

The Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa



ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

The PCSSA Special Interest Group incorporates physicians who work with children with heart disease, including cardiologists, surgeons, anaesthetists, paediatricians, and others. Our Association aims to improve all aspects of care for children with heart problems in southern Africa.

2. DR ISIDORE PAZVAKAVAMBWA

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Dr Isidore Pazvakavambwa on Sunday 25th January 2009. Isidore died of a subarachnoid haemorrhage which started at a New Year church service. Sponsorship enabled air transfer from Harare to Johannesburg where he underwent emergency surgery but this was unsuccessful.

Isidore was a widely respected and liked member of the PCSSA, and many will remember seeing him at annual conferences. As an albino with poor eyesight, Isidore overcame much stigma and rejection to become Zimbabwe's first paediatrician with an overseas qualification. He then subspecialized in Paediatric Intensive Care and Cardiology. Amongst his many accomplishments, Isidore also arranged for hundreds of Zimbabwean children with congenital and rheumatic disease to have life-saving surgery in South Africa and other countries.

The PCSSA executive has decided to inaugurate a fellowship in his memory, which will be used to annually assist a physician from a SADC country to attend the PCSSA meeting, to be known as the *Isidore Pazvakavambwa Fellowship*.

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The PCSSA Executive Committee elected in November 2008 to a 2-year term of office is:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| President: | John Hewitson |
| Vice President + Treasurer: | Steven Brown |
| Secretary: | Liesl Zühlke |
| Private Practice: | Jeff Harrisberg |
| Without portfolio: | Ebrahim Hoosen |

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

The audited financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2009 are available. The Society's financial reserves are satisfactory at present. However, we have lost sponsorship for the annual scientific meeting (in favour of the 2013 World Congress to be held under our auspices in Cape Town) and we need to seek replacement sponsorship.

5. ANNUAL PCSSA PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SYMPOSIUM

Our annual scientific meeting has been incorporated as part of the South African Heart Association Congress for several years. Last year's meeting was held in November at the Wild Coast Sun, and was sponsored by Mediclinic. The international paediatric faculty for the 2008 meeting included:

- Daniel Sidi, Head of Paediatric Cardiology at Hospital Necker, Paris, France
- Pascal Vouhé, Head of Paediatric Cardiothoracic surgery at Hospital Necker, Paris, France
- David Barron, Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Birmingham Children's Hospital, UK
- Sara Thorne, GUCH cardiologist, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, UK

Thanks are due to the meeting convenors Liesl Zühlke and Andre Brooks for an excellent program and a successful meeting.

This year's symposium will be held at Sun City as part of the 10th Annual Congress of the South African Heart Association, 22-25 October. The international faculty will include:

- Frank Hanley, Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Director of the Children's Heart Center, Stanford University Medical Center, California, USA.
- Neil Wilson, Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist at The Children's and John Radcliffe Hospitals, Oxford, UK.
- Allison Cabalka, Interventional Cardiologist at Children's Heart Clinic, and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.

6. OTHER MEETINGS

- A. ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM WALTER SISULU PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC CENTRE
Many PCSSA members attended and contributed to the excellent annual scientific meeting of the WSPCCA at Sunninghill Hospital in March, with invited surgeons Richard Ohye (Michigan, USA) and Christian Schreiber (Munich, Germany).
- B. 5TH WORLD CONGRESS OF PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY AND CARDIAC SURGERY
Seven members of our Local Organising Committee for the 6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery (2013) attended the 5th Congress in Cairns, Australia, 21 – 26 June 2009. Apart from several abstracts accepted, we met with representatives of most of the world's main paediatric cardiac societies to liaise about advance planning for 2013. Chris Hugo-Hamman was given the opportunity to address the plenary about our plans for the 6th World Congress.

- C. 2ND ALL AFRICA CONGRESS OF THE PAN-AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY
Three of us attended the PASCAR conference in Nigeria in late September 2009, myself as a representative of the PCSSA. We gave invited lectures and made valuable links in the paediatric cardiac world of Africa.

A meeting was called during the conference to pursue the establishment of a paediatric chapter within PASCAR, something that was begun at the previous PASCAR meeting in Nairobi in 2007. This meeting discussed then accepted a provisional charter; office-bearers were elected for a two-year period, with the aim to formally establish the Paediatric Chapter of PASCAR at the next biennial meeting in Kampala, Uganda, in 2011. The purpose of the Chapter will be to build networks of paediatric cardiac practitioners in Africa so as to co-ordinate efforts to establish and build paediatric services.

The next PASCAR meeting will be in Kampala in 2011, and the following one in Dakar, Senegal, in 2013.

7. 6TH WORLD CONGRESS OF PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY AND CARDIAC SURGERY

The 6th World Congress dates have been set for February 18th to 22nd 2013, to be held at the Cape Town International Conference Centre. PCSSA members of the Local Organising Committee include:

Christopher Hugo-Hamman (Chairman)
John Lawrenson
Susan Vosloo
John Hewitson
Bongani Mayosi
Liesl Zühlke
Andre Brooks

A Section 21 company has been established by the PCSSA, under whose auspices the congress will be run. Negotiations are underway with SAHA about the details of the relationship between PCSSA and the SAHA congress of 2013. We expect further details to be made known at the AGM.

8. AUDIT OF PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SERVICES

This audit of services in South Africa was undertaken in 2007, funded and commissioned by the PCSSA. The final hurdles in the process of publishing the outcomes have been dealt with, and publication should be before the end of 2009, in *SA Heart*. There will also likely be an editorial in the *SAMJ*. The audit highlights the extreme deficiencies in the services and lays out needs for the future.