

REGIONAL BRANCHES – Annual Reports 2008

Bloemfontein

The year has passed so quickly and one looks back and ponders on what has been achieved during the year and if we, as a local branch, have reached the goals set for ourselves.

We have made an effort this year in recruiting members for the South African Heart Association as the branch only had a few paid-up members and was reasonably successful in doing so.

Weekly journal club meetings were held at the faculty and we have also introduced quarterly clinical case study meetings, making an effort to involve the allied professionals.

The branch is financially sound and we have also managed to approve a grant for a doctorate study and have plans in expanding this to other deserving cases.

Dr Nico van der Merwe.

Cape Town

General

1. The Cape Town branch of SA HEART has been involved in the organization of the annual SA HEART Congress for 2008. An organizing committee comprising the following members has been very active and at the time of this report the final stages of the planning has been completed and the provisional programme compiled. Proffs Johan Brink, Patrick Commerford, Andrzej Okreglicki, and Drs Mpiko Ntsehke, Wilhelm Lichtenberg, Sandrine Lecour, Liesl Zuehlke, Andre Brooks and Hanlie Moolman-Smook are the members of the organizing committee. Our thanks go to Sonja du Plessis of Londocor, which has been contracted to do the bulk of the planning and logistics for the 2008 congress. Their hard work, enthusiasm and organizational skills are much appreciated. The Wild Coast Sun has been booked as the venue for the meeting. The dates for the meeting will be from 2 to 5 November 2008.
2. The Secretarial duties, which had largely been taken over and handled by Dr Lichtenberg, our Treasurer, since the previous secretary moved from Cape Town, have more recently been taken over by Dr Liesl Zuehlke, the newly elected Secretary of the Branch.
3. The Society has not hosted any separate academic event this year.
4. The second annual Louis Vogelpoel Travelling Scholarship Award was awarded to Dr Roisin Kelly of the Hatter Institute at UCT.

Financial

1. The Branch has two accounts, details of which are supplied below. The two accounts are both with Standard Bank and details about the accounts are as follows:
 - i. Savings Account (Acc. No. 75091321) Credit Balance R 2 069,95
 - ii. 32 Day Notice Deposit (Acc. No. 078587581) Credit Balance R 278 201,33
 - iii. The payment of R15,000 to Dr Roisin Kelly for the Louis Vogelpoel Scholarship was debited from the 32 day notice deposit account and was the only transaction entered into during the year.
2. A separate account has been opened specifically for the handling of the SA HEART Annual Congress (c.f item no.3 under "General" above). This is a Business Cheque Account with First National Bank. In an effort to garner the maximum amount of interest, a Money Market Account, linked to the Business Cheque Account, was opened and funds are transferred between these accounts as needed during the transacting of payments for the Congress. The National Executive of SA HEART has issued a cheque to the value of R75 000,00 as start-up funds for the congress which was paid into the congress account – this is to be fully refunded.

That concludes the report for 2008.

Prof Johan Brink, Dr Liesl Zuehlke & Dr Wilhelm Lichtenberg

Johannesburg

The Johannesburg branch of SA Heart had an active academic program in 2008. Office bearers were:

Dr Eric Klug – President

Dr David Jankelow – Treasurer

Dr A Cilliers - Secretary

Committee: Dr D Smith, Prof K Sliwa, Dr H Mamorare, Prof P Manga,

Dr A Thornton

The branch has held 3 meetings, and the AGM will be held on 15 November 2008.

The first meeting held on 8th March was arranged to allow fellows in adult, paediatric and cardio-thoracic to present interesting cases in a competitive format. Dr G Angel (Johannesburg Hospital) spoke on the apical “ballooning” syndrome, Dr Hopewell Ntsinjana (CH-Baragwanath Hospital-paediatrics) spoke on a case of the “Turkish Sword” and Dr Murray Davidson (Johannesburg Hospital-cardio-thoracic) discussed coronary cameral fistulae. All 3 were excellent presentations, with Dr Ntsinjana winning the event.

A well attended meeting on the 21 June was held involving the Centre of Excellence for Nutrition, North West University with Prof J Jerling , Dr M Pieters discussing their internationally published work on nutrition, cardiovascular risk factors in South Africa and fibrin formation in diabetics respectively. Andrew Heilbrun (Bio-kineticist) of the Centre for Diabetes Excellence in Johannesburg discussed exercise and health.

A third meeting’s theme, held on 27 September, was acute cardiac care. Dr B Wilson (Anaesthetist) introduced the subject of invasive and non-invasive haemodynamic monitoring. Dr D Smith spoke on echocardiography in the ICU and Dr H Mamorare discussed the various challenges in paediatric post-surgical acute cardiac care. A discussion on the proposed Health Act was led by Dr A Stanley and he touched on practice costs proposals and billing made by SA Heart that have been predominately ignored so far by the government. Clearly we as a national group must exert our influence and allow our voice to be heard; otherwise we will get the legislation that we “deserve”.

The Johannesburg Branch remains an active group with healthy finances. David Jankelow has “modernised” our accounts and has done excellent work in setting up interest bearing accounts for the organisation.

Some new faces have started to attend meetings, but we still lack a broad appeal across the diverse cardiology community in Gauteng.

Mr Stephen Mulholland will be the guest speaker at the AGM on 15 November 2008.

Novartis (and particularly Sarah Ross) has been a major supporter of the branch and has sponsored all the 4 meetings this year as in previous years. They also have provided an excellent framework for “sms” reminders, emailing invitations, reminders and organising registration at meetings. We are most grateful and hope they continue with their commitment.

Many thanks to the 2008 Committee.

Dr Eric Klug

Copies of the financial statements are available to members and associate members.

Excess of income over expenditure was R10 794.36. We have not (this year) been requested to award any cardiology fellow textbook. The committee however still needs to decide about the value of the prizes for the annual fellow speaker contest that was held on 8th March this year. The latter will be paid out in due course.

Our total bank balance now stands at R119 408.41. An additional amount of R4830.00 is due to be paid by SA Heart to the branch for annual subscriptions. A check for this amount was apparently sent by post on 16.01.08, but has not been received by us. Dr Jardine is presently looking into the matter and will re-issue a check once SA Heart confirm that the original one was not banked. The total bank balance will therefore rise to R124 238.41

We are presently in the process to better and more efficiently manage our bank accounts. We are in the process of transferring the funds in both Nedbank accounts to a Nedbank Money Market Investment Account, which will yield 10% interest per annum. We now will have access to internet banking in order to electronically transfer any payments.

The ABSA 32-day notice account will be rather changed to an Investment Advantage account, which will earn a higher interest rate of 11.5%.

I once again am thankful for the opportunity to have served as Treasurer for the SA Heart Johannesburg Branch.

Dr D Jankelow

KwaZulu Natal

The KZN regional branch had 3 meetings for 2008. The final meeting will be held during the coming week. One of our meetings was devoted entirely to certain Ethical Issues addressed by law Prof. McQuoid Mason of UKZN. The important topic of "Your patient, my patient, whose patient" was discussed and clarified so was the definition of supersession.

The elections were held and the following are the new office bearers:

CHAIRMAN DR. S VYTHILINGUM
SECRETARY DR D GILLMER
TREASURER DR J PATEL

We believe the new committee will try and rejuvenate the branch and increase paid up membership. It is vitally important for newer registered cardiologists to take an active role in SA Heart affairs.

Prof A. Mitha

Pretoria

The Pretoria branch of the SA Heart is still functional. Our periodic clinical meetings (organized by myself) as well as the Journal Club meetings (organized by Dr Corrie van Wyk) are attended by a minority of colleagues with rarely if ever any interest or participation by our tertiary institutions. It however remains an exceptional source of clinical information and allows our colleagues to discuss the latest clinical problems. Like elsewhere, practicing cardiology has become increasing challenging.

We welcome Dr Jean Vorster working at Unitas Hospital. Dr's van Wyk, van Rensburg and van Niekerk moved their practices to Zuid Afrikaans Hospital and Dr Iftikar Ebrahim moved his primary practice now at Unitas Hospital. Drs van der Spuy and Mpe are still doing work at Pretoria Heart Hospital. Zuid Afrikaans Hospital now has a second / new Toshiba cath lab. Wilgers Hospital has started building a new cardiothoracic unit. We have minimum contact and information regarding the personnel situation at the Military Hospital and our Academic Institutions. I understand that at Eugene Marais Hospital the local surgeons are still helping Dr Dannheimer doing emergency cardiac catherizations. Unlike in some other institutions we still make use of an anaesthetist in our cath lab due to the scarcity of full time qualified sisters and the amount of acute procedures being performed. We have not as yet been exposed to the Cath Lab Registry of SA Heart.

Adriaan Snyders

TYGERBERG

No report submitted.

D: SA HEART NEWSLETTER

As editor it is my responsibility to urge and collect reports / contributions from the various interests groups and office bearers. I believe the Newsletter serves an important need to improve communication amongst SA Heart members. At the same time I also believe it needs "upgrading" with either more or different contributions / elements. My effort to create a discussion forum failed, maybe there is no need. I'm looking forward to your suggestions to what we can do to make this Newsletter even more worthwhile. An assistant to help with aspects like congress reporting, new institutional regulations and guidelines would be welcomed – and if anybody would like to improve on the editors efforts, please contact me.

Adriaan Snyders