

SA HEART - AFFILIATED MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY (ESC)

In 2005 the SA Heart Association joined the ESC as an Affiliated Member (AME), one of the first countries to be accepted. This year, as a new initiative, the ESC invited all its AME to have an exhibition space in the Membership Zone at the annual ESC Congress in Barcelona. We gladly accepted the invitation together with 15 other countries. With a SA tourism poster as backdrop we displayed information on our Association, on upcoming meetings and the SA Heart Journal.

Dr Anthony Stanley and Erika Dau attended the AME meeting – where another 6 countries signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) to become AME, now 28 in total - on 1 September on behalf of SA Heart. The meeting summarised the objectives, benefits and responsibilities of the affiliated ESC membership scheme and outlined new initiatives.

- Affiliated Member Societies (AMS) are asked to encourage their individual members to become Fellows of the ESC (SA has 9 so far).
- All members of AMS are welcome to:
 - Submit abstracts to the publications of the ESC and/or subscribe to these journals;
 - To participate in congress activities of the ESC;
 - To submit abstracts; or
 - To even propose members as abstract graders or chairpersons for sessions.
- AMS are encouraged to make use of the ESC core syllabus, educational products and to officially endorse the ESC guidelines.
- As most information is disseminated by email, members are asked to sign up through the “my ESC” portal on the ESC webpage.

New initiatives include the

- AMS stand at the ESC congress and the
- Editor's network.
- Joint National Congresses are envisaged, (SA Heart Congress 2009 is already incorporating this!) with joint sessions, facilitation and representation a possibility.
- Grants for research and training fellowships, in particular development of precise skills and research to applicants under 36 years of age, are available.
- The new Euro Heart Survey/Registries is under way and the ESC welcomed AMS to participate. There are to be three types of registry – the General registry will apply to all CVS disease from an epidemiological aspect of disease; the Sentinel registry will monitor the safety, cost-effectiveness and applicability of new technologies; and the Special Diseases registry which will monitor rare conditions. The data will be collected at the Heart House and analysis will take place there. Data of participating countries would be published combined and each participating country would receive their own national data.

The point was repeatedly made that the ESC is very committed to helping cardiology throughout the world. AMS were reassured that they/their members had the same benefits as members of the ESC (bar voting rights at the AGM or being elected onto the ESC board, committees or task forces).

Erika Dau

POPULAR CONGRESSES FOR 2009/2010

CONGRESS	DATE	CITY	COUNTRY
SA HEART 2009	25 - 28 October 2009	Sun City	South Africa
CHEST 2009	31 October - 5 November 2009	San Diego, CA	USA
AHA SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS	14 - 18 November 2009	Orlando, FL	USA
7 TH ECHO HONG KONG COURSE	19 - 20 November 2009	Hong Kong	China
4TH JOINT MEETING OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS	24 - 27 November 2009	Mauritius	Mauritius
EUROECHO 2009	9 - 12 December 2009	Madrid	Spain
15 TH WORLD CONGRESS ON HEART DISEASES ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 2010	24 - 27 July 2010	Vancouver, BC	Canada
7 TH CTO SUMMIT	4 - 5 February 2010	New York, NY	USA
INVASIVE CARDIAC ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY	11 - 13 February 2010	Sophia Antipolis	France
JIM 2010	11 - 13 February 2010	Rome	Italy
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CARDIOLOGY (ICC)	26 - 28 February 2010	Hong Kong	Hong Kong
ACC 2010 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS	14 - 16 March 2010	Atlanta, CF	USA
CARDIAC PACING, ICD & CRT	15 - 17 April 2010	Paris	France
EUROPREVENT 2010	5 - 7 May 2010	Prague	Czech Rep
EURO PCR 2010	25 - 28 May 2010	Paris	France
HEART FAILURE 2010	29 May - 1 June 2010	Berlin	Germany
ESH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2010	18 - 22 June 2010	Oslo	Norway
SA HEART 2010	20 - 23 August 2010	Sun City	South Africa
ESC 2010	28 August - 1 September 2010	Stockholm	Sweden
TCT	21 - 25 September 2010	Washington, DC	USA
ACUTE CARDIAC CARE 2010	16/19 October 2010	Copenhagen	Denmark

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR INTERVENTION

Progress in several of the Exco's focus areas for the past year include:

Discussions with funders

Graham Cassel, Tom Mabin and Farrel Hellig have specifically been very involved in discussions with funders (such as Discovery Health specific to DEB, Merci and TAVI but also DES). The merit of each case is carefully assessed to ensure that the SASCI Exco's time is optimised but still absorbs numerous hours. Consideration is given to aspects such as clinical relevance (new devices or products), potential impact on interventional cardiology and patient care supported by substantive documentation. Collaboration with SAMED (device industry society) has also been initiated to "filter" cases prior to escalation to Exco.

Liaison with Netcare

In a meeting between SASCI's Executive and Netcare's Management Committee on 1 September a useful discussion took place which will definitely result in significant cost savings to the public and funders. It will also streamline the price of all products and make intervention more affordable. No company will be excluded from cath labs but they will certainly be encouraged to fall in line with the lower price charged.

Collaboration with SCAI (American Interventional Society)

SASCI will in future closely collaborate with SCAI. SCAI offers an excellent website and access to e-Journals and SA practitioners can join as associate members at \$ 100 per annum. SCAI has offered SASCI up to 4 slots for fellows to attend their annual fellows programme in Las Vegas (www.scai.org/fellows) from 7 to 11 December 2009. SCAI offers accommodation and registration and SASCI need to cover cost of flights. SASCI will fund attendance of 1 fellow from own sources and requested industry support for additional fellows' attendance. The recipient

fellows will be requested to present at the annual SASCI Fellows Workshop (held at the end February each year).

SASCI's Annual General Meeting will be held on 24 October

Boston RC Fraser International Fellowship

This annual program sponsored by Boston sees a local fellow spending 4 weeks in the UK. Both 2008 and 2009 recipients went across to Prof Martin Thomas's hospital in the UK. Recent changes in registration (EU/UK) do "not" allow participants hands-on access to the cath lab – an issue that needs to be investigated further.

Medtronic Visiting Professors Programme (VPP)

Prof JP Bassand will be visiting South Africa during September and October 2010 and will spend a month in the Department of Cardiology, Groote Schuur Hospital and one month at Chris Hani Baragwanath.

SA Heart 2009

During the SA Heart Congress at Sun City in October 2009 a SASCI satellite session will be organised by Dr Cobus Badenhorst. Please note that the SASCI Annual General Meeting will occur on the same day (24 October).

Election of office bearers

The congress is important to SASCI members and it is essential that all members attempt to attend the AGM. New regional representatives and office bearers will

SASCI continued

be elected then. The Exco requested that I make myself available for a next term as President. I am willing to do so if re-elected as this will ensure continuance of all current activities.

Improved timing

From a delegate and industry perspective it is not ideal to have the Mauritius Congress and SA Heart Congress as closely together (every 2nd year). It will be discussed with the incoming SA Heart President (Dr Martin Sussman) in an attempt to resolve this in 2011.

SASCI Annual Fellows Workshop 2010

This event will be held at Vincent Pallotti Hospital, Cape Town with Dr Adie Horak as the Programme Director (27 Feb or 6 March 2010 TBC). Hosted by SASCI annually since 2004 the workshop has over 80 percent of all SA fellows/registrars in cardiology attending.

SASCI website

SASCI plans to hand out a hard copy to members to introduce our new access to interventional journals through the www.sasci.co.za website. The following e-journals are available: Circulation Cardiovascular Intervention, American Journal of Cardiology, Euro Intervention, Journal of American Cardiology and New England Journal of Medicine. I would like to strongly urge members to make use of this new facility.

I would like to thank my Exco for the hard work during the year and hope to perfect my delegation skills in the future!!!

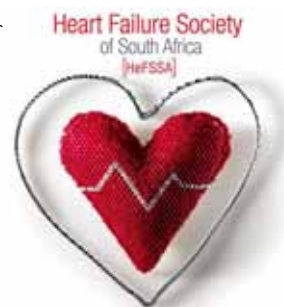
Dr Graham Cassel
President, SASCI



SASCI
South African
Society of
Cardiovascular
Intervention

HEFSSA NEWS

HeFSSA, the SIG responsible for hosting SA Heart 2009, cordially invites you to attend the 10th South African Heart Association Congress at Sun City, 22-25 October 2009.



This conference promises to be a truly South African festival of cardiology and the meeting expects to attract more than 1 200 delegates from Africa, Europe and the United States.

Workshops dedicated to echocardiography done in conjunction with several colleagues from the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA as well as a symposium addressing the management of cardiovascular disease aimed at specialist physicians and general practitioners will be held prior to the start of the meeting. (See sections from these programmes below). The pre-congress workshops have proved to be very popular and successful at previous meetings.

The organising committee has put together a really outstanding academic programme with dedicated focus on the "failing heart" comprising joint sessions with cardiothoracic surgeons, paediatric cardiologists, interventional cardiologists (SASCI) and the Cardiac Arrhythmia Society of SA (CASSA).

Additional highlights will be a symposium for allied professionals and a symposium on cardiovascular disease prevention and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

There will be opportunities to hear about the latest groundbreaking trials, continuing education, and ample time for networking with colleagues from all disciplines in cardiology possibly leading to participation in exciting African research projects and registries.

We are looking forward to another excellent academic meeting, with South African, African and overseas participation.

Continued on page 306

HEFSSA NEWS continued

HeFSSA AGM

The HeFSSA AGM will take place at the SA Heart Congress on Saturday 24 October.

Echocardiography course in association with Mayo Clinic

Thursday 22 October will offer a specialised Echocardiography course in association with five International MAYO Clinic speakers.

The programme is designed for adult and paediatric cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, intensivists, anaesthetists, sonographers, physicians with an interest in echocardiography and fellows-in-training.

Topics from the programme include:

- Evaluation of diastolic function: Dr V. Nkomo
- Tissue Doppler, strain and torsion: Prof J. Oh
- Valvular regurgitation: Diagnosis and timing of surgery: Prof C. Bruce
- Stress echocardiography at 30 years: Prof R. McCully

Friday, 23 October will consist of live demonstrations, interactive one-on-one sessions and "hands on training".

Register now not to miss these events!

HeFSSA cardiovascular revision for the active practitioner

HeFSSA will be hosting a cardiovascular update designed specially for general practitioners and physicians on Thursday 22 October, the day prior to the Annual SA Heart 2009 Congress.

This programme will include topics such as:

- Assessing cardiovascular risk: Dr E. Klug
- Aspects of coronary artery disease: Dr F. Hellig
- How to diagnose hypertension: Dr M. Mpe
- Management of hypertension: Dr M. Mpe
- ECG – the basics: Dr A. Thornton
- ECG case studies: Dr A. Thornton
- Symptoms and signs of heart failure: Dr E. Klug
- Management of heart failure: Prof K. Sliwa
- Case studies - CAD, HT, HF: Speaker panel

Visit www.saheart.co.za to register for this exciting educational event

HeFSSA would like to thank Pharmadynamics, Medtronic, Servier, Phillips and Astra-Zeneca for their unconditional support of our society's activities during 2009.

GP workshops

Look out for HeFSSA GP workshops in Carletonville, Potchefstroom and Rustenburg over the next three months.

For information please visit www.hefssa.org or contact Franciska du Toit at the HeFSSA Office on 082 806 1599 or franciska@hefssa.org.

Look out for HeFSSA GP Workshops over the next three months

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

A maximum of four scholarships annually are available to all members and associate members of the South African Heart Association 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 or associate members in good standing for at least one year.
- ▶ Applications must include
 - ▶ full details of the meeting/workshop;
 - ▶ the applicant's abbreviated CV; and
 - ▶ a breakdown of the anticipated expenses.
- ▶ Applications must reach the Association a **minimum of 3 months** before the event.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Acceptance of an abstract submitted by the applicant at the scientific meeting or workshop. If acceptance of the abstract is pending the application it must still be submitted 3 months prior to the event with a note of the date of expected approval. In such a case the scholarship might be granted on condition – and proof – of the abstract being accepted.
- ▶ An invitation to participate as an invited speaker at the meeting.
- ▶ Publications in peer reviewed journal/s in the preceding year.
- ▶ An applicant from a member of a previously disadvantaged community.
- ▶ An application from a member younger than 35 years of age.

ADDRESS APPLICATIONS TO:

The President
South African Heart Association
PO Box 19062
Tygerberg
7505

- ▶ A maximum of four scholarships will be awarded annually.
- ▶ Support for international meetings will be awarded to a maximum of R20 000 and local meetings to a maximum of R7 500 per scholarship.

CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (CASSA)

The Cardiac Arrhythmia Society of Southern Africa, true to its vision of improving the care of patients through education and training, would like to remind its members of the following three important educational endeavours:

- CASSA GP Road Show in the Western Cape. These meetings will take place on Saturday 31 October and Saturday 14 November in Oudtshoorn and on the Cape West Coast. Please contact Franciska du Toit at 082 806 1599 or franciska@cassa.co.za for more information.
- The CASSA program at SA Heart Congress this year (22-25 Oct at Sun City) promises to be an exciting one! During the Special Interest Group Breakaway sessions on Saturday morning, CASSA will offer its members the opportunity to attend a refresher course on ECG, assessment of several interesting and complicated EP

cases as well as a lecture on Syncope by world renowned lecturer, Prof. Brian Olshansky.

Journals on CASSA website:

We are happy to report that the following International Journals are available on the CASSA website:

- Heart Rhythm Journal
- Journal of Cardiovascular Electrophysiology
- Pacing And Clinical Electrophysiology
- Europace

Leadership towards optimal healthcare policies and standards:

MAG Conference

During the recently held Medical Advisors Group Conference at the Arabella Hotel outside Hermanus, CASSA had the opportunity to address the Medical Advisors of all the major medical aids on the issue of Reimbursement of Device therapy.

Prof Martin Cowie, from the Brompton Hospital in London went through the current Guidelines and spoke about what the future will hold. He was very upbeat about the future of implantable devices in the treatment of heart failure. He was also highly positive about ICD placement. He found ICDs to be cost effective up to the age of 80 years (in the absence of the usual life limiting conditions). However, he also stressed that as good as ICDs are, their incorrect placement or programming could land up as a complete medical disaster to the individual patient.

The audience was spellbound and both Prof Cowie's talk as well as the guidelines presented was exceptionally well received by the funders.

Diarise...!

CASSA will again host a National Symposium in 2010. The theme of next year's meeting will be "The many faces of AF" and there will be two big meetings (Johannesburg and Cape Town) with the possibility of smaller meetings in other areas. Visit www.cassa.co.za for further information.

CASSA continued

‘The incorrect placement or programming of ICDs could land up as a complete medical disaster to the individual patient.’

We would like to express our gratitude towards Medtronic and Amayeza for the educational grant that made Prof Cowie and Dr Obel's attendance at this meeting possible.

CMS

On behalf of CASSA, Dr Anthony Stanley attended the Clinical Review Committee (cardiology) of the Council of Medical Schemes which met on Friday 21 August to review PMB guidelines and algorithms. This process takes place every two years and even though CASSA joined at a rather late juncture, the society is very much part of this year's review process and will proactively be involved in similar meetings in future.

The process concludes at the end of September after which a complete summary of the discussions and changes to the guidelines and algorithms will be made available on the CASSA website.

Remote Monitoring

CASSA is also looking into a reimbursement code for "Remote Monitoring" of cardiac implantable devices which will be available in South Africa soon. Please contact Dr Anthony Stanley for any information in this regard.

CASSA/PACE

During the month of July CASSA met with sister organisation PACE (Prevent Arrhythmic Cardiac Events) the patient advocacy and support group for people affected by arrhythmia, to discuss synergies between the two groups.

Lusan Luscombe (CEO of PACE) reported that PACE has formal and well functioning patient support group meetings in all the major metropolitan areas in South Africa where patients get together on a regular basis to share experiences and or listen to expert advice on living with an ICD.

PACE has also partnered with Dischem where information and education brochures are distributed on a continuous basis to both patients and members of the public.

Encourage your patients to attend the PACE support group meetings. Details can be found on www.paceafrica.org

CASSA is experiencing exciting times and is actively shaping the market in which we work. Get involved, become a member or a friend of CASSA and join this growing Society!

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE (NHI)

The South African Government is eager to proceed with a plan to implement a National Health Insurance (NHI) system. The Government is of the opinion that the new system will ensure better accessibility to medical care. Different proposals were discussed at forums over the past months. The details of these plans are however extremely vague.

Is the present Public Health Service any different from the proposed NHI? At present 10 million tax payers contribute to funding the public health care system for the 40 odd million inhabitants. Will the new system broaden the contribution source? Will more people contribute to this insurance than those already paying tax? Will it be the same contributors, already contributing to the tax coffers, pay even more tax to deliver health care to possibly more patients? Taxpayers would, in all likelihood have little or no option but to accept that taxes will increase (whether by way of general tax or by way of compulsory health insurance). The answer is unclear, however, the general public will receive a degree of health care.

The Public Health System is currently unable to manage itself. Examples of under- and overspending are rife. Numerous reports indicate a rapid deterioration of facilities due to poor or no maintenance. It is not uncommon for a public hospital in South Africa to be unable to provide food for the patients. It is noteworthy that suppliers, more often than not, are left unpaid for their services.

Another important issue is the question: Who will provide the medical care? The public system as is, is unable to cope with the present demand. Private health care cannot deliver this service without financial implications.

I see NHI as an upgraded public health care system. The basis of the health care should be sound and efficient before upgrading or expansion could be possible. This

would require project management of a high standard which is possibly not available in the public sector. Private health care would more than likely be able to take over management of public health care but the latter is apparently not interested in such a solution.

Further pressing questions include, but are not limited to staff employment for example, will private hospitals employ all staff – including doctors and related medical services and then contract the service to the state? This is possible. Would private health care be able to continue to deliver care? Would that care be limited to care not possible in NHI or will private care continue as is? Would we need more health care workers? The answer is an emphatic “YES”, but who will train them? Do the tertiary institutions have the ability and willingness to train more people? They can hardly cope with their present obligation.

NHI works in Korea – a country with <5% unemployment despite it taking 10 to 20 years to develop. NHS in an affluent country like the UK works – but with waiting lists for important procedures up to 6 months. What will health care be looking like in 10 years time. More than 50% of specialists will not be practicing anymore and a portion of the younger ones would have emigrated – according to the latest media figures 17% per year! Will there be experienced trainers or lecturers?

NHI in some form or another is coming. It has no alternative but to work and be efficient. Medical insurance companies, other industry partners, concerned health care workers and private practice and our new SAPPF needs to find a workable and effective solution to the conundrum facing the medical industry and its future. Good luck to all.

Adriaan Snyders

PS: Start by attending discussions, contribute to your society and attend SA Heart 2009 at Sun City.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available to all full and associate members of SA Heart residing in South Africa. It is primarily intended to assist colleagues involved in outstanding research with their research programmes.

REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Applicants must be fully paid-up members or associate members in good standing for at least one year.
- ▶ Applications must include
 - ▶ the applicant's abbreviated CV;
 - ▶ a breakdown of the anticipated expenses; and
 - ▶ full details of the research.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Publications of related work in a peer-reviewed journal in the preceding year.
- ▶ Applicants from a previously disadvantaged community.
- ▶ Applicants younger than 35 years of age.

ADDRESS APPLICATIONS TO:

Education Standing Committee
South African Heart Association
PO Box 19062
Tygerberg
7505

APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY BY THE SELECTION PANEL. THE CLOSING DATE IS SEPTEMBER 30.

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

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED ACCORDING TO THE RESEARCH PROTOCOL ACCOMPANYING THE APPLICATION AND SHOULD INCLUDE:

- ▶ Abstract (maximum 200 words);
- ▶ Brief review of the literature (maximum 200 words);
- ▶ Brief description of the hypothesis to be investigated (maximum 100 words);
- ▶ Detailed methodology (maximum 500 words); and
- ▶ References.