THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION AND THE NHI

I recently attended the Pan African Health Congress at Gallagher Estate, and was invited to speak on “The Role of Professional Associations in the Development of a National Health Plan”. In the preliminary programme, the Department of Health (DOH) was scheduled to deliver a number of presentations the same morning. I asked the organisers what target audience should be expected and was assured it should be a well-attended meeting with all relevant role players expected. Particular emphasis in that session was on the National Health Initiative (NHI). Since I was keen to get our opinion heard by the DOH I agreed to speak.

On arrival the programme showed that all the DOH speakers had withdrawn. The chairperson reported that the organisers were only informed of this decision 48 hours before the start of the Congress. There were about 50 delegates, representing insurers, hospital groups and some academic centres. I did not meet a single representative from the DOH.

A Nedbank banker discussed Private/public partnerships (PPPs) and revealed that these are really fraught with complex issues. There is agreement on both sides that PPPs are imperative to help getting public health services in better shape, but no agreement was seemingly reached thereafter. In my understanding there seem to be much suspicion on both sides: The State does not want to lose “control” over their assets, but the private sector is reluctant to invest money into a project over which they have inadequate control. The speaker implored the State to be more understanding with regards to the private sector’s requirements in order to take these initiatives forward. It was disappointing to note that PPPs are not being implemented more rapidly as this could surely prove to be a way forward for both parties – an ideal “win-win” situation.

Another presentation by a speaker who was involved in PPPs in the Eastern Cape was very excited about their achievements. However, although the DOH was pleased with the progress made the initiative was stopped as it had to be approved by another government department. We need to overcome these obstacles to deliver improved health care to the people of our country.

I spoke about NHIs in general, and what I regard as the major obstacle to implementing a successful plan in South Africa. I am in no position to voice an opinion on finances – that is a big enough problem for the State. In my view a much bigger issue is the lack of trained personnel – doctors, nurses, administrators and others. Other issues which were addressed include inadequate service delivery by the public sector and possible over-servicing in private sector. Much of the surgical data came from Tony Linegar’s PhD thesis, which makes for interesting, yet disconcerting reading. I emphasised the need to train more doctors in cardiac medicine and mentioned that the private sector’s help should be enrolled in this regard. Judging by the response and following the discussion it seems the talk was well received.

Attached, please find our letter to the Ministerial Advisory Committee on the NHI to which we have received no response to date. Judging by the published list of members there is no specialist body representation on this committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a wonderful festive season and best wishes for 2011.

Martin Sussman
President SA Heart Association
## POPULAR CONGRESSES FOR 2010/2011

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<td>10 - 12 February 2011</td>
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<td>Hong Kong</td>
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It is my privilege to report on SASCI’s activity over the past number of month’s pre and post the SA Heart Association congress.

SASCI’s role as a representative body of South African cardiologists, both in the academic sphere and in private practice has been extended over the last few years and continue to do so. I would like to thank my Executive Committee for their continued hard work in their respective focus areas. The only additions to the Exco announced at the AGM are Mariska Fouche and Salome Snyders as industry representatives.

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 Ms Franciska du Toit)

The following major activities/programmes took place since our previous report:

**Discussions with Funders and Hospital Networks**
This is ongoing with specific focus on all new technologies (especially but not exclusively TAVI and MERCI at this stage) and procedures to enable funding.

**Council for Medical Schemes PMB (circular 45 and 46 of 2010)**
SASCI has made a formal submission to the Council for Medical Schemes nominating Drs Farrel Hellig and Leslie Ponnusamy as representatives. SASCI indicated a number of areas of grave concern with regards to the current process and will keep members informed. The submission is available to members on request.

**Cath Lab Registry**
The SHARE (cath lab registry) received a new financial lease on life via support from Netcare and Discovery Health. However, the SA Heart Association continues to provide the majority of the funding. Our executive officer George Nel has been contracted by the SA Heart Association to oversee management and fundraising for this important programme. Our Exco requests members to please be receptive when approached by George or Elizabeth Schaafsma (from SA Heart). Since its inception this programme has been a key objective of the Society and today even more so.

**The South African Heart Association Congress 2010**
Was held on 8th to 11th August 2010 at Sun City and focused on holistic health care with a special focus on cardiology in females on Women’s Day. As always, our invited speaker Professor Bernhard Meier (MD, FACC, FESC, Head of the Cardiology Department, Swiss Cardiovascular Centre of Bern University Hospital, Switzerland) was a highlight. Thank you to Farrel Hellig for his sterling contribution as SASCI representative on the congress’s organising committee.

**SASCI’s AGM**
Was held on Monday, 9 August at the SA Heart Congress regrettably with disappointing member attendance. We strongly urge members to attend our AGM’s to ensure your voices are heard and that you help determine SASCI’s focus in the future.
SASCI continued

Inaugural Visiting Professor - Prof Jean-Pierre Bassand

Made a memorable and sizable contribution during his tenure at three of our medical schools. He would have left for France by the time this edition reaches you. In September and October 2010 he spent a month in the Cape at the University of Cape Town (Groote Schuur Hospital) and the University of Stellenbosch (Tygerberg Hospital). Prof Bassand then visited the University of Witwatersrand (Baragwanath Hospital) for a few weeks and also spent some time at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital and Johannesburg General Hospital.

During the two-month period he was involved in formal and informal undergraduate and post-graduate training and immersed himself in the daily clinical grind of these hospitals.

He also gave several lectures for the benefit of the cardiology community at large as a result of collaboration between SASCI and the SA Heart branch. We look forward to his continued contribution to the South African cardiology community and trust that the experience will be the beginning of a long-standing, mutually beneficial relationship between local training institutions and foreign counterparts.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the host medical schools and specifically Dr Mpiko Ntsekhe for his efforts to compile the programme. Without Medtronic’s unconditional support this multi-year programme would not have been possible.

We look forward to welcoming Dr Spencer King, well known international cardiologist from the USA, to our country in 2012 as our 2nd Visiting Professor. The initiative promises to become a valuable addition to SASCI’s long-standing commitment to improve cardiology sub-speciality training in our country.

Medical Library of South Africa (MELiSA)

SASCI members are sponsored for free access to this invaluable online library. MELiSA keep medical professionals up-to-date with medical literature via immediate, full access to over 1 000 international journals and more than 200 international book titles including current editions of Braunwald’s Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine and Topol’s Textbook of Interventional Cardiology. In addition, MELiSA offers access to Pubmed, the Cochrane abstracts, MD Consult and First Consult. Interventional specific titles will be added on request from SASCI.

SASCI members are sponsored for free access to MELiSA.

SASCI believes this sponsorship from Pharma Dynamics will promote research and education by SASCI members: two cornerstones of the Society’s mission. The sponsorship of a 12-month guest subscription for each SASCI member is valued at more than R2 500 per annum and should do away with individual journal subscriptions.

As a SASCI member you simply need to:

1. Log onto the SASCI website (www.sasci.co.za).
2. Enter your unique username and password to access the SASCI member only section. (Send an e-mail to sasci@sasci.co.za if you need a username and password.).
3. Go to the SASCI Journal Room to access MELiSA.
4. First-time MELiSA users need to subscribe with the unique coupon number on the guest subscriptions vouchers, which can be obtained from any Pharma Dynamic representative.
5. For further enquiries please contact Mariska Fouche, Marketing Manager, Pharma Dynamics at 021 701 6080.

Continued on page 294
Independent Interventional Society for Allied Professionals (IISAP)

As presented to our AGM the Allied Professionals decided to form an independent society for cath lab nurses, technologists and radiographers to specifically focus on the training of our support staff in the cath lab.

IISAP’s formation heralds a new era in interventional cardiology for allied professionals and cardiologists. Though our SASCI constitution allows allied professionals as associate members I (of which SASCI has 93 members) this group has unique and compelling needs which can only be adequately addressed through a formal independent Society.

Continued professional development of allied professional was identified as one of the core immediate needs. The SASCI Executive extended our assistance and support to the interim committee. IISAP will in due course formally approach SASCI to become an affiliate member group and all IISAP members need to be both SA Heart Association and SASCI members. SASCI’s Executive Officer, George Nel has been tasked to assist IISAP’s interim committee to put together a functional and viable Society. I would like to thank the Cross Roads Institute for their initial facilitation of the process.

The following activities are being planned:

- Four South African Registrars will attend the annual Society for Cardiac Angiography and Intervention (SCAI) Fellows Programme in Las Vegas (December 2010) through support from SCAI, SASCI as well as Boston Scientific. The recipients for 2010 are Drs Riaz Dawood; Jens Hitzeroth; Aine Mugabi and Norman Lester. Feedback from last year’s delegates was extremely positive and I believe this year to be no exception.

- The 7th Annual SASCI Fellows Workshop will be held on 26 February at Netcare Sunninghill in Johannesburg with Dr Farrel Hellig as programme director. I am looking forward to an exciting and informative day of learning with our young colleagues. Please diarise if you are still training in cardiology or have recently qualified as a cardiologist.

- SASCI will, during next year’s Fellows Workshop, also announce the recipient of the 2011 Boston Scientific RC Fraser International Fellowship Award in Interventional Cardiology. This award will allow the recipient to travel internationally and spend 4 weeks at a renowned interventional centre. Cardiologists still in training in 2011 are eligible and one nomination per Medical School is allowed. Please send your nomination (letter of support from your Head of Department) as well as a short CV to sasci@sasci.co.za to be considered.

- The highly popular EuroPCR 2011 will once again be held in Paris next year (17 to 20 May 2011). SASCI has been integrated into the EuroPCR umbrella and our members have been playing a more and more active role in the programme. SASCI will once again participate with another international 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. I would like to encourage more of our colleagues to submit cases, abstracts and original work to future PCR meetings and contribute to the SASCI joint session.

- 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 centre in Cape Town. Well done to Tom Mabin for securing this coup! The FRSA meeting (similar to the Indian Ocean meetings of the past) will feature a substantial international faculty and SASCI has already secured attendance of Drs
I am pleased to report on SASCAR's activities during its first year in existence.

The first SASCAR AGM was held at the SA Heart Association Congress in August 2010 and the Interim Committee was appointed as Executive Members and will be serving on our Executive (Exco) for the next two years.

Our Basic Science session, was well attended and a great success thanks to the superb and exciting presentations of our international speakers Prof Heusch and Prof Westaby; our national speakers Prof Gavin Norton and Dr Neil Davies; and all the students. Congratulations to Ms Kim Lamont and Mr Damian Hacking for their Awards for Best Oral Presentation and Best Poster Presentation in Basic Sciences, respectively.

The joint workshop, organised in conjunction with the Heart Failure Society of South Africa (HeFSSA) was well-attended and our thanks goes to all the speakers who met the challenge to attract both a clinical and basic science audience.

In conjunction with the Cardiac Arrhythmia Society of South Africa (CASSA) and HeFSSA, we are organising the 1st United Kingdom/South Africa Cardiovascular research workshop in London in December 2010. The main purpose is to highlight the work of our young researchers and to promote fruitful cardiovascular research collaborations between the UK and South Africa. The main research themes of the workshop have been chosen to represent the major overlapping research interests in both the UK and South Africa, including: Signalling pathways in cardioprotection; myocardial ischaemia-reperfusion injury; hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; and cardiovascular effects of both diabetes and hypertension. Most importantly, 5 Cardiovascular Research PhD students from academic institutions in South Africa have been invited to attend this workshop and present their data in the UK. They will also have the opportunity to visit and spend time in research laboratories within the UK. (Details on the programme can be found on our website).

Do, visit our website www.sascar.org.za for more details on future workshops, our members and the latest information on the Society's activities.

Sandrine Lecour
SASCAR Chairperson

SASCAR Executive Committee elected in 2010: S Lecour (chairperson), S Dennis (Secretary), G Burger, N Davies, S Makaula, K Sliwa, H Strijdom.

Please contact our Executive Officer George Nel at 083 458 5954 or sasci@sasci.co.za for assistance or to formally communicate with the Executive.

Dr Graham Cassel
President, SASCI
**SA HEART 2010 AGM & OTHER MATTERS**

**What is the result of our talks?**

**National Health Initiative (NHI)**
At present there is no medical specialist in the government’s committee on the NHI. However, our committee is still actively planning our approach. Fortunately members are more realistic about the practical implications of the decision to continue. SA Heart will present itself to Government and voice our willingness to contribute to decision making.

**Training**
There is a perception that we are powerless to change anything which is hard to accept. Prof Mayosi mentioned that a Billion Rand has been set aside for tertiary institutions but it seems as though these funds has not yet been put to work. Is this once again a manifestation of poor management? In First World countries the need for cardiologists is 1/25 000 people and in South Africa the current ratio of 1/250 000 indicates that we need ten times as many cardiologists. A few approaches under consideration include: A shorter total training period; a College of Cardiology; and an independent Fellowship Programme. Will specialists be trained at a private medical school in the future? We require at least 15 years to make up the back log. The question raised is if SA Heart is powerless? The call to us is to speak up. Medical schools however should not shun their responsibility to train doctors/cardiologists.

**Share**
Three issues are at stake: Financing; participation & reporting. There is a likely solution with Netcare contributing money and Discovery adding a small amount but then we will be required to produce a report by early next year. The programme might be sustainable but making a profit will be unlikely within the next three years. Cath labs, hospitals and cardiologists in particular should now participate with enthusiasm. We should prefer not to make this compulsory for funding/remuneration but we then have to deliver complete, reliable and valuable data. Data capturing seems to be a stumbling block and should be the combined responsibility of the cardiologist and his technologist as part of the normal reporting process. Consent for capturing the patient’s data could easily be incorporated in the normal theatre procedure consent. George Nel will help to concentrate our activities for the next six months and we look forward to lots of activity during 2011. For the first time our SHARE project certainly ends on a more positive note this year.

**CISSA**
The Cardiovascular Imaging Society of South Africa is now a reality. If their mission statement is put into practice this Society’s activities will add value to the cardiac community. Watch out for their new website.

**New Exco (see alongside)**

**Reports**
Were you able to read the reports from the Special interest Groups? These are available from/ have been distributed at/ can be seen on our website at www.saheart.org.

**Journals & publications**
We are really fortunate to have SA Heart; CVJSA and Cardiology Matters to enlighten and entertain us.

**ESC Journals:** SA Heart is an affiliated member of the European Society of Cardiologists (ESC) which means you can benefit from a reduced subscription rate close to half of the shelf price. To qualify for a discount, send your subscription form, payment and a copy of your SA Heart membership certificate to the ESC’s Publications Department. More information is available at http://www.escardio.org/journals/Documents/Subscription%20call.pdf

We also encourage you to submit papers to these journals as well as to the ESC’s subspecialty publications.

**PPC**
The SAPPF is working towards a new coding structure. They may recover R8m in legal costs after the recent court case was decided in their favour. SA Heart supports the SAPPF and accepts that they represent private practice. The decision on membership is for each individual to consider and will not be channelled through SA Heart.

**Guidelines committee**
A conflict of interest form will be finalised and signed by the executive. Visit www.saheart.org for more information.

Heartfelt wishes for a successful and fulfilling term. Until next time.

**Adriaan Snyders**
## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2010/11

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>TELEPHONE</th>
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<td>DR M. SUSSMAN</td>
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<td>011 726 3126</td>
<td><a href="mailto:heartsurgeon@absamail.co.za">heartsurgeon@absamail.co.za</a></td>
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<td>PO Box 72482 Lynnwoodrif 0040</td>
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<td>President-Elect</td>
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<td>DR A. STANLEY</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROF P. MANGA</td>
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<td>PROF M.R. ESSOP</td>
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<tr>
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<td>PO Box 56 Magaliesig 2067</td>
<td>011 257 2129</td>
<td>011 257 2129</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andrewthornt@gmail.com">andrewthornt@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: SHARE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROF A. DOUBELL</td>
<td>Division of Cardiology 8th Floor Tygerberg</td>
<td>021 938 4400</td>
<td>021 938 4410</td>
<td><a href="mailto:afdi@sun.ac.za">afdi@sun.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor: SA Heart</td>
<td>Hospital Green Avenue Tygerberg 7505</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:myw@sun.ac.za">myw@sun.ac.za</a></td>
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**Note:** Addresses and telephone numbers are for contact purposes only.
CASSA has had an exciting quarter in the field of training and education.

**The Many Faces of AF National Symposium**
The CASSA National Symposium held recently (16, 19 and 23 October in respectively Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg) was a huge success. Over 170 specialist cardiologists and physicians attended the meetings across the country where two international experts in the field of arrhythmia and ablation, Prof Johannes Brachmann and Dr Neil Sulke, lectured on the latest trends in the treatment of AF (atrial fibrillation). The topics on the programme included stroke prevention as well as AF in specific situations such as athletes, the elderly and post-operative AF. Cutting edge technology such as catheter ablation was also discussed.

**ECG and Arrhythmia Workshop**
Two meetings for GP's are also scheduled for November 2010: On Sat 27 November, Prof A Okreglicki and Dr D Milne will be visiting Kimberley where CASSA will be hosting an Arrhythmia and ECG workshop for general practitioners (GPs). The interactive digivote system will be used as part of the lecture and members of the audience will have the opportunity to actively participate in the meeting. This workshop is both informative and fun.

In Johannesburg, Dr Andrew Thornton will be representing CASSA at a GP meeting on 13 November. The programme on the day will cover, amongst other disciplines, paediatrics and cardiology.

**SAHA 2011**
CASSA has the honour of hosting the annual South African Heart Association Congress in 2011. The congress will take place from 23-26 October at the brand new and ultra modern East London ICC.

**Please diarise this prestigious event!**

**Medical Advisors Group Conference**
Apart from training and education, CASSA also actively shapes the health market and for the past two years has been the only Medical Society to have a slot on the agenda at the annual Medical Advisors Group (MAG) Conference. The MAG conference was held on 4-5 August at the Mount Grace Hotel and Spa in the Magaliesberg and Prof Martin Cowie (Brampton, London) was the keynote speaker during the CASSA session. He addressed issues and controversies around funding guidelines for device therapy and spoke about the cost-effectiveness of CRT and ICD use in heart failure.

**CMS – PMB Guidelines**
A large contingent of the CASSA Exco will be representing the Society and its members at the upcoming CMS meetings where new guidelines for PMB benefit design will be discussed. CASSA will be submitting guidelines and protocols based on the latest ESC guidelines. For any information on the above process and/or to provide input, please contact Dr Anthony Stanley at anthys@netactive.co.za.

**Electrophysiology**
Applications for the first fulltime EP (Electrophysiology) training fellowship in South Africa (UCT), with Life Health as the main sponsor, have just closed. The selection committee will be conducting interviews this month.

On 30 - 31 October, a successful EP Foundation Course was held in Cape Town, by Prof A Okreglicki and Dr D Milne. It was attended by 25 cardiology registrars/fellows and cardiac clinical technologists mainly from KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape and it was sponsored by J&J/Biosense Webster. This course covered theory, EP trace interpretation and practical hands-on sessions in the EP lab. Advanced and master courses will follow.

Visit the CASSA website www.cassa.co.za regularly to stay abreast of developments and meetings in your area.

Become a member of CASSA and be part of a well respected, growing professional body that impacts the market in which it operates.

Contact Franciska Rossouw at 082 806 1599 or e-mail franciska@cassa.co.za for information on CASSA and its events.

Prof A Okreglicki
# Programme

**5 March 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08h00 - 08h15</td>
<td>WELCOME AND OVERVIEW</td>
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<tr>
<td>08h15 - 08h50</td>
<td>PLENARY LECTURE</td>
<td>Michael Mark (Freiburg University, Germany)</td>
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<td>MR imaging of physiological processes: the state-of-the-art</td>
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<tr>
<td>08h50 - 12h35</td>
<td>WORKSHOP</td>
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<tr>
<td>08h50 - 09h15</td>
<td>Clinical cardiovascular MRI</td>
<td>Daniela Föll (Freiburg University, Germany)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09h15 - 09h40</td>
<td>4D MR flow imaging: background and clinical applications</td>
<td>Oliver Wieben (University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09h40 - 10h30</td>
<td>MEET-THE-SPEAKERS AND COFFEE BREAK (speakers available for questions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10h30 - 10h55</td>
<td>Haemodynamics in vascular disease progression</td>
<td>David Saloner (University of California, San Francisco, USA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10h55 - 11h20</td>
<td>Myocardial mechanics and tissue phase mapping</td>
<td>Bernd Jung (Freiburg University, Germany)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11h20 - 11h45</td>
<td>Myocardial strain mapping: tagging, DENSE and SENC</td>
<td>Bruce Spotiswoode (University of Cape Town, SA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11h45 - 12h10</td>
<td>Tissue perfusion/diffusion</td>
<td>Matthias Weigel (Freiburg University, Germany)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12h10 - 12h35</td>
<td>Functional MRI</td>
<td>Ernesto Meintjes (University of Cape Town, SA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12h35 - 14h00</td>
<td>MEET-THE-SPEAKERS AND LUNCH (speakers available for questions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14h00 - 16h00</td>
<td>FREE PAPERS: Clinical MRI of physiological processes</td>
<td>New MRI Techniques</td>
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It is my pleasure to report back on an eventful past few months.

Our HeFSSA (Heart Failure Society of South Africa) AGM was held during the SA Heart Congress (August 2010) and culminated in the election of a new executive for the period ending at the 2012 SA Heart Congress. Shirley Middlemost decided to step down and I want to thank her for her valuable contribution to further the cause of heart failure (HF) in South Africa.

The following executive members (Exco) was re-elected - Prof Karen Sliwa (President), Dr Eric Klug, Dr Martin Mpe, Dr Cristina Radulescu, Dr Darryl Smith, Prof Sandrine Lecour, Dr Pro Obel and William Stranix (industry representative). The Exco is grateful to welcome these new members on board: Drs Jean Vorster, Tony Lachman and Dave Gilmer as well as Patricia Magagula (industry representative). I am looking forward to an exciting 2 years with this dynamic executive committee.

Echo Programmes 2010
The SA Heart Association accepted the formation of the new Imaging Society at the congress. This means we will work closely with this Society in the planning of future echo workshops with specific focus on HF. Darryl Smith has been elected to the Exco of the new Society and will represent us. The annual Mayo Echo Programme (pre-SA Heart Congress) will now fall under the auspices of the new Imaging Society. As before this year’s Mayo Programme proved a highlight and was well attended by over 200 delegates. Our thanks to programme director Darryl Smith and corporate sponsor Phillips.

Education of General Practitioners (GPs)
As part of our Society’s vision, we invest in GP education.

This year, HeFSSA launched an exciting 3-Module CPD-accredited course: Heart Failure for General Practitioners, consisting of 15 meetings in major centres attended by around 200 GPs. Dr. Pro Obel was the director of this programme and with expert HeFSSA Exco input compiled an interesting and practical course. We would like to thank faculty members for their sterling contributions and willingness to share their extensive knowledge: Prof. K. Sliwa, D.P. Naidoo, Mitha and Drs E. Klug, N. van der Merwe, I. Roscher, T. Lachman, D. Kettles, A. Thornton, P. Obel, M. Mpe, C. Badenhorst and S. Middlemost.

The programme content consists of:

- An Introduction to Heart Failure; Epidemiology: GPs learnt that Heart Failure affects people of all ages and is a major cause of death, but, with good management, outcomes can be improved dramatically.

Heart Failure affects people of all ages and is a major cause of death.

GP Cardio Update @ SA Heart Congress 2010
HeFSSA once again hosted a full day programme for General Practitioners (GPs) at the day preceding the congress which was well attended by about 100 GPs. We want to extend our sincerest appreciation to programme director Dr David Jankelow and the faculty on the day for sterling arrangements. Our corporate sponsor AstraZeneca once again played a pivotal role in providing funding and handing out invitations. We look forward to an excellent programme at next year’s SA Heart under the guidance of Dr Dave Kettles.
The pathophysiology of Heart Failure and the 4 most common causes were discussed in detail.

Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure and the SA Heart Failure Guidelines were discussed.

On the last evening, the content taught at the previous meetings was made more tangible through interactive case discussions.

This pilot programme was well accepted by both faculty members and GPs. The relevancy of the material, academic presentations and subsequent discussions and case studies were generally described as excellent. Comments such as “thank you”, “very good” and “exceptional speakers” were frequently heard. Twenty new HeFSSA members from the GP fraternity were signed up during the programme.

The programme was made possible by the dedication and expertise of HeFSSA’s Exco as well as educational grants and other support from corporate sponsors Astra-Zeneca, Servier, Pharma Dynamics and Medtronic. Thank you for ensuring that our vision becomes a reality.

Global Survey of medical specialist management of chronic HF

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 cardiologist’s awareness and perception of heart failure management in developing countries, where heart failure is or soon will be of major importance. This survey aims to describe the diagnosis, different forms of care and the treatment of heart failure across a wide variety of countries by cardiologists and other specialists who manage heart failure patients. The English version of the GAPS-HF questionnaire is now online and ready to be completed. The questionnaire can be accessed through the WHFS website (www.whfs.org) or directly by using this web address which will bring you to the log-in page of the questionnaire: http://gaps-hf.whfs.org.

HeFSSA urges all medical practitioners (specialists and GPs alike) to complete this online questionnaire and so as to contribute to our knowledge of HF in the developing world. Dr Eric Klug with support from Servier will design a marketing campaign to inform practitioners about this valuable programme.

HeFSSA website

Our website was built a few years ago and is now due for redesign and an upgrade. We will use mostly existing content, but with a revised and updated look and feel. It will be informative, interactive, user-friendly and eye-catching as well as professional, attractive and modern and will clearly communicate key issues. The updated website will also make information more accessible (less “clicks” with great results to help you stay on track).

The website, hosted at www.hefssa.org, will have two mini-sites:

- A patient-orientated site for the general public; and
- A general practitioner and specialist-orientated site for medical practitioners.

In a nutshell, the new development aims to:

- Create a template (“skin”) that reflects HeFSSA’s branding and objectives;
- Create new content that advances the Society’s overall vision;
- Build the website on an advanced, highly customisable content management system;
- Use a web standard that is platform and browser independent (the website will be presented in a consistent manner irrespective of the computer or browser used by a viewer); and
- The back-end (administration system) will be developed to include the ability to communicate effectively with members through SMS and e-mail.

Continued on page 302
Joint UK/SA Cardiovascular Research Workshop

In collaboration with the British Society for Cardiovascular Research (BSCR) the South African Society for Cardiovascular Research (SASCAR) is organising a joint workshop to be held in London from 6 - 10th December this year.

The main purpose of this 1st joint UK/SA Cardiovascular Research Workshop is to highlight the work of young researchers and promote fruitful cardiovascular research collaborations between the United Kingdom (UK) and South Africa (SA). The main research themes were chosen to represent major overlapping research interests in the UK and SA, and include myocardial ischaemia-reperfusion injury, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, heart failure, diabetes as well as hypertension and its cardiovascular effects. A highly impressive panel of UK guest speakers will participate, as well as three local senior researchers.

HeFSSA will support one PhD student from a local academic institution to attend the workshop and present their data in the UK. Our UK guest speakers have also agreed to afford these young researchers the opportunity to visit and spend time in their research laboratories over a 4-day period.

The following will be focus areas for 2011 and HeFSSA request members to indicate interest in participation through our office (George Nel: info@hefssa.org or 083 458 5954):

■ HeFSSA’s session @ ESC;
■ PASCAR Congress (27 - 30 May 2011, Uganda);
■ Expanding the GP HF educational programme;
■ SA Heart Congress 2011 in East London; and
■ An intensified drive to increase membership of both specialist and general practitioner fraternity.

I would like to strongly urge our members to get actively involved and contribute to the enhancement of diagnoses and patient care in HF. Please approach our Exco if you require support for programmes in your specific region or town.

Karen Sliwa
President
TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

The travel scholarship is available to all members and associate members living in South Africa and primarily aims to assist junior colleagues. In doing so, continued future participation in local or international scientific meetings/workshops is encouraged.

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be fully paid-up members/associate members in good standing for at least one year.
- Applications need to 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/workshop. (Should acceptance be pending, the application need still be submitted 3 months prior with a note stating expected time of approval.) In such a case the scholarship might be granted conditionally; that proof of the abstract being accepted is submitted afterwards);
- An invitation to participate as an invited speaker at the meeting;
- Publications in a peer reviewed journal/s in the preceding year;
- An applicant from a member of a previously disadvantaged community; and
- 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. GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE A MAXIMUM OF R20 000 AND FOR LOCAL MEETINGS A MAXIMUM OF R7 500.
# Subscription Call for ESC Journals 2011

I wish to subscribe to:

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<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>The European Heart Journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular Research</td>
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<td>The European Journal of Heart Failure</td>
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<td>Members of Heart Failure Association of the ESC</td>
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<td>EF Europa</td>
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<td>The European Journal of Echocardiography</td>
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<tr>
<td>The European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing</td>
<td>€ 95</td>
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<td>Members of Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members of European Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation</td>
<td>€ 105</td>
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All subscriptions are payable in advance and start January 2011

1. **Individual details**
   - [ ] Prof. [ ] Dr. [ ] Mr. [ ] Mrs. [ ] Mr.
   - Gender: [ ] Male [ ] Female
   - Date of birth: ____________________________

2. **Address**
   - **Home (go to 3)**
     - First Name: ____________________________
     - Last Name: _____________________________
     - Street: ________________________________
     - City: ____________________________ County: __________________
     - Email: ____________________________
     - Tel: ____________________________ Fax: ____________________________

   - **Business (go to 3)**
     - Name of Professional Organization: ____________________________
     - Department: ____________________________

3. **Payment of Subscriptions**
   - The European Society of Cardiology (ESC)

   - [ ] **BANK TRANSFER**
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     - Account Number: 15607000665-000100263475
     - Swift Code: CCBPRFPRNCE
     - IBAN: FR761560700066500100263475
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     - Amount in €: ____________________________

   - [ ] **CHEQUE**
     - No: ____________________________
     - Amount in €: ____________________________

   - [ ] **CREDIT CARD**
     - Card Number: ____________________________
     - Expiry Date: ____________________________

4. **Payments/Queries to:**
   - ESC - European Heart House - Attn Mrs Micheline Iscache
   - 2035, Route des Colles - Les Templiers - BP 179 - 06903 Sophia Antipolis Cedex, France
   - Email: publications@escardio.org - Fax: +33 (0)4 92 94 86 22

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**Data Privacy Statement:**
You have personal data which is, according to the Law on data processing and Civil Liberties 78-17 of 6th January 1978, modified, registered with the European Society of Cardiology (ESC). The information you supply on this form is required to process and send the order in the ESC customer database. It may be used for marketing and communication purposes by the ESC and/or contractors any. You have the absolute right to access, amend and oppose any use of this personal data by writing to the ESC at the address mentioned below or by email at contact@escardio.org.
Applications are invited for the annual Louis Vogelpoel Travelling Scholarship for 2011. 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 under-graduates 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.

All applications for the scholarship will be 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 résumé 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 organising 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.

Previous recipients with this prestigious award were Sandrine Lecour, Roisin Kelle and Liesl Zuehlke.

Applications close on the 31 of January 2011.
2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa

The FIFA World Cup has been a huge success on African soil. South Africa’s hosting of the 2010 World Cup received a 9 out of 10 score from the FIFA President and we are very proud of our achievements with this unique event. The 2010 FIFA World Cup again illustrated South Africa’s ability to host major international events, our warm hospitality and the friendliness of this diverse nation. South Africa’s unity in diversity is a key ingredient in our recipe of success.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of another unique event which will take place in Africa in 2013: namely, the 6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery in Cape Town, South Africa in February 2013. This is an opportunity to participate in the “Olympics” of our professions and experience the diverse splendour of this multi-cultural nation.

It will be our pleasure to host you both scientifically and socially.

6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery

Important Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 January 2012</td>
<td>Distribution of 2nd announcement/ Call for papers/ Registration opening</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 June 2012</td>
<td>Closing date for Abstracts submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2012</td>
<td>Confirmation of papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 September 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 October 2012</td>
<td>Distribution of 3rd announcement</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 November 2012</td>
<td>Closing date for Standard registrations</td>
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</table>

Please visit www.pccs2013.co.za and complete an expression of interest form or e-mail info@pccs2013.co.za.
INVITATION

The Pan African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR) and the Uganda Heart Association (UHA) invite you to the 10th PASCAR Conference and 3rd All Africa Conference on Heart Disease, Diabetes and Stroke
Kampala, Uganda 27 - 30 May 2011
www.pascar.co.za

Speke Resort
Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda

CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE
- Prof Oluwole Adebo - President PASCAR - Conference Chair
- Prof Jurgen Freers - President UHA - Co-Chair LOC
- Dr Charles Mondo - Secretary UHA - Co-Chair LOC
- Prof Sam Omokhodion - Secretary General PASCAR
- Prof Elijah Ogola - Vise-President PASCAR (East)
- Prof Bongani Mayosi - Vise-President PASCAR (South)-Scientific Programme Chair
- Prof Johan Brink - Treasurer PASCAR
- Dr Fred Bukachi (Kenya)
- Prof Serigne Abdou BA (Senegal)
- Mrs Faiza Pierce (South Africa)

For any further information please visit the website: www.pascar.co.za
or contact the conference organisers:
Londocor Event Management
Tel: +27 11 768 4355
Fax: +27 11 768 1174
Email: sonja@londocor.co.za
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.