Reports from Regional Branches

Bloemfontein
It has been a quiet year on the academic front for the branch so far this year with only two meetings planned. This was mainly due to 2 key members of our committee leaving because of other commitments. The branch was very active in financially supporting certain projects with us being a gold sponsor for a hugely successful EACTS course in Bloemfontein in March which was attended by a large overseas faculty. We had a very successful end-of-the-year function at the end of 2009 that was attended by a large number of people and where we managed to increase the number of enrolled members to SA Heart significantly.

Dr N van der Merwe

Cape Town
The Cape Town branch of SA Heart has been inactive since having organized the annual SA Heart Congress in 2008. No academic meetings were held over the last year.

The treasurer has been busy over the last year finalizing the remaining financial aspects relating to the 2008 congress and we hope to be able to close the 2008 congress account soon.

The Cape Town branch made a bid for the 2012 Congress of the World Society of Cardiology to be held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC). We were successful in the preliminary stages and were selected as one of four potential host sites. In December 2009 we presented our bid, with the help of the CTICC, to the World Heart Federation. Although our bid was very well received and highly rated, we ultimately lost the bid to Dubai who will be hosting the 2012 congress.

The fourth annual Louis Vogelpoel Travelling Scholarship Award was awarded to Mr Sarin Somers of the Hatter Institute of Cardiology Research at the University of Cape Town.

Prof Johan Brink

Johannesburg
MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- Dr David Jankelow (President & Treasurer)
- Dr Antoinette Cilliers (Secretary)
- Dr Eric Klug, Dr Andrew Thornton, Dr Deliwe Ngwezi, Dr Gavin Angel, Dr Pravin Manga, Dr Hendrik Mamorare

The Johannesburg Branch has so far held two meetings this year. We decided not to hold four meetings in view of the pending SA Heart national congress in August.

The Cardiology Fellow’s morning was held on 15.05.2010 and was won by Dr Keir Mccutcheon (Cardiology, JHB Hospital) with his excellent presentation entitled “Success in Numbers”. Second prize went to Dr Gcina Dumani (C.H. Baragwanath Hospital), "Complications of Having One Functional Pulmonary Artery". Third prize went to Dr Neil Struwig. (Cardiothoracic Surgery, JHB Hospital) with his presentation," A Complicated Case of Infective Endocarditis". Dr’s Sussman and Steingo kindly judged the presentations.

Our second meeting on 05.06.2010 was very well attended and was an excellent symposium, “Myocarditis & Pericarditis: The Heart of the Matter”. Prof B Mayosi: traveled from Cape Town and discussed, “TB pericarditis & the Impi trial”. Other excellent talks included, Dr C Maske, "Myocarditis - Histopathology & diagnostic criteria"; Dr A Cilliers, "Myocarditis. A clinical update"; Dr R Nethanonda, “MRI & Myocarditis’.

We plan to hold our branch AGM in November.

I would like to thank the rest of the committee for their support and to the Branch for the opportunity to serve. I would also like to acknowledge Novartis, who continue to sponsor our meetings.

Dr David Jankelow

KZN
We were saddened and shocked by the sudden and untimely deaths of Kevin O’Connell and Tshimbi Mathiva. Both will be missed by colleagues and friends. The KZN branch made a donation of R25000.00 to the Kevin O’Connell educational trust created in memoriam by Kevin’s family.

The KZN branch held two academic meetings this year which were well attended. David Gillmer spoke at the first meeting on the subject of carotid stenting. The guest speaker at the second meeting was Prof Mike Ezekowitz who spoke on anticoagulation in atrial fibrillation with special emphasis on newer drugs. Mike Ezekowitz is renowned for his work on anticoagulation in atrial fibrillation.

The KZN branch is financially sound. Once again we invite our younger members to apply for financial assistance to attend conferences and courses.
The next annual general meeting will be held in October 2010 when a new executive committee will be elected. I hope that we will see a changing of the guard.

Dr S Vythilingum

Pretoria

The Branch activities again centered on the quarterly clinical meeting arranged by myself and the monthly Journal Club arranged by Dr Corrie van Wyk. We would like to thank Sanofi Aventis for their support in organizing our Journal club meetings and this year to Pfizer, Astra and Boehringer Ingelheim for supporting our quarterly clinical discussions. We are looking forward to an opportunity to have Prof Bassand at our next meeting in September.

Dr Jean Vorster settled at Unitas and Drs Bushidi and Mokatoka a Pretoria Heart Hospital. Dr Mwangi will join the team at Wilgers Hospital later this year. Wilgers Hospital's theatre upgrade will include a new Siemens Cath Lab and a Phillips Hybrid Theatre. Pretoria Heart Hospital is helping out with urgent cases from Steve Biko Hospital, where the department now has to cope without a department head after Prof Mathivha's untimely death.

The Pretoria Branch does not have a bank account or funds and no membership fees are payable.

Dr Adriaan Snyders

Tygerberg

The Tygerberg Branch of SA Heart took as project for 2010 the facilitation of attendance of the annual Cardiology at the Limits meeting by South African cardiology fellows. In collaboration with the Division of Cardiology, Stellenbosch University, the Tygerberg Branch sponsored the accommodation, meals and local transport of ten cardiology trainees attending the annual Cardiology at the Limits meeting held in Cape Town. This was made possible by the enthusiastic co-operation of Prof Lionel Opie, co-chairman of this prestigious meeting. The exco of SA Heart supported the initiative and the flights for delegates outside of Cape Town was funded by SA Heart.

The annual echocardiography workshop (SUNEcho) hosted by the Tygerberg branch was put on hold for 2010 pending the formation of the Cardiac Imaging Society of Southern Africa. It is envisaged that the formation of this Society will facilitate the co-ordination of future echocardiography workshops.

Prof Anton Doubell