



CO-OPERATE TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL

Yes it's the truth. 2009 sped along even faster than ever and it's becoming near impossible to find an unallocated weekend or evening to book any more appointments. There is still a lot to do this year – enough opportunities to get involved to make life a better place for one another. The average cardiologists is older than 55 and thus have less than 1 000 weekends left if he or she should live till 75. This means there is not enough time left to waste on unimportant issues or quarrels. It would be wiser to work together to get things done – so all of us can benefit. We can no longer let any day go by without make the best of it – live life!

Our Health Minister seems more understanding, efficient and realistic but I have neither seen any action or changes. The Sunday papers still report a sad state in public hospitals and clinics. Some medical aids fail to understand what a multicite pacemaker implant involves and that doctors prescribe therapy for the patient's sake only. We would not prescribe medication if it was not – in our opinion – a necessity to promote patient health. A medical aid recently

refused to pay for Clopidogrel because two professors indicated that they do not use Clopidogrel in their units. The medical aid then assume Clopidogrel is superfluous and not standard medical care. What will the state of medical care in our country be ten years hence?

As only four doctors responded to the previous newsletter's survey we will discontinue surveys henceforth. I have not received any formal academic programme from the regions and you will have to rely on flyers and e-mails sent out or distributed by the respective organisations. Your Exco has been hard at work – most members spend many hours of their own time to maintain and improve your organisation. I trust rumours that some representative members also advise the opposite party during negotiations, are untrue.

Wishing you a pleasant read. Do let us hear your views, concerns and solutions to the challenges we face towards the middle of 2009.

Adriaan Snyders

BRANCH NEWS

PRETORIA: The monthly Journal Club is active under the leadership of Dr Corrie van Wyk. Members who are still not receiving invitations should please contact the organisers. Our next Saturday morning clinical meeting scheduled for 16 August 2009. The AGM is scheduled towards the end of November 2009.

JOHANNESBURG: Preparations for SAHA 2010 are under way.

No other information regarding branch activities was available for publication.

POPULAR CONGRESSES FOR 2009

CONGRESS	DATE	CITY	COUNTRY
EURO PCR 2009	19-22 May 2009	Barcelona	Spain
HEART FAILURE CONGRESS 2009	30 May - 2 June 2009	Nice	France
CARDIOLOGY UPDATE	31 May - 12 June	Rotterdam	Netherlands
HAMMERSMITH ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY COURSE	1-5 June 2009	London	UK
19TH EUROPEAN MEETING ON HYPERTENSION ESH	12-16 June 2009	Milan	Italy
RHYTHM 2009 - ARRHYTHMIAS & HEART FAILURE	12-14 June 2009	Cannes	France
EUROPEAN MEETING ON HYPERTENSION 2009	17-23 June 2009	Milan	Italy
MEET 2009 (MULTIDISCIPLINARY EUROPEAN ENDOVASCULAR THERAPY)	18-21 June 2009	Cannes	France
EUROPACE 2009	21-24 June 2009	Berlin	Germany
ADVANCED ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY	22-26 June 2009	St Wolfgang	Austria
ESC 2009	29 August-2 September 2009	Barcelona	Spain
TCT	21-26 September 2009	San Fransisco, CA	USA
PASCAR 2009 - 2ND ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE	26-30 September 2009	Abuja	Nigeria
VENICE 2009 ARRHYTHMIAS	4-7 October 2009	Venice	Italy
ACUTE CARDIAC CARE 2010	10-19 October 2009	Copenhagen	Denmark
SA HEART 2009	25-28 October 2009	Sun City	South Africa
CHEST 2009	31 October - 5 November 2009	San Diego, CA	USA
AHA SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS	14-18 November 2009	Orlando, FL	USA
4TH JOINT MEETING OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS	24-27 November 2009	Mauritius	Mauritius
EUROECHO 2009	9-12 December 2009	Madrid	Spain
15TH WORLD CONGRESS ON HEART DISEASES ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 2010	24-27 July 2010	Vancouver, BC	Canada

HEFSSA NEWS: PROMISING ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Dear HeFSSA member, HeFSSA, in association with Philips, hosted its **annual echocardiography course** at Spier Wine Estate in Cape Town recently. Drs Darryl Smith and Christina Radulescu led the lectures before lunch, on various topics including “Echocardiography in heart failure – systolic dysfunction” and “Echocardiographic assessment of the right ventricle”. Dr Joan Hunter joined them in hands-on training after lunch, where the delegates divided into small groups around a patient and a Philips Echo machine. During these sessions the faculty demonstrated the different echo techniques after which the delegates got the opportunity to practise under their supervision.

The hands-on sessions were exceptionally well received and the organisers had a hard time getting the delegates back to their seats for the final lectures.



Please visit www.hefssa.org regularly for programme updates and information.

HeFSSA, the principle SIG organising the SA Heart 2009 Congress, would like to invite all interested parties to attend this conference which promises to be the highlight on the 2009 academic calendar.

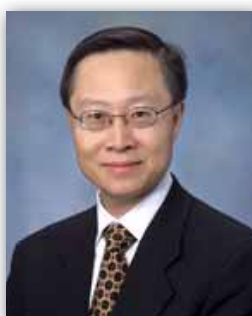
‘Diarise! 10th Annual Congress of the South African Heart Association 2009.’



HEFSSA NEWS (cont)



A fully accredited workshop on echocardiography will be held in association with the **MAYO Clinic** (US). The invited MAYO faculty, all of them from Minnesota's Centre Cardiovascular Diseases, under the leadership of Prof Jae Oh, will consist of world-class lecturers such as Drs Charles Bruce, Allison Cabalka, Robert McCully and Vuyisela Nkomo.



Prof Jae Oh



Dr Charles Bruce



Prof Allison Cabalka



Dr Robert McCully



Dr Vuyisela Nkomo

‘Thursday 22 October will be dedicated to Echocardiography exclusively. Advanced Echo techniques such as Intra-operative TEE and more will be covered on Friday afternoon as parallel workshops to the main plenary programme.’

HeFSSA, in association with Astra-Zeneca will also host a “**Cardiology Update**” aimed at specialist physicians and general practitioners on Thursday 22 October.

We look forward to another excellent academic meeting with South African, African and international participation.

CASSA

Sorting out Syncope

The Gauteng division of CASSA (The Cardiac Arrhythmia Society of South Africa) hosted a conference entitled "Sorting out Syncope" with world leader and expert in this field, Dr Blair Grubb (University of Toledo, USA), at Gallagher Estate in Midrand recently.

Dr Grubb also lectured to the Cape Town branch of SA Heart and addressed the Cardiology Registrars at Groote Schuur Hospital. His Cape Town visit ended with a lecture during the GSH Grand Rounds.

‘Syncope and Sudden Death are the same thing, except in one you wake up...’

During his talks, Dr Grubb stressed the fact that a single syncopal event is often the only precursor to Sudden Cardiac Arrest and should therefore not be treated lightly. He gave numerous examples of professional athletes, at the top of their game, who died suddenly and without warning. On the other hand, the most frequent cause of syncope is benign, viz. neuro-cardiogenic. Dr Grubb spoke at length on other autonomic causes of syncope, in which he is a world-renowned expert.

The programme, with topics such as The Pathophysiology of Syncope, Clinical Syndromes, was extremely well received by the audience and mention was made of the high standard of the clinical content.



Dr Blair Grubb
University of Toledo, USA

During the last session of the day, a panel consisting of a neurologist, vascular surgeon, psychiatrist, ENT and cardiologist assessed real case studies and the audience had the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained on the day in a practical "real-life" setting.

CASSA is in the process of putting together a booklet on the lectures presented on the day. To obtain it, visit the CASSA website at www.cassa.co.za.

Delegates who attended the meeting requested that it becomes an annual event, so **look out for the annual CASSA meeting!**

Medical Advisors Group Conference 6-7 August, Arabella Kleinmond

CASSA has been invited by the MAG to host a plenary session during its conference in August 2009. The CASSA session's theme will be "A decade of development in the diagnosis and management of Cardiac Arrhythmia". Reimbursement issues around ICD placement will also be discussed with the medical advisors of the major medical aids in South Africa.

Website

The CASSA website has been updated recently. We encourage you to visit the website regularly to stay abreast of developments in the field of arrhythmia.

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

A maximum of four scholarships are available to all members and associate members of the South African Heart Association's residing in South Africa annually. 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 or associate members in good standing for at least one year.
- ▶ Applications must include
 - ▶ full details of the meeting/workshop;
 - ▶ the applicant's abbreviated CV; and
 - ▶ a breakdown of the anticipated expenses.
- ▶ Applications must reach the Association **a minimum of 3 months** before the event.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Acceptance of an abstract submitted by the applicant at the scientific meeting or workshop (if acceptance of the abstract is pending the application it must still be submitted 3 months prior to the event with a note of the date of expected approval. In such a case the scholarship might be granted on condition – and proof – of the abstract being accepted).
- ▶ An invitation to participate as an invited speaker at the meeting.
- ▶ Publications in peer reviewed journal/s in the preceding year.
- ▶ An applicant from a member of a previously disadvantaged community.
- ▶ An application from a member younger than 35 years of age.

ADDRESS APPLICATIONS TO:

The President
South African Heart Association
PO Box 19062
Tygerberg
7505

- ▶ A maximum of four scholarships will be awarded annually.
- ▶ Support for international meetings will be awarded to a maximum for R20 000 and local meetings to a maximum of R7 500 per scholarship.



MANIFESTO

The SAPPF has been established to represent and defend the role of the private sector, to strive for appropriate and realistic pricing for private professional services, and to facilitate, where necessary, the re-engineering of the private sector and, to make delivery more affordable and accessible, thereby rendering private care more sustainable in the long term.

Therefore the SAPPF

- **Acknowledges and understands** the inequities and disparities that currently exist in the two-tier system of healthcare, as well as the current debate focused on finding workable solutions to funding a future healthcare system in which quality healthcare services are made accessible to all;
- **Pledges** to proactively and collectively, investigate, explore, and develop, future models of healthcare delivery aimed at ultimately achieving a sustainable system of universal access within the limits of affordability, in which the private sector plays an indispensable role;
- **Notes** that change towards an equitable system of universal access will take time, requires an improvement in state expenditure, and that various NHI models exist in different parts of the world. It therefore believes that a locally developed hybrid incorporating what is best from our current system is more likely to achieve success than the doctrinaire application of outdated and foreign ideologies; and the SAPPF therefore
- **Undertakes** to cooperate with other stakeholders including government, in developing a pragmatic, appropriately funded and resourced healthcare service best able to utilise, incentivise and retain healthcare workers for the ultimate good of all South Africans.

SAPPF MISSION

To protect, preserve, promote and expand private medical practice, and to support the private healthcare sector in accordance with the constitutional imperative to progressively improve access to healthcare services for all South Africans.

VISION

The achievement of an integrated, appropriately funded, affordable quality healthcare service, accessible to all in which the private sector is able to co-exist in partnership with the state.

AIM

To serve our patients to the best of our ability at all times without fear or favour.

The SAPPF is founded on the principles of the pursuit of human dignity, the attainment of equality, the elaboration of human rights and freedoms, non-racism, non-sexism, the supreme authority of the Constitution and the sovereignty of the Law.

**SAPPF and the Specialist Forum Journal:
The Introduction of a new order**
 “There is,” said an Italian philosopher, “nothing more difficult to take in hand, nothing more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things.” Yet this is what the SAPPF is setting out to do, and this newsletter is the first overt manifestation of the new organisation, and of an important nascent relationship, that of the association of the SAPPF with the Specialist Forum Journal. The SFJ have moved proverbial mountains to bring this newsletter into circulation at very short notice, for which the SAPPF is immensely grateful.

Private practice is under threat: We need your help!

- Single tier view of a unitary health system inimical to future of private sector;
- NHRPL replacing the HPCSA Ethical Tariff, erodes competition and professional autonomy;
- Non-implementation of cost-based reference pricing threatens sustainability of private practice and accelerates the medical brain drain;
- Private sector needs to demonstrate its willingness and commitment to “progressively expand healthcare services to all South Africans”; and
- New coding system desperately required.

These are just some of the urgent issues that the SAPPF will be addressing. The Specialist Private Practice Committee (SPPC) registered the SAPPF a year ago, believing it may, in order to safeguard the private sector, be necessary to assume direct responsibility for representation of private sector interests in what was perceived to be an increasingly challenging environment. The decision to proceed with the launch of the SAPPF was taken with the unanimous support of all specialist discipline representatives of the SPPC recently.

FOUNDER MEMBERS

EUGENE ALLERS

A psychiatrist in private practice.

- He is a past president of the South African Society of Psychiatrists and has chaired the private practice interest group within SASOP for several years.
- He is the editor of the Serenity Magazine and of several other publications as well as the main author of the South African Psychiatric Guidelines.

CHRIS ARCHER

Obstetrician and gynaecologist at Netcare Park Lane Hospital, Johannesburg.

- SASOG National Council (GMG Representative) 1995-1997, 1999 to present
- Gynaecology Management Group Limited CEO 1996 to present
- SAMA Specialist Private Practice Committee 1993 to present
- Netcare Park Lane Hospital Physicians Advisory Board Committee 1996-2005, Chairman 2006-2007, Vice Chairman 2008

FRANCO COLIN

A psychiatrist in private practice and part-time consultant to the Department of Psychiatry, University of Pretoria.

- He has served in various capacities on the executive committee of the South African Society of Psychiatrists, and is at present the member for private practice on the Exco.
- He is also the chairperson of the Association of Clinical Consulting Disciplines.

CHRIS JOSEPH

President, the South African Society of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery.

JAN TALMA

Ophthalmologist in private practice, Pretoria

- MASA and later SAMA Private Practice activities since 1992
- RASD (Surgical Representative) and SAMA Specialist Private Practice Committee member.
- Chairman of the SAMA Specialist Private Practice Committee and SAMA Board member. Current Member of the Health Policy Committee.

In his own field he has served as:

- Ophthalmological Society EXCO member since 1993 and later OSSA President.
- Founder member of the Ophthalmology Management Group and Private Practice Representative ever since.
- Current President: SA Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

LOUIS KRUGER

In private practice at the Johannesburg Eye Hospital

- Immediate Past President of OSSA (Ophthalmology Society of SA).
- Current chairman of OMG. (Ophthalmology Management Group).
- SAMA SPPC (Specialist Private Practice Committee) past 10 years.

HUMPHREY LEWIS

Currently a paediatrician in private practice in Pretoria.

Entered private practice in 1990 in Pretoria at Unitas & Wilgers hospitals.

Positions held:

- President of the South African Paediatric Association
- Chairperson of the Paediatric Management Group
- Member: South African Medical Association's Private Practice Committee.
- Previous Chairperson of the National Asthma Education Programme

ANDREW HALKAS

A paediatrician in private practice, based at Krugersdorp Private Hospital.

- He is a member of the Paediatric Management Group.

OUR AIM IS TO HAVE ENROLLED 5 000 MEMBERS
BY MARCH 30TH 2009!

A R1 000.00 joining fee will probably be the wisest
investment of your whole career!

This is a serious appeal. Please don't delay. SIGN UP TODAY.

To register go to www.sappf.co.za or complete the registration form and fax it and proof of your deposit to the following fax number: 011 888 9624.

Name:

Identity number:

Address:

HPCSA reg. no.:

Practise number and discipline:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email address:

Bank details:

South African Private Practitioners Forum,
Cheque Acc. No. 4072908323, ABSA.

Address details:

257 Beyers Naude Drive, Blackheath. PO Box 261001, Excom, 2023.



NEW BENEFITS, NEW VALUE, EXCLUSIVELY FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATES

Become an ACC

International Associate Member

Join the ACC as a new International Associate Member and take advantage of valuable membership benefits created exclusively for cardiologists practicing outside the United States and Canada.

- Receive online access to the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC)* and the *Cardiosource Review Journal (CRJ)*.
- Receive full access to Cardiosource, the ACCF's premier online source of cardiovascular knowledge.
- Take advantage of discounts on ACCF programs and products and pay annual dues of only \$100 per year (plus nonrefundable processing fee of \$25).
- Attend the ACC Annual Scientific Session at special International Associate rates.

Affiliate With the ACC Wherever You Practice

Criteria For International Associate Membership

- Candidates shall have completed 5 years of medical training including 24 months of formal cardiology training.
- Candidates shall have been established in practice/academia for a minimum of six months and document that at least 50% of their professional activities are devoted to the field of cardiovascular disease.

www.acc.org/about/joinacc_international.htm

Follow These Easy Steps for...

International Associate Membership Application

1. Letter of Sponsorship

- One from any Fellow, Associate Fellow or Member of the American College of Cardiology

* Sponsor letter should include confirmation of applicant's peer recognition in the cardiovascular community.

2. Membership Fees

Payment must accompany application.

- US\$125 (Includes processing fee of US\$25, and payment of one year's dues of US\$100)
- Check payable to American College of Cardiology in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank.

- MasterCard VISA
 American Express Discover

Cardholder's Name

Card Number Expiration Date

CSC#

Personal Data (All Sections Must Be Completed by the Applicant.)

Full Name (First) (Middle Initial) (Last) Birthdate (Month/Day/Year) Gender Male Female

Practice/Institution Address

City Country Postal Code

E-Mail Office Telephone (include country code)

Home Telephone (include country code) FAX

Education	Name of Institution	Location (City, Country)	Date Graduated	Degree
College or University				
Medical School				

Post Graduate Training	Name of Institution	Location (City, Country)	Area of Specialization	Date Graduated	Degree
Internship					
Residency					
Cardiovascular Training					

Name of Sponsor (See section titled "Letter of Sponsorship" for eligibility requirement.)

Name Title

Address

Signature of Applicant (Signature verifies information on this application is correct.)

The documents, as outlined above, should be forwarded with completed application by mail OR fax to:

Mail: American College of Cardiology, Member Services Department, 2400 N Street NW, Washington DC, 20037 USA

Fax: Attn: Member Services at +1(202) 375-7000

THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available to all full and associate members of SA Heart residing in South Africa. It is primarily intended to assist colleagues involved in outstanding research with their research programmes.

REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Applicants must be fully paid-up members or associate members in good standing for at least one year.
- ▶ Applications must include
 - ▶ the applicant's abbreviated CV;
 - ▶ a breakdown of the anticipated expenses; and
 - ▶ full details of the research.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ 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.

ADDRESS APPLICATIONS TO:

Education Standing Committee
South African Heart Association
PO Box 19062
Tygerberg
7505

APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY BY THE SELECTION PANEL. THE CLOSING DATE IS SEPTEMBER 30.

One scholarship to the maximum amount of R50 000 will be awarded annually.

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

- ▶ Abstract (maximum 200 words);
- ▶ Brief review of the literature (maximum 200 words);
- ▶ Brief description of the hypothesis to be investigated (maximum 100 words);
- ▶ Detailed methodology (maximum 500 words); and
- ▶ References.