The Johannesburg branch committee remains as:

Dr A. Vachiat, Dr M. Lebea, Dr D. Jankelow, Dr R. Leibbrandt, Dr F. Mamdoo, Dr N. Tsabedze, Prof A. Cilliers, Prof P. Manga, Dr D. Zachariah, Dr P. Raphulu, Dr S. Hossein and Dr R. Dawood.

The Johannesburg branch of SA Heart welcomed new colleagues into a collective group in April 2019. This is a younger committee than previous years. We are fortunate to have some experienced colleagues who have stayed on to guide us, and we appreciate their involvement.

Fellows’ presentation

- The Fellows’ presentation took place on 29 June 2019 at the Wanderers.
- Prof S. Levine, a retired paediatric cardiologist from Johannesburg, was honoured.
- Over 40 delegates attended the meeting and the Fellows’ presentation was well received.
- Prizes were given to the best presenters:
  - First Prize Dr Nangamso Kukulela
  - Second Prize Dr Mazwi Nkosi
  - Third Prize Dr Phophi Raphulu
- The branch would like to thank Dr Maimela for organising the event.

SASCI visiting Professor

- Prof Simon Redwood gave a talk on TAVI, which took place on 10 July 2019 at the Wanderers.
- Over 60 delegates attended.
- The visiting Professor initiative is to be commended and it is hoped that it will be continued.

Heart Failure CME

- HeFFSA organised a CME “Challenges in heart failure management” at the Wanderers on 9 September, with good attendance.

Journal club

- Suggestion: To be held on a Saturday morning.
- This meeting to include paediatric and adult cardiologists and both public and private.

We would like to bridge the gap between the younger and the more experienced cardiologists as well as the gap between public and private – and look forward to working together.

Thank you to sponsors Pharma Dynamics for the Fellow’s presentation of 29 June 2019.

Ahmed Vachiat, President, Johannesburg Branch
**KWAZULU NATAL BRANCH**

**Committee members**

Rob Dyer (President) and Jai Patel (Treasurer)

Ebrahim Hoosen, Rohan Lutchman, Julian Buckels and Andrew Asherson (Secretary - resigned)

Unfortunately there was no academic activity this year for a number of reasons. The resignation of Andrew Asherson as secretary earlier in the year, under pressure of work, impacted on our functioning. Secretarial duties were ultimately taken over by Rohan Lutchman, despite his being in the throes of commencing private practice with all the stress and administration detail involved in such a move. Our functioning as a group was further hampered by difficulties in getting our account “unfrozen” by Standard Bank, and this saga is ongoing and will, no doubt, be dealt with by Dr Jai Patel in his Treasurer’s Report.

All our committee activity has therefore been focused on our role as the Scientific Organising Committee for this year’s PASCAR/AfricaPCR/SA Heart® Congress that is being held at Sandton from 31 October - 3 November. All of the above committee members and Drs Sajidah Khan, Rob Kleinloog and Haroon Mia have played a part in formulating the programme. Particular thanks are due to David Jankelow and to Claire Jettke from Europa for the time they have given us in terms of assisting with this daunting task.

The lack of branch activity, while being a matter of regret which certainly needs discussion and improvement, is undoubtedly a function of multiple competing demands with which I, personally, have struggled.

*Rob Dyer, President, KwaZulu-Natal Branch*

**Pretoria Branch**

It brings me great pleasure to report back on our SA Heart® Pretoria Branch Activities in 2019.

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 first meeting took place on 27 February at the Black Bamboo Restaurant, with Dr Donavan Loots as speaker. The topic of his talk was “The ethical consideration in the pitfalls of cardiac diagnosis. When is it mandatory to request a post mortem.” 23 Delegates attended this meeting, 6 Doctors and 17 Allieds. The feedback we received indicated that the delegates found the topic to be very informative.

- For our second meeting we had the privilege of hosting the acclaimed international cardiologist, Prof Simon Redwood, from St Guys and Thomas Hospital, London. The topic of his talk was “The Emergence of TAVI as a real option for Patients with Aortic Stenosis”, 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 2019 VPP evening lecture series was definitely a huge success according to the feedback we received from the 57 delegates who attended the meeting. It was a great presentation, which led to lively interactive discussions; 16 Drs and 39 Allied Professionals attended the meeting. This meeting was made possible by
longstanding support from Medtronic and Pharma Dynamic that sees a renowned international cardiology visiting professor travel to South Africa for a 2-month tenure to teach and educate in interventional cardiology (primarily at medical schools).

- The third educational meeting for 2019 will be held on 11 September, where Dr Jean Vorster will be presenting on left atrial plugs for AF—indications and contra indications.
- The fourth educational meeting for 2019 is scheduled to take place at the beginning of November, with guest speaker Prof Tony Gershlick from the University Hospitals of Leicester, UK. This lecture forms part of the SASCI vertice visiting expert programme that will be focusing on complex PCI, but specifically bifurcations.

We are inviting all our members to attend—including the Allied Professionals. Members must please note that all our meetings are CPD-accredited and are offered free of charge. I would like to thank Pharma Dynamics for their continued support and for making this multi-evening lecture planning possible.

Please support the SA Heart® Congress 2019 (Sandton ICC from 31 October - 3 November 2019). The branch will offer educational grants (registration) 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.

Please contact Joh-Ann at joh-ann.nice@medsoc.co.za or me (drioebrahim@gmail.com) if you wish to contribute at future meetings or wish to suggest appropriate programmes for Pretoria.

**Iftikhar Ebrahim, Chairperson, Pretoria Branch**

**Western Cape Branch**

The executive committee members elected for the term 2019/20 are:

Alfonso Pecararo (President), Jane Moses and Blanche Cupido (Vice-Presidents), Bradley Griffiths (Secretary) and Jens Hinzeroth (Treasurer). Additional members: Hellmuth Weich, Charles Kyriakakis, George Commitis, Andre Brooks and Chevaan Hendrikse.

The branch has decided on quarterly meetings. Two meetings have been concluded during 2019:

- The first meeting was held on 04 March 2019. The keynote speaker was Prof D. Blom on the topic of “Statin intolerance” – followed by case presentations from the different academic units.
- The second meeting was held on 10 June 2019. The keynote speaker was Dr Jane Moses on the topic of “Pacemaker implantation and optimisation” – followed by case presentations from the different academic units.
- Two further meetings are planned for 16 September and 11 October 2019 respectively. The keynote speakers invited are Dr Mark Abelson (Topic: LAA closure: current indications) and Prof Simon Redwood (current status of TAVI). At both these meetings there will be an opportunity for researchers to present their research, and free registration for the annual SA Heart® Congress will be offered to the best presentation during these meetings.

The Western Cape branch is very proud of the excellent attendance of members at these meetings and would like to thank our members and sponsors for their contribution to the success of the meetings.
Thank you to sponsors Pfizer, Biotronik and AMGEN for the individual Branch meetings sponsored in 2019.

Alfonso Pecoraro, President: Western Cape Branch of SA Heart®