**Bloemfontein Branch Report**

The major activity of our branch was the Annual SA Heart meeting which was held at Sun City in 2015. We had a good academic programme, with an excellent local and international faculty and it was well attended.

We have monthly academic meetings, well supported by our local cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons.

Our local STEMI project has been re-energized, and with the help of Mediclinic we have managed to distribute a number of "STEMI packs " to rural doctors to enable them to thrombolize patients before transfer.

With our branch's finances being in good order, were able to financially support a PhD student with his research.

*Nico van der Merwe, president, Bloemfontein Branch*

**Johannesburg Branch Report**

The Johannesburg branch committee remains as:

Dr David Jankelow (President & Treasurer)  
Prof Antoinette Cilliers (Secretary)  
Dr Gcina Dumani  
Dr Hopewell Ntsinjana  
Dr Eric Klug  
Dr Andrew Thornton  
Dr Darryl Smith  
Prof Pravin Manga  
Dr Keir McCutcheon  
Dr Ahmed Vachiat  
Dr George Dragne  
Dr Gavin Angel.

Dr Keir McCutcheon has relinquished his position on the committee as he is presently overseas on an interventional cardiology fellowship. We thank him for his service to the branch.

Our major project is the scientific organizing committee of SA Heart 2017. Our theme is “fundamentals to innovation”. Our aim is to showcase what is innovative in cardiovascular medicine, and hopefully what is innovative in this regard in Africa and South Africa. We would like to make the congress more interactive than previous meetings. We have formed our committee; the congress logo will be finalized in the next few days; my blue print / vision for the congress will soon be released.
On 16.03.2016, the Johannesburg Branch co-hosted Prof Augusto Pichard, (Annapolis, USA), who was SASCI 2016 Visiting Professor. Prof Pichard’s lecture was “Revascularization in 2016, strategies and techniques in the catheterization laboratory”.

Annual Fellow’s Cardiology Fellow’s morning was held in 16.04.2016. This was a very informative meeting. All speakers were awarded a R1000 honorarium. The lectures included:

- Dr. R Meel; Baragwaneth Hospital, Division of Cardiology
  - “An Epidemic of Infective Endocarditis”

- Dr Y Chimalizeni; Pretoria Paediatric Cardiology Group:
  - “HIV Vasculopathy - a report on two cases”

- Dr T Maluleke; Charlotte Maxeke Hospital, Division of Cardiology
  - “Something Old, something New and yet something Refreshing”

- Dr M Koch; Charlotte Maxeke Hospital; Division of Paediatric Cardiology
  - “The Wrecking Ball Genes”

- Dr D Zachariah; Charlotte Maxeke Hospital, Division of Cardiology
  - "Hitting two birds with ONE stone"

Our next meeting is scheduled for 03.09.2016 and this is a symposium on women’s heart health, in addition to celebrating women in cardiology.

We plan to hold our AGM in November 2016.

Our financial position remains very good.

Pharmadynamics are the sponsor of our meetings. We are extremely appreciative for this financial support, without which it would be difficult to hold our symposia.

Once again I am grateful to have once again served in the positions of President and Treasurer of the Branch.

David Jankelow, President Johannesburg branch

KwaZulu Natal Branch Report

The KZN branch remains active and our aim is to continue with the good work done by the previous committee. To this end, we continue to host quarterly meetings with a mix of visiting and local speakers. The activity of the branch has been dominated by Adult Cardiology but we are trying hard to get greater involvement from the other disciplines, specifically Paediatric Cardiology.
New ideas/projects are envisaged but are still in the planning stages but hopefully, will come to fruition soon.
The involvement of our younger colleagues is encouraging but I appeal to the senior members to remain active.

At the last AGM, the following office bearers were elected for the next 2 years:
Chairperson: Dr R K Naidu
Secretary: Dr R Dyer
Treasurer: Dr J Patel

Financially, the branch remains in a good and positive position.

Rajen Naidu, president KZN branch

Pretoria Branch Report

The next SA Heart Pretoria Branch Chairperson (and office bearers) will be elected during the AGM at the SA Heart Congress 2016. At this stage we however have two vacant positions i.e. secretary and treasurer. Although these functions are mostly handled by the Medsoc branch office, we would still like to fill the positions.

It brings me great pleasure to report back on our Cardiology meetings held in 2016.

The 1st meeting took place on 24 February at the regular venue, Kream. 12 doctors attended the meeting comprising of a lecture given by Prof Gert Saayman on the topic of “Postmortems: Pitfalls in Cardiology”. The attendees found the topic very informative.

Our 2nd meeting was held at the Villa Sterne Boutique Hotel in collaboration with SASCI. We hosted the legendary interventional Cardiologist from Washington, Prof. Agusto Pichard. The topic of his talk was “Revascularisation in 2016: Indications, strategies and techniques in the laboratory” with the aim to interactively share knowledge and experience while focusing on their clinical situation, particularities, local experience and constraints as well as best available evidence. To find consensus with South African colleagues on a method of reasoning that may help the group to develop answers to the fundamental questions that impact them daily. The 2016 VPP evening lecture series was definitely a huge success according to the feedback we received from the 43 delegates who attended the meetings. It was a great presentation which led to lively interactive discussions.

For our 3rd meeting we asked Dr. Ruan Louw, a cardiologist and heart rhythm specialist (Electrophysiologist) to talk about “Atrial fibrillation management:

- Is the old rate vs. rhythm debate still applicable with recent advances in therapy? The difficult patient: which anticoagulant and is there any benefit in appendage closure?”
Our 4th meeting and final meeting will be held on the 30th of November at Villa Sterne Boutique Hotel in Waterkloof. We are inviting all our members to attend including the Allied Professionals working in the Cathlab environment.

Members must please note that all our meetings are CPD accredited.

We also offer support in the form of a financial **sponsorship** to the SA Heart Congress 2016. Please contact George at [george@medsoc.co.za](mailto:george@medsoc.co.za) for more information. Please contact me ([drioebrahim@gmail.com](mailto:drioebrahim@gmail.com)) or the Medsoc office ([events@medsoc.co.za](mailto:events@medsoc.co.za)) if you wish to make a contribution at future meetings or to propose appropriate programs for Pretoria.

The current cash on hand is stable which ensure that Branch has a small buffer to absorb some costs and maintain administrative support. The CPD meetings are offered on a break even basis to the sponsor and I would like to thank **Pharma Dynamics** for their continued support and for making this multi-evening lecture planning possible.

*Iftikhar Ebrahim, Chairperson, Pretoria Branch*

**Western Cape Branch Report**

The unified Western Cape Branch continues to function as a vibrant branch with renewed energy since unification of the two Western Cape branches in February 2014. Three meetings were scheduled for 2016.

- **14 March 2016 at Vincent Palotti Hospital**
- **20 June 2016 at African Pride Crystal Towers**
- **8th – 11th September SA Heart Congress hosted by the Western Cape Branch:**

14 March 2016 at Vincent Palotti Hospital: The program included 3 case presentations. Dr Jens Hitzeroth presented a patient the Coarctation of the aorta - a management and diagnostic conundrum. Lou Hofmeyr presented a series of cases with Fontan and discussed the issues of pregnancy. Mark Abelson reviewed a case involving catheter intervention for young stroke caused by acute embolism secondary to patent foramen ovale. This was followed by the AGM and the election of the new executive committee (September 2016 - September 2018) President: Anton Doubell, Vice-president: Fonnie Pecararo, Secretary: Andre Brooks, Treasurer: Blanche Cupido, additional members: Philip Herbst, John Lawrenson, Johan Brink and Jane Moses. The winner of the 2016 Louis Vogelpoel scholarship was announced- Sandrine Lecour. The meeting was concluded with Alfonso Pecoraro, chairman on the 2016 SA Heart organizing committee reviewing the status of the 2016 Congress.

20 June 2016 at African Pride Crystal Towers: A very enjoyable and popular fellows evening was hosted with excellent abstracts received. Six were selected to present from all the local academic units, including one medical student. The six presentations selected were:

- **IVUS Guided Treatment of LAD CTO with POBA** – Bradley Griffiths;
- **Lessons learnt from stenting children with Takayasu arteritis at Red Cross Children’s Hospital: a series of 3 cases** – Lenise Swanson;
• **Mixed congenital and acquired valvular heart disease: A case of quadricuspid aortic and rheumatic mitral valve disease** – Lorrita Kabwe;

• **Online ECG training improves ECG interpretation skills of junior doctors** – Charlé Viljoen; **Optical coherence tomography (OCT) establishes the diagnosis in a recurrent anterior ST-elevation acute coronary syndrome (STE-ACS)** – Hendrik Snyman

• **Outcomes of systemic-to-pulmonary artery shunts in a low income country** – Matthew Amoni.

The choice of winners proved to be a very difficult task but in the end two outstanding presentation were awarded the prizes. The winners of the Fellows evening were Charle Viljoen and Bradly Griffiths.

8th – 11th September SA Heart Congress hosted by the Western Cape Branch: Alfonso Pecoraro heads the local organizing committee co-hosting the 17th SA Heart Annual Congress with the 26th World Society of Cardiothoracic Surgery Congress. Alfonso has done sterling work, both to ensure an excellent academic program and to ensure that this important event remains financially viable in a challenging economic climate.

*Anton Doubell, president, Western Cape Branch*