

## SA HEART NEWS

I thank my colleagues for entrusting me with the task of leading the society for the past 3 years. I could build on a firm basis set by my predecessors. SA Heart has increased its visibility and influence in health care but there certainly remains room for improvement. I set the following priorities:

### To increase the activities of the standing committees and to get the SIGs involved in the workings of the committees

The results are evident when one reads through the reports of our standing committees. This is an ongoing process and the "to do" list for 2015 is already extensive. Committee members are more than just names on a list, they participate in discussions. Committees meet regularly and comments such as "we did not meet/we met only once during this year" should be something of the past.

- Position statements and guidelines regarding a number of clinical issues were published by the Ethics committee.
- We worked with the SAMA coding committee to table new codes for modern interventions for the first time in 10 years. We addressed many issues with the funders with great success but also stood our ground when we were bullied.
- Educational lectures series were developed.
- The most expensive activities, such as the Cath lab Registry and Journal, were addressed and changes effected.
- The SA Heart Congress Organising Committee gives guidance and I propose that they become a full standing committee of SA Heart. Cost efficacy in running the congress is a necessity and this year we are proud to welcome ESC Global Scientific Activities at the SA Heart Congress. Our bid to host WCC 2016 was withdrawn at the last minute as the CTICC could not confirm that the expansions would be ready, but watch this space for WCC 2018.



### To improve communication with the SIGS and our members

- Regular e-Bulletins were sent to all members to report on activities and alert to imminent issues.
- The quarterly newsletter presented the latest activities on all fronts and now also includes information from HSF, SAMED, ISCAP and in the future also SAMA.
- We started forwarding relevant aspects from our Exco minutes to the SIGS to avoid misunderstanding and to ensure and strengthen unity in this small community.
- The SA Heart and SIG leadership respect each other and working together resulted in the launch of Africa PCR; Expanding the Cardiology Update for non cardiologist at our congress and a clear opportunity for the Paediatric Cardiologists and Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons to be part of our programmes. SA Heart 2013 ran with the WPCSC and SA Heart looking forward to the possibility of being part of the World Cardio-Thoracic congress in Cape Town in 2016. Let us all unite in a concerted effort for a possible hosting of the WCC in 2018.

### To expand our influence in the health care community

- SA Heart is recognised by the ACC and ESC. We met with their leadership and look forward to an even closer collaboration.

*Continued on page 160*

## SA HEART NEWS continued

- SA Heart STEMI Reperfusion participated in a SFL Meeting in Prague and collaborated with SFL in reporting on our activities.
- The SA Heart STEMI Early Reperfusion Project started a national role out now with SASCI – It only makes good sense. More information available in the updated report.
- We are proud of the prominent role SASCI and our other SIGs play on international podiums such as PCR, PASCAR and others.

### To re-evaluate and improve cost efficacy of our projects

- SHARE One closed down and SHARE II was developed as to not repeat the same mistakes. Read the guidelines for SHARE Projects and participate. SA Heart still supports this project but with a predefined amount and with clear guidelines.
- Negotiations are underway for a new publishing strategy for our journal and newsletter.
- The e-Journal was implemented and the cost efficacy will be re-evaluated at this meeting to ensure our resources are used wisely.

This all started after a strategic weekend meeting and is managed/monitored by regular teleconference meetings and a mandatory bi-annual face to face meeting of the SA Heart Exco. Erika Dau's position evolved from that of half day office secretary to full time Society Executive Officer. We will further investigate alternative ways of society management and new financial resources during our Exco and National Council Meeting at SA Heart 2014.

### Challenges for the future include:

- Despite ethics issues raised by industry we were unfortunately not successful in establishing joint guidelines.
- Communication with DoH and improvements for full time salaried colleagues are still a challenge.
- Public-Private Collaborations to improve and increase educational opportunities are hampered by regulations.

While tertiary institutions have the responsibility and regulatory authority regarding much of the expertise, experience and opportunities reside in private health care.

- Innovation is needed to broaden and secure our financial resources. While our income seems stable, costs increase and projects expand. We however recognise the increasing role which industry is playing in assisting with these endeavors.
- We need more accurate data to assist in planning and to support our negotiations with Funders and DoH. Participation and feedback from health care providers on the ground is limited but remains an important source. We need members to report on issues with funders with case reports to assist our PPC when consulting with all parties. A mindshift is needed to collect data in registries without placing an inappropriate burden on professionals.
- Primary health care is the focus of government. Secondary care such as thrombolysis, echocardiography and pacing are lacking in both public and private health care in most urban areas.
- Ongoing revisions of guidelines will remain an important necessity to assist the whole cardiology community in the effort to provide the best care for our patients.

2015 should again be an exciting year starting with Africa PCR; SA Heart 2015; SASCI Fellows course; Heartfailure educations for GPs; as usual a CASSA educational event; SunEcho and New Horizon Echocardiography locally; PASCAR in Tunisia and PCR; ESC; ACC; Cardiostim and other opportunities internationally.

I thank my executive committee colleagues for their support and advice and wish the new Exco, under the leadership of Prof Karen Sliwa, all the best. I invite all members to become more involved with SA Heart and to participate in reaching the next level of excellence.

**Adriaan Snyders (asnyders@mweb.co.za)**  
**President, SA Heart Association**

## POPULAR CONGRESSES FOR 2014 / 2015

CONGRESS	DATE	CITY	COUNTRY
LAA LEFT ATRIAL APPENDAGE <a href="http://www.cso-laa.org">http://www.cso-laa.org</a>	14 - 15 November 2014	Frankfurt	Germany
AHA SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS <a href="http://www.scientificsessions.org">http://www.scientificsessions.org</a>	15 - 19 November 2014	Chicago	USA
EURO ECHO IMAGING <a href="http://www.escardio.org/congresses/euroecho-imaging-2014/Pages/welcome.aspx?hit=nav">http://www.escardio.org/congresses/euroecho-imaging-2014/Pages/welcome.aspx?hit=nav</a>	3 - 6 December 2014	Vienna	Austria
2ND WORLD CONGRESS OF CLINICAL LIPIDOLOGY <a href="http://www.clinical-lipidology.com">http://www.clinical-lipidology.com</a>	5 - 7 December 2014	Vienna	Austria
CSI AFRICA - CATHETER INTERVENTIONS IN CONGENITAL, STRUCTURAL AND VALVAR HEART DISEASE <a href="http://www.csi-congress.org/africa">http://www.csi-congress.org/africa</a>	5 - 6 December 2014	Arusha	Tanzania
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR INNOVATIONS IN INTERVENTIONS <a href="http://www.icicmeeting.com">http://www.icicmeeting.com</a>	14 - 16 December 2014	Tel Aviv	Israel
CARDIORHYTHM 2015 <a href="http://www.cr2015.org">http://www.cr2015.org</a>	30 January - 1 February 2015	Hong Kong	Hong Kong
JIM 2015 <a href="http://www.jim-vascular.com">http://www.jim-vascular.com</a>	12 - 14 February 2015	Rome	Italy
CARDIOLOGY, DIABETES AND NEPHROLOGY AT THE LIMITS <a href="http://www.atthelimits.org">http://www.atthelimits.org</a>	13 - 15 February 2015	Cape Town	South Africa
BIOMARKERS, THERAPY AND DEVICES IN HEART FAILURE <a href="http://www.hf-ce.org">http://www.hf-ce.org</a>	18 - 20 February 2015	Cape Town	South Africa
ACC 2015 <a href="http://www.scientificsessions.org">http://www.scientificsessions.org</a>	14 - 16 March 2015	San Diego	USA
AFRICAPCR 2015 <a href="http://www.africapcr.com">http://www.africapcr.com</a>	26 - 28 March 2015	Johannesburg	South Africa
EUROPREVENT <a href="http://www.escardio.org">http://www.escardio.org</a>	14 - 16 May 2015	Lisbon	Portugal
EUROPCR 2015 <a href="http://www.euopcr.com">http://www.euopcr.com</a>	19 - 22 May 2015	Paris	France
HEARTFAILURE 2015 <a href="http://www.escardip.org">http://www.escardip.org</a>	23 - 26 May 2015	Seville	Spain
AMERICAN SOCIETY ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY (ASE) <a href="http://www.asescientificsessions.org">http://www.asescientificsessions.org</a>	13 - 16 June 2015	Boston Massachusetts	USA
EHRA EUROPACE - CARDIOSTIM <a href="http://www.escardio.org/congresses/ehra-europace-2015/Pages/welcome.aspx">http://www.escardio.org/congresses/ehra-europace-2015/Pages/welcome.aspx</a>	21 - 24 June 2015	Milan	Italy

Continued on page 162

## POPULAR CONGRESSES FOR 2014 / 2015 continued

CONGRESS	DATE	CITY	COUNTRY
ESC 2015 <a href="http://www.escardio.org">http://www.escardio.org</a>	29 August - 2 September 2015	London	UK
WSA 2015 (WORLD CONGRESS ON CARDIOLOGY, ARRHYTHMIA, PACING AND EP) <a href="http://www.wsa2015.org">http://www.wsa2015.org</a>	17 - 20 September 2015	Beijing	China
PASCAR <a href="http://www.pascar.org">http://www.pascar.org</a>	3 - 7 October 2015	Hammamet	Tunisia
TCT2015 <a href="http://www.crf.org/tct">http://www.crf.org/tct</a>	12 - 16 October 2015	San Francisco California	USA
VENICE ARRHYTHMIA <a href="http://www.venicearrhythmia.org">http://www.venicearrhythmia.org</a>	16 - 18 October 2015	Venice	Italy
<b>16TH ANNUAL SA HEART CONGRESS AND ESC GSA</b> <a href="http://www.saheart.org/congress2015">http://www.saheart.org/congress2015</a>	<b>25 - 28 October 2015</b>	<b>Sun City</b>	<b>South Africa</b>
AHA <a href="http://my.americanheart.org">http://my.americanheart.org</a>	07 - 11 November 2015	Orlando Florida	USA

## WEBSITE LINKS

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

## SA HEART AGM

**FRIDAY**  
**17 OCTOBER**  
**17H30 - 18H30**



in the Main Auditorium

incorporating a debate on

**THE FUTURE OF  
CARDIAC CARE IN  
SOUTH AFRICA**

**See you there!**

## SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR INTERVENTION

### REPORT FROM SA HEART – SASCI STEMI REPERFUSION PROJECT

An update on our activities was published in the Autumn Newsletter.

#### Our focus for 2015 can be summarised as follows:

- A second round of Education in the Pretoria Region and referral areas to include updating ECG interpretation as requested by our referring GPs.
- Scientific Survey/registry capturing data for a period of 2 - 3 months per year will run in the Pretoria Cath Labs and will be available to all other regions that are prepared. The final protocol will be presented to SHARE later this year for IT and analysis assistance whilst the STEMI project will secure funding for all other activities from our supporters.
- Participation by DoH and other governmental institutions has been proven to be critical in establishing effective networks to benefit the majority of patients. We will renew our efforts to consult with DoH.
- The patient awareness programme should follow our educational efforts and the streamlining of a network. If we, however, wait for these two arms of our project to be perfect, our patient awareness phase will never be realised. This phase of the project will thus be attended to in 2015.
- A final decision on a STEMI symposium for 2015 will be discussed in the latter part of 2014. I envisage participation will include all sectors of cardiology health care such as EMS, Tertiary institutions, Funders and the Department of Health, both regionally and nationally. This has been proven to significantly advance the STEMI programme in India. We will collaborate with STEMI India to assist in this venture.
- Investigate the option to expand this Registry to include all ACS cases and at a later stage maybe other Cath Lab cases as well.

For those who are not yet part of the programme, please contact me and indicate your interest. You will be directed

to your local champion or maybe you can even take responsibility for your own or another particular region.

We also need assistance to improve our educational material and to maintain and update our library on STEMI. Please contact Amy Wolf if you want to participate and/or assist.

‘The collaboration between SA Heart and SASCI on this project has been very successful.’

The collaboration between SA Heart and SASCI on this project has been very successful and I thank Dr Hellig, George Nel and all the members of the steering committee for their assistance. I thank our industry supporters for making this possible and hope to see more of you as part of our team in 2015.

Please read the article in the latest EuroIntervention.

**Adriaan Snyders**  
**National Champion for SA Heart – SASCI STEMI Early Reperfusion**



SASCI

South African Society of Cardiovascular Intervention

## SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH (SASCAR)

### SA Heart Meetings

Welcome to the SA Heart meeting 2014. This year, an exciting programme has been put in place and SASCAR has been involved in the organisation of four sessions which are specifically dedicated to basic cardiovascular research. A novel 2014 initiative has been that SASCAR Committee Members have agreed to help promote young researchers' participation in the programme by contributing to their registration fee at the SA Heart meeting. This year, we are delighted to welcome Dr Derick Van Vuuren from the University of Stellenbosch who will be giving a talk on "Protein phosphatase 2A: the black sheep in cardioprotection".

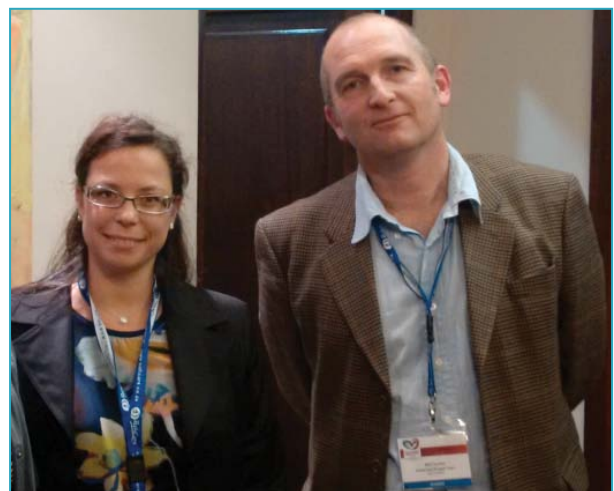
### RAAS Meeting 2014

The Renin Angiotensin Aldosterone System (RAAS) Satellite Meeting 2014, an official satellite meeting of the World Congress of Pharmacology, was held at Spier Wine Estate on 11 - 12 July. This meeting, organised by Prof Edward Sturrock, was endorsed by SASCAR, HeFSSA and the University of Cape Town. A number of national and international guest speakers attended this small but exciting meeting. The invited Faculty of the meeting included many SASCAR members, amongst them Sandrine Lecour, Neil Davies and Karen Sliwa. The focus of the meeting was of course on the renin angiotensin aldosterone system and talks were presented that covered a very wide range of topics: spanning the remit from clinical to basic. Attendees gained a deeper understanding of the latest developments in drug therapies and dosing regimens for controlling RAAS, fascinating insights into novel interactions between obesity and RAAS and the key aspects of hypertension in African populations as well as the complex interplay between RAAS and the brain. Though the focus was on RAAS, other topics were dealt with as well. These included the influence of anti-retroviral therapies on metabolic disease, the latest progress in peri-partum cardiomyopathy therapy and the cardioprotection afforded by wine.

SASCAR was very pleased to be able to award prizes for both the best student oral and poster presentations. These awards went respectively to Ms A. Millen for her wonderful talk which demonstrated that circulating markers of RAAS are not independently associated with LV diastolic function

in individuals of African ancestry and to Ms R. Rajkovicova for her elegant poster examining the effect of captopril and melatonin on doxorubicin induced organ damage.

‘ SASCAR was very pleased to be able to award prizes for both the best student oral and poster presentations. ’

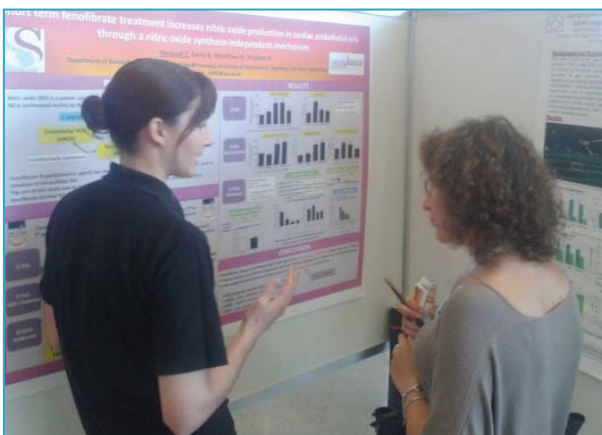


Dr Neil Davies, Treasurer of SASCAR, awarded the prize for best poster presentation to Ms Rajkovicova from Lithuania.





Prof Sandrine Lecour, Mr Gerald Maarman and Dr Sarah Pedretti (all of the University of Cape Town) during the poster session at the ESC Frontiers in CardioVascular biology meeting in Barcelona, July 2014.



Mrs Corli Wescott from the University of Stellenbosch during the poster session at the ESC Frontiers in CardioVascular biology meeting in Barcelona, July 2014.

### SASCAR at ESC/ISHR meeting

The European Society of Cardiology (ESC) held the Frontiers in CardioVascular Biology (FCVB) conference and meeting on Basic Cardiovascular Science in Barcelona, Spain. This meeting was combined with the International Society for Heart Research (ISHR) pre-symposium which took place on the third of July 2014. One of the sessions at the ISHR pre-symposium was a combined session with

the South African Society of Cardiovascular Research (SASCAR). Prof Hans Strijdom was invited to act as chair for this session. Prof Sandrine Lecour, from University of Cape Town, presented highlights from her research in this session on the topic of "Melatonin in red wine for cardioprotection". Other internationally acclaimed speakers at the SASCAR session included: Prof Klaus Preissner (Giessen, Germany) who presented on "Extracellular RNA as a target for cardioprotection", Prof C Maack (Homburg, Germany) who presented on "HDAC4 as a therapeutic target for heart failure" and Prof Z Varga (Budapest, Hungary) who presented on "MicroRNAs involved in cardioprotection by ischaemic pre- and post-conditioning". The SASCAR session was very well attended and can be regarded as a great success. We are delighted that this initiative will be renewed in 2015 as we have just been informed that the organisers of the ISHR meeting (European section which will be held in Bordeaux, France in July 2015) have accepted our proposal of a joint ISHR/ SASCAR session dedicated to Stem Cell therapy at their meeting.

**Please, remember to join us at our  
AGM which will be held at the  
International Convention Centre,  
Durban,  
Saturday 18 October,  
17:30 - 18:30.**

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

 **SASCAR**  
SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH.

## LOUIS VOGELPOEL TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are invited for the annual Louis Vogelpoel Travelling Scholarship for 2015. 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 Cape Western branch of the South African Heart Association in memory of one of South Africa's outstanding cardiologists, Dr Louis Vogelpoel.

Louis Vogelpoel was a pioneer of cardiology in South Africa who died in April 2005. He was one of the founding members of the Cardiac Clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital and University of Cape Town. He had an exceptional career of over 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 under-graduates by regular bedside tutorials. He served as an outstanding role model for post-graduates 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 Cape Western 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 Cape Western 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](mailto:johan.brink@uct.ac.za).

Previous recipients of this prestigious award include Sandrine Lecour, Roisin Kelle and Liesl Zühlke.

**Applications close on 31 January 2015.**



## B. BRAUN TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

You are cordially invited to submit your application for the SA Heart – B. Braun Travel Scholarship to reach the SA Heart Office by 30 September 2014.

The scholarship is funded by an educational grant from BBraun to the value of R20 000.00 maximum for international meetings and R7 500.00 for local meetings.

This scholarship is available to all members and associate members residing in South Africa. Its primary goal is to assist junior colleagues, thereby ensuring their continued participation in local or international scientific meetings or workshops.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be fully paid-up members/associate members for at least one year.
- Applications must include the following:
  - Full details of the meeting/workshop;
  - An abbreviated CV of the applicant; and
  - A breakdown of the expected expenses.
- Applications must reach the Association **a minimum of 3 months ahead** of the scheduled event.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acceptance of an **abstract at the scientific meeting** to be attended. (If acceptance of the abstract is pending, the application must still be submitted 3 months prior to the event with a note stating when the approval is to be expected. In such a case the scholarship might be granted conditionally – and proof needs to be submitted once the abstract has been accepted.);
- Invitation to participate at the meeting as an invited speaker;
- Publications in a peer-reviewed journal in the preceding year;
- Applicants from a previously disadvantaged community; and
- Applicants younger than 35 years of age.

### APPLICATIONS MUST BE ADDRESS TO:

The President of the South African Heart Association  
PO Box 19062  
Tygerberg  
7505  
And submitted electronically to [erika@saheart.org](mailto:erika@saheart.org)

**Applicants that have benefited from a SA Heart Travel Scholarship in the past 3 years need not apply. Preference is further given to members who have never benefited from a SA Heart Scholarship.**

## SA HEART AT THE ESC CONGRESS IN BARCELONA

This year marks the first time the Global Scientific Activities programme of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) will bring highlights from the recent ESC congress to our annual SA Heart congress.

To underline the increased collaboration between the societies – SA Heart being an Affiliated Member of the ESC – the ESC afforded SA Heart a full booth at the recent ESC congress, rather than merely a display panel amongst the other affiliated member countries in a combined exhibition area. SA Tourism came on board and supported designing and print of the booth panels, paying for courier costs and providing South African Tourism DVDs and maps for our stall. The result was an inviting, professional presentation. Pioneer foods kindly sponsored some Safari nuts & raisin packages which we complemented with some packets of fruit dainties to hand out as snacks to the congress goers.



Thanks to the support of SA Tourism, the SA Heart stall at the ESC congress appeared both professional and inviting.

You might ask what SA Heart is doing at the ESC congress. Firstly, like any other congress, it affords a good opportunity for networking. Prof Karen Sliwa as president elect and I represented SA Heart in meetings with both the ACC and ESC leadership. During the meeting called by the ACC leadership and attended by inter alia Dr Huon Gray, the immediate past Chair of the ACC Assembly of International Governors, Connie Liu the Associate Specialist for International Affairs and other ACC leadership as well as a representative from the Saudi Arabia Chapter of the ACC,



Prof Bongani Mayosi, head of internal medicine at UCT, meeting with a PASCAR colleague, Dr Kamilu Musa Karaye, associate professor of medicine and consultant cardiologist, BAYERO university and Aminu Kano teaching hospital, Kano, Nigeria.

the ACC offered both SA Heart and PASCAR (Prof Bongani Mayosi represented this group during the meeting) to form a Chapter of the ACC. To be responsive to the needs of members outside the U.S. (there are a number of SA Heart members who are fellows of the ACC) and to achieve its international mission, the College approved a policy in 2009 to allow the formation of ACC International Chapters in close collaboration with national CV societies.

A country Chapter helps ACC better serve the needs of its members by:

- Providing a venue for members to meet and discuss issues relevant to the practice of cardiology in their home country.
- Offering leadership opportunities to FACC in their home country.
- Creating mentoring and networking opportunities amongst FACC and other cardiologists affiliated with the ACC.

The meeting with the ESC leadership was attended by Prof Fausto Pinto (president) and Ms Ciara Mundow (Head of International Affairs) from the ESC to confirm the ESC GSA visit in October and also touching on increased collaboration. The ESC will provide 25 free registrations to the ESC Congress to members of SA Heart. This initiative

is normally reserved for young cardiologists or fellows in training who have not been to the ESC congress before under the Cardiologist of Tomorrow programme. However, as South Africa does not have such a high contingent of qualifying registrars, this offer will be opened to physicians and cardiologists from South Africa with preference of members submitting an abstract. The SA Heart president in collaboration with the SA Heart Exco will allocate those 25 registrations.

Some exhibitors and company or programme representatives came to make contact, including the World Heart Federation requesting SA Heart members sign their online petition to call on national and international leaders to recognise the global burden of cardiovascular disease, and to prioritise the need for heart-healthy environments, to ensure people can make the best choices for their heart health. They also explained about the heart day activities and resources available on their website as well as their ongoing RHD initiative. The European Heart Academy, an ESC initiative based in Brussels promoted the MSc course in Health Economics, Outcomes and Management in Cardiovascular Sciences. This programme targets medical doctors, healthcare professionals and scientist working within cardiovascular and related fields. This MSC will prepare students to explore new advisory, management and leadership roles within the healthcare field. ([www.EuropeanheartAcademy.org](http://www.EuropeanheartAcademy.org)) EUCARDIA is run by EBAC and is an administrative platform designed to give you an opportunity for lifelong documentation of your professional activities in the field of practical skills (log-book), knowledge (CME activity) and professional attitude. You can start at any period of your lifelong working time. [www.eucardia.org](http://www.eucardia.org) The Relations Manager from MD Conference Express mentioned their Journal specialises in documenting congress proceedings, especially those presentations that are not recorded in any other Journal.

The booth afforded a good opportunity to display our SA Heart Journal which as always created some interest, as well as flyers of the SA Heart congresses 2014 and 2015. Handing out the SA Tourism DVD in conjunction "to plan the trip" was an added bonus and good opportunity to make contact. The PASCAR congress in Tunisia next year was promoted, too, and especially the delegates from North Africa showed a keen interest. Besides this marketing material we had a synopsis of the SA Heart Association

and its activities as well as a visitor book where delegates could comment and record questions. There seems to be an increased interest in spending some elective time in South Africa during medical training, to come for a one year post cardiology fellowship to or even to work in South Africa as a cardiologist. For the next year it would be well worth preparing the necessary information (HSPCA requirement, costs, visa prerequisites etc.) for these options and have it readily available.

‘The ESC, like any other congress, affords a good opportunity for networking and building relationships.’

Activities at the booth ranged from a group of Asian delegates using the space to plan their sight-seeing trip, to using the space as meeting room and getting together with colleagues or simply sitting down to study the programme in peace, using the booth as office space or to take a breather.

Some industry representatives that were hosting SA Heart members dropped by for a brief chat and some industry European industry leaders looking after "Asia and Africa" came to pay a visit. We even identified South Africans not yet members of SA Heart keen to join up as a member.

**Erika Dau**  
**Operations Officer, SA Heart**

## THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

The research scholarship is available to all full and associate members of 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; 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; and
- Applicants younger than 35 years of age.

### APPLICATIONS MUST BE ADDRESS TO:

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

And submitted to the SA Heart Office electronically: [erika@saheart.org](mailto:erika@saheart.org)

**THE SELECTION PANEL WILL REVIEW APPLICATIONS ANNUALLY AND THE CLOSING DATE IS 30 SEPTEMBER 2014.**

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

### APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED ACCORDING TO THE ACCOMPANYING RESEARCH PROTOCOL WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE:

- An abstract (maximum 200 words);
- A brief review of the literature (maximum 200 words);
- A brief description of the hypothesis to be investigated (maximum 100 words);
- A detailed methodology (maximum 500 words); and
- References.

**Members who have received this scholarship in the past 3 years need not apply.**