

President's Annual Report -Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa

The Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa (PCSSA) is a Special Interest Group of the South African Heart Association. It is a voluntary association of paediatric cardiologists, cardiac surgeons and all associated health care workers. The objectives of the Society are to improve quality of care for children with congenital and acquired heart disease through promoting research and supporting education and training of children's heart specialists. PCSSA remains the primary advocacy group for children with heart disease in South Africa.

Executive Committee

The executive committee members elected in November 2010 are:

President: Ebrahim Hoosen
Treasurer and Vice president: Stephen Brown
Secretary: Liesl Zuhlke
Private Practice: Jeff Harrisberg
2013 World Congress: Christopher Hugo Hamman
Ex officio: John Hewitson
Without portfolio: Paul Adams

6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery

Preparations for the **6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery** to be held in Cape Town between the 18th and 22nd February 2013 continue at a frenetic pace under the leadership of Christopher Hugo-Hamman. The other members of the organising committee include Stephen Brown, John Lawrenson, Susan Vosloo, John Hewitson, Liesl Zühlke, Jeff Harrisberg and Andre Brooks.

Annual Congresses

The PCSSA annual scientific meeting held as usual in conjunction with the annual SAHA congress was convened in 2010 by Antoinette Cilliers assisted by Deliwe Ngwezi. The guest speakers were Gil Wernovsky ,paediatric cardiac intensivist, Benjamin Eidem, paediatric cardiologist echocardiographer and Steve Westaby, paediatric cardiac surgeon. Our thanks to the convenor/s for an excellent programme.

The 2011 meeting is convened by Paul Adams, assisted by Krubin Naidoo and Lindy Mitchell. The invited speakers are - Dr Ivan Rebeyka, Chief of Paediatric cardiovascular surgery, Dr Ian Adatia, Director of Paediatric Cardiovascular ICU, both from, Stollery Children's Hospital, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta and James L Wilkinson, Senior Cardiologist , Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. Our thanks once again to the convenors for their hard work.

Annual Symposium of the Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa

The Annual Symposium of the Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa (WSPCCA),hosted by Rob Kinsley, is another important event on the paediatric cardiac calendar

The 4th Annual Symposium was held on the 23rd and 24th of March 2011. Invited guests included Peter Laussen, an intensivist from Boston, Chuck Fraser and Ed Bove, renowned surgeons from Texas Heart Hospital and Ann Arbor Michigan respectively.

The 5th annual symposium of the WSPCCA will be held on Fri 30th – Sat 31st March 2012 at the Netcare Auditorium, Maude Street, Sandton .Guests include: Tom Spray – Children's Hospital, Philadelphia John Brown – Indiana Medical School, Indianapolis. David Barron – Consultant cardiac surgeon, Birmingham and Andrew Argent – Medical Director PICU, Red Cross Hospital.

Private Practice

Jeff Harrisberg ,working with other society members has led the ongoing process to update coding for paediatric cardiac procedures as well as the expansion of the PMB list to include relevant paediatric cardiac conditions

Other events

Dr Joseph De Giovanni, world renowned interventional cardiologist based at Birmingham Children's Hospital in the UK was the guest at a 3 day interventional workshop hosted by the PCSSA and the Paediatric Cardiology Unit at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in November 2010 Paediatric cardiologists from throughout the country attended the workshop, the main focus of which was percutaneous closure of

Ventricular Septal Defects. The generous sponsorships of AGA, Paragmed and UK based NGO Midlands International Aid Trust were central to making this event the success it was. A follow up visit is planned for early 2012.

Advocacy

Advocacy for children with heart disease remains a priority. To this end an editorial on Paediatric Cardiac Services in South Africa was published in the SAMJ in the February 2011 issue following on previous publications. Further submissions were also made to the department of health during the year and are planned in the coming year.

Ebrahim Hoosen 3 October 2011