held at the Protea Hotel Fire & Ice in Menlyn in collaboration with SASCI. We hosted the legendary interventional cardiologist from The Catharina Hospital in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, Dr Jacques Koolen. The topic of discussion was “Selecting an optimal revascularisation strategy for my patients with left mainstem stenosis in 2017: making sense of the evidence”. It was a great presentation which led to lively interactive discussions. The 49 delegates who attended expressed very positive feedbacks on the meeting.
- For our fourth meeting we asked Elsabé Klinck to address us. She specialises in health law, policy and ethics. Elsabé has worked in the health sector since 2001. The topic of her presentation was “Current Statutory Environment: NHI is coming - What now?”. At the Pretoria Branch AGM held on 14 September nominations for the positions of Treasurer and Secretary were requested, without success. I was unanimously re-elected as Chairperson.
- The fifth and final meeting will be held on 29 November. We are inviting all our members to attend including the Allied Professionals working in the Cath lab environment. Members must please note that all our meetings are CPD accredited.

The major focus for 2018 will be the SA Heart® Congress 2018 that will be organised by our branch. Branch members are requested to lend their support for this initiative.

Please contact George Nel at [george@medsoc.co.za](mailto:george@medsoc.co.za) or myself ([drioebrahim@gmail.com](mailto:drioebrahim@gmail.com)) if you wish to contribute at future meetings or to suggest appropriate programmes for Pretoria.

The CPD meetings are offered on a break-even basis to the sponsor and I would like to thank Pharma Dynamics for their continued support and for making this multi-evening lecture planning possible.

**Iftikhar Ebrahim, Chairperson, Pretoria Branch**

### WESTERN CAPE BRANCH

The current executive committee took office on 14 March 2016.

#### The executive committee members are:

Anton Doubell (President), Fannie Pecararo (Vice-president), Andre Brooks (Secretary) and Blanche Cupido (Treasurer). Additional members: Philip Herbst, John Lawrenson, Johan Brink and Jane Moses.

#### Five educational meetings were held since the previous annual general meeting:

- The first meeting, held on the 4 May 2016, was co-hosted with SASCI, featuring the annual lecture by the SASCI visiting professor. The lecture entitled “Revascularisation in 2016: Indications, strategies and techniques in the laboratory” was delivered by Augusto Pichard from Annapolis, USA. Prof Pichard impressed with his in-depth knowledge and practical approach to intervention.

- The second meeting was held on 20 June 2016 at the Crystal Towers hotel. A very enjoyable and popular fellows evening was hosted with excellent abstracts received. Six were selected to present from all the local academic units, including one medical student. The six presentations selected were:
  - **IVUS Guided Treatment of LAD CTO with POBA** – Bradley Griffiths
  - **Lessons learned from stenting children with Takayasu arteritis at Red Cross Children’s Hospital: A series of 3 cases** – Lenise Swanson
  - **Mixed congenital and acquired valvular heart disease: A case of quadricuspid aortic and rheumatic mitral valve disease** – Lorrita Kabwe
  - **Online ECG training improves ECG interpretation skills of junior doctors** – Charlé Viljoen
  - **Optical coherence tomography (OCT) establishes the diagnosis in a recurrent anterior ST-elevation acute coronary syndrome (STE-ACS)** – Hendrik Snyman
  - **Outcomes of systemic-to-pulmonary artery shunts in a low-income country** – Matthew Amoni

The choice of winners proved to be a very difficult task but in the end two outstanding presentations were awarded the prizes. The winners of the Fellows evening were Charle Viljoen and Bradly Griffiths.

- The third meeting was held on 10 September 2016 during the SA Heart® Annual Congress as a lunch-time symposium. The venue was the CTICC and the speaker was Catherine Otto, the Editor of Heart. The topic was “How to get your manuscript published”. The meeting was well attended and appreciated by the audience.
- The fourth meeting was held on the 13 March 2017 at the Crystal Towers Hotel. The academic programme included three talks followed by three case reports. The talks were on STEMI in South Africa (Shaheen Pandie), left cardiac sympathetic denervation for cardiomyopathy (Timothy Pennel) and imaging of the right ventricle (Philip Herbst). The meeting was well attended and of a high standard.
- The fifth meeting was held on the 5 June 2017 at the Crystal Towers Hotel. Three interesting talks of a very high standard were presented. The first talk by Rik de Decker was entitled “Echoes of brilliance: The history and development of echocardiography”. The second talk also gave a historical perspective, namely the story of the first heart transplant by Christiaan Barnard, presented by Susan Vosloo. Alfonso Pecoraro then gave a very contemporary talk on the many faces of cardiac tuberculosis. The meeting concluded with 2 interesting case presentations and discussion.

The financial report confirms that we are in a sound financial position. This allowed the branch to continue awarding the Louis Vogelpoel Scholarship. The 2017 recipient was Patrick Diaba-Nuhoho.

The major challenge for exco during its first year in office was taking responsibility for the 2016 edition of the Annual Congress of the SA Heart® Association. The chairman of the organising committee was Alfonso Pecoraro. I am happy to report that the Western Cape branch honoured its responsibility of arranging a quality scientific programme for the 2016 Congress held jointly with the World Society of Cardio Thoracic Surgeons Congress at the CTICC. I am also thankful to the committee, and in particular to Alfonso Pecoraro, for dealing with all the challenges that go with arranging a major congress, particularly the financial challenge. The Western Cape branch of SA Heart® was invited onboard the organising committee for the 2016 Congress by the Executive committees of the SA Heart® Association and the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons of South Africa (SOCTS). At the time the PCO had already been appointed and a contract had already been entered into with them. Were it not for Alfonso’s hard work, and our insistence that the contract with the PCO be amended, the congress would possibly have ended in a substantial loss. The result was a modest profit of R182 802 shared between the SA Heart® Association and SOCTS. The organising committee was informed of the profit by the President of SA Heart® but have not had insight into the congress report or financial audit. In light of the financial pressure experienced by the SA Heart® Association, the exco agreed to waive the share of profit normally paid over to the branch or SIG organising the annual congress. The organising committee also decided not to accept the customary honorarium for organising the congress. The exco have recommended that future contracts with a PCO for our annual congress be based on a share of profit model and not based on a share of turnover.

**Anton Doubell, President: Western Cape Branch of SA Heart®**

## SA HEART® CONGRATULATES THE FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES IN THE OCTOBER 2017 ADULT CERTIFICATE IN CARDIOLOGY EXAMINATIONS



### **Dr Rohan Laljee Lutchman**

Dr Rohan Laljee Lutchman hails from the little town of Estcourt in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands.

He obtained his undergraduate medical degree at the University of Natal in 2006, and subsequently completed his internship and community service at the Pietermaritzburg Hospital Complex and Estcourt Hospital, respectively.

In 2010 he commenced training in Internal Medicine and received his Fellowship from the College of Physicians in 2014. Immediately thereafter, Dr Lutchman joined the Division of Cardiology at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital and has just successfully attained his sub-specialist certificate as a cardiologist. He is currently completing his Masters in Medicine.

His passion lies in the dynamic field of interventional cardiology, and he is particularly interested in structural heart disease.



### **Dr Bradley Griffiths**

Dr Bradley Griffiths is a cardiology fellow at Tygerberg Hospital. He did his undergraduate degree at Stellenbosch University and after gaining experience in Intensive Care and Anaesthesia in Sydney Australia, went on to obtain a Diploma in Anaesthesia and the Fellowship of the College of Physicians while working at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town.

He obtained his Masters in Medicine degree from the University of Cape Town for his research titled "Self-reported use of secondary prevention medication and smoking cessation after acute coronary syndromes", the results of which were published in the SAMJ in 2014. Currently he is concluding the LV IMPACT study on women with pre-eclampsia and pulmonary oedema as part of a MPhil degree at Stellenbosch University. The results of his research will be presented at the upcoming SA Heart® Congress in Johannesburg.

Bradley hopes to be involved in teaching and training in the future.



### **Dr Farai Dube**

Dr Farai Dube received his MBChB degree in 2002 from the University of Transkei. In 2006 he obtained a Diploma in HIV Management from the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa. He trained in Internal Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand circuit and obtained his Fellowship of the College of Physicians in 2013. Farai did his cardiology training at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, attaining his sub-specialist certificate at the recent examinations. He works as a consultant in the Division of Cardiology.

He also obtained his Masters in Public Health from the University of the Witwatersrand in July 2017 on his research titled "Clinical appropriateness of referrals to the echocardiography clinic at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital". He is currently completing a study on Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy for a Masters in Medicine.

Farai is involved in various outreach programmes that include mentoring students, providing counselling, teaching life skills, volunteering at orphanages and running volunteer clinics. He keeps fit playing tennis, cycling, jogging, fishing, participating in weekend marathons and more recently, by chasing after his two young children. He resides with his family in Johannesburg.

## TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Applications for the SA Heart® Travel Scholarship for the fourth term in 2017 are invited to reach the SA Heart® Office by 31 December 2017.

The scholarship is for the value of up to R20 000.00 for international meetings and R7 500.00 for local meetings.

This scholarship is available to all members and associate members residing in South Africa. It is primarily intended to assist junior colleagues to ensure continued participation in local or international scientific meetings or workshops.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be fully paid-up members/associate members for at least 1 year.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Early and mid-career applicants (<5 years post-qualification as specialist and/or <5 years post-PhD qualification).
- Acceptance of an abstract/poster presentation at the scientific meeting to be attended.

### CONDITIONS

- Awards will not be made for conferences or workshops retrospective to the application submission deadline. If the conference is taking place within six (6) weeks following the submission deadline, please indicate this in the appropriate place on the application form.
- It is not a requirement for the abstract to be accepted by the conference travel application closing date. Should the acceptance of the paper, including proof of registration not be available at the time of submission of the application, then a provisional award may be made pending the receipt of the acceptance of paper.
- Please ensure that applications are made as well in advance as possible (**preferably at least 6 months prior to the conference date**).
- Applicants may only submit 1 application every second year. The scholarship is for the value of up to R20 000.00 for international meetings and R7 500.00 for local meetings.
- Awards are only made in the event that a paper or a poster is being presented or in the event of a workshop attendance, that the reviewers deem the workshop attendance to be of high impact and benefit to the SA Heart® community.
- The applicant must ensure that the application is fully completed including the requirements as detailed in the checklist section. Applicants are asked to be concise and to only include applicable and relevant information.
- Awards are granted for 1 specific conference. Should that specific conference be cancelled or the full amount allocated not utilised for any reason, then the funds must revert to the SA Heart®; and
- 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.

### SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Completed applications may be emailed to [erika@saheart.org](mailto:erika@saheart.org) on or before the deadline date.
- Please request a fillable MS Word version of the application form from [erika@saheart.org](mailto:erika@saheart.org)

# Save the Date



## Annual CASSA Symposium Clinical Updates in Arrhythmias

**17 February 2018**

The Maslow Hotel - Johannesburg

**24 February 2018**

The Vineyard Hotel - Cape Town

**General Information**

Please contact Elouise Cloete  
elouise@shiftideas.co.za  
Tel: +27 (0) 11 465 4764

**Please note:**  
Registration fees will apply



## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



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## THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available to full and associate members of the 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
  - Full details of the research
  - The completed application form - please request a fillable MS Word document from the [erika@saheart.org](mailto:erika@saheart.org)
  - Contact details of Head of Department or supervisor/mentor

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Preference will be given to early and mid-career applicants (<5 years post-qualification as specialist and/or <5 years post-PhD qualification).

### CONDITIONS

- Applicants may only submit 1 application every second year. Preference is given to those who have not had previous scholarships awarded.
- Awards are granted for one specific research project. Should that specific project be cancelled or the full amount allocated not utilised for any reason, then the funds must revert to the SA Heart®.

### APPLICATIONS MUST BE EMAILED TO:

[erika@saheart.org](mailto:erika@saheart.org)

**THE SELECTION PANEL WILL REVIEW APPLICATIONS ANNUALLY AND THE CLOSING DATE IS 30 SEPTEMBER 2017.**

One scholarship to a maximum amount of R50 000 will be awarded annually.

**SA Heart® commits to inclusive excellence by advancing equity and diversity.**

**We particularly encourage applications from members of historically under represented racial/ethnic groups, women and individuals with disabilities.**

## LOUIS VOGELPOEL TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are invited for the annual Louis Vogelpoel Travelling Scholarship for 2018. 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, who died in April 2005, was a pioneer of cardiology in South Africa. He was one of the founding members of the Cardiac Clinic at Grootte Schuur Hospital and University of Cape Town. He had an exceptional career spanning 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 undergraduates by regular bedside tutorials. He served as an outstanding role model for postgraduates 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 2018.**



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