



SA HEART CONGRESS 2007 “HEART 2 HEART”

The 8th South African Heart Association Congress was co-hosted by the Society of Cardiovascular Intervention (SASCI) and the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons of South Africa (SOCTS) at Sun City in November 2007. It was held in conjunction with the Indian Ocean Islands Cardiac Group.

The theme was interventional cardiovascular therapy, with an emphasis on collaboration and debate between cardiological and surgical approaches. The meeting was enriched by a large local and international faculty with many renowned speakers from Europe, the UK, the USA and Australia. The very intense program produced some outstanding talks and discussions, culminating in a very well attended final morning of debates over well chosen contentious topics.

The total attendance figure of 1 266 far exceeded that of recent SA Heart Congresses. Of the participants, 671 were local delegates and 112 international delegates (incl. local and international faculty). Furthermore, 72 local and 47 international partners attended. The industry was represented by 342 local and 22 international attendants. The contribution of the “Indian Ocean Cardiovascular Group”, based in Reunion, was invaluable as they brought with them a strong international faculty and a good number of delegates.

A record number of scientific abstracts was submitted for this congress and graded by the Heart Failure Society of South Africa (HeFSSA), resulting in 82 poster and 25 oral presentations. Dr Marshall Heradien from Cape Town received the award for the best oral presentation, entitled “Troponin T and B-Myosin mutations have distinct cardiac functional effects in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy patients without hypertrophy”. Dr Carlos Libhaber from Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital was awarded the prize for the best poster presentation on the topic “Excess adiposity is associated with left ventricular diastolic dysfunction beyond blood pressure or diabetes mellitus in a population sample with a high prevalence of obesity”. These prizes were

awarded by HeFSSA. The newly initiated “Cardiovascular Research in Southern Africa in Progression” meeting was attended by 25 people, providing a platform for research in basic and clinical science in the region.

Parallel sessions were organized by the Cardiovascular Intervention Society (SASCI), Heart Failure Society of South Africa (HeFSSA), Arrhythmia Society of South Africa (CASSA), Cardiac Society of South Africa (SOCTS) and the Pediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa (PCSSA).

The social program was a great success, featuring Richard Cock and his orchestra, followed by dinner and dancing to the music of Mark Pilgrim well into the early hours of the morning. Apart from the usual afternoon of golf during the congress, the meeting was preceded by the first of an AFRICA CUP golf competition between a South African and a European team of golfers, playing by Ryder Cup rules over 2 days, closely fought and eventually won by South Africa. It was organized by Graham Cassel and it is hoped that this competition will be repeated at rotating venues between South Africa and Europe in the future.

The congress was closed by Prof Bongani Mayosi, the newly elected President of SA Heart, who extended an invitation to attend the 9th AGM to be held at the Wild Coast Sun Hotel in November 2008.

In the name of all participants, I would like to express my deep appreciation towards Tom Mabin and Robin Kleinloog (Co-Congress Chairmen), Sue McGuinness (Congress Organizer) and the many others who contributed so much towards the very professional and successful organization of the “Heart 2 Heart Congress 2007”!

OLAF FORSTER

POPULAR CONGRESSES FOR 2008

CONGRESS	DATE	CITY	COUNTRY
SINGAPORE LIVE 17TH ANNUAL LIVE INTERVENTIONS	5-9 March 2008	Singapore	Singapore
15TH ANNUAL ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP AT VAIL	9-13 March 2008	Vail, CO	USA
HEFSSA ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY WORKSHOP	15-16 March 2008	Gauteng	South Africa
CARDIAC SURGERY UPDATE AND PROGRESS CSUP	29 March - 5 April 2008	Lech-Zurs	Austria
ACC 2008	29 March - 1 April 2008	Chicago, IL	USA
7TH CARDIOLOGY UPDATE 2008	17-19 April 2008	Athens	Greece
77TH EUROPEAN ATHEROSCLEROSIS SOCIETY CONGRESS - EAS 2008	26-29 April 2008	Istanbul	Turkey
EUROPREVENT	1-3 May 2008	Paris	France
EURO PCR	13-16 May 2008	Barcelona	Spain
XVI WORLD CONGRESS OF CARDIOLOGY	18-21 May 2008	Buenos Aires	Argentina
HAMMERSMITH ECHOCARDIOGRAOPHY COURSE 2008	2-6 June 2008	London	UK
HEART FAILURE 2008	14-17 June 2008	Milan	Italy
EUROPEAN MEETING ON HYPERTENSION 2008	14-19 June 2008	Berlin	Germany
CARDIOSTIM 2008	18-21 June 2008	Nice	France
ESC CONGRESS 2008	30 August - 3 September 2008	Munich	Germany
ACUTE CARDIAC CARE 2008	11-14 October 2008	Versailles	France
TCT 2008	12-17 October 2008	Washington, DC	USA
CHEST 2008	25-30 October 2008	Miami Beach, FL	USA
6TH INTERNATIONAL ATHEROSCLEROSIS SYMPOSIUM	22-25 October 2008	Venice (Lido)	Italy
AHA SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 2008	8-12 November 2008	New Orleans, LA	USA
SAHA Congress 2008	2-5 November 2008	Wildcoast Sun KwaZulu-Natal	South Africa
EURO ECHO 2008	10-13 December 2008	Lyon	France

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR INTERVENTION

SASCI entered its 5th year as a working sub-group of the South African Heart Association. Dr Tom Mabin from Cape Town was the Chairman for the first four years and, at the Congress in November 2007, I was elected as President for the next two years. Tom has done a sterling job for SASCI both locally and internationally, and I will endeavour to continue his good work.

On the local front we are committed to continuing education both for fulltime doctors in cardiological training as well as those in private practice. We have a major commitment to the training of cardiologists in our country and, thanks to sponsorship from certain companies, we can pursue this with great vigor.

Our first meeting will be a "live case" Registrar's Workshop to be held at the Panorama Hospital in Cape Town on 1 March. The meeting is open to all registrars and junior consultants in training at any of the Academic Hospitals and Universities throughout South Africa. All have been invited. Their travel and accommodation to the meeting will be sponsored. At the meeting, live cases will be transmitted to the auditorium from the Catheterisation Lab at the Panorama Hospital and a series of lectures given by local experts. It is our third such meeting and, if the two previous meetings are anything to go by, it should be a great success.

Two other ventures are those of the traveling RC Fraser Traveling Bursary by which doctors in training can apply for sponsorship to go overseas to a prestigious unit in Europe. The idea is for them to go and learn techniques and interact with colleagues and come back and teach people in their own units and possibly throughout South Africa. We did not have a candidate in 2007 and we hope to send two candidates this year.

Traveling consultants: Communication is being made with the British Cardiac Society to have senior cardiologists visit South Africa for approximately one month. At that time they would visit one or more University Hospitals, work in the Catheterisation Lab, and lecture to undergraduates and post-graduates in the role of a visiting professor.

Finally, we will collaborate and run a Satellite Workshop at the biennial SAHA Congress to be held at the Wild Coast in 2008.

On the International front we are very excited to have been invited to be part of the Faculty at both the prestigious PCR Meeting in Barcelona in May and the TCT Meeting in Washington in October. In addition to that, for the first time a live case transmission will be presented from South Africa. Dr Farrel Hellig from Sunninghill Hospital will perform a case, which will be transmitted from the Sunninghill Hospital in Johannesburg to the PCR Congress in Barcelona.

SASCI is committed to work with the SAHA Executive in finally getting the Catheterisation Lab Registry up and running. There has been a delay in this coming to market, but this is essential for cardiologists, hospital groups and industry alike. The project is under the Chairmanship of the ex-President of SAHA, Dr Lennie Steingo. Dr Cobus Badenhorst from Unitas in Pretoria is the official SASCI representative on the Committee.

We will continue to look after all the interests of South African Cardiologists in full-time and private practice. As we have done in the past, we will liaise with the authorities with groups such as Health Professionals Council, Medicine Control Council and any other groups where we feel that our input is required.

I have a superb executive drawn from all Provinces in the country and we look forward to an exciting and productive 2008.

DR GRAHAM CASSEL

President



SASCI

South African
Society of
cardiovascular
intervention

LOUIS VOGELPOEL TRAVELING SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are invited for the first annual Louis Vogelpoel Traveling Scholarship.

An amount of up to R15 000 towards the travel and accommodation costs of a local or international congress will be offered annually by the Cape Western branch of the South African Heart Association in memory of one of South Africa's outstanding cardiologists, Dr Louis Vogelpoel.

Louis Vogelpoel was a pioneer of cardiology in South Africa, who died in April 2005. He was one of the founding members of the Cardiac Clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital and University of Cape Town. He had an exceptional career over more than 5 decades as a distinguished general physician, cardiologist and horticultural scientist. His commitment to patient care, teaching and personal education is remembered by his many students, colleagues and patients. Medical students, house officers, registrars and consultants benefited from exposure to his unique blend of clinical expertise, extensive knowledge, enthusiasm and gracious style.

A gifted and enthusiastic teacher, he was instrumental in the training of generations of undergraduates by regular bedside tutorials. He served as an outstanding role model for postgraduates and many who have achieved prominence nationally and internationally acknowledged his contribution to the development of their careers.

The scholarship will be awarded for the first time in 2007 after all applications have been received and reviewed by the executive committee of the Cape Western branch of the South African Heart Association. Preference will be given to practitioners or researchers in the field of cardiovascular medicine who are members of the South African Heart Association and are resident in the Western Cape.

Applications should include 1) a brief resumé of the work the applicant wishes to present at the congress and 2) a brief letter of what the applicant hopes to gain by attending the relevant congress. The applicant should submit an abstract for presentation at the relevant national or international meeting. Should such an abstract not be accepted by the relevant congress organizing committee, the applicant will forfeit his or her sponsorship towards the congress. (Application can, however, be made well in advance of the relevant congress but will only be awarded on acceptance of the abstract.) A written report on the relevant congress attended will need to be submitted by the successful applicant within six weeks of attending the congress. The congress report will be published in the South African Heart Association Newsletter.

Applications should be sent to Prof Johan Brink, President of the Cape Western branch of the South African Heart Association, Chris Barnard Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Cape Heart Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town, Anzio Road, Observatory 7925 or alternatively e-mail: johan.brink@uct.ac.za

Applications close on 31 January every year.

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

This scholarship is available to all its members and associate members. It is primarily intended to assist junior colleagues to ensure continued participation in local or international scientific meetings or workshops.

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be fully paid-up members/associate members in good standing for at least two years
- Applications must include
 - full details of the meeting/workshop
 - an abbreviated CV of the applicant
 - a breakdown of the expected expenses
- Applications must reach the Association a minimum of 3 months before the event to be attended

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acceptance of an abstract at the scientific meeting to be attended
- Invitation to participate at the meeting as an invited speaker
- Publications in a peer reviewed journal in the preceding year
- Applicants from a previously disadvantaged community
- Applicants younger than 35 years of age

APPLICATIONS MUST BE ADDRESSED TO

The President
South African Heart Association
P.O. Box 19062
Tygerberg
7505

THE SELECTION PANEL WILL REVIEW APPLICATIONS TWICE A YEAR. THE CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS ARE

- March 31
- September 30

**A MAXIMUM OF FOUR SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AWARDED ANNUALLY
UP TO AN AMOUNT OF R10 000 PER SCHOLARSHIP.**

SA HEART/SASCI GOLF DAY

96 eager golfers, some better than others, originating from both sides of the Atlantic, rushed out of the Friday morning session and converged on the Lost City golf course where 24 carts and caddies were waiting to dispatch them to the 18 holes, waiting to do battle.

A fun-filled afternoon followed, finished minutes before the heavens opened with electricity, noise and masses of rain! All enjoyed the camaraderie and some even played some good golf. No-one got lost in the crocodile pit and no-one drowned in the many large dams although lots of balls landed there, never to be seen again.

A great cocktail party and prizegiving followed with generous prizes given by our sponsors.

All in all a very successful afternoon enjoyed by all!!

The winners: golf and friendship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The winner for the Philips draw at SAHA 2007

Jane Zahra - I Mil Hospital

Hefssa Exco has not changed.

The best heart failure poster award received **Dr C. Libhaber** and the best oral presentation award received **Dr M. Heradien**.

The winner of the Pediatric/Netcare Symposium is **Dr Liezl Zuhlke** who won R7 500.00 for the best scientific paper and **Dr Ramoroko** who won R2 500.00 for the best case report.



Welcome back and best wishes for 2008. By the time this News reaches you 2008 will be well and truly on the way.

The HeFSSA AGM took place at the SA Heart Congress in November 2008 and was reasonably well attended, with some robust discussions taking place. Thank you to those members who contributed to the AGM and a successful SA Heart congress in general. I would like to welcome Darryl Smith and Cristina Radulescu to the executive (they replace Prof J Moolman, who has emigrated). We are looking forward to their contribution in 2008.

HeFSSA will, in keeping with the academic commitment of the society, continue to offer appropriate training opportunities to members.

The first opportunity would be the second annual echocardiography course (14 and 15 March 2008) in Johannesburg. Fellows will be invited (free of charge) but practitioners already in private practice can attend at a nominal fee. This CPD accredited course will begin late on the Friday afternoon and continue for the full Saturday. Shirley Middlemost will be the organizer of the meeting.

Please contact George Nel at 083 458 5954 or info@hefssa.org if you are interested in attending.

As always, the HeFSSA website (www.hefssa.org) will be regularly updated, and a featured aspect highlighting living with heart failure was introduced in 2007 and will continue in 2008.

HeFSSA has been requested by SA Heart to organize the 2009 SAHA Congress. This is a major undertaking for a small society and we are grateful for those members who committed to be part of the Organizing Committee (Prof K Sliwa as chair, Prof T Mathivha, Drs E Klug, K O'Connell, M Makotoko, C Radulescu, D Smith and G Nel). Representatives from other Special Interest Groups and Industry will be invited to join.

HeFSSA Executive

THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available to all its members and associate members. It is primarily intended to assist colleagues involved in outstanding research to enhance their research programs.

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be fully paid-up members/associate members in good standing for at least two years
- Applications must include
 - an abbreviated CV of the applicant
 - a breakdown of the expected expenses

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acceptance of an abstract of related work at an international meeting in the next year
- Publications of related work in a peer reviewed journal in the preceding year
- Applicants from a previously disadvantaged community
- Applicants younger than 35 years of age

APPLICATIONS MUST BE ADDRESSED TO

Education Standing Committee
South African Heart Association
P.O. Box 19062
Tygerberg
7505

THE SELECTION PANEL WILL REVIEW APPLICATIONS ONCE A YEAR. THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 30 EACH YEAR

One scholarship will be awarded annually. The award is for an amount of up to R50 000.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED ACCORDING TO THE RESEARCH PROTOCOL ACCOMPANYING THE APPLICATION. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE:

- a) Abstract (maximum 200 words)
- b) Brief review of the literature (maximum 200 words)
- c) Brief description of the hypothesis to be investigated (maximum 100 words)
- d) Detailed methodology (maximum 500 words)
- e) References

9th Annual Congress of the South African Heart Association



2-5 November 2008

Wild Coast Sun, Eastern Cape, South Africa

For further information, please visit the website
www.saheart.co.za
or contact the Congress Secretariat:

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