



Guest Editor, David Jankelow

SA Heart® President

Linksfeld Park Clinic, Linksfeld West, Johannesburg, South Africa

My year as President of SA Heart®

I am humbled to have served as President of SA Heart® and I have outlined in detail last year's activities in my 2019 report, which is available online at www.saheart.org. I appreciate all the encouragement and assistance from Professor Liesl Zühlke and Ms Erika Dau, as well as our board of directors, the national council, standing committees and regional branches.

We are presently in the process of re-aligning our memorandum of incorporation to make SA Heart® more inclusive. This is a long and arduous process and we are fortunate that we have been ably guided by Mr Chandu Kashiram, who is a self-employed business consultant with expertise in risk management, ethics, governance, compliance and financial management. We are grateful that Mr Chandu has volunteered his services to our association. This process has been a sobering education as I personally did not appreciate the actual responsibilities that are required as a board director. We intend to not differentiate between various categories of membership and all allied cardiac professionals will be included as ordinary members with voting rights and inclusion on the SA Heart® board. In addition we will also have a number of independent directors – these will be individuals with added value business and fund-raising skills. The composition of the board and other important aspects are still under discussion and we will hold a special meeting for the membership to accredit this important document.

Other highlights for me personally include a major role in the organisation (together with the Durban Scientific Committee) of our recent successful PASCAR, SA Heart®, Africa PCR, SA-CMR and AHN congress. The coming together of five major groups was momentous in that we were able to strengthen collaborations and explore solutions for the epidemic of heart disease in Africa. We also held a well-attended SA Heart® - ESC joint symposium, "Infection, inflammation and the heart" at the recent ESC 2019 congress in Paris. I was honoured to represent SA Heart® at the Affiliated Cardiac Societies Presidents meeting, in addition to a meeting with the ESC leadership. We have now committed to provide our local perspectives for publication together with the future planned ESC Practice Guidelines, that we adopt as own. The ESC would like to better cater their recommendations for developing countries.

We are now in the initial planning phase for next year's congress, "2020: Back to the Basics". We want to get back to the fundamental basis of cardiovascular disease and cardiac practice. We welcome our long-term partnership with AfricaPCR. We will closely coordinate and integrate both committees. A needs analysis will soon be sent to the entire membership for suggestions of sessions, in line with this theme.

I wish you all a good festive season and a happy new year. Once again I welcome any constructive input that you may have. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

David Jankelow
djankelow@icon.co.za