SA Heart Education Committee Report 2013

Members:

Dr Martin Mpe (Chairman), Dr P Obel, Dr Anthony Becker, Dr Farouk Mamdoo, (Dr Mamotabo Matshela), Dr Tom Mabin, and Prof Johan Brink

Subcommittee – All heads of cardiology departments
Prof M. R. Essop, Prof A. Doubell, Prof P. Mntla, Prof P. Manga, Prof D. Marx, Prof D. Naidoo, Prof A. Sarkin and Dr J. Lawrenson

1. New members

The new members of the EC since the last SA Heart AGM in 2012 are: 1. Dr P Obel, Dr B Vezi, Dr A Brooks and Prof M Ntsekhe.

2. The CASSA ICD Practitioner Accreditation proposal

This issue was revisited following appeal for review by CASSA. The decision of the EC was rejection of the proposal for “accreditation” by a non-statutory SA Heart affiliation group. The principle of continuing medical education is encouraged and as such fully supported.

A subcommittee consisting of Profs P Commerford and A Doubell, Drs T Mabin and P Obel met and were in agreement that it would be satisfactory if the phrase "CASSA endorsement" of the educational process undergone by the cardiologist would replace the phrase "accreditation". (The latter implies some form of licensing function to CASSA).

A suggestion was made that an outside professional body be involved in setting and/or reviewing the exam questions. Approaches have been made with what is an initial favourable response from ECAS.

The CASSA process has been simplified and no longer includes CASSA monitoring the physical implantation or the facility where implantation is being done. It will include the exam and review of the indication for the ICD insertion once it has been implanted, plus programming and ICD interrogation in the follow up year.

3. SA Heart Lecture Series

The SA Heart EXCO is in the process of developing a lecture series to expand on the education platforms of the association. The proposed series will include broader participation across the SIGs and individual invitations as necessary. The SA Heart EXCO will source funding from industry through a newly established working group.

The SA Heart lecture series will run parallel with the current lecture/educational programmes as run by the SIGs. This series will target the non-cardiology community and will be presented nationwide. The course content will be relevant for doctors working in full-time and private practices. The series will be driven by Prof K Sliwa and the EC chairman will assist with co-ordination.
4. **SA Heart Events calendar**

It still remains a challenge to have the SA Heart event calendar efficiently managed. It is reiterated that all SIGs should present the list and dates of intended meetings to the SA Heart secretary. This is to ensure that the extent and depth of the educational activities under the auspices of the SA Heart can be properly documented. EC members need to follow up with their respective SIGs to ensure that their planned programmes are sent through to the SA Heart secretariat.

5. **Certificate in Cardiology: Curriculum review**

The HODs scheduled a meeting during the World Paediatric Cardiology Congress to come up with a “final” reviewed curriculum as mandated by the SA College of Medicine. Invitations were extended to all to forward comments to the EC Chairman or SA Heart Secretary for consideration in this meeting.

6. **Sponsorship to Global Thrombosis Forum**

The opportunity for this award was advertised in 2 e-Bulletins but no applicants have come forth. This is an avenue which will afford opportunity for exposure at this level. It is encouraged, especially for fellows in training to exploit this opportunity.

7. **Pan African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR) Fellowships in Cardiac Pacing:**

The first two candidates from the other African states have been selected for this scholarship. The selection panel constituted of Prof Bongani Mayosi, Prof Rob Scott Millar (CASSA), Prof Oluwolé Adebo (PASCAR) and Dr Martin Mpe (Chair: EC SA Heart). The programme is expected to start running later this year once the successful applicants have complied with the HPCSA requirements for this purpose.

8. **ESC eLearning platform**

The ESC launched an eLearning platform at ESC Congress 2012. This is a collaborative tool, dedicated to delivering training in 6 sub-specialties of cardiology. Key areas are: knowledge, skills and professional development.

- The trainee is at the centre of the platform
- The local trainer signs off training
- The Affiliated Cardiac Society and/ or the National Working Group verify and validate the various actors in the platform (i.e. trainees, trainers, training institutions)

SA Heart, as an affiliate of ESC was invited to participate in this initiative. The first learning programme was organized with EAPCI and will deliver training in interventional cardiology.

Dr Sajidah Khan has been appointed as the SA Heart representative/National Coordinator:

Her role is:

- To liaise with the ESC platform administration team
- To receive email alerts in order to validate new trainees and trainers
- To verify and validate the list of national training institutions in interventional cardiology

2
Report prepared by

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Chairman of the Education Committee of SA Heart