REGIONAL BRANCH REPORTS, SA Heart®

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH
The Johannesburg branch committee remains as:
Dr David Jankelow (President and Treasurer), Prof Antoinette Cilliers (Secretary), Dr Hopewell Ntsinjana, Dr Eric Klug, Dr Andrew Thornton, Dr Darryl Smith, Prof Pravin Manga, Dr Ahmed Vachiat, Dr Gavin Angel and Dr Don Zachariah.

SA Heart® Congress 2017 (Sandton Convention Centre, 9 - 12 November 2017), was our major project. It was highly successful – 970 delegates; the international faculty comprised more than 20 speakers form 12 countries. A profit of just over 2.1 million Rand! “Fundamentals to Innovation” was the most enlightening project of my career. I am extremely grateful and indebted to the SA Heart® 2017 Scientific Organising Committee for their input, advice and support. I drove them crazy in the process. I am humbled to have chaired and lead this congress.

I am also extremely grateful to Sue McGuiness and the “dream team” from Europa Organisation Africa, our PCO for SA Heart® 2017.

The SA Heart® Executive committee has awarded the branch a profit share of R150 000 and a further honorarium of R150 000 to be distributed to the scientific organising committee. We are presently in the process of distributing the latter, which will be finalised in the next month.

We co-hosted the SASCI Visiting Professor, Prof David R. Holmes at a wonderful meeting at the Wanderers (08.02.2018) - “Antithrombotic and Anticoagulant therapy and PCI”.

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. We are planning two more meetings for the remainder of this year.

Once again I am honoured to have once again served in the positions of President and Treasurer of the Branch. I do however feel that now it is time for some of the younger members to take over the branch activities. I will be in discussions with some of the younger academics in this regard. I will be happy to remain as branch Treasurer. We will be holding a branch AGM later this year.

David Jankelow, President and Treasurer, Johannesburg Branch

KwaZulu-Natal BRANCH
Committee members
Rob Dyer (President), Andrew Asherson (Secretary), Jai Patel (Treasurer), Ebrahim Hoosen, Julian Buckels and Rohan Lutchman (Members).

For some years the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Branch has struggled to arrange regular, well attended meetings and the current year has, unfortunately, continued this trend. The challenge for any new committee is to attempt to change longstanding patterns of behaviour such that our branch becomes more inclusive and less divided. These problems notwithstanding, the branch has had 2 excellent meetings involving overseas speakers.

On 21 February we hosted Dr David Holmes (SASCI Visiting Professor) to an exceptionally well attended lecture entitled “Antithrombotic and anticoagulant therapy
and PCI”. The meeting was lively and interactive and the audience comprised cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, fellows and allied professionals.

On 17 April we held a fascinating meeting, in conjunction with the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at UKZN School of Clinical Medicine, on “Off Pump Total Arterial Revascularisation”. Dr Murali Vettath, Director of the International Centre of Opcab Excellence at Meitra Hospital, Kerala State, India, is an engaging and vastly experienced speaker who has done over 4 000 such operations and he brought a depth of insight and understanding to the topic which has undoubted relevance to our local cash strapped experience. We are sure he will remain a valuable ally and supporter of South African cardiac care.

The KZN branch has agreed to take on the Scientific Programme Committee function for the 2019 SA Heart® Congress which will be held jointly with PASCAR. The local committee has met to begin the planning process and the theme chosen is “Cardiac care- Meeting the needs of Africa”. We aim to put forward a programme worthy of the 25th Anniversary of our democracy which is, simultaneously, when we genuinely became part of the African community of nations.

Rob Dyer, President, KwaZulu-Natal Branch

PRETORIA BRANCH

It brings me great pleasure to report back on our SA Heart® Pretoria Branch Activities in 2018.

A major focus for 2018 is of course that the SA Heart® Pretoria Branch is responsible for the SA Heart® Congress 2018 (Sun City from 5 - 7 October 2018). I will ask our local branch members to support this congress through contribution as faculty and as delegates. Please do watch out for educational grants that will be made available to support attendance. You will need to apply to be considered as per the new Medtech and SAMED rules governing HCP sponsorships.

Our focus is to serve the educational needs of our branch members (Cardiologists, Fellows, Allieds, EP and Surgeons).

Our approach is very much to focus on empowering the multi-disciplinary team.

Our 1st meeting took place on 7 February at Kream Restaurant, with the acclaimed international cardiologist, Prof David R. Holmes Jnr from Mayo Clinic, United States of America. The topic of his talk was “Stroke Prevention in Non-valvular AF” 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 and 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 2018 VPP evening lecture series was definitely a huge success according to the feedback we received from the 43 delegates who attended the meeting. It was a great presentation which led to lively interactive discussions. 17 Drs and 36 Allied Professionals attended the meeting.

For our 2nd meeting, which took place on 20 June 2018 at Signature Restaurant, we invited Peta Durrant, who specialises in health law, policy and ethics. The topic of her talk was “Do we really understand patient confidentiality and privacy?”. Twenty six delegates attended this meeting, of which 8 Doctors and 18 Allied Professionals. The feedback we received indicated that the delegates found the topic very informative.
We are inviting all our members to attend including the Allied Professionals. Members must please note that all our meetings are CPD accredited. Please contact George at george@medsoc.co.za or me (drioebrahim@gmail.com) if you wish to contribute at future meetings or to suggest appropriate programmes for Pretoria. The CPD meetings are offered free of charge 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
The executive committee members are:
Anton Doubell (President), Alfonso Pecararo (Vice-president), Andre Brooks (Secretary) and Blanche Cupido (Treasurer). Additional members: Philip Herbst, John Lawrenson, Johan Brink and Jane Moses.
The 2 year term of the current executive comes to an end this year and a new executive committee will be elected at the annual general meeting during the last branch meeting, the fourth for 2018.

Three educational meetings have already been held since the previous annual general meeting:

- The first meeting, held on the 8th March was co-hosted with SASCI at the Marriott Crystal Towers Hotel. The meeting featured a lecture by the SASCI visiting professor for 2018, Prof David Holmes from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, USA. His lecture, entitled “Antithrombotic and anticoagulant therapy and PCI”, was well received by an interactive audience.
- The second meeting was held on the 5th June at the Marriott Crystal Towers Hotel. Excellent talks by Rik de Decker (Echoes of brilliance: The history and development of echocardiography), Susan Vosloo (The first heart transplant – historical perspective) and Alfonso Pecoraro (Many faces of cardiac tuberculosis) was topped off by interesting case reports.
- The third meeting was held on the 7th August at the Marriott Crystal Towers Hotel. A very enjoyable and popular fellows evening was hosted with 11 excellent abstracts presented. The 11 presentations were:
  - Partnerships for Congenital Heart Disease in Africa (The PROTEA Study) - The first 800 patients reveal key insights into our CHD cohort – Thomas Aldersley
  - Infective Endocarditis – The Groote Schuur experience – Martin de Villiers
  - Acute Myocarditis – Clinical Presentation, Aetiology and Short-to-Medium Term Outcomes in a Single Centre in Sub-Saharan Africa – Karim Hassan
  - Rheumatic heart disease in a “low risk” community - are other risk factors at play? – Luke Hunter
  - Severe Symptomatic Aortic Stenosis Due to a Unicuspid Unicommissural Aortic Valve – Lloyd Joubert
  - Outcomes of 562 Echocardiographically Guided Pericardiocenteses over a 10-year period in a low-to-middle income country Tertiary Referral Centre – Sumanth Karamchand
  - 7-Year experience of Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implants (TAVI) in a Western Cape private healthcare setting – Jacques Liebenberg
- Echocardiographic findings in a large cohort of perinatally HIV-infected adolescents do not differ from their uninfected peers: benefits from early antiretroviral therapy in the Cape Town Adolescent Antiretroviral Cohort (CTAAC) – Sana Mahtab
- Leadless Cardiac Pacing: A Groote Schuur Hospital Experience with the Micra leadless pacemaker – Philasande Mkoko
- Evaluating the prognostic significance of the 12-lead ECG in peripartum cardiomyopathy – Charle Viljoen
- Prospective cohort study comparing blended learning with lecture-based training in electrocardiography – Charle Viljoen

The choice of winners proved to be a very difficult task but in the end 2 outstanding presentations were awarded the prizes. The winners of the Fellows evening were Thomas Aldersley, Jacques Liebenberg and Charle Viljoen.

A part of this meeting was dedicated to the memory of Professor Bongani Mayosi. Clinicians were given an opportunity to pay tribute to a great academic leader who will be missed dearly in our cardiac community.

We confirm that we are in a sound financial position, which allowed the branch to continue awarding the Louis Vogelpoel Scholarship. The 2018 recipient was Hans Strijdom.

Anton Doubell, President: Western Cape Branch of SA Heart®