

Newsletter February 2006

Dear Colleagues

May I extend our best wishes for the New Year and express the desire to see you all at our next meeting in October 2006.

Executive Committee

President: Chris Hugo-Hamman (Cape Town) chrishh@mweb.co.za
Vice President: Ebrahim Hoosen (Durban) ebrahimhoo@ialch.co.za
Treasurer: Ray Dansky (Johannesburg) rdansky@hixnet.co.za
Secretary: Antoinette Cilliers (Johannesburg) amcilliers@icon.co.za
Ex-officio: John Hewitson (Cape Town) hewitson@ICH.uct.ac.za
John Lawrenson (Cape Town) jlawrens@pgwc.gov.za
Jeff Harrisberg (Johannesburg) pedcard@mweb.co.za

SA Heart Congress, 16-19th October 2005 Drakensberg

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Drakensberg in October have already been circulated. Many thanks to the organizers of our Paediatric meeting which include members of the PCSSA executive committee. The content of the meeting was well received and feedback mainly positive. Our grateful thanks to Netcare and Abbott Pharmaceuticals for their sponsorship of invited speakers. Dr Lawrenson is to be congratulated for his part in saving the Paediatric Component of the congress by suggesting and arranging a 4th international speaker in the form of Dr Derize Boshoff (Belgium), when Dr Shakeel Qureshi (UK) was unable to participate due to the earthquake in Pakistan. Dr Boshoff delivered 4 excellent talks with 4 days notice!

Netcare Paediatric Cardiac Symposium:
29 Oct - 1st Nov 2006

Venue

Our 2006 meeting will be held as part of the Annual SA Heart Association Congress between Sunday 29th October and Wednesday 1st November at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West (Cape).

Academic meeting

The programme is being arranged for PCSSA by our Bloemfontein colleagues Prof Steven Brown, Dr Andre Bruwer and Prof Francis Smit. They are busy formulating an exciting programme featuring local and world experts. We invite submission of abstracts on to complement the meeting.

The focus will be "integrating cardiac care" and a number of plenary sessions involving adult and paediatric cardiologists, cardio thoracic surgeons and other professionals are planned. As usual, we shall have parallel Paediatric sessions and plan to focus on VSD-closure, AVSD's and other interesting topics. Tuesday afternoon is reserved for oral presentations and we request everyone to join in - deadline for submission of abstracts: 31 July 2006 with abstracts to be submitted to Prof Brown in Bloemfontein.

Speakers

Norman H Silverman MD, D Sc, (Med) FACC

Professor of Paediatrics, Division of Paediatric Cardiology: The Roma and Marvin Auerback Scholar in Pediatric Cardiology. Director Pediatric and Echocardiography Laboratory, Stanford University Medical Centre.

A world-renowned expert in congenital echocardiography, he finished his M.B.Ch.B at the University of the Witwatersrand in 1967 and was assistant professor and professor at San Francisco and Stanford Universities. He has published more than 190 scientific articles and is a member of numerous professional bodies and university committees. He is a reviewer for several journals and has been extensively involved in research pertaining to foetal echocardiography.

Ziyad M Hijazi MD, MPH

George M Eisenberg Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine; Section Chief Pediatric Cardiology & Medical Director, The University of Chicago Congenital Heart Center, University of Chicago.

Dr Hijazi is a world-renowned interventional cardiologist. A prolific author, he has published nearly 150 scientific articles and has been a visiting professor or lecturer at more than 300 medical meetings, workshops and conferences around the world. He is a member of the American College of Cardiology writing committee that develops guidelines for the management of congenital heart disease in adults and was named to Chicago magazine's list of top doctors in 2006. He is an expert in the

field of transcatheter closure of intra- and extra cardiac defects and the director of the PICS symposium.

Marc de Laval, Great Ormond Street, UK.

Dr de Laval Marc is a world-renowned Cardiothoracic Surgeon and has done pioneering work on the Fontan circulation. He has published extensively and it will be a privilege to have him back in South Africa.

Membership:

Our goal is to make our society a vibrant and energetic agency for children with heart disease in South Africa. Your membership and support is invaluable in trying to achieve this end. Please encourage your colleagues with an interest and heart disease in children, to join our society!

At the meeting of the National Advisory Council of the South African Heart Association (SAHA) on 4th June 2005, it was agreed, "all ordinary or associate members of Special interest groups and regional groups must be either a full or associate member of SAHA".

1) Ordinary member - cardiologists, specialist physicians and cardiovascular surgeons whose professional interest is the treatment and study of cardiovascular disease or research in this or allied field.

2) Associate member - shall be other medical practitioners, technologists, nurses and other health professionals who share the objectives of the Association.

Annual subscriptions for ordinary members is R350.00 and for associate membership, R60.00. Both qualify for receipt of the SA Heart Journal, discounted registration for the annual congress and research grants. A portion of this will go towards the Special Interest Group e.g. PCSSA, SASCI etc.

It is therefore imperative that members of the Paediatric Cardiac Society pay an annual subscription to SA Heart.

HEARTLINK

HeartLink contacted Dr Hewitson (Cape Town) in early September 2005 to inform them that Medtronic had come up with the funding for a pilot project on "ICU Nurse Training and Retention" in South Africa. This would start at the Red Cross Children's Hospital, their initial partners to initiate a twinning programme for the pilot project. A delegation from HeartLink is expected on 13th February for three

days when the details of the project will be planned. The delegation will consist of the President of HeartLink (Elizabeth Bickel) and the project manager (Karen Baumgaertner). They will bring with them a senior Nurse Educator, Sandy Staveski, who is in charge of education for the cardiac ICU at Stanford. She will meet with the "Red Cross nurses" to plan programs etc. Elizabeth Bickel and Karen Baumgaertner will go on to Pretoria where they will update DENOSA, Nursing Council, and the Department of Health updated. These three groups are supportive of the initiative and look forward to it spreading to the other state units. The hope is that the pilot project is "successful" in terms of promoting ICU nurse training (numbers) and retention in state services, through top class ongoing training and through "perks" like sponsored visits to overseas units or conferences hence, the 'twinning' plan.

Concluding remarks

There is still only a small group of Paediatricians in South Africa with an interest in heart disease in children. We wish to grow this society and hope that you share that vision. Please circulate this newsletter to other colleagues whom you think might be interested in our business.

Dr Christopher Hugo-Hamman
President