The Cardiac Arrhythmia Society of Southern Africa (CASSA) is a special interest group of SA Heart®. The CASSA Executive Committee consists of: Ashley Chin (president), Andrew Thornton (immediate past president), Pro Obel (treasurer), Adele Greyling (co-treasurer), Rob Scott Millar, Ruan Louw, 2 industry representatives (Luigi Zampieri, George Van Der Merwe), Human Nieuwenhuis (allied professional) and CASSA co-ordinator Glenda Nichols (nee Marcer). I would like to thank them for their time, expertise and support throughout 2019.

The aims of CASSA are to improve the treatment and awareness of heart rhythm disorders in sub-Saharan Africa through education and the facilitation of research. To achieve these goals, CASSA has been active in the following initiatives in 2019:

**Annual 2019 CASSA symposia**
These popular symposia have become a regular fixture on the CASSA calendar for the past 4 years. The 2019 CASSA symposia took place in February and March at the Vineyard Hotel in Cape Town and the Capital Hotel in Johannesburg – over 2 successive weekends. This year CASSA hosted 2 speakers: Professor Chris Mcleod (Mayo Clinic) and Dr Timothy Betts (Oxford). The symposia were entitled “Clinical Updates in Cardiac Arrhythmias”. Talks focused on paediatrics and congenital heart disease, atrial fibrillation (CABANA, CASTLE AF trials and device detected AF), drug therapy (anticoagulation and antiarrhythmic drug therapy), and device and ECG interpretation and troubleshooting.

Planning is underway for the 2020 CASSA symposia to be held in Cape Town (29 February 2020) and Johannesburg (7 March 2020), and 2 international guest speakers have been invited. This event is once again entitled “Clinical Updates in Cardiac Arrhythmias” and will be advertised at SA Heart® 2019. More details will follow in due course.

**Collaboration with the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA)**
CASSA continued to collaborate and work closely with EHRA on several initiatives over the past 2 years. CASSA was invited to chair a joint session with the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) at the annual Europace meeting held in Lisbon in March 2019. I was privileged to represent a practical talk on “Differentiating typical from atypical atrial flutter on the ECG” at a CASSA/EHRA joint session. Dr Pro Obel gave a talk on the “Difficult atrial flutter ablation”. CASSA has once again been invited to chair and present 2 presentations at a joint session with EHRA on “Managing arrhythmias in the critically ill/post-surgical patient”, at the annual Europace meeting to be held in Vienna in 2020. This will be the fourth successive year that CASSA has received an invitation to chair and participate in a joint session with EHRA.
CASSA has also been involved with the writing, review and endorsement of EHRA-led international scientific statements and guidelines. Dr Ruan Louw, Dr Pro Obel and myself were included as co-authors and reviewers of a document entitled: Management of asymptomatic arrhythmias: A European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) consensus document – endorsed by the Heart Failure Association (HFA), Heart Rhythm Society (HRS), Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRS), Cardiac Arrhythmia Society of Southern Africa (CASSA), and the Latin America Heart Rhythm Society (LAHRS). It was published in Europace in 2019.

**Collaboration with the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS)**
I met with the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) at the annual Heart Rhythm Society meeting in San Francisco in May 2019. Opportunities for future collaboration were discussed. Dr Andrea Russo, current president of HRS, has voiced a desire for HRS to collaborate with CASSA at local and international meetings.

The quarterly ECG quiz published in the SA Heart® Journal and the 6-monthly The Andrzej Okreglicki Memorial Advanced ECG and Arrhythmia Interpretation Course continue to promote the teaching of ECG interpretation by cardiologists and cardiology senior registrars.

**CASSA Accreditation**
Dr Andre Saaiman was accredited as a “CASSA-accredited” electrophysiologist in 2019.

I would like to thank the CASSA corporate members for their ongoing support to the organisation. They are Medtronic, Vertice, Biosense Webster, Boehringer Ingelheim, Boston Scientific, Biotronik, Bayer Pharmaceuticals, and Inova Pharmaceuticals.

**Ashley Chin, President, CASSA**

**CARDIAC IMAGING SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA, CISSA**
during the current year a number of CISSA-endorsed events were conducted:
- SUNECHO echocardiography course.
- New Horizon’s echocardiography course.

The yearly joint CISSA/Mayo echocardiography workshop is scheduled for the 31th of October 2019 and will feature a combination of speakers from South Africa, the Mayo clinic, PASCAR and ACC.

The annual Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance Congress of South Africa (SA-CMR) will be held in conjunction with the SA Heart® meeting, from 31 October - 3 November 2019.

CISSA has acquired additional sponsorship and all members should be on the lookout for upcoming applications for sponsorship to imaging congresses.

**Alfonso Pecoraro, President, CISSA**
HEART FAILURE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA, HeFSSA

The Heart Failure Society of South Africa (HeFSSA) has several programmes planned to ensure that we achieve our goals for the society in 2019.

HeFSSA executive

The HeFSSA Executive is the driving force behind these programmes: Martin Mpe (President), Eric Klug (Ex-Officio President), Jens Hitzeroth (Vice-President), Darryl Smith (Treasurer), Nash Ranjith (Secretary) and Karen Sliwa, Len Steingo, Tony Lachman, Makoali Makotoko, Nqoba Tsabedze, Ntobeko Ntusi and Mpiko Ntsekhe, with George Nel (Executive Officer).

This year saw the active engagement of the government on issues such as expanding Heart Failure medication on EDL and updating the public sector treatment algorithm. The National Department of Health also assisted with distributing invitations to HeFSSA GP meetings in the various centres. HeFSSA plans to expand this collaboration.

HeFSSA HF guideline and treatment Algorithm

The HeFSSA HF Guideline and Treatment Algorithm reflects the current best practice and is based on the published ESC 2016 Guidelines, recent landmark publications, and South African clinical experience. We submitted the Update Guidelines and Treatment Algorithm to the SA Medical Journal and hope to see publication in 2019.

Research

HeFSSA HF Clinical Snapshot Survey is planned for the first half of 2020. Makoali Makotoko is spearheading this initiative which we will launch nationally and hopefully it will become an annual audit of HF in South Africa – allowing us to reflect year-on-year and in due course over extended periods. This survey could ultimately inform resource alignment and investment in HF networks.

Educational grants

HeFSSA has put in place a process to manage educational grants through the society’s infrastructure and has been able to support the attendance at ESC Congress 2019 of practitioners with a special interest in heart failure. This was made possible through educational grants from Medtronic and Boston – with 2019 beneficiaries being Blanche Cupido, Riette du Toit and Luke Hunter. HeFSSA also offers Educational Travel Awards with a total value of R70 000 per annum (maximum of R35 000) to support attendance of heart-failure related meetings and congresses. This funding will, in 2019, be used to support attendance of the SA Heart® Congress and a formal grant application process will be followed.

HeFSSA Medical Practitioners’ Programme

The HeFSSA Medical Practitioners Programme (primarily GP) continues to be of great value to the medical community and is the main vehicle we use to achieve our heart failure educational goals. The programme started in 2010 and saw more than 540 GPs attend in 2018. We offer the course annually and have established it in both metropolitan and rural areas. This programme is in its ninth consecutive year and continues to be generously supported by Servier, Pharma Dynamics and Novartis.

The theme for 2019 is “challenges in Heart failure Management” and the topics being addressed are: Dyspnoea and leg swelling, when is it heart failure?
Management of acute decompensated heart failure
Heart failure during pregnancy
Refractory oedema in heart failure patients
The case-based slide compendium for this year’s programme has been compiled by Jens Hitzeroth, Nqoba Tsabedze, Karen Sliwa and Ntobeko Ntusi. The faculty members include a distinguished South African cardiologist with an interest in heart failure from across South Africa. This year’s meetings will be hosted across South Africa and Namibia as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 June</td>
<td>Ongwediva, Namibia</td>
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<td>17 August</td>
<td>Polokwane, Fusion Hotel</td>
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<td>7 September</td>
<td>Johannesburg, Silvasales</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wanderers Restaurant</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 September</td>
<td>Swakopmund, Namibia</td>
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<td>5 October</td>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
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<td>12 October</td>
<td>Kimberley, Protea Hotel</td>
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<td>19 October</td>
<td>East London, Lord Selbourne</td>
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<td>26 October</td>
<td>Somerset West, Edenvale Estate</td>
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<td>16 November</td>
<td>Cape Town, Crystal Towers</td>
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<td>30 November</td>
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<td>13 July</td>
<td>Windhoek, Namibia</td>
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<td>31 August</td>
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<td>14 September</td>
<td>Nelspruit, Protea Hotel</td>
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<td>Mthatha, Hotel Savoy</td>
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<td>18 October</td>
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<td>19 October</td>
<td>East Rand, Birchwood Hotel</td>
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<td>9 November</td>
<td>Pretoria, Casa Toscana</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 November</td>
<td>Durban, Riverside Hotel</td>
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**Cardio update for non-Cardiologists**

HeFSSA will be involved in the SA Heart® Congress 2019, at Sandton Convention Centre. All the HeFSSA members are requested to attend the HeFSSA sessions – as well as the AGM. HeFSSA continues to invest in education by hosting the annual Cardio Update for Non-Cardiologists. The pre-congress workshop will take place on Thursday, 31 October, from 12:20 - 17:00 – with Len Steingo and Nqoba Tsabedze as the programme convenors. We expect more than 100 medical practitioners to attend the meeting. This meeting is made possible by support from Boehringer Ingelheim, Servier and Novartis.

HeFSSA is supported by loyal corporate members committed to education in heart failure. Our sincere appreciation goes to Boston Scientific, Boehringer Ingelheim, Medtronic, Pharma Dynamics, Servier, Vertice, Biotronik, and Novartis for continued support.

**The HeFSSA website** is continually updated to remain relevant. Please visit the website at www.hefssa.org and contact the HeFSSA office to make contributions and to ensure that the items stay updated and relevant.

HeFSSA encourages all parties who want to be involved in heart failure to contact George Nel, HeFSSA executive Officer at info@hefssa.org.

*Martin Mpe, President, HeFSSA*
This will be my final report as President, and I would like to thank my executive committee for their unwavering support and our Industry partners for their continued professional engagement and generosity in times of change and challenge.

**SASCI executive Committee** (term ending AggM 2 November 2019)
D. Kettles (President), F. Hellig (Ex-officio President), H. Weich (Vice-President), C. Badenhorst (Treasurer), G. Cassel (Secretary), S. Khan, G. Angel, M. Ntsekhe, M. Makotoko, A. Vachiat, C. Zambakides, J. Vorster, G. Angel, S. Pandie, J.P. Theron (SASCI PPC Chair) and W. Howell (ISCAP).

**ISCAP**
Waheeda Howell (Chair) and her team continue with their stellar work focusing on Allied education (separate report).

**SASCI Positioning Statement**
Shockwave Therapy (February 2019)

**SASCI Private Practice Committee**
I would like to thank Jean Vorster for his leadership of the SASCI PPC which is also home to the SA Heart® PPC and contact point with SIGs, such as CASSA. The group consists of: David Jankelow, Andrew Thornton, Dave Kettles, Gavin Angle, Graham Cassel and George Nel, with an open invitation to others to contribute. I would like to thank Dr Tom Mabin for his willingness to actively work with SASCI PPC. Please see separate SASCI PPC report.

As President I have frequently been engaged by funders, particularly in the last months, on a range of issues. In a multitude of contexts there have been many opportunities to represent, to the best of my abilities, our position as cardiac interventionists. It is encouraging to see that our SIG has clearly established itself with the right and credibility to communicate on behalf of our members with many who wish to solicit a representative voice in the cardiology community.

**SASCI educational**
Initiatives continue to be a cornerstone activity. Highlights of the educational initiatives SASCI has been, and continues to be, involved in include:

**Master the Complex 2019**
SASCI and PASCAR was involved in the Boston Scientific Master the Complex 2019 session in Johannesburg on 25 and 26 January 2019. This year, 60 cardiologists attended the meeting including delegates from South Africa, Mauritius, Kenya, Sudan and Namibia. Drs Simon Walsh and Julian Strange featured as international faculty and they were supported by well-respected South African and sub-Saharan African interventional cardiologists. The programme was developed under the guidance of Dave Kettles, Farrel Hellig and Awad Mohamed (Sudan). The meeting provided cardiologists with training on new trends in complex interventional procedures, technologies and troubleshooting through interactive talks and live cases.

**STEM! Africa Live! 2019**
SASCI and PASCAR supported the development of African Cardiology in Nairobi, 26 - 27 April 2019 with Dave Kettles, Adie Horak and Justiaan Swanelvelder as part of the South African faculty and Zimasa Jama (Groote Schuur Hospital) as case presenter.

**EuroPCR 2019**
SASCI, with support from Medtronic and Boston Scientific, ensured that cardiologists on faculty received
educational grants. The recipients were Arthur Mutyaba, Jens Hizeroth, Michael Dean and Marshall Heradien.

**Endovascular Cardiac Complications Congress 2019**
ECC 2019 was held in Lausanne, Switzerland from 26 June - 28 June. Dave Kettles represented SASCI, giving a keynote lecture during the congress.

**SASCIVPP**
The SASCI Visiting Professor Programme is a well-established initiative and an annual highlight on the SASCI calendar. Prof Simon Redwood, professor of interventional cardiology and honorary consultant cardiologist at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, has accepted our invitation to travel to South Africa as the Visiting Professor for 2019.

Prof Redwood payed a visit to the Gauteng and Free State Medical Schools in July 2019 and will be back in South Africa from 30 September 2019 - 2 November 2019 to attend the SA Heart® conference, AfricaPCR course and visit the coastal Medical Schools. Prof Redwood works hands-on in the cath lab along with fellows and consultants in addition to presenting multiple lectures at each unit. The SA Heart® Branch and SASCI Evening Lectures initiative is also a great success attracting delegates from Bloemfontein (52), Johannesburg (52) and Pretoria (57).

We look forward to welcoming Dr Greg Barsness from the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA who accepted our invitation to travel to South Africa as Visiting Professor in 2020.

Multiyear support received from Medtronic and Pharma Dynamics enables this programme.

**Annual Fellows Workshop**
SASCI hosted the 15th Annual Fellows Workshop in Sandton on 17 and 18 August 2019. The meeting was a great success with interactive and robust discussions and debates between the faculty and fellows. A total of 48 practitioners attended the workshop, including 2 fellows from Kenya and 2 from Mauritius. We hope to expand our SSA delegate contingent in 2020 to make this a truly African Fellows training and networking event.

Jean Vorster and Graham Cassel once again took the lead and developed an exceptional programme that was well supported by an extensive faculty including: Gavin Angel, Dave Kettles, Sajidah Khan, Adie Horak, Farrel Hellig, Ahmed Vachiat, Jacques van Wyk, Mark Abelson, Chris Zambakides and Pieter van Wyk. James Fortein (UFS) and Hanneke Danheimer (WITS) won the best-case presenter’s award and received free registration to attend the AfricaPCR Congress 2019, sponsored by SASCI.

SASCI are hugely indebted to industry who have continued to generously support this annual programme: Biotronik, B Braun, Boston Scientific, Disa Vascular, Paragmed, Siemens, Baroque, Vertice Healthcare, Terumo. Merit Cardiology, Merit Medical, Medtronic and Torque Medical were all involved this year.

**Boston RC Fraser International Fellowship**
Annually, SASCI sends a fellow, for a period of up to one month, to gain valuable experience at Prof Simon Redwood’s unit at Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital, London. In 2018 the incumbent was Dr Portia Moses (UFS). Call for Nominations for 2019 will open soon.

**TCT 2019**
Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics (TCT) is a large scale American meeting with a very noteworthy
At community us and uncertain, vibrant enriching, never It A With Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions Fall Fellows Course

AfricaPCR 2019
The SASCI Grant application portal is open (from mid-August) with confirmation to applicants on 20 September. In 2018, SASCI supported 59 delegates, including 24 fellows, to attend AfricaPCR. We hope to increase this number in 2019.

Fellows Course at Columbia University NYC
In 2018, SASCI selected 3 fellows to attend the Medtronic Fellows Course at Columbia University New York City for the first time. They were Kwena Komape-Makgado (Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital), Menachem Levin (Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital) and Deya Ramachandran (Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital).

The next Course will take place from 7 - 9 February 2020 in New York. Call for nominations open on 9 September 2019. Medtronic supports this course on a turnkey basis.

STEMI SA
Dr Adrian Synders and Prof Rhena Delport have done a huge amount of work for this project. Data collection for a national registry has just started at Life St Dominic’s Hospital and is about to start at a number of other hospitals as well. We want to capture a cross section of current management of STEMI and provide data which everybody always notes does not exist. If any colleagues wish to be involved in this project, Dr Kettles eagerly awaits your declaration of interest. Educational Work - shops have been and will continue to be arranged to assist those who wish to strengthen STEMI care in their region.

New Proctorship Programme in 2019 – SASCI Visiting expert Programme
SASCI, in partnership with Vertice Healthcare, is launching a new Visiting Expert Programme with a focus on proctorship in Complex PCI procedures. Prof Tony Gershlick, consultant Cardiologist at Leicester’s Hospital and Honorary Professor of Interventional Cardiology at the University of Leicester, will be the first Visiting Expert travelling to South Africa in November 2019. Prof Gershlick will proctor cases as they present on the day with a focus on bifurcation and other complex PCI procedures. We trust that this new initiative will become an annual initiative.

Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions Fall Fellows Course
With support from SCAI and Boston Scientific, SASCI supported 4 South African fellows to attend the SCAI Fall Fellows course in December 2018 (Aveen Mahabal, Robert Leibbrandt, Mmuso Mogwera and Absalom Nkosi). The 5 2019 recipients are Ndikondisene Tshiovhe, Ashandren Naicker, Zimasa Jama, James Fortein and Jerry Chen. They will travel to Las Vegas in December 2019 for a week’s training.

A word of thanks from Dr Kettles
It has been my privilege, and for the most part a joy, to be president of this organisation for 4 ½ years. It was never intended to be a marathon: naively I expected a 2-year stint. However, this period has been greatly enriching, and I believe in these years SASCI has continue to build on solid foundations to become a vibrant and contributing member of the medical society landscape. Right now we find ourselves in uncertain, even perplexing times. Rumours of change, and many challenges, yes. But I have no doubt that innovative solutions are out there for us to discover, and our members will continue to adapt, to learn, and to grow, so that we can continue to provide contemporary, excellent therapies to our patients. Let us not just “stay in touch” with the world: let us mature into leaders and pioneers in the interventional community worldwide.

At the 2019 AGM we will choose new leadership. I wish my successor a time of useful contribution as he or
she puts their personal touch on the future activities of this society. I have no doubt that SASCI will thrive in the future—the contributions required from us to maintain and promote the discipline of interventional cardiology are too great for us to even consider faltering.

I extend my deepest gratitude to George and to his team: they serve our society with excellence and commitment. No hours are after hours. Nothing I have ever done at SASCI has been done without their unwavering support at every level.

I thank all my friends in the industry: so many of you betray any stereotype of heartless profit driven businesspeople: you have shown serious commitment to education, to skills development and career path promotion for young colleagues. You have put substantial amounts of funding into projects whose only goal is to make us better interventionists, who can better serve our nation? Many of you have become my friends. Thank you.

As I step down, I salute you all. May your skills and contributions continue to grow, may you continue to find fulfilment in this most stimulating and privileged of careers that you have built for yourself. Let us be purposeful givers to the health of our nation and always strive for excellence as we serve our patients’ needs first.

My life has been enriched and enlarged during the time I have served SASCI. I thank each of you for that.

Dave Kettles, President, SASCI

INTERVENTIONAL SOCIETY OF CATH LAB ALLIED PROFESSIONAL, ISCAP
As part of ISCAP’s dedication to you as the Allieds, we are focussed on your needs and have structured the ISCAP organisational model to ensure you are represented through various channels. Your voice is important to us – so please do engage with regional or national committee members.

I would like to thank my Committee and Co-opted members for their continued contributions.

Gauteng
Isabel Bender (Vice Chair Nurses as well as Regional Chair), Kerry Moir (Radiographers), Jamie-Leigh Hayes (Technologists) and Ramabai Zwapano (Nurses).

Western Cape
Carmen November (Regional Chair), Sabira Khatieb (Radiographers), Human Nieuwenhuis (Technologists) and Maggie Petersen (Nurses).

KwaZulu-Natal
Selvan Govindsamy (Regional Chair), Amit Singh (Technologists) and Don Pardechi (Nurses).

Free State
Marlet Bester (Technologists)

Thanks are due to Marisa Fourie whose term ended in 2018. Your continued guidance and support are appreciated. I am certain you will continue to play a major role through the upcoming 2019/2020 ISCAP Lecture Series, as your knowledge and expertise is of great value to ISCAP.
Eastern Cape
Keri Meyer (Regional Chair), Ronelle de Glanville (Radiographers), Elzanne Oosthuizen (Technologists) and Naomi Oosterbroek (Nurses).

Co-Opted for education & Cath Lab Manual
Gill Longano

Ex-Officio chairperson and Cath Lab Manual
Dianne Kerrigan

SA Heart® & AfricaPCR grants 2019
The AfricaPCR Course and SA Heart® Congress remain as seminal educational contact points receiving substantial Exco time and effort to optimise the learning. The SASCI Office is continuously approaching industry for educational grants to support the allied professionals to attend the upcoming joint SA Heart® & AfricaPCR Congress. We look forward to AfricaPCR 2019, where we hope to raise more funding for sponsorship.

ISCAP national Lecture Series 2019
ISCAP is focussed on ongoing training for all Cath Lab Allieds including nurses, radiographers and technologists across South Africa. We had a roaring start to 2019, with Lecture Series starting in January!
ISCAP would like to thank you for supporting these lecture meetings and thus contributing to the excellence we believe every Cathlab should maintain, as well as conveying knowledge to our fellow colleagues.

As an added bonus, ISCAP have handed out a different coloured ISCAP SASCI Branded Cathlab Buff with each series. These buffs are to increase the visibility of the Society’s involvement in the Cathlab and the commitment to ongoing training and education.

the Lecture Series consists of the following topics:
■ Distal Radial Access.
■ Uterine Fibroid Embolisation.
■ Prostatic Artery Embolisation.

CPD Accredited for 3 Standard CEUs through the University of Pretoria:

26 January: cape town 66 Allieds in attendance
16 February: durban 52 Allieds in attendance
2 March: Midrand 62 Allieds in attendance
11 May: Port elizabeth 28 Allieds in attendance
20 July: Bloemfontein 29 Allieds in attendance

During this series, the allieds had the privilege of listing to Drs Darren Klass, Michelle Da Silva, Werner van Straaten and Prof Samia Ahmad.

A special thank you to Jolanda Clifton and Scott de Oliveira from the Merit Medical for sponsoring this lecture series. Their commitment to education has given 237 allied professionals the opportunity to engage on these topics, so furthering their education.

ISCAP Terumo Vertice Series 2019
the Lecture Series consists of the following topics:
■ ESC/EACTS Clinical Practice Guidelines.
Treatment of High Bleeding Risk Patients.
Bio-Ethics: Walk a mile in my shoes.

CPD Accredited for 2 Standard and 1 ethics ceU through the University of Pretoria:

11 May: durban 30 Allieds in attendance
1 June: cape town 64 Allieds in attendance
7 September: Bloemfontein 19 Allieds in attendance

During this series, the allieds had the privilege of listing to Dr Lutchman, Dr Mamdo, Dr Peterson, Dr Hitzeroth, Dr Hassan and Dr Butua. A special thank you to Sr Lucia Van Heerden who flew to all the workshops to present the Bio-Ethics topic and to share her life story.

A special thank you to Vertice Medtech and Terumo for sponsoring this lecture series, and for their teams going the extra mile to further education in the Cathlab.

ISCAP Boston Riverdene Siemens Series 2019
the Lecture Series consists of the following topics:

- Stuck between a rock and a hard place: Rotational atherectomy overview.
- Contrast indications – More than basics.
- Ethics of artificial intelligence in health care.

CPD Accredited for 2 Standard and 1 ethics ceU through the University of Pretoria:

16 March: Port elizabeth 39 Allieds in attendance
8 June: durban 92 Allieds in attendance
3 August: cape town 78 Allieds in attendance

During this series, Drs van der Merwe, Visagie, McKibbin, Van Zyl and Horak presented on Rotational Atherectomy. Dr Ashesh Ranchod and Sinal Govender flew to each of these workshops to present on Contrast Indications and the Ethics of using artificial intelligence in the Cathlab, respectively.

Thanks are due to Boston Scientific, Riverdene and Siemens for sponsoring this lecture series. Their respective field force made this series possible, ensuring that 290 allied professionals were given the opportunity to engage on these topics, so furthering their education.

ISCAP Catheterisation Manual
Dianne Kerrigan and Gill Longano have worked tirelessly to update the ISCAP Cath Lab Manual online version, as well as the development of additional chapters. The first of these are currently available and are CPD Accredited:

Module 1:
- The Historical Developments of Coronary Angiography
- Cardiac Anatomy and Physiology
- Basic ECG Interpretation
- Coronary Pathology
Module 2:
- The Roles and Responsibilities of the Cath Lab Team
- Indications and Contraindications for Coronary Angiography
- Basic Concepts in Cardiac Catheterisation
- Asepsis in the Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory

Both these manuals are available on the Boston Educare Platform and are linked to a CPD Questionnaire. To view the Modules and to complete the CPD Questionnaires, visit sasci.co.za.

Thanks are due to Boston Scientific for their help in developing the ISCAP Manual – to hopefully reach more allieds though an online platform.

We thank our Corporate Support for their continued and unwavering support of ongoing education in the Cath Lab. If you require more information regarding the topics and other information for the above workshops, kindly contact the ISCAP Office at joh-ann.nice@medsoc.co.za.

Waheeda Howell, Chairperson, ISCAP

LIPID AND ATHEROSCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, LASSA

The Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society of Southern Africa (LASSA) remains affiliated with both the Society for Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes of South Africa (SEMDSA) and the South African Heart Association (SAHA). LASSA is also linked to the International Atherosclerosis Society (IAS).

The LASSA committee members, working in academic institutions, endeavour to sustain expertise for medical practitioners, scientists and the public. The committee is led by Prof David Marais assisted by Prof Derick Raal as secretary and treasurer, Dr Dee Blackhurst, and Prof Dirk Blom. Support for developing lipidology at any of the health science faculties remains lacking, despite the increasing recognition of common disorders such as familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH) and other serious disorders that deserve diagnosis and specialised management. Since LASSA is a small organisation and has limited expenses, its finances remain intact. The funds are intended for supporting meetings involving education as well as special investigations that may be required for patients. The constitution will be reviewed to ensure best function.

Dedicated lipid clinics for patients with severe dyslipidaemia remain only in Johannesburg and Cape Town. Since neither the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) nor private pathology laboratories provide special investigations for these severe disorders, laboratory investigation of complex problems remains limited to the laboratory in Cape Town where funding and staff are
In March, LASSA hosted a lipidology course for 22 delegates – mostly young internal medicine specialists. It was based on the course held in the previous year for a group of Dutch vascular medicine specialists. The meeting was supported by educational grants by Amgen, Sanofi, MSD and Cipla. Pathcare and Lancet laboratories also supported the course.

Two newsletters were circulated. The first summarised the course and the second was an update from the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS) congress in Maastricht from 26 - 29 May.

It is important that LASSA and other organisations raise awareness of FH, which is receiving worldwide attention. Off-patent Ezetimibe will hopefully become available in South Africa for severe dyslipidaemia. The monoclonal antibody neutralisers of PCSK9 have been under review at the South African Health Products Regulatory Agency (SAHPRA) for a few years and have still not been approved. The neglect of support for the diagnosis and treatment of lipid disorders – especially for FH the commonest severe autosomal dominantly inherited disorder – will hopefully be corrected by the National Health Insurance.

*Derick Raal, Secretary, LASSA*

**SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH, 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 September 2016 is: Prof Neil Davies (Chairperson), Dr Derick Van Vuuren (Secretary), Prof Sandrine Lecour (Treasurer), Prof Faadiel Essop, Prof Karen Sliwa, Dr Balindiwe Sisi, and Dr Wayne Smith.

**Workshops**

**Cardiac function workshop**

A critical area for all cardiovascular students is the understanding of the complexities of cardiac function. For this reason, SASCAR was very pleased to be able to hold a workshop on this topic in conjunction with LASEC, a supplier of specialist laboratory equipment. The workshop explored cardiac pressure loops generated using microcatheter-generated cardiac pressure data derived from a hands-on demonstration by a technique expert from ADI, Australia, who was ably assisted by the UCT Health Faculty veterinarian, Dr John Chipangura. The workshop was held at UCT and was well attended and received by staff and postgraduate students.

**The 4th Europe-SA cardiovascular Research workshop**

The year 2019 for SASCAR was dominated by the 4th Europe-SA Cardiovascular Research Workshop
organised by Prof Lecour (UCT). Following on the success of our previous joint Europe-South Africa meetings held in London (2010) and Cape Town (2012, 2016), SASCAR held the 4th Europe-SA Cardiovascular Research Workshop in STIAS, Stellenbosch, South Africa, from 1 - 5 April 2019. This was in conjunction with the international 6th Frontiers in cardiovascular research meeting.

The aim of these meetings is to promote interaction and research training between European and South African students and researchers. Seven European students (late PhD) were looked after by a group of South African postgraduate students, and spent 2 and half days of the week visiting cardiovascular research facilities at the University of Cape Town and University of Stellenbosch in-between cultural and social activities. An extra 2 days was dedicated to lectures at STIAS, Stellenbosch, which were attended by 95 delegates. Postgraduate and established researchers from various South African institutions were given the opportunity to present their research and network with 23 prestigious international speakers in the field of cardiovascular research, who contributed to the meeting and presented their work in various areas of cardiovascular research:

Ioanna Andreadou (Greece); Eveline Baumgart-Vogt (Germany); Robert Bell (UK); Juergen Bernhagen (Germany); William Boisvert (Hawaii); Hector Cabrera-Fuentes (Singapore); John Cunningham (UK); Sean Davidson (UK); Fabio di Lisa (Italy); Felix Engel (Germany); Fulvia Ferrazzi (Germany); Derek Hausenloy (Singapore); Thomas Krieger (UK); Rosalinda Madonna (Italy); Karlheinz Peter (Australia); Klaus Preissner (Germany); Daniel Sedding; Manvendra Singh (Singapore); Carl Vogel (Hawaii); Malcolm Walker (UK); Derek Yellon (UK); Paul Yen (Singapore); and Coert Zuurbier (The Netherlands).

SASCAR aims to have a workshop in the next quarter on pre-clinical imaging, utilising the opportunity afforded by the installation of a small animal optical imaging system at the Lionel Opie Pre-Clinical Imaging Facility at UCT.

SASCAR looks forward to an equally exciting 2020, and I would like to extend sincere appreciation to all members of the Executive Committee for their efforts over last year, and, in particular, those who directly organised workshops.

Neil Davies, President, SASCAR

Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa (PCSSA)

The Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa (PCSSA) is a Special Interest Group of the South African Heart Association. The objectives of the Society are to improve quality of care for children with congenital and acquired heart disease whilst 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 October 2018 are:
President: Hopewell Ntsinjana
Treasurer: Stephen Brown
Secretary and Vice President: Lindy Mitchell
Deputy Treasure: Barend Fourie
Education: Andre Brooks
SA Heart Congress 2019

Our thanks to Ebrahim Hoosen and colleagues from UKZN for putting together an exciting paediatric programme for this congress. We are excited joint about co-hosting this meeting with Africa PCR, SACMR and PASCAR and we look forward to welcoming our colleagues from the rest of the continent.

The Inaugural PROTEA Workshop (Cape Town)

The 13th-16th March 2019 marked the Inaugural PROTEA (Partnerships for Children with Heart Disease in Africa) Workshop hosted by the Children’s Heart Disease Research Unit, directed by A/Prof Liesl Zuhlke in conjunction with the Western Cape Paediatric Cardiology Service and opened by the VC of UCT, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng. A first in Africa, this workshop combined four events: a research methods workshop, a basic echocardiography workshop, followed by two days of advanced echo as well as a Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) research think-tank. Our Paediatric Cardiology fellows from all the units got to attend this meeting and were impressed by the level of teaching and case discussions. The delegates came from all over the African continent, including some PCSSA members from other African countries who trained in South Africa. Funding permitting, we aim to continue this course possible at a different City next year. Our sincere thanks goes to A/Prof Liesl Zuhlke and Lisa Telford, this just goes to show how much we can archive if we collaborate and engage with each other.

Paediatric Electrophysiology workshop (Johannesburg)

On 15th to the 18th of July 2019, Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital’s Paediatric Cardiology team hosted the inaugural Paediatric Electrophysiological (EP) Symposium comprising a 4day workshop covering all aspects of the sub-discipline of Paediatric Electrophysiology. Invited faculty included Dr Adele Greyling, Paediatric Electrophysiologist working in Port Elizabeth in conjunction with the Walter Sisulu University. Adele completed her EP training in Belgium in 2015/2016 and currently is South Africa’s local EP expert in paediatrics. She was joined by Professor George McDaniel from the University of Virginia. Professor McDaniel completed his EP training in 2004 at Stanford University and has since held multiple appointments, currently the Medical Director of the University of Virginia’s Children’s Heart Center. One of the strengths of the symposium was the invited representation including many of our academic centres in the northern half of the country. Paediatric cardiologists and fellows including the “cath lab techs” from CHBAH, Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital, Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital, Nelson Mandela Childrens Hospital, Steve Bhiko Academic Hospital, George Mukhari Academic Hospital and all the way from Bloemfontein, Universitas Academic Hospital. With such success, we look forward to future EP symposiums and I can confirm our national and international faculty have already confirmed.... they in!

Our hearty thanks to Prof Antoinette Cilliers, Dr Dave Kloeck and the rest of the Bara team for organising this workshop. Moreover, our sincere thanks goes to Prof McDaniels and our very own Dr Adele’ Greyling for imparting their EP skills to all those who attended.

Paediatric Unity Consultation

On Sat 16 Feb 2019 the South African Paediatric Association (SAPA) executive invited representative from each Paediatric sub speciality for a 1-day morning meeting in Cape Town. The
aim of the meeting was to discuss views of where SAPA can work together to achieve our common goals of Unity, Advocacy and Education. The PCSSA represented by myself, and issues such as newborn screening were discussed as these are common and easier if tackled with the backing of a bigger Paediatric body such as SAPA. On behalf of SAPA I did mention Pulse Oximetry screening for critical congenital heart disease.

Education and Service

We would like to congratulate Dr George Mukhari Hospital (Dr Mamokgethi Rangaka) on their accreditation for training and as of 1st July 2019 they started training their first Paediatric Cardiology Fellow. Warm congratulations to Dr Zoncezile Makrexeni who started as the first Paediatric Cardiologist at the Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape. We say “wunthshu” to Drs Vijay Mammen and Michelle Koch for passing their CMSA Paediatric Cardiology Certificate Examinations during the first half of 2019.

“Our application for the Dr Gcina Dumani annual Certificate in Paediatric Cardiology award to be administered by CMSA has been accepted, we are just polishing the final logistics before this is up and running”.

Travel Awards

The SCAI 2019 travel fellowship established to allow two fellows to attend the fellow interventional course in Nevada in December has closed for applications for this year. This fellowship is co-sponsored by the course itself covering registration and accommodation with the additional funds for travel expenses. Last year’s recipients were Dr Mamaila Lebea and Dr Marelize Bosman. We are very pleased to announce the recipients of this year’s award: Dr Vijay Mammen and Dr Michelle Koch, well done to them both and we wish them a great stay and learning experience.

Website and Social Media

We would like to thank Liesl for keeping our web and social media pages active, we would like to appeal to our young members to assist keeping us active on the web and on social media.

Advocacy

Patient advocacy remains an important focus of our society. This year for the first time in South Africa we celebrated the International Congenital Heart Disease Awareness week “an annual event from 7th to 14th of February”. During this week our members were interviewed by various media houses creating more awareness to parents and caregivers. We encourage all the units to go big next year for this event.

Conclusion

Your continued support and participation is required to keep the PCSSA an active and vibrant organisation. We look forward to another successful year (2020).

THANK YOU

Hopewell Ntsinjana, president PCSSA
MEMBERSHIP

Membership presently is healthy, although on the financial side only sixty percent of members are paid up and in good standing.

It is important to take cognizance of the fact that the Constitution makes provision for termination of membership if dues are not paid for twenty-four consecutive months.

The membership fee is currently R2,500 per annum, which equates to R210 per month, which is less than one expects to pay for a meal at an average restaurant.

As with other professional societies, our Society is not a statutory body. It acts as in an advisory capacity to provide information and advice to such statutory bodies. The Society can only “act” on behalf of members that are paid up and in good standing. A further function of the Society is to advise and direct in the event of disputes.

All members are therefore urged to ensure that their membership fees are up to date and that they are eligible to receive the support and guidance of the Society should the need arise.

Obviously, a fully paid up membership enables the Society to function soundly.

Membership will in future will be managed by The Conference Company. A three-year Secretarial Service Agreement has been structured and accepted by the EXCO.

2. ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Society are fourfold:

2.1 data collection
2.2 academic input
2.3 member interest
2.4 relationship with other organisations

2.1 DATABASE

The EXCO is attempting to develop its own database. This is an ongoing project.

A fully functional database has been developed and belongs to the University of the Free State (UFS). This database is available for the use of all members in their individual capacities. However, this database does not belong to the Society, and the Society cannot obtain collective data for its own use. The individual data on the UFS database belongs to the individual using the database.

The EXCO will continue to strive towards achieving its goal of developing a fully functional database of its own.
2.2 ACADEMIC INPUT

The Society has a significant academic function as five EXCO members serve as members of the College Council. The EXCO therefore has a responsibility to solve one of the largest problems of the College, being the low pass rate. The annual meeting of the College Council was held on 1 March 2019 and the Society made a significant contribution.

The biennial meeting of the Society is now being re-instituted after the slight lull that followed the organisation of the World Society Conference in 2016. Members of the EXCO have now recovered from the post-traumatic stress induced by that event and are looking forward to this year’s meeting which will focus on the Aorta.

A further activity is a Congenital Session which will be held prior to the main meeting. The Registrars Forum will be held two days prior to the meeting.

The program has been structured to benefit the Registrars preparing for the exams as well as all members of the Society. The topics covered in the Registrars Forum, Congenital Session and the main surgical program have been carefully chosen to ensure that there is no overlap and will be presented by a panel of experts.

During the EXCO meeting in November 2018 it was decided that management of the annual Registrars Forum will revert to the Society. The Society will be responsible for the organisation thereof in conjunction with the annually appointed academic host. The order going forward, as randomly selected, is Stellenbosch, Cape Town, Wits, Pretoria, Medunsa, UFS and then back to KZN who are hosting this year’s Forum.

The meeting will coincide with the SA Heart Association (SA Heart) meeting one year, and with the biennial meeting of the Society the following year.

The major sponsor and initiator of the Registrars Forum, Johnson & Johnson Ethicon, has regrettably withdrawn its sponsorship which left the Society stranded. We are extremely fortunate that Baroque Medical has kindly taken over the sponsorship, which made the conference possible this year. This will be the eighteenth Registrars Forum hosted by the Society.

2.2.1 THE MEDTECH CONUNDRUM

The Society first experienced the influence of so-called regulatory companies when organising the 2016 World Society meeting.

The industry then insisted on Eucomed approval in order to contribute to academic development. After much letter writing the Society eventually received a reply advising that Eucomed was a European organisation that did not do any work in Africa, but that they would be prepared to use the meeting as a pilot study.

Hereafter, the requirement for Euomed approval was negated by the industry. Interestingly, the conference took place in September 2016 and Euomed was dissolved in November of the same year.

Euomed has now been re-launched under the MedTech banner, an organisation which represents mainly the device industry. It is a European trade organisation which represents...
diagnostics and medical device manufacturers operating in Europe. It is interesting to note that the Chairman of the Board of this organisation was the President of the German National Association for In Vitro Diagnostic Manufacturers. The entire Board consists of members of the medical device industry. There are no medically qualified members of this organisation.

Over the past fifteen years the Society has achieved great success in bringing leaders in the field to South Africa for the biennial meeting. Influential surgeons include Sir Magidi Yacoub, Tyron E. David, Nicholas Kouchoukos, Patrick Perrier, Antonio Calafiore, Randy Wolf, John Elefteriades, Lars Svenson, John Pepper, Hank Edmonds and Scott Swanson. The list is much longer than this. Our Society remains indebted to our international colleagues who have visited our country and shared and imparted their knowledge and experience. As a Society we will endeavour to continue to uphold this tradition.

2.3 MEMBER INTEREST

As a result of the total and relentless onslaught by the funding industry to take control of our members interests the EXCO has been exceptionally occupied with not only defending against the financial take-over by HMOs but also changing the function of our speciality.

As it is, our speciality is under duress and is evolving in many ways clinically.

A classic example of this is the circular that was distributed in June 2019 where the funding industry decided unilaterally to apply their interpretation of Rule G which governs the remuneration of post-operative ICU care. The EXCO has been liaising with the Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF) as well as Discovery Health who is not a member of BHF, but, as anticipated, no response has been forthcoming.

A further insult is the recent circular distributed by Medscheme advising that assistant fees will be remunerated by applying Modifier 0009, which calculates the rate at 20% which is the rate that should be applied to a non-specialist assistant, as opposed to Modifier 0008 which calculates the rate at 33.33% which is correct for a specialist assistant.

All this is clearly described but is a relentless attempt by the funding industry to cut costs wherever they can, at the expense of the service provider.

Yet another problem we are encountering is the system of designated service providers (DSPs) and preferred provider networks (PPNs). The Society understands that this is purely a financial arrangement between the hospital groups and the funding industry. The concern is that the fees for DSPs and PPNs is controlled only by the funding industry and nobody else. The agreement for PPNs is based purely on financial benefit to the funding industry. Hospital networks compete by offering various degrees of discount, totally negating and disregarding the interest of the clinicians who work in certain hospitals. It is a known fact that surgeons who travel between units in various hospitals, in many instances peripatetic units, have poorer outcomes than those who work in a single hospital unit. Therefore, one’s security of practice is under threat by financial negotiations that happen without the clinician’s knowledge or input. The Society, together with SASCI and the Private Practice Committee of SA Heart, has engaged at various levels with several medical aids, mainly Discovery, but the outcome has been uniformly disappointing.

We shall however continue negotiations to exclude cardiothoracic surgery from these
arrangements.

2.4 RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

2.4.1 SA HEART ASSOCIATION

Our Society has been actively involved with SA Heart, but our role is diminishing constantly by curtailing the exposure given to surgeons.

An example of this is that in the upcoming four-day SA Heart meeting in November this year surgeons have been allocated only two lectures in a plenary session, and one break-away session of ninety minutes. It is understandable that surgeons feel that it is difficult to justify the cost of attendance when they receive limited surgical input. This has been a constant discussion at EXCO level with SA Heart, but the bigger the meeting gets (by involving Africa PCR, ESC, PCR and PASCAR) the less time is available for a surgical program.

A further point is that the financial benefit of being in a special interest group is now zero as surplus funding of conferences is no longer allocated to special interest groups. Therefore, the need to be in a special interest group at SA Heart needs to be debated.

2.4.2 SA THORACIC SOCIETY (SATS)

This Society is dominated by pulmonology, and the same situation exists in terms of allocation of funds and exposure.

The crux of the matter of dealing with both SA Heart and SATS is that the members interests cannot be looked after by either of these societies because as much as the cardiac society cannot look after thoracic interests, the thoracic society cannot look after cardiac interests.

Our members must realise that ninety nine percent of surgeons in this country practice both cardiac and thoracic surgery and therefore the only society that can look after the complete interests of cardiothoracic surgeons is our Society. Therefore, our relationship with the said societies should be on an individual rather than an organisational basis. This has been the practice in the past years.

Finally, the EXCO has called for nominations for new members. Hopefully new members will be nominated and elected to the EXCO and rejuvenate the committee so that these issues that have been addressed can continued in the future.

Robert Kleinloog, president SCOTS and Surgical Interest Group of SA Heart.
July 2019