

## SIG Reports 2012

### **CASSA:**

In the past year, CASSA, the organisation of physicians, scientists and allied professionals dedicated to the management and study of cardiac arrhythmia has been very active and successful in pursuing its stated mission of improving the care of persons affected by arrhythmias by promoting research, education and training and providing leadership towards optimal healthcare policies.

#### **Educational activities:**

This year, CASSA has partnered with Corporate Members Boehringer Ingelheim and Medtronic in a series of GP educational workshops. These workshops were held in all the major metropolitan areas of South Africa as well as in Windhoek and Swakopmund.

'The Many Faces of AF' national symposium, which proved to be very popular in 2010, will be repeated in October this year with full day meetings in Johannesburg and Cape Town and a dinner meeting in Durban. Dr Neil Sulke from Eastbourne, UK, and Prof S Saksena from the US have been invited as the keynote speakers for these meetings. The latest developments and guidelines in anticoagulation and new advances in ablation therapy will be some of the topics on the agenda.

The regular CASSA ECG quiz in the SA Heart Journal by A Okreglicki proves to be ever popular and educational.

#### **EP Fellowship programme:**

CASSA, in partnership with Johnson & Johnson Biosense Webster has launched an EHRA administered EP fellowship programme.

#### **Research activities:**

In its commitment to research, CASSA continues to support the South African Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC) Registry based at the University of Cape Town. This registry is still young but is now one of the largest and has already made some significant contributions to the knowledge and management of ARVC.

#### **Accreditation:**

The number of CASSA accredited electrophysiologists has grown a little but still remains small. With the website-published list of accredited EP, CASSA provides a service to patients and their funders. The requirements for EP accreditation are being used as minimum curriculum for training locally or internationally by cardiologists interested in becoming electrophysiologists in SA.

CASSA launched its *ICD Practitioner Accreditation* in September 2011 and the details of the programme has since been sent to the Educational committee of The South African Heart Association for their perusal and endorsement. The first accreditation test will be taken at the SA Heart Congress this year.

EHRA has expressed interest in getting involved in the accreditation of ICD practitioners in South Africa and negotiations are currently under way to determine their level of involvement.

The accreditation of non-electrophysiologist cardiologists will set standards in proficiency in ICD management which includes both implantation and follow-up. In this we have the support for training by all the cardiac arrhythmia device companies in South Africa and support in principle by the major medical aid funders.

#### **Leadership:**

CASSA participated actively representing SA Heart and cardiac arrhythmia interests at meetings with major medical funders, i.e. Discovery Health and Medscheme.

#### **PACE:**

Our sister organisation PACE (Prevent Arrhythmic Cardiac Events) which acts as CASSA's face for patients and the public had an equally exciting year.

This year, in addition to the normal awareness around sudden cardiac arrest and its predisposing genetic conditions, PACE also focussed on Atrial Fibrillation (AF) and the risk of stroke associated with it. During the International World Heart Rhythm Week in June, PACE hosted an awareness activity called 'Race for PACE' where doctors and family members of patients suffering from arrhythmia cycled and or ran between PE and Cape Town. The PACE team visited schools and retirement villages en route and educated school children and general public on Sudden Cardiac Arrest and AF and AF related stroke respectively.

PACE also had an exhibition stand at the Comrades Marathon where approximately 5000 people were handed brochures on Sudden Cardiac Arrest and AF.

The organisation also had good exposure on the international front when they participated in the Advocacy in Action International Congress in Budapest.

Patient support groups continue to meet on a quarterly basis in all major metropolitan areas around South Africa and valuable information is disseminated at these meetings.

I must once again thank the CASSA corporate members for their continued support and loyalty to the organisation and its goals. They are Sanofi, Medtronic, Amayeza- Abantu, Biosense-Webster, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Bayer Pharmaceuticals, Boston Scientific and Biotronik.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow EXCO members for their unselfish giving of their expertise and time to further the goals of CASSA. They are Ronnie Jardine, Andrew Thornton, Pro Obel, Anthony Stanley, Judy Daniels, Rob Scott Millar, Dave Milne, Estie Muller, Luigi Zampieri and our Executive Officer Franciska Rossouw.

*A Okreglicki, late president, CASSA*

#### **CISSA:**

President	M. R. Essop
Vice President	A. Doubell
Secretary	D. P. Naidoo
Treasurer	D. Smith
Chairman: Echo	F. Peters
Chairman: Nuclear	C. Liebhaber
Chairman: CMR	R. Nethononda
Chairman: CT	P. Herbst

1. The imaging symposium hosted by CISSA at the annual meeting in East London was a huge success and fortunately (unfortunately) there were more delegates than seating space. The format of multimodality imaging went down exceedingly well despite the fact that previous meetings dealt only with echocardiography. Leading international figures in echocardiography and cardiac magnetic resonance and local speakers on nuclear imaging provided highly informative lectures on the role of multimodality imaging in cardiology.
2. The theme for this year's meeting is congenital heart disease, and with an internationally renowned faculty from the Mayo Clinic should prove to be an event not to miss. Adult cardiologists will see an ever increasing volume of grown up congenital heart disease (GUCH) and I am sure that this meeting will make a meaningful contribution to our practice. The subject also fits in quite nicely with the congress theme of structural cardiac disease.
3. Under the auspices of CISSA, 2 national imaging congresses continue to flourish. The Sun Echo meeting hosted by the Tygerberg group was well attended and highly appreciated by all. The New Horizons meeting hosted by Baragwanath has been postponed to October this year not to clash with SA Heart. Well respected international faculty include Professors Mookadam (Mayo – Scottsville), Khandheria (past president, American Society of Echocardiography), Davidoff (deputy editor – Circulation), Bax (Rotterdam) and Nihoyannopoulos (Hammersmith Hospital).
4. Several smaller meetings have been convened or are in the planning stages. The Harvard group conducted an excellent workshop on anatomic correlations of TEE using porcine heart specimens. Providing we can obtain sufficient funding, the Baragwanath group plans to host a workshop on CMR with 2 international guest faculty members later this year.
5. The role of CT coronary angiography has come up for debate. When selected for the appropriate indication and performed with the requisite expertise, there is no doubt that CTCA has an important role to play in the investigation and management of the patient with possible coronary disease. CISSA is disappointed that SA Heart has chosen to partner with SASCI in this endeavor which logically should include the imaging society. There are many controversial issues in CTCA and a broader consensus would have served better the interests of the profession.
6. Coding and reimbursement issues remain a major stumbling block. CISSA is currently engaged with Discovery medical aid regarding billing for certain echocardiography codes and will keep members informed of progress. Additional issues include billing for 3D echo and CMR.

7. Following discussion, CISSA has elected not to charge a membership fee. Thus full membership is open to all existing SA Heart members. All individuals who have any interest in cardiac imaging are invited to sign up for a membership of CISSA. This would include cardiac technologists, ultrasonographers, physicians and cardiologists.
8. The official term of the executive committee of CISSA expires shortly and new members will be elected at the CISSA AGM at Sun City.
9. CISSA and all its members wish to convey their deepest sympathies on the passing away of Prof. A. Okreglicki. He will be sorely missed by the entire cardiology fraternity of our country.

*Prof MR Essop, President CISSA*

## **HeFSSA**

The HeFSSA Executive committee under the leadership of Prof Karen Sliwa (President) is: Drs Eric Klug (Vice President and Secretary), Martin Mpe (Treasurer), Cristina Radulescu, Darryl Smith, Pro Obel, Jean Vorster, Tony Lachman, Jens Hitzeroth and Prof Sandrine Lecour and the industry Exco representative is Luigi Zampieri. We are grateful for their dedication to the society. The AGM 2012 will see the election of new Executive, with hopefully retention of existing stalwarts and addition of new faces.

The Heart Failure Society of South Africa (HeFSSA), as the first heart failure society on the African continent, works hard to adhere to its mission, i.e. to promote education and research as well as collaboration on issues relating to heart failure in South Africa and around the world. An important role of a medical society is to serve as a reference point for funders and other medical professionals. In this regards HeFSSA has submitted a document to Discovery on the society's view on the use and role of Ivabradine in chronic heart failure.

The HeFSSA website ([www.hefssa.org](http://www.hefssa.org)) is continuously updated to ensure that a visitor to this sight gets the latest news, publications and general information on upcoming events. The HeFSSA Exco contributes continuously to ensure that the content stays relevant and interesting. Please visit the website, under Education for more information on the HeFSSA Travel Scholarship. HeFSSA considers the support of such an award to be part of its contribution towards optimizing patient health care and to enhance and further local expertise in Heart Failure in South Africa.

Prof Karen Sliwa represented HeFSSA at the Physicians Conference in Cape Town 24-26 February 2012. This meeting was attended by more than 100 physicians. The session, sponsored by HeFSSA, covered acute and chronic heart failure, diastolic dysfunction as well as managing heart failure in pregnancy.

HeFSSA has been approached by McMaster University/PHRI to contribute in the Inter-CHF study. The details of the study on the management of heart failure will be presented at the HeFSSA AGM in July 2012. The impact of this study is of great importance to the following extent:

- This will be the largest systematic evaluation of heart failure (HF) in lower and middle income countries in Africa, Asia and South America
- This registry will describe the causes, clinical risk factors and burden of disease, document the prevalent approaches to patient management, and identify gaps in the care of HF patients
- This registry will also examine patient and physician knowledge and perceptions towards HF, and identify barriers to prevention and treatment, thereby suggesting possible solutions, which may be evaluated in future studies

Such information will also be critical for the development of locally sensitive guidelines, research programs, and possible policies and interventions

In the process of achieving our educational goals, HeFSSA once again organized the Cardio Update for Non-Cardiologists at this year's SA Heart Congress. As this program is proudly sponsored by AstraZeneca, we offered this workshop at no charge to local medical practitioners. 1 500 GP's in the Gauteng area, including both GP's in private

and those working in state hospitals will be invited. Dr Martin Mpe was the convener of this meeting and together with other Exco members, who included Prof Karen Sliwa, Drs Eric Klug and Jean Vorster, was part of the faculty for this program. HeFSSA would like to thank them for their time and commitment to this program.

HeFSSA/SASCAR parallel session (21 July 2012 from 11:00 – 16:45) will focus on Acute Heart Failure – detection and management as well as from bench to bedside.

HeFSSA has been awaiting the newly published ESC guidelines on acute and chronic heart failure. An Exco meeting took place on 16 June to discuss aspects where we require modification from a South African perspective. The HeFSSA Exco, under the guidance of Drs Eric Klug and Martin Mpe has embarked on the process to update the local HeFSSA HF algorithm. The aim is to use the ESC Guidelines as basis and then produce an Executive summary from a South-African perspective without losing the core of the ESC guidelines.

SA Heart (and other special interest groups) will have the opportunity to give their input after the initial draft has been accepted by the HeFSSA Exco. When these guidelines are ready an education drive aimed at General Practitioners will take place.

After the success of the GP Heart Failure program in 2010 and 2011 the HeFSSA Exco has decided to continue this educational program especially in the out lying areas where GP's have expressed a dire need for education. The goal of this program is to educate General Practitioners on the basic pathophysiology and management of Heart Failure (HF) with a particular focus on acute and right HF. The lectures, which are held as an interactive session with the participants will present information on acute HF, acute or chronic HF, chronic obstructive airways disease and anaemia as co-morbidities in HF and the conditions leading to right heart failure. The main focus will be on diagnosis and management of those conditions. These meetings will take place from August to November 2012 in Nelspruit, Cape Town, Durban, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, Secunda, Johannesburg, George, Rustenburg, East-Rand, Bloemfontein, Potchefstroom and Windhoek.

HeFSSA can only achieve these goals thanks to our loyal corporate members who support us with generous educational grants. Our sincere appreciation goes to AstraZeneca, Servier, Pharma Dynamics, Medtronic and Merck.

The HeFSSA office remains available to members and interested parties (George Nel, [info@hefssa.org](mailto:info@hefssa.org) or 083 458 5954 Cell)

*Prof Karen Sliwa, President HeFSSA*

## **LASSA**

The Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society of Southern Africa (LASSA) remains affiliated with both the South African Heart Association (SA Heart) as a Special Interest Group (SIG) since 2006 and with the Society for Endocrinology and Metabolism and Diabetes of South Africa (SEMDSA) from which it was founded as a special interest group at its inception in 1988.

LASSA remains a small group with its orientation as an academic body covering a wide area of interest in inherited disorders of lipid and lipoprotein metabolism, atherosclerosis, nutrition, epidemiology and pharmacotherapy. Expertise in severe dyslipidaemias remains mainly at the Groote Schuur and Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg academic teaching hospitals where problems (funding, facilities, staff, remuneration of medical and allied professionals) have still not been resolved. Laboratory testing for severe dyslipidaemias and metabolic errors in lipid metabolism remains a concern and is currently limited to the laboratory in Cape Town. Newsletters are sent out 2-3 times per year to inform members of new developments when international meetings are attended by some of the LASSA members. The LASSA committee sadly lost Prof. Janice Paiker in the prime of her career to an unfortunate incidental illness that could not be overcome despite her determination.

Under the able leadership of Dr Eric Klug, LASSA participated with SA Heart in updating guidelines for dyslipidaemia in South Africa. The guidelines published in 2000 (Berger GM, Marais AD. Diagnosis, Management and Prevention of the Common Dyslipidaemias in South Africa - Clinical Guideline, 2000. *S Afr Med J* 2000;90:164-178) were updated in 2006 by LASSA and SA Heart through the adoption of the European Guidelines with local modification as there were no mortality data for different populations in South Africa ( Raal FJ, Marais AD, Schamroth C. Adoption of the European Guidelines on cardiovascular disease prevention in clinical practice - guide to lipid management. *S A Heart J* 2006;3(3). July. Supplement). The most recent guidelines were published in March 2012: Klug EQ, Raal FJ, Marais AD, Taskinen M-R, Dalby AJ, Schamroth C, Rapeport N, Jankelow D, Blom DJ, Catsicas R, Webb DA. South African Dyslipidaemia Guideline Consensus Statement A joint statement from the South African Heart Association (SA Heart) and the Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society of Southern Africa (LASSA). *S Afr Med J* 2012;102:177-188.

The website for LASSA is still under development. The contact with LASSA can currently be made through the SA Heart website under special interest groups: <http://www.saheart.org/lassa.html>. LASSA remains affiliated with the International Atherosclerosis Society at an annual cost of \$3.00 per member. LASSA membership fees are kindly collected by Erika Dau. Membership is currently still at 77.

*Profs AD Marais and F Raal*

#### **PCSSA:**

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 present executive committee completes its tenure at the 2012 congress where elections for a fresh committee will be made at the PCSSA AGM.

The present executive committee members 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

The committee are thanked for their hard work and diligence over the last two years.

#### **6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery 18<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013**

This historic event, a joint venture of SAHA and the PCSSA, continues to be the central focus of the society as the final touches to the programme are made. With super early bird registration having closed at the end of May, registration figures are on target and continue to rise. For those who have not registered yet, registration as early as possible is encouraged to take advantage of the significant discounts still available. Dr Chris Hugo-Hamman and team are once again commended for their hard work in putting this together.

#### **Annual Congresses**

The 2011 PCSSA annual scientific meeting, held in conjunction with the SAHA congress in East London, was convened by Paul Adams, assisted by Krubin Naidoo and Lindy Mitchell. The invited speakers were 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. This proved to be an excellent programme well received by all who attended.

This year's meeting at Sun City is convened by Lindy Mitchell, with confirmed guests including ex South African Desiree Boshoff of Belgium, V Tsang from the UK and Norman Silverman from the US.

### **WSPCCA Symposium**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> of March at the Netcare Auditorium , 76 Maude Street, Sandton. The guest list included prominent surgeons David Barron, Tom Spray and John Brown . With Rob Kinsley in the chair, this was once again an event with stimulating discussion in an informal setting.

Due to the world congress, there will be no meeting in 2013.

### **Website**

We have partnered with one of the best web based information platforms on congenital heart disease available. This will be soon be up and running on our website. We plan to enhance this by offering it in some of the more common local languages as well as adding information on Rheumatic Heart Disease. In addition, our members will enjoy access to a number of web based resources designed for paediatric cardiologists. Paul Adams, Liesl Zuhlke and Chris Hugo Hamman have all been instrumental in putting this together.

### **Advocacy**

This remains an important focus of our society. Two important issues we have flagged for our attention are recommendations for the management of congenital heart disease into adulthood and the appropriate referral of children with cardiac disease within the public sector.

*Dr Ebrahim G.M. Hoosen, President, PCSSA*

### **SASCAR:**

The South African Society for Cardiovascular Research (SASCAR), an interest group of the SA Heart Association, was created in October 2009.

The SASCAR Executive Committee elected in August 2010 for a 2-year term of office is: Sandrine Lecour (President), Neil Davies (Treasurer), Sylvia Dennis (Secretary), Hans Strijdom, Siyanda Makaula, Karen Sliwa and Gideon Burger.

### **Joint SASCAR/HeFSSA Heart Failure workshop**

In conjunction with the Heart Failure Society of South Africa (HeFSSA), SASCAR organized the second heart failure workshop at the SA Heart meeting in 2011, with the objective of combining basic science knowledge with clinical knowledge of heart failure. Following this first successful event, it was decided to repeat this workshop at the SA Heart meeting in 2012.

### **SA Heart 2011**

As in 2010, we once again contributed to the exciting programme of the SA Heart Meeting, with two sessions entirely dedicated to Basic Sciences. Prof Ajay Shah (King's College London) and Prof Vera Regits-Zagrosek (Charité University, Berlin) inspired the audience with cutting-edge science in both clinical and basic sciences settings.

### **Echocardiography workshop, Cape Town, September 2011**

Our first echocardiography workshop on small animals, organized by Dr Neil Davies, was held at the University of Cape Town. We were very fortunate to have Dr Lori Blauwet from the Mayo Clinic to give the introductory lecture on echocardiography. After the lectures, the attendants got the opportunity to practice echocardiography on a rat model.

### **UK/SA Cardiovascular Basic Science Workshop, Cape Town 2012**

An important event for SASCAR is the organization of the joint UK/South Africa Cardiovascular Research Workshop that we aim to have every two years. After the successful first workshop that was held at the University College London in December 2010, our second workshop will take place in Cape Town in August 2012. This year the meeting has been endorsed by the Heart Failure Society of South Africa (HeFSSA), the Cardiac Arrhythmia Society of Southern Africa (CASSA) and the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Working Group on Cellular Biology of the Heart, which has made the participation of eminent European researchers, namely Dr Derek Hausenloy (UK), Dr Marisol Ruiz-Meana (SP), Prof Klaus Preissner (GER), Prof Rainer Schulz (GER), Prof Peter Ferdinandy (H), Prof Michel Ovize (F), and Prof James Downey (USA) possible. For this meeting, four UK

students, one German student and one Spanish student have been sponsored to attend the meeting and visit different cardiovascular research laboratories within the Western Cape. This meeting will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the work of the South African PhD students involved in clinical or basic science research. It is also our wish that this meeting will lead to further collaborations and student exchanges between South Africa and Europe. For more information, please, go on our website <http://www.sascar.org.za/new.htm>  
Updates on SASCAR activity are available on the website ([www.sascar.org.za](http://www.sascar.org.za)) or via Newsletters sent regularly to our Members.

*Prof S Lecour, President, SASCAR*

#### **SASCI:**

- **Farrel Hellig** (President: Africa PCR, Funders, International Relations and Congresses)
- **Sajidah Khan** (Vice-President: Africa PCR, International Congresses, Education and Guidelines)
- **Cobus Badenhorst** (Treasurer: SHARE, SA Heart Congress 2012 and HS-troponin guidelines)
- **Adie Horak** (Secretary: SASCI @ World Paed Cardio Congress 2013)
- **Graham Cassel** (ex-officio President: Africa PCR and non-invasive coronary imaging)
- **Mpiko Ntsekhe** (Academic: Visiting Professors Program and HS-troponin guidelines)
- **Chris Zambakides** (Johannesburg and Academic: TAVI funding)
- **Len Steingo** (SA Heart PPC: Coding and Funders)
- **Mark Abelson** (SA Heart PPC: Coding and Funders)
- **Dave Kettles** (Eastern Cape: Fellows Workshop 2012)
- **Jean Vorster** (Pretoria: Funders)

I am pleased to report on SASCI activities since our AGM end November 2011. *I would like to thank my Exco members for their contributions.*

The ISCAP (**Interventional Society of Cathlab Allied Professionals**) representatives on SASCI Exco are **Gill Longano** and **Liezl Le Grange**.

I will like to thank our industry elected Exco representatives for their excellent contribution during the past number of years. Their term ends at AGM 2012 - **Craig Goodburn** (co-opted end 2011), **Salome Snyders**, **Rob Millar** and **Mariska Fouche**.

2012 has been an exceptionally busy period. We are in the midst of flux in our environment and the challenges are many.

**Education** continues to be one of our core priorities. Especially creating opportunities for our “cardiologists in training” remains paramount, with a number of SASCI educational programs now offered annually. These are sought after opportunities for those still in training.

The 6th **France-Reunion-South Africa (FRSA) meeting** took place in Cape Town from 27th - 30th November, 2012. This combined effort between SASCI, SOCTSSA and France-Reunion group, and was the second of such events to be hosted in South Africa. It was endorsed by UCT and Mayo Clinic and carried full EBAC accreditation. True to tradition, it was blessed with a superb international and local faculty totalling some 37 speakers, and some seminal talks were delivered by renowned speakers from Europe and USA. A wide range of topics in interventional cardiology and cardiac surgery were discussed. In the 14 years since the inception of this meeting, the two disciplines have moved closer together and principle of collaboration on a number of clinical scenarios continues to prevail in this meeting. The current status of PCI VS CABG has been more clearly defined by relevant studies such as SYNTAX, whilst the impact of FFR on management of coronary disease was extensively discussed by some leading opinions in this field. New fields of intervention such as renal denervation, percutaneous closure of paravalvar leaks were presented, whilst structural heart disease and valvular interventions like TAVI were the subjects of full sessions.

In the prevailing economic environment it is becoming increasingly difficult to hold international meetings like this and sponsors are becoming more difficult to find. However we were very happy to have received support from 19 companies and attracted nearly 150 delegates from France and Europe with >200 South African delegates registered. Total attendance was nearly 450. Tom Mabin is thanked for his continued contribution through to this very successful educational meeting.

In 2013 the meeting will be held in Bordeaux, France, with the endorsement of the Bordeaux University. SASCI remains involved in compiling the programme and faculty.

The challenge for the future will be to maintain opportunities for South African colleagues to be exposed to such respected teachers in a local environment where cardiology and surgical disciplines can intermingle on a personal level.

South African Fellows had the opportunity to attend the annual **Society for Cardiac Angiography and Intervention (SCAI)** Fellows Program in Las Vegas from 6-9 December 2011. The SA delegation for 2011 was: Drs **MC Mayayise, GS Harris, S Pandie** and **C Kyriakakis**. SCAI has extended an invitation to SASCI to nominate four Fellows in interventional cardiology in South Africa to attend the **SCAI Fellows Program** in the United States in Dec 2012. SASCI has secured funding for the flights from **Boston Scientific** to Las Vegas and the SCAI offer includes registration, accommodation and meals during the program. Feedback from previous attendees has been exceptionally positive and the congress organiser has complemented SASCI on the contribution SA delegates has made in the past.

The **7th annual SASCI Fellows** program took place on the weekend of 3rd of March 2012 in East-London at LIFE St Dominic's Hospital with Dr Dave Kettles as Program Director with the contribution of the faculty members Farrel Hellig, Mark Abelson, Chris Zambakides and Adriaan Snyders. As in the past this event was rated as highly educational by attendees.

SASCI has established a firm position at **EuroPCR**. We have collaborated with Ireland, England, Germany and France in the past and this year's session with the Polish Society on TAVI proved just as successful. The "TAVI complication cases" (one presented by Tom Mabin with "How would I treat" segments by Helmut Weich) proved an exceptional learning opportunity and involved the whole audience in discussion. It was my privilege to co-chair the session. Well done to the presenters and a thank you to those SASCI members who attended the session.

South African's featured in numerous capacities during the congress including chairpersons, case facilitators and presenters of talks and abstracts. Well done to all! The abstract by **Tom Mabin** on "**TAVI Cost-Effectiveness**" will hopefully strengthen our case in achieving a universal appropriate level of reimbursement in selected high risk patient groups.

During the **South African Heart Association Congress 2012** (19 – 22 July 2012, at Sun City) **SASCI and PCR** will offer the first **AfricaPCR program**. This is the launch event for AfricaPCR which will become an annual 2day symposium in the future.

AfricaPCR was officially announced by Prof Jean Marco during his opening address at the recent EuroPCR 2012 meeting in Paris and the announcement was met with excitement and interest from South African and African delegates as well as others from around the world. The objective of this joint initiative (which includes representation from PCR, SASCI, PASCAR and the other SA Heart special interest groups and subcommittees) is to bring the PCR toolbox of educational material to Africa with South Africa as the initial gate way, in a way that meets our local needs using the PCR "by you, for you" principle.

An Africa PCR committee comprising representatives from various relevant stakeholders will in coming months collaborate in developing a needs analysis. The committee consists of Farrel Hellig (Committee Chairperson/SASCI); Sajidah Khan (Academic/SASCI); Tom Mabin (SA Heart Education); Cassel Graham (SASCI); Cobus Badenhorst (SA Heart 2012); Ebrahim G.M. Hoosen (Paeds/Congress 2013); Mpiko Ntsekhe (Academic/PASCAR); Martin Sussman (Surgeons/SA Heart Association); Anton Doubell (Academic/SA Heart Education); Danie Marx (Academic/SA Heart Education); Hans Buyl (PCR liaison) and George Nel (SASCI).

SASCI's **3rd Annual Visiting Professor Prof Jean Marco** would have arrived in South Africa mid-June but had to postpone due to personal reasons. We hope to offer the program later in 2012. During his tenure of two months, he will be visiting all the medical schools across the country where he will give lectures to both cardiologists in training (Medical Schools) as well as doctors in private practice and also spend time with fellows in the some of the cath labs. This program is made possible through an unconditional educational grant from **Medtronic**.

It is my pleasure to thank Medtronic for the extension of their support of this valuable program for an additional three years (to 2015). It is also my privilege to announce that Prof David Holmes (Professor of Medicine at the Mayo, Clinic College of Medicine and immediate past president of the American College of Cardiology) a well-known and greatly respected interventional cardiology icon from the US has in principal accepted our invitation to be the VP in 2013 or 2014.

**I wish to thank Mpiko Ntsekhe who continues to manage this program on behalf of the SASCI Executive.**

SASCI is proud to confirm that **Dr Aine Mugabi** was the 2012 recipient of the **RC Fraser International Fellowship** in Cardiovascular Intervention award. Dr Mugabi will go to Dr Martyn Thomas (Consultant Cardiologist & Clinical Director for Cardiovascular Services) unit at Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital, London for a period of one month in 2013

where he will have the opportunity to expand his knowledge and further his abilities. This award is annually sponsored by **Boston Scientific**. **Dr Alfonso Pecoraro** (2011 recipient) is at Dr Thomas's unit during June 2012.

As an affiliate member of the **ESC**, SA Heart has received an offer to nominate a number of members of SA Heart and SASCI who have never before attended ESC, for free registration at the ESC Congress which will take place in Munich from 25-29 August this year. This offer gives the recipients the opportunity to meet with other young cardiologists from around the world and to become part of the **Young Cardiologist Club**. SASCI with support from Winthrop, Pharma Dynamics and B Braun (for one delegate each) and Medtronic (for two delegates) will reimburse economy-class flights and reasonable accommodation for the five qualifying applicants. SASCI is looking forward to the feedback from this year's recipients: **Drs Sizwe Mthiyane, Chevaan Hendrickse, Tawanda Butau, Parmanand Naran and Pat Ntuli**.

The Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa (Special Interest Group of SA Heart Association) will organise the **6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery**, between 17th and 22nd February 2013. SASCI will be significantly involved in the Congress. The Congress has been organised into FIVE TRACKS which cater for various fields of interest. From SASCI's point of view, the track: "catheter-based interventions from foetus to adults" will include live presentations, which will be augmented by a combination of lectures, debates, master classes and pre-recorded cases, spread over the five congress days. These cases will highlight newer interventions, such as transcatheter valve placements, atrial appendage ablations. Invitations have been extended to an excellent international faculty, and this promises to be a stimulating and exciting congress, which will be catering for adult cardiologists, as well as paediatric cardiologists. Adie Horak is the designated representative on the Congress Organising Committee for SASCI.

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**COUNCIL FOR MEDICAL SCHEMES - TAVI:** After reaching consensus on the circumstances under which a patient should be entitled to TAVI, but whilst still finding limitations in access to treatment, SASCI has taken cases to the Council for Medical Schemes, in order to establish funding precedents. These cases have met some success but SASCI will continue to move forward with these.

**SASCI FUNDER NEGOTIATIONS:** A delegation from SASCI met with **Discovery Health** to discuss issue of TAVI funding. Resolution of this matter is expected soon. Len Steingo and Mark Abelson have, as part of SA Heart Association **Private Practice committee**, met with Discovery to discuss coding, Rule G and chronic approval forms.

**INTERVENTIONAL SOCIETY OF CATHLAB ALLIED PROFESSIONALS (ISCAP):** ISCAP - Read the full report on activities as addendum herewith. SASCI members have been asked to embrace this new initiative and support them within their hospital and group environment.

**Acknowledgements:** I would like to thank my hard-working executive and also our industry partners for their continued and unwavering support of SASCI and its constitutional objectives.

*Dr F Hellig, President, SASCI*

#### **SASCI Allied - ISCAP**

The Exco of the **Interventional Society of Cathlab Allied Professionals (ISCAP)**, with Dianne Kerrigan as chairperson, has been working continuously since November 2011 to set the foundation to ensure that this society has all the structures in place in order to reach their goals. Dianne is supported by the other Exco members: Gill Longano, Marilyn de Meyer and Romi Dickson. The industry representatives are Amy Wolf, Tracey Du Preez, Craig Goodburn and Craigh Smith. ISCAP has 12 signed up Corporate Members at this stage. Without their contributions ISCAP cannot grow and achieve any of their goals. Thank you to **AstraZeneca, Aspen Pharmacare, B Braun, Baroque Medical, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Cordis, Edwards, Medtronic, Paragmed, Surgical Innovations, Torque Medical, Viking and Volcano**.

#### **Educational:**

In March this year, the ISCAP committee met with **Unit Managers** from hospitals from all over South Africa, at Sunninghill Hospital. During this meeting the ISCAP concept, goals and the recruitment roll out plan as well as regional committees, training days, training manuals and sponsorships were discussed. A meeting was also held in Cape Town with unit managers on Saturday, 9 June 2012. During this meeting ISCAP was also launched in Cape Town and they are now busy setting up their committee.

· **Cardiac Manual** – Jaco Reinecke has been approached to compile the Cardiac Manual. He has done Standards and Manuals before. The Exco would like to thank him for the professional job that he is doing. 70% of the manual is completed but we still need input from all the labs.

· A CPD accredited program is planned for the **SA Heart Congress**, exploring radiation controls and safety. Members of ISCAP and various other speakers will present talks, which we expect will be very popular.

#### **Membership:**

· The ISCAP Exco committee and members with assistance from industry also rolled out the **Cuppachino/Cupcake/CathLab Campaign**, designed to attract new members to join SA Heart and SASCI. This has been a huge success with our membership numbers growing on a daily basis.

· **Membership:** Membership cost R220 P/A, excluding VAT (R105 SA Heart and R115 for SASCI). One of our principal objectives is to reach as many Cathlab/EP Lab personnel as possible, and to remain in continuous contact with them. Enrolment can be done at the SASCI website [www.sasci.co.za](http://www.sasci.co.za).

#### **Industry matters:**

Industry meeting: We held our 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with Industry on 18 June 2012. During this meeting we discussed our common goals and the correct SOP when you set up a Workshop.

#### **Future Programs:**

Our 1st **Training program** on Balloon Pumps therapy is being planned for August 2012 in Gauteng where after similar meetings is being planned in other areas as well.

Africa PCR – SASCI/ISCAP participation - SASCI/ISCAP will be part of the World Paediatric meeting in 2013. The Exco is very excited about this and would embrace this opportunity.

I would like to thank SA Heart and SASCI for allowing us the opportunity to form the **Interventional Society of Cathlab Allied Professionals** as an active working group of SASCI.

*Diane Kerrigan and Gill Longano*

#### **Surgical Interest Group / SCSSA**

The activities of the Cardiac surgical group have been limited to the SA Heart Congress of 2011. The SIG did not receive any money during the course of last year therefore the financial status is unaltered.

The SIG as such did not organize any events independently and therefore the Annual report is as in that of the President of SA Heart. The circular sent out by the Executive recently was discussed at the last Executive meeting and a number of problems have been identified which will need discussion. As such the SIG cannot accept the memorandum of understanding as it is printed but further negotiation will take place between the SIG and the Executive.

As an independent body surgeons find it difficult to justify being herded into a SIG which has always been our objection to the formation of the SIG. If the SIGS are going to act independently on their own, and have meetings other than with the SA Heart then there may be grounds for justification, but as a small body of individuals we are of the opinion that the number of meetings far exceed the demand and that small group meetings should rather be held under the auspices of the SA Heart if at all.

At this time the SIG made no further contribution to the running of SA Heart. We continue to express our concern about the financial status of SA Heart.

*Dr R Kleinloog, President, SCSSA*