

# The Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa



## NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2007

Dear Colleagues

This has been a busy year for the Society most of which is described in the earlier Newsletter of August 2007. Herewith however highlights of the last months of this year.

[www.pcssa.co.za](http://www.pcssa.co.za)

Our web site went live on 1 November 2007. Please take a look and if you have any suggestions for improvement, please forward them to the executive.

### NETCARE PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SYMPOSIUM - 22 TO 25 NOVEMBER 2007



The PCSSA "Netcare Paediatric Cardiac Symposium" was held last month as part of the annual SA Heart Association Congress, "Heart 2 Heart", at Sun City in the North-west province between 21 and 25 November. Despite the distance from major centres and the relatively costly destination, the symposium was well attended. The high numbers of presentations from our members was especially encouraging. We had a distinguished international faculty who spearheaded the discussions on hybrid techniques in congenital heart disease. There was also a very interesting and informative mini-symposium on the Fontan circulation. Our three guests were,

- ❖ Professor John Cheatham, Director of Cardiac Catheterization and Interventional Therapy, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, USA
- ❖ Professor Mark Galantowicz, Chief Cardiothoracic Surgeon, also from Nationwide Children's Hospital
- ❖ Professor Marc Gewillig, Professor of Paediatric and Congenital Heart Disease, University of Leuven, Belgium

In the free paper sessions there were a record 26 local speakers who delivered a total of 29 presentations. These were a mix of case reports and scientific papers. As is our custom, we awarded prizes for the best case report and for the best scientific paper. The PCSSA is trying to encourage local research and consistent with this desire, the value of the prize for the best paper was R 7500 and for the best case report, R 2500. Congratulations to the two prize winners!

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- a special interest group of the South African Heart Association -

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Best scientific paper

## **"Alcapa: From Critical To Cured"**

*Dr Liezl Zuhlke, University of Cape Town and Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital*

Best case presentation

## **"Is This The Elusive Congenital Coronary Artery Aneurysm?"**

*Dr Peter Shere Ramoroko, Medforum Hospital and the Medical University of South Africa*

Dr Jeff Harrisberg was the Convenor and organiser of the paediatric programme and our representative on the organising committee. Our grateful thanks to him and his assistant Kenny Govendragaloo for putting together an excellent programme with sufficient interest for surgeons, cardiologists and interventionists of any description.

## **WORKSHOP ON PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SERVICES IN SOUTH AFRICA – 22 NOVEMBER 2007**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> of November the Society hosted a pre-conference workshop on the development and future of paediatric cardiac services in South Africa. It has been 5 years since a similar but less inclusive process was conducted in association with the Department of Health. 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. Our purpose was to generate discussion and develop solutions to the present shortcomings in service delivery.

There was a research basis to the workshop as every private and public institution involved in the provision of cardiac care to children was invited to attend but more especially, to complete a standardized questionnaire. The data from the questionnaires was collated before the workshop and presented to the meeting by the project coordinator and workshop Convenor Dr Ebrahim Hoosen. In addition there were several separate presentations which intended to cover the major areas of concern and strategies to alleviate the service deficiencies. The programme is enclosed below and these talks can be viewed on our web-site at [www.pcssa.co.za](http://www.pcssa.co.za).

Although participation was keen and debate lively, there were several shortcomings at this workshop; Firstly that the Department of Health did not send a delegate, secondly there was insufficient time available to invite representatives from each of the 8 centers to present their data individually and thirdly, the issue of public sector private sector cooperation and collaboration was not interrogated.

| <b>Topic</b>  | <b>Speaker</b>   |
|---|------------------|
| Welcome and Introduction  | Dr C.Hugo-Hamman |
| The History and Development of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Surgery in South Africa | Prof S Levin     |

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|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Summary of Regional Reports and Discussion   | Dr E. Hoosen                    |
| Human resources – targets, developing and retaining skills                             | Dr A. Cilliers                  |
| Strategies to improve surgical turnover – the Johannesburg General Hospital experience | Dr K Pillay<br>Dr K v der Donck |
| Grown up congenital heart disease and the Paediatric Cardiologist                      | Dr J. Lawrenson                 |
| Public and Private interaction: The Big C  | Dr R Kinsley                    |
| Discussion around and adoption of Policy Document                                      |                                 |

The challenge is to collate the data, integrate the discussion and develop a working paper which describes our concerns and our intentions. The paper will inter alia,

- ❖ describe the burden of cardiac disease in South African children and their needs with respect to diagnosis, management, intervention and surgery
- ❖ audit the available private and public cardiac services for children in South Africa
- ❖ present shortcomings in present service delivery
- ❖ describe the institutional requirements necessary to run a successful paediatric cardiology and cardiothoracic service in the country and within regions
- ❖ suggest the manner through which services could be improved.

It is our intention to have this document ready before June 2008, present it to the Director General of the Department of Health (National and Provincial Heads) and other stake holders, publish in the SA Heart Journal and on our web site. Our thanks to Ebrahim Hoosen for taking the leading role in this project.

## CONCLUSION

Thanks to our membership and to the Executive for continued efforts to make this a lively, responsible and effective organisation.

Chris Hugo-Hamman  
President