

# The Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa



## NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2007

Dear Colleagues

As we move to spring and our annual meeting at Sun City in November, herewith highlights from a busy year and news on initiatives in which we would like to involve our members.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The PCSSA regrets the resignations of two key people, Antoinette Cilliers and Raymond Dansky, from the Executive. Both colleagues have served on the Executive since their election in 2004 with Antoinette Cilliers our Secretary and Ray Dansky Treasurer. They have served the Society generously and they are thanked most sincerely for the work they have done for our members. We are not due for another election of office bearers before the meeting in 2008. The constitution entitles the Exec to co-opt additional members and we are delighted that Deliwe Ngwezi has agreed to join the Executive. Steve Brown has kindly offered to be our Treasurer. Office bearers in the Executive are now as follows;

President:	Christopher Hugo-Hamman <a href="mailto:chrishh@mweb.co.za">chrishh@mweb.co.za</a>
Vice President & Treasurer :	Steve Brown <a href="mailto:Gnpdscb.MD@mail.uovs.ac.za">Gnpdscb.MD@mail.uovs.ac.za</a>
Private Practice:	Jeff Harrisberg <a href="mailto:pedcard@mweb.co.za">pedcard@mweb.co.za</a>
Co-opted members:	John Hewitson <a href="mailto:hewitson@ICH.uct.ac.za">hewitson@ICH.uct.ac.za</a> Ebrahim Hoosen <a href="mailto:ebrahimhoo@ialch.co.za">ebrahimhoo@ialch.co.za</a> Deliwe Ngwezi <a href="mailto:ngwezidp@medicine.wits.ac.za">ngwezidp@medicine.wits.ac.za</a>

### PAN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY/KENYAN CARDIAC SOCIETY CONFERENCE ON "HEART DISEASE, DIABETES AND STROKE IN AFRICA"



The PCSSA arranged and financed the paediatric programme for the "First Pan-African meeting on heart disease, diabetes and stroke in Africa". This conference was held under the auspices of the *Pan African Society of Cardiology* (PASCAR) and *Kenyan Cardiac Society* in Nairobi between 13 and 16 May 2007.

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PO Box 19062, Tygerberg, 7505 Tel: +27 (0)21 797 6112 Fax: +27 (0)86 512 5629  
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John Hewitson and Jeff Harrisberg delivered essays on public health on the African continent and tried to contextualise the role and the place for cardiology and cardiac surgery. These talks were well delivered and received. Prof Phillip Bonhoffer from Great Ormond Street gave two fine talks. The first entitled *"Catheter interventions – some solutions for congenital heart disease in Africa"* and the second a state of the art address on *"The future for pulmonary valve replacement in congenital heart disease"*. Prof James Wilkinson from the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne was the other international guest speaking on the *"Management, referral and intervention in neonates with critical congenital heart disease"*. Another of our members, Anna Olga Mocumbi from Mozambique participated in the Plenary on Heart failure with a talk on, *"Recent advances in the management of endomyocardial fibrosis"*.

John Cushing the CEO of the international charity "Children's Heartlink" attended the meeting and we are grateful for their sponsorship. We also acknowledge with thanks the generous sponsorship and support received from Mike Howe-Eley of Medtronic and Gary Pakes from Paragmed.



The meeting was well attended with around 200 delegates from across Africa. It was interesting to observe the poor links between colleagues across the continent but even between colleagues in neighbouring states. This translates into a lack of knowledge about possibilities for intra-continental patient management. To address this, in an extra ordinary meeting, a Paediatric chapter of the Pan African Society of Cardiology was established with its first aim the creation of an internet based "African paediatric heart network". The organizers hope to make this meeting a Biennial with the next in 2009 at a venue to be announced.

### CHILDREN'S HEART DISEASE MULTIMEDIA EDUCATION PROGRAM



With assistance from Abbott we have launched a "Children's Heart Disease Multimedia Education Programme". The aim is to provide reliable and accurate multimedia and online resources for the dissemination of information on congenital and acquired heart disease in children to interested parties. This web based project would initially target patients, family members and grow to meet the needs of medical and allied professionals.

The programme will *specifically attempt* to address the unique needs of South Africans dealing with cardiac disease in children. To this end, resources aimed at patients and their families will place emphasis on providing a multilingual platform to cater for the diverse languages spoken in South Africa.

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The project requires a Director and a generous honorarium will be paid for their services. An advert for the position is appended with this newsletter.

### NETCARE PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SYMPOSIUM - 21 TO 25 NOVEMBER 2007



**Convenor** Jess Harrisberg

PCSSA was invited to join the South African Society for Cardiac Intervention (SASCI) and the Cardiothoracic Society of South Africa in organising this year's annual SA Heart Congress entitled "Heart 2 Heart", which will be held at Sun City from 21 to 25 November 2007.

Once again Jeff Harrisberg has offered to organise our programme. This promises to be an exciting interventional congress in an always popular venue. Booking is expected to be heavy because this is also the 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Meeting of Cardiovascular Disease and a large contingent of delegates are expected from France and the Indian Islands of Mauritius and Reunion. You are urged to book early and to consider speaking at the meeting. Please follow the link [www.heart2heart.co.za](http://www.heart2heart.co.za) for more detailed information and for the submission of abstracts in the open sessions.

### PAEDIATRIC INTERVENTIONAL CARDIAC CATHETERISATION WORKSHOP, SUNNINGHILL HOSPITAL 6<sup>TH</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> AUG 2007

Earlier this month and on behalf of the Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa, the inspirational and energetic Jeff Harrisberg organized and ran a workshop on interventional procedures in congenital heart disease. He had as our guest Dr Ziyad Hijazi from Chicago who demonstrated and tutored participants on complex and challenging congenital cardiac conditions. Ziyad Hijazi spoke at our Symposium in Somerset west last year so is no stranger to our country. Experienced and well published in interventional procedures, he coordinates and runs the annual PICS (Paediatric Interventional Cardiac Symposium) meeting - the largest interventional meeting on congenital heart

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disease held in the world. We were privileged to have him at Sunninghill and from the feedback received thus far, this was an outstanding meeting.

The Paediatric Cardiac Society thanks Netcare, all individual donors as well as the medical companies (Paragmed, Bracco, Boston Scientific and Statmedical) who generously contributed financially as well as all the individuals who gave their time towards making this meeting a success. Most especially we acknowledge the massive effort made by our colleague Jeff Harrisberg.

### **WORLD CONGRESS OF PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY AND CARDIAC SURGERY 2013**

PCSSA proceeds with our bid for the 2013 World Congress. The Chairman of the Steering Committee for 2013, Dr Horatio Capelli of Argentina, visited Cape Town during the World Diabetes Conference in early December 2006 as a guest of PCSSA and the Cape Town International Convention Centre. He was well impressed with our destination.

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**BID TO HOST THE SIXTH WORLD CONGRESS OF  
PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY & CARDIAC SURGERY**

Cape Town - March 2013

Chris Hugo-Hamman and Susan Vosloo travelled to Washington in May this year to present a bid to the Steering Committee for the World Congress. Each member had received by courier in the preceding week our bid document and CD Rom on Cape Town, the Cape Town International Convention Centre and on South Africa. We gave a thirty minute presentation in Washington DC on 5 May 2007. The bid

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was well received and feedback has thus far been enthusiastic. The Steering Committee has also accepted an intention to bid from Turkey, the Netherlands and Portugal. Stiff competition we expect but we have a strong case and a destination with irresistible appeal so remain confident. We make a further and final presentation at the next meeting of the Steering Committee in Chicago in March 2008.

### **WORKSHOP ON PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SERVICES IN SOUTH AFRICA – NOVEMBER 2007**

At our meeting in January 2007, the Executive of the PCSSA decided to host a workshop to discuss issues related to the development and future of paediatric cardiac services in South Africa. Inter alia, we recognize a need to review the Department of Health document on the "Modernization of Tertiary Care Services", from 2002. That paper was the product of a similar exercise – a project in which many members of the PCSSA and unit heads participated. More importantly though, we believe that as the experts in the field, PCSSA should proactively take a leading role in defining shortcomings in service delivery whilst setting objectives for appropriate development and investment. The national Department of Health will be invited to send a delegate to the workshop which will be held in Sun City on 21 11 2007 before the Annual Congress.

The workshop will have the following outputs:

1. A document describing the burden of cardiac disease in children and their needs for cardiac interventions and surgery.
2. An audit of private and public cardiac services for children in South Africa.
3. A description of the institutional requirements necessary to run a successful paediatric cardiology and cardiothoracic service in the country and within regions.
4. A presentation of the shortcomings in present service delivery.
5. Presentation of the manner in which services ought to be developed.
6. Create a platform through which we can "lobby" for the improvement of services particularly in the state sector.

Each unit (public and private) in South Africa has been invited to actively engage and participate in this project and make a formal submission in this regard. Much of the groundwork for this workshop has been done by Ebrahim Hoosen the convenor and coordinator. In addition the Director General of the Department of Health has been invited to attend and participate. This is the first countrywide project of this nature undertaken by PCSSA and probably our most important initiative to date.

### **CONCLUSION**

Half way through another busy year, I look forward to welcoming you all to our next Netcare Paediatric Cardiac Symposium and to seeing you at our Annual General Meeting at Sun City in November.

**Christopher Hugo-Hamman**

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## Children's Heart Disease Multimedia Education Programme Application for position of Project Director

The Children's Heart Disease Multimedia Education Programme is an exciting project of the Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa. The aim of the project is to provide reliable and accurate multimedia and online resources for the dissemination of information on congenital and acquired heart disease in children to interested parties. This would include patients, family members as well as medical and allied professionals.

The programme will address the unique needs of South Africans dealing with cardiac disease in children. To this end, resources aimed at patients and their families will place emphasis on providing a multilingual platform to cater for the diverse languages spoken in South Africa.

### Requirements:

A suitable candidate should be a paediatric cardiologist or cardiothoracic surgeon or, in training as a paediatric cardiologist or cardiothoracic surgeon.  
Candidate must be able to dedicate sufficient time to complete the project within six to twelve months.

### Knowledge, Skills, Training and Competencies

An in depth knowledge of congenital and acquired heart disease in childhood is required.  
Competencies in information technology and in one or more South African languages will be an advantage.

### Key Performance areas

Responsibility for acquiring the necessary graphics and providing the narrative  
Overseeing the translation into local languages  
Supervision of multimedia and web design.

### Award

An award of R25 000 will be made to the successful candidate on completion of the initial phase of the project.

### Application

Interested parties are invited to submit their Curriculum Vitae together with a short letter of intent detailing their vision for this project to:

Dr Ebrahim Hoosen  
[ebrahimhoo@ialch.co.za](mailto:ebrahimhoo@ialch.co.za)

Tel: 031-2401000

Cell: 0827568810

Deadline: 31 August 2007

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