President’s Annual Report - Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa

The Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa (PCSSA) is a Special Interest Group of the South African Heart Association. It is a voluntary association of paediatric cardiologists, cardiac surgeons and all associated health care workers. The objectives of the Society are to improve quality of care for children with congenital and acquired heart disease through 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 November 2010 are:

President: Ebrahim Hoosen
Treasurer and Vice president: Stephen Brown
Secretary: Liesl Zühlke
Private Practice: Jeff Harrisberg
2013 World Congress: Christopher Hugo Hamman
Ex officio: John Hewitson
Without portfolio: Paul Adams

6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery

Preparations for the 6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery to be held in Cape Town between the 18th and 22nd February 2013 continue at a frenetic pace under the leadership of Christopher Hugo Hamman. The other members of the organising committee include Stephen Brown, John Lawrenson, Susan Vosloo, John Hewitson, Liesl Zühlke, Jeff Harrisberg and Andre Brooks.

Annual Congresses
The PCSSA annual scientific meeting held as usual in conjunction with the annual SAHA congress was convened in 2010 by Antoinette Cilliers assisted by Deliwe Ngwezi. The guest speakers were Gil Wernovsky, paediatric cardiac intensivist, Benjamin Eidem, paediatric cardiologist echocardiographer and Steve Westaby, paediatric cardiac surgeon. Our thanks to the convenors for an excellent programme.

The 2011 meeting is convened by Paul Adams, assisted by Krubin Naidoo and Lindy Mitchell. The invited speakers are - Dr Ivan Rebeyka, Chief of Paediatric cardiovascular surgery, Dr Ian Adatia, Director of Paediatric Cardiovascular ICU, both from Stollery Children’s Hospital, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta and James L Wilkinson, Senior Cardiologist, Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne. Our thanks once again to the convenors for their hard work.

Annual Symposium of the Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa
The Annual Symposium of the Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa (WSPCCA), hosted by Rob Kinsley, is another important event on the paediatric cardiac calendar.

The 4th Annual Symposium was held on the 23rd and 24th of March 2011. Invited guests included Peter Laussen, an intensivist from Boston, Chuck Fraser and Ed Bove, renowned surgeons from Texas Heart Hospital and Ann Arbor Michigan respectively.

The 5th annual symposium of the WSPCCA will be held on Fri 30th – Sat 31st March 2012 at the Netcare Auditorium, Maude Street, Sandton. Guests include: Tom Spray – Children’s Hospital, Philadelphia, John Brown – Indiana Medical School, Indianapolis, David Barron – Consultant cardiac surgeon, Birmingham and Andrew Argent – Medical Director PICU, Red Cross Hospital.

Private Practice
Jeff Harrisberg, working with other society members has led the ongoing process to update coding for paediatric cardiac procedures as well as the expansion of the PMB list to include relevant paediatric cardiac conditions.

Other events
Dr Joseph De Giovanni, world renowned interventional cardiologist based at Birmingham Children’s Hospital in the UK was the guest at a 3 day interventional workshop hosted by the PCSSA and the Paediatric Cardiology Unit at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in November 2010. Paediatric cardiologists from throughout the country attended the workshop, the main focus of which was percutaneous closure of
Ventricular Septal Defects. The generous sponsorships of AGA, Paragmed and UK based NGO Midlands International Aid Trust were central to making this event the success it was. A follow up visit is planned for early 2012.

**Advocacy**
Advocacy for children with heart disease remains a priority. To this end an editorial on Paediatric Cardiac Services in South Africa was published in the SAMJ in the February 2011 issue following on previous publications. Further submissions were also made to the department of health during the year and are planned in the coming year.

Ebrahim Hoosen 3 October 2011

**SASCI ANNUAL REPORT 2011**

It is my privilege to report back on a SASCI’s activities the past 12 months. After 4 years at the helm this will be my final report as President of SASCI. It was a privilege to work closely with other likeminded and committed members of our cardiology community on the SASCI Executive Committee. *I do believe that we had a number of successes but a huge amount of work still needs to be done in an ever changing and complex medical environment.*

The following individuals have been the corner stone of our society for the past number of years.

- **President** Dr Graham Cassel
- **President (ex-officio)** Dr Tom Mabin
- **Vice-President** Dr Farrel Hellig
- **Secretary** Dr Adie Horak
- **Treasurer** Dr Clive Corbett
- **Members**
  - Dr Cobus Badenhorst
  - Dr Jacques du Toit
  - Dr Jai Patel
  - Dr Mpiko Ntsekhe
  - Dr Sajidah Khan
  - Dr Chris Zambakides
  - Rob Millar (Industry, term end 2012)
  - Salome Snyders (Industry, term end 2012)
  - Mariska Fouche (Industry, term end 2012)
- **Executive Officer** George Nel (assisted by Me Sanette Zietsman)

The following major activities/programs took place since the previous annual report:

**Council for Medical Schemes PMB** - SASCI’s commitment and involvement with the CMS PMB process has been noted and applauded within the healthcare environment, not the least by CMS itself. SASCI obtained legal expertise through Elsabe Klinck and I
believe this guided us in a professional, effective and legally sound manner. I thank Farrel Hellig (as Vice-President) whom with George Nel attended the important all day CMS PMB meeting on 25th of November 2010. From this meeting it is clear that SASCI will / need to play a pivotal role in recommendations to CMS (including vetting clinical evidence but also potentially cost-effectiveness analysis). The ESC guideline(s) was submitted to CMS as best available “evidence base” and has been accepted by CMS as appropriate.

Comments and Guidelines (October 2011)

The SASCI Executive Guideline Working Group consisting of G Cassel, T Mabin, F Hellig and S Khan has over the past few months developed “SASCI Comment on Treatment of Myocardial Revascularisation from a South African Interventional perspective”. This document is available at www.sasci.co.za. This SASCI document should be considered in conjunction with the European Society of Cardiology Guidelines. This document has been issued to the broader medical funding environment as well as Council for Medical Schemes.

A “Joint Consensus Statement and Guideline on Trans-catheter Aortic Valve Implantation” has also been issued which has been developed jointly by SA Heart Association, the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons of South Africa and SASCI. This guideline is available on www.saheart.org website.

Educational Activities -
The First Global meeting of Society for Cardiac Angiography and Intervention (SCAI) Congress took place in October 2010 in Istanbul. SASCI was invited to participate and 1 official represented our society at this prestigious congress. Our relationship with SCAI is crucial to ensure that SA interventional cardiology remains relevant on the international arena.

Four South African Registrars did attend the annual Society for Cardiac Angiography and Intervention (SCAI) Fellows Program in Las Vegas in December 2010. This was made possible through support from SCAI, SASCI as well as Boston Scientific. The SA delegation for 2010 was Drs Riaz Dawood; Jens Hitzeroth; Aine Mugabi and Norman Lester. Feedback received from them was extremely positive and they indicated that this is a world class program. SASCI will continue with the program in 2011. In addition to our local Fellows Dr Jugessur Sanjiv, a young cardiologist from Mauritius, attendance of the SCAI congress was also facilitated by SASCI.

The 7th Annual SASCI Fellows Workshop was held on 26th of February at Netcare Sunninghill. The faculty will consist of Dr’s Farrel Hellig (program director), Graham Cassel, Cobus Badenhorst, Chris Zambakides and Dave Kettles. 24 Fellows from across South Africa attended the program as well as one visiting young cardiologist from Mauritius. The program was well received by both delegates and industry alike.

During the Fellows Workshop SASCI announced the recipient of the 2011 Boston Scientific RC Fraser International Fellowship Award in Interventional Cardiology.
The recipient for 2011 Dr Alfonso Jan Kemp Pecoraro, specialist registrar at Tygerberg Academic Hospital, is a dedicated physician with a definite interest in interventional cardiology with an academic record of the highest order. This award allows him to travel internationally and spend 4 weeks at a renowned interventional center in 2012.

The highly popular EuroPCR 2011 was once again held in Paris this year (17 to 20 May 2011). SASCI has collaborated with the French Interventional Society in a joint session. This meeting remains a must in our annual calendar and ensures that the South African Interventional community maintains a high international profile.

It is with great pride that SASCI welcomes Dr Spencer B. King III, (M.D., M.A.C.C., F.A.C.P., F.E.S.C.) - Executive Director Academic Affairs Saint Joseph’s Health System, President Saint Joseph’s Heart and Vascular Institute, Professor of Medicine Emeritus, Emory University School of Medicine – to South Africa as the 2011 SASCI Visiting Professor. Dr King is well respected and experienced in interventional cardiology and as such offers numerous teaching opportunities for the medical school’s he will be visiting from October to November. Lecture evenings for private/public cardiologists have been held in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town with Durban and Bloemfontein to follow after the SA Heart congress. I would like to thank Medtronic for their substantial and unconditional support of this valuable extension of SASCI's long standing commitment to enhance cardiology sub-specialty training in South Africa.

The South African Heart Association Congress 2011 will take place in East London from 23 to 26 October 2011. Dr Spencer King (SASCI’s Visiting Professor 2011) and Dr Vasco Rui Da Gama Ribeiro will be part of our international faculty. The program will be of great interest to the interventional cardiologist.

SASCI in collaboration with the France-Reunion Cardiology Group, and the South African Cardiac Surgery Group, will host the French-Reunion-South African (FRSA) Meeting in Cape Town from 27 to 30 November 2011 at the BOE convention center in the Cape Town. A big thank you should go to Tom Mabin for continuing to put us on the map and for his tireless effort to drive educational opportunities in South Africa. This meeting has received international accreditation and Mayo Clinic endorsement.

South African Registrars will once again have the opportunity to attend the annual Society for Cardiac Angiography and Intervention (SCAI) Fellows Program in Las Vegas from 6-9 December 2011. The SA delegation for 2011 is: Drs MC Mayayise, GS Harris, S Pandie and C Kyriakakis. The SASCI Exco panel was impressed by the caliber of this year’s candidates and believes that they will benefit from this educational opportunity.

I would like to thank our industry partners for their continued and unwavering support of SASCI and the society constitutional objectives. Without these close and professional relationships few of SASCI’s objectives will be achieved.
The year 2010 has been a busy one for the Executive with projects started previously, which now has been concluded and can probably be summarized under seven headings.

A successful Symposium was held on the 18th – 20th February 2011. Invited guests were Doctors Magdi Yacoub, Dr J Elefteriades and Dr N Kouchoukos.

The Symposium was held together with the Perfusion Society, Perfmed and was attended by Surgeons, Cardiologists, Perfusionists and Nurses.

Due to the great demand created by the success of this meeting, further biennial meetings are planned.

1. **ACADEMIC MEETING:**

   The Society has been successful in bringing a number of overseas guests and since 1999 we have held a successful Biennial Meeting, bringing to this country, amongst others, Doctors Magdi Yacoub, Tyrone David, Hank Edmonds, Hillel Laks, Antonio Calafiore, Scott Swanson, John Pepper, David Taggart, Gerald Buckberg, Michael Acker, Randy Wolf and many others not to forget respected expats like Manuel Antunes and John Odell.

   The Biennial Meeting was indeed very successful until it became financially impossible to host this meeting, much due to the economic hardships that many of the device companies had fallen upon. Therefore, the Executive made a decision 4 years ago to piggy back our Biennial
Meeting onto the SA Heart meeting, which would resolve the financial burden of hosting a meeting.

Initially, that was successful, with the 2007 meeting that was combined with the Indian Ocean's Group and SASCI and where the Society also received some of the accrued funds of that conference. However, since then, the funding forthcoming from SA Heart has not been substantial and the surgical content of the SA Heart meeting has been significantly diluted by the Cardiological magnitude of the annual SA Heart Association meeting. A further problem was that the thoracic component of our meetings had disappeared from the SA Heart meeting.

In response to huge demands by individual members, we decided to reintroduce the Biennial Meeting so that the needs of Cardiothoracic Surgeons can be catered for in that meeting. The initial plan was to have an Aortic Symposium as an “easing back into” the Biennial Meeting and this was supposed to have been held in November of last year. Due to various unavoidable logistical complications, this was not possible last year and the meeting will now be held in February of this year. It would therefore replace the Biennial Meeting, which is to be held in the so called SAHA “off” years, during which year the Special Interest Groups hold their focused meetings.

This Aortic Symposium is made possible by an educational grant from Medtronic. All paid up Members of the Society will be fully sponsored by the Society, including travel costs, accommodation as well as congress fees.

The Meeting will be open to all Health Professionals, but obviously they will not be sponsored and a congress fee is payable for those Colleagues wishing to attend. These fees are available from the Solutions Group, who is the Event Organizers for this Meeting.

This Meeting will not replace or include the Registrars Forum. The Registrars Forum was an initiative of the Society and takes place on an annual basis. The aim of this Meeting is for Registrars to ultimately present and conduct their own meeting similar to that held by General Surgeons as well as Gynaecologists.

This Meeting is fully sponsored by Ethicon and will be continued to be held once a year. The Meeting presently resides in Bloemfontein, where it is organized by Francis Smit on behalf of the Society. This will continue to be an annual stand alone meeting.

The Society was also involved in the first EACTS Educational Meeting that was held in Bloemfontein during April of last year. The Society will find its role in that meeting, the second, of which will take place in April this year.

2. **MEMBERSHIP:**

The membership currently stands at 61.

Membership fees for 2011 are R1500.00 per annum, which is probably the lowest professional society fee presently available. Membership entitles members to sponsored and/or financially supported meetings of the Society, as well as support from the Society where the need arises.

This role of the Society will be discussed later. Membership fees have always been a prickly pear as all Cardiac Surgeons are renowned to be unreliable when it comes to mundane tasks, like paying Society fees. This unfortunately does not help the Society to function, which it has done mainly at the cost of the EXCO Members themselves. As we move in a technologically advanced era, this will not be possible to continue and the Society will have to strictly enforce the fees.

3. **WEBSITE:**
Our website has in the last years been with CTSNet, but the time has now come for us to move on and have and host our own Website locally. This has now been made possible and Tony Linegar has taken the initiative of setting up the Website. The Website will be sponsored by interested parties in the industry and will be of high quality and enable Members of the public as well as Members of the Society, to keep abreast of developments. We hope to float the new Website as early as February 2011 and we are making steady progress towards that. A Members only access will be available to paid up Members.

4. DATABASE:

The Database has unfortunately not materialized. It currently resides with the SA Heart Association and the premise that this will be developed alongside with the Cathlab database, has been wrong as both of these entities are currently not in practice. My own personal opinion is that a database in this country, until regulated by some sort of authoritative body or “rewarded” by remuneration in terms of reimbursement, is going to continue to be very difficult to establish.

Currently participation in the STS Thoracic Surgery database in America is still very problematic, so therefore I can only foresee hardship in our environment.

5. RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Our relationship with SA Heart Association has remained stable and amicable and currently we are represented by a Surgical Interest Group, of which the EXCO is the same as our Society. The small numbers of Surgeons in the country make it impossible to run two different societies and therefore both these bodies effectively run as a single society. Our relationship with SATS, the South African Thoracic Society, can be described as a tenuous one and attendance at the annual SATS Meeting, has been poor to say the least.

It is however of utmost importance that Thoracic Surgery be presented at different fora of which SATS must be one, but it needs to reside within the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, as unlike the rest of the world, both disciplines of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery are practiced by the majority of Surgeons in this country.

6. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FUNDING INDUSTRY:

Finally, the question of funding/reimbursement needs to be addressed. The EXCO have been involved in extensive and exhaustive negotiations with the funding industry and has made exceptional progress in reimbursement issues. In January 2009, the EXCO released a document to Members of the Society establishing Guidelines for interpretation of the SAMA issued Doctor’s Billing Guide.

This need arose due to extensive creativity amongst Surgeons and exhaustive requests for auditing of accounts by the Funding industry and after an extensive 4 year research programme, the Guidelines were issued as the view of the majority of Surgeons. In establishing those Guidelines, the Executive had taken into account after liberal opportunity, to suggest and respond to these Guidelines, by the Members of the Society as the final paper, on how to interpret the Doctor’s Billing Guide.

This met with resistance of varying degree from various Funders and we have resisted speaking to individual Funders, but acceded to the request from Discovery for two reasons.

1. They fall out of BHF as they are not a Member of the Board of Health Funders
2. They present by far the largest number and the majority of Medical Aid Members in this country

The Board of Health Funders has neither corresponded with SOCTS nor requested same.
As a gesture of goodwill, the Society advised after exhaustive discussions and negotiations, a reduced remuneration as previously reported to Members for Members of the Discovery Medical Aid, which was offset against the advantage of direct payment by the Funder i.e. Discovery and the keeping in place of their increased payment plans, as sold to their Members.

This was well received by our Members and is largely adhered to. Various other management organizations like Momentum and Qualsa have certainly been problematic, but the final hurdle, which these organizations clung to i.e. that this was not included in the Doctors Guide to Billing issued by SAMA, has now been removed as the Society has been formally informed that the Guidelines as issued by our Society, has been accepted by SAMA and will be included in the 2011 Doctor's Guide to Billing.

There should therefore now, be no more obstructions to those Guidelines. They can be enforced by statutory organizations and there is no need to discuss with individual Funders, those issues anymore.

The Society however request that members adhere strictly to those Guidelines and therefore will have the support of the Society. In the event, which has happened before of Members creating accounts outside of those Guidelines, sometimes to embarrassing proportions, the Society will obviously withdraw its support for that particular Member.

As contained in the Guidelines, it is our mission to also put out a set of Guidelines for the Thoracic part of our reimbursement structure.

7. **GUIDELINES:**

A Subcommittee will be formed to draft Guidelines for various elements of our discipline and these will be posted on the Website. This will be the main task of the new Executive.

The EXCO invites all Members to liaise with it and would like to take this opportunity of wishing its Members well.

R. Kleinloog

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**President**  
Prof. M. R. Essop  
**Vice President**  
Prof. A. Doubell  
**Secretary**  
Prof. D. P. Naidoo  
**Treasurer**  
Dr. D. Smith  
**Chairman: Echo**  
Dr. F. Peters  
**Chairman: Nuclear**  
Dr. C. Libhaber  
**Chairman: CMR**  
Dr. R. Nethononda  
**Chairman: CT**  
Dr. P. Herbst

3 October 2011

**ANNUAL REPORT – CISSA 2011**

The Cardiac Imaging Society of South Africa (CISSA) is the most recently formed special interest group of SA Heart representing the disciplines of echocardiography, nuclear imaging, cardiac magnetic resonance and cardiac computed tomography.
Under the auspices of CISSA, 2 very successful echocardiography meetings were organized in the past year.

The first, in conjunction with Baragwanath Hospital and the University of the Witwatersrand attracted over 100 delegates with the international faculty including Prof. B. Khandheria, immediate past president of the American Society of Echocardiography, Prof. P. Nihoyannapoulos, past president of the European Society of Echocardiography, Prof. P. Lancelloti, president elect also of the European Society of Echocardiography and Prof. F. Mookadam from the Mayo Clinic. Also very encouraging was the increasing attendance of delegates from elsewhere in Africa, a trend which needs to be encouraged since South Africa is uniquely positioned to fulfill this vital role. The ability to closely interact with leading researches in the field had other benefits. Dr. N. Maharaj, currently a doctoral student at Baragwanath is presently in Dr. Khandheria’s lab where she will master advanced techniques in LV mechanics including torsion and speckled tracking. I wish to thank Medtronic for a generous contribution toward her expenses. Another exciting outcome was the indication by Prof. Lancelloti of his enthusiasm to have CISSA as an affiliate of the European Society of Echocardiography, something that we all look forward to.

The second meeting was organized by Prof. A. Doubell and Dr. P. Herbst at Tygerberg Hospital and Stellenbosch University and was also highly successful with some 50 delegates.

The annual meeting of SA Heart is not far off and CISSA is proud to host the pre-conference imaging symposium in conjunction with the Mayo Clinic. We are indebted to the Mayo for this opportunity to share the expertise of one of the top echocardiography centers in the world. In line with CISSA’s commitment to foster other imaging modalities, this years imaging symposium will for the first time include aspects of nuclear medicine and CMR. These, together with cardiac CT are major players in imaging and one can hardly open a journal today without encountering one or more of these modalities. The guest speaker this year will be Prof. J. Selvanayagam, Director of cardiac imaging at the Flinders Medical Center in Adelaide. He is on the editorial board of JACC and the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance, and is an international authority in this field. For the future, it expected to rotate the distinguished international speaker between CMR, CT and Nuclear.

In the not too distant future, we intend to run a CMR workshop so watch this space!

2012 is also not far away and CISSA looks forward to working with the Pretoria branch of SA Heart to provide a state of the art symposium on integrative cardiac imaging.

While CISSA has been very active on the educational front, it has unfortunately lagged in certain areas, the most pressing of which is the creation of a website to facilitate administrative, organizational and educational aspects of the society. In part this has been occasioned by the recently announced intention of SA Heart to have a single
website as entry point from which the various SIG’s would appropriately branch off – we are in full agreement with this and hopefully should have some movement soon.

Finally, Dr. F. Mamdoo and I represented CISSA at the series of discussions with the Council of Medical Schemes although it has to be said that not much came of this. It is imperative that we negotiate as a unified body with all funders to prevent the constant maneuvering and posturing to erode reimbursement for cardiac imaging.

Prof. M. R. Essop
President - CISSA

ANNUAL REPORT 2011: South African Heart Association Special Interest Groups
Lipid & Atherosclerosis Society of Southern Africa.

AD Marais, Groote Schuur Hospital & University of Cape Town
FJ Raal, Charlotte Maxeke Hospital & University of Witwatersrand

The Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society of Southern Africa (LASSA) remains affiliated with both the South African Heart Association (SAHA) as a Special Interest Group (SIG) and with the Society for Endocrinology and Metabolism and Diabetes of South Africa (SEMDSA).

LASSA remains a small group with its orientation as an academic body covering a wide area of interest in inherited disorders of lipid and lipoprotein metabolism, atherosclerosis, nutrition, epidemiology and pharmacotherapy. Expertise in severe dyslipidaemias remains mainly at a few teaching hospitals where function remains challenged by limited facilities, equipment, staff, and remuneration of medical and allied professionals. Both the clinical management and laboratory investigation skills are limited in the public and private sector of healthcare in South Africa and it hoped that LASSA can make a contribution to the changes being considered so that optimal professional care can be achieved for patients with dyslipidaemia and atherosclerosis as well as other metabolic errors. Newsletters are sent to inform members of new developments when international meetings are attended by some of the LASSA members.

The 10th LASSA conference was held conjointly with the SEMDSA conference in Bloemfontein from the 9th to the 11th April 2011. The short lipidology course was well-received and should remain part of future meetings. Since the attendance was small at the general meeting, a decision was taken to retain the present LASSA committee stand over until the next opportunity for such a meeting. LASSA remains affiliated with the International Atherosclerosis Society.

The finances of LASSA remain sound as there is little demand for administration and currently little reason for expenditure. The reserves will hopefully ensure that in future additional services can be rendered. The educational account currently holds R74 795.58. LASSA currently has R161 826.77 in a current account and R484 964.67 in a 32-day notice deposit with Standard Bank.
HeFSSA Annual Report 2011

HeFSSA has embarked on numerous programs (focusing on our mission i.e. to promote education and research as well as collaboration on issues relating to heart failure in South Africa) and it is with great pride that I would like to use this opportunity to report back to you.

All these programs take place under the watchful and expert eye of the HeFSSA Executive committee under the leadership of the President, Prof Karen Sliwa. The Exco members are: Drs Eric Klug (Vice President), Martin Mpe (Treasurer), Cristina Radulescu, Darryl Smith, Pro Obel, Jean Vorster, Tony Lachman and Prof Sandrine Lecour and the industry Exco representatives, William Stranix and Patricia Magagula. Without them the society will not be able to meet its numerous goals.

HeFSSA was involved in the following programs since the previous annual report:

Council for Medical Schemes PMB – HeFSSA has been involved with the CMS PMB process and contributed to the positive outcome of the meeting held on 25th of November 2010. The CMS is a statutory body with a mandate to specifically “protect the interests of medical aid members”. CMS objective is standardise “desired care” medical aid members receive for PMB conditions. Dr Martin Mpe and George Nel represented HeFSSA at the meeting and the society put forward the ESC guidelines as most appropriate evidence base from a clinical perspective. The ESC guidelines were accepted as such at the meeting. It is obvious that HeFSSA as well as the other societies will play an essential role to guide the CMS in the PMB process.

The UK/South Africa Cardiovascular Research Workshop that was held at the University College London in December 2010. The main research included: myocardial ischemia reperfusion injury, signalling in cardio protection, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and heart failure and cardiovascular risk factors. The aim was to promote the work of young researchers. Prof Sandrine Lecour gave an overview on the novel prosurvival SAFE pathway to protect against reperfusion injuries. The organizers were extremely grateful for the support of HeFSSA who sponsored the participation of a South African student.

GAPS-Study (Global survey of medical management of chronic heart failure)
There are wide variations in the management of heart failure, both within and between countries. Whereas these have been documented to some extent in western countries, there are no data on medical practitioner’s awareness and perception of heart failure management in developing countries, in which heart failure is or soon will be a major problem. The GP’s and cardiologists in South-Africa are included in the survey. HeFSSA endorses and supports this survey.

PASCAR -The PAN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY and the UGANDA HEART ASSOCIATION convened the third multidisciplinary conference on heart disease, diabetes, and stroke in Africa in Kampala, Uganda on 27 - 30 May 2011. Prof Karen Sliwa was an invited speaker at this conference and she talked about “Cardiomyopathy and Heart Failure in Africa” and she was also the convenor of the session on “Heart of Africa Trial meeting: BE-A-HF, PVRI Registry and PPCM Africa study”.

GP Program: UPDATE 2011

This year’s GP Program was held from 7 May until 13 August. Our aim was to grow and to reach as many GP’s as possible through this initiative. In 2010 we held 6 meetings in the 6 major cities in South-Africa. This year we expanded the focus to include smaller areas in South-Africa and even a very successful meeting in Windhoek, Namibia. A total of 19 meetings were held in 2011 with a panel of 25 dedicated cardiologists participating as lecturers. The number of General Practitioners who attended increased from 160 attendees in 2010 to 267 delegates attending in 2011. SA Heart and HeFSSA have also gained more than 50 new members. The general practitioner’s were very appreciative in their feedback.
At the end yet another successful program we have to acknowledge several prominent contributors to the success: Dr P Obel, Prof K Sliwa and Dr E Klug whom was primarily responsible for the slide kit compendium used during these meetings. The following cardiologists need to be thank for their dedication as part of this year’s faculty, i.e: Drs Mark Abelson, Cobus Badenhorst, MPG Dean, S Fourie, Jens Hitzeroth, Ronnie Jardine, Dave Kettles, Eric Klug, JA Lochner, Tony Lachman, EM Makotoko, Farouk Mamdo, S Middlemost, Martin Mpe, Pro Obel, Ian Roscher, Darryl Smith, Adriaan Snyders, A Stanley, A Thornton, Nico Vd Merwe, Tjaardt Venter, Jean, Vorster, Prof A Mitha and Prof Karen Sliwa. Prof Sliwa and Dr Obel also prepared a questionnaire in order for the attendees to gain additional CPD points.

These programs would not have been possible if HeFSSA did not receive unconditional grants from our very supportive corporate members: Astra Zeneca, Servier, Pharma Dynamics and Medtronic.

HeFSSA is once again an active partner during this year’s annual SA Heart Congress and we are involved during the following sessions.

- Cardio update
- Heart Disease in Pregnancy
- Pulmonary Hypertension

Update of the website www.hefssa.org. Thanks to the generous sponsorship from AstraZeneca, we have updated our website. The HeFSSA Exco has contributed to ensure that the content is relevant and interesting, The HeFSSA website will be linked to SA Heart Association website as per agreement at SA Heart General Council meeting in Feb 2011.

The Heart Failure society is actively planning new programs for the next few months:

SA Heart congress 2012: HeFSSA will participate in the SA Heart congress 2012. Dr M Mpe represents HeFSSA on the organizing committee. HeFSSA will participate in either a half or full day session together with SASCAR and we will again participate in the pre-congress GP Cardio update program.

Prof Sliwa is assisting Prof. Bongani Mayosi, head of Medicine, Groote Schuur Hospital with the planning of the Physicians Conference in Cape Town 24-26 February 2012 ‘Optimising Conventional Care’. It is suggested that HeFSSA should be involved in a Cardio Update on Thursday 23rd February either in the afternoon or evening. The Exco has decided that this program is a good idea and will be discussed in detail during the AGM in East-London.

HF guidelines - Update of the HF Guidelines: Dr Martin Mpe and the HeFSSA Exco have embarked on the mammoth task of updating the HF guidelines. The ESC Guidelines will be the basis of this Executive Summary from a South-African perspective. The target audience will be Non-Cardiologists. The current status and way forward will be discussed during the AGM.

GP HF Education Program: UPDATE 2012

This GP Program will continue in 2012 and members are requested to approach HeFSSA if you would like to contribute as a faculty member or would like to propose an area where we could host such an update. HeFSSA is also currently considering expanding the HF Education Program to a wider medical audience.
Please contact the HeFSSA office if you want to learn more about these events or if you want to participate in any of the programs.

Contact details: George Nel, info@hefssa.org or 083 458 5954 Cell  
Sanette Zietsman, zietsmans@vodamail.co.za or 083 253 5212 Cell

Prof Karen Sliwa  
President HeFSSA