



YOUR INPUT, PARTICIPATION AND VIEWS ARE VITAL TO US ALL

By the time you read this newsletter SA Heart Congress 2010 will be a reality. Our annual congress will again afford you the opportunity to meet colleagues and interact with industry. Leading experts will once more explain the wonders of echocardiography. SASCI and other specialist interests groups are involved as always. May you also find time to relax. The matters to be discussed at our AGM are very pertinent to all as they influence your careers, practices and life. I urge you all to attend the AGM for the mutual benefit of the cardiology community.

SHARE, our cath lab registry, is making good progress but needs your enthusiasm and participation. Please contact registry@saheart.org if you're ready to participate or if you have any questions or comments.

SA Heart is proud to see our special interest groups involved in international meetings. We welcome the research group which was formed last year and also contributed to this newsletter for the first time. We would also like to be informed about the activities or other groups. The imaging group is in the process of being formalised.

NHI remains a reality for the future. It seems our new minister took note of some of the difficulties in implementing NHI. There will however be politicians who pursue an idea regardless of the casualties. We thus have to be prepared. SA Heart Exco has a working group that will

discuss and consider appropriate scenarios and will welcome your comments. Any comments can be sent to our secretary at erika@saheart.org.

SA Heart will have an information wall at the ESC in Stockholm. Please take the time to visit the exhibition in the Members' area – with tables and seating available it also makes an ideal meeting point!

SAPPF is now recognised as representing specialists groups but will also continue to work with SAMA. Tariff codes have been revised and a new fee structure is being developed. SAPPF certainly deserves our support. At last we have a forum that cares for specialists.

Academic Medicine and Public Health Care is facing an uphill battle. Lack of funding and professional personnel such as doctors and nurses, etc. seriously limit the ability to provide optimal care. The cause of these problems needs to be identified and addressed to improve the status of affairs. A lack of understanding of the extent of the problem and an inability to manage health care with precision hampers any effort to rectify the situation. If any private institution conducts its business with the same inefficiency as the state public health sector, it would certainly be bankrupt within a very short period. We would like to hear from full time colleagues about initiatives, problems and possible solutions for tertiary care and public health care.

Adriaan Snyders

CONGRESSES FOR REMAINDER OF 2010

CONGRESS	DATE	CITY	COUNTRY
SA HEART 2010	8-10 August 2010	Sun City	South Africa
ESC 2010	28 August - 1 September 2010	Stockholm	Sweden
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR CARDIO-THORACIC SURGERY	11-15 September 2010	Geneva	Switzerland
TCT	21-25 September 2010	Washington, DC	USA
ACUTE CARDIAC CARE 2010	16-19 October 2010	Copenhagen	Denmark
CHEST 2010	29 October - 4 November 2010	Vancouver, BC	Canada
EUROECHO 2010	15-17 December 2010	Madrid	Spain

Please forward all meetings you wish to include in this list to: asnyders@mweb.co.za

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH (SASCAR)

C The South African Society for Cardiovascular Research (SASCAR), a new interest group of the SA Heart Association, was inaugurated at the SA Heart Meeting in October 2009.

The major objectives of this new Society are:

- To promote all aspects of cardiovascular research in Southern Africa;
- To promote active interaction between basic and clinical research in South Africa and our neighbouring countries;
- To promote collaboration among those involved in cardiovascular research in Southern Africa and elsewhere; and
- To promote the development of young cardiovascular researchers in Southern Africa.

We encourage all SASCAR members to attend an exciting programme with two sessions entirely dedicated to Basic Sciences at the SA Heart meeting 2010 at Sun City. In conjunction with the Heart Failure Society of South Africa (HeFSSA),

we will also have a workshop (Tuesday, 10th August 2010) with the objective of combining basic science and clinical knowledge on heart failure. Prof Lionel Opie and Prof Angela Woodiwiss kindly accepted to contribute to this workshop.

Throughout the year, we also organise workshops. Travel grants were made possible for PhD students to attend our first two workshops. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof Hans Strijdom for organising the workshop on Flow Cytometry and Mr Gideon Burger for organising the workshop on Blood Pressure Measurements (in vivo and in vitro).

Please, visit our website www.sascar.org.za for more details on future workshops, SASCAR members and the latest information on the activities of the Society.

Sandrine Lecour
SASCAR Chairperson



HEFSSA NEWS

The past year has not been without heartache and HeFSSA kindly remembers deceased EXCO member, Dr Kevin O'Connell as well as Prof Mathiva with whom we had the pleasure of working in 2009 while organising the SA Heart congress. These colleagues will be sorely missed for both their professional contributions and personal attributes.

Welcome to Prof Lecour who was proposed and elected to the HeFSSA Exco during the 2009 AGM! I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee who so freely and willingly gave of their time and skill to make 2010 a successful year for HeFSSA:

President	Prof Karen Sliwa
Vice-President and Secretary	Dr Eric Klug
Treasurer	Dr Martin Mpe
Members	Dr S Middlemost Dr Pro Obel Dr D Smith Dr C Radulescu Prof S Lecour
Industry	Mr W Stranix
Executive Officer	Mr George Nel (assisted by Franciska du Toit)

Education and international affiliations

Members of HeFSSA have contributed to the Heart Failure Working Group on peripartum cardiomyopathy of the European Cardiac Society. The formation on a formal ESC working group in June 2009 increased awareness worldwide for a condition common in Africa.

The position statement is now in press in the European Heart Failure Journal "Current state of knowledge on etiology, diagnosis, management and therapy of peripartum cardiomyopathy (PPCM): A position statement from the Heart Failure Association of the European Society of Cardiology Working group on PPCM".

In addition a workshop to plan a larger African study on PPCM had been done in April 2010 at the Hatter Cardiovascular

Research Institute, Faculty of Health Sciences in Cape Town with the participation of delegates of all the larger South African tertiary centres and 8 African countries. The more than 30 delegates had active discussions with presenters from various countries including the USA, UK and Australia.

Continuous medical education

SA Heart Congress

During SA Heart Congress 2010, HeFSSA will host a Joint Heart Failure Workshop in conjunction with the South African Society for Cardiovascular Research (SASCAR), a new interest group of SA Heart. The objective of the workshop is to combine basic science knowledge with clinical knowledge on heart failure. Prof Lionel Opie and Prof Angela Woodiwiss kindly accepted to contribute to this workshop.

HeFSSA will host two dedicated pre-SA Heart Congress workshops:

Echocardiography in collaboration with MAYO Clinic

The HeFSSA Echocardiography workshop, which was held in collaboration with faculty from the MAYO Clinic (US) drew more than 230 delegates and was one of the highlights of SAHA 2009.

For SA Heart 2010 HeFSSA will again host this programme in association with the US Mayo Clinic group (8 August, at Sun City). This programme under the directorship of Dr Darryl Smith will educate attendees on the latest techniques in echo-cardiography, enhance the performance and interpretation of high quality 2D, colour and Doppler echocardiography and improve the integration of echocardiography in clinical decision-making. The programme covers the common and fundamental aspects of echocardiography, including valvular, coronary and myopericardial. Invited Mayo faculty this year includes: Dr V Nkomo, Dr B Eidem, Dr W Freeman, Dr Y Maalouf and Dr R McCully.

HeFSSA cardio update for non-cardiologists

HeFSSA will once again be hosting a Cardiovascular Update designed especially for general practitioners and physicians on 8 August, the day prior to the Annual SA Heart 2010 Congress.

HeFSSA would like to thank Dr David Jankelow for his contribution as programme director and all the faculty members for their time. This year's programme will involve advice on clinical assessments of cardiac patients, interpreting ECG's, recommendations on cardiovascular risk profiling and treatment tips on hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, coronary artery disease, arrhythmias and heart failure. Patient case studies will be used extensively.

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

‘HeFSSA will continue to offer appropriate training opportunities to members.’

GP with special interest in heart failure

As mandated during the 2009 AGM: 2010 sees the Heart Failure Society of South Africa primarily focussing on GP education. These programmes will come to fruition later in 2010.

An exciting and first-ever CPD accredited GP course in heart failure consisting of three modules which result in certification for practitioners on completion, will kick off in August 2010 and run to October 2010. Dr Pro Obel, who is the content director of the programme, has completed an informative, interactive and interesting event.

Module 1

Lecture 1: An Introduction to Heart Failure – Epidemiology (it affects all people of all ages; cause of death; and good management improves outcomes).

Lecture 2: Pathogenesis of HF – Introduction to the four typical presentations of heart failure.

Module 2

Lecture 1: Diagnosis of each of the four patient types.

Lecture 2: Treatment of each of the four patient types.

Module 3

Case studies of all four profiles to determine level of GP's understanding.



These meetings will be held in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban and Bloemfontein with the objective to educate more than 200 General Practitioners on the prevention, diagnoses and treatment of Heart Failure.

HeFSSA would like to thank colleagues around the country who will be lecturing at these meetings as well as industry for their financial and logistical support.

General

Our best wishes goes with Dr Eric Klug (Vice-President of HeFSSA) and his congress organising committee for SA Heart Congress 2010. We know that we can expect a high quality and thought-provoking congress.

As always, the HeFSSA website (www.hefssa.org) is regularly updated throughout the year and worth a visit on a regular basis.

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HEFSSA NEWS continued

Industry representation has assured a close liaison facilitated by George Nel and F du Toit. We will like to thank them for their effort and will continue to pursue collaboration on issues of common interest, which include facilitation of educational resources expenditure, advice on applications, guidelines, etc. A special thank you should go to William Stranix who, as industry representative on the Exco, has been doing a sterling job the last few years. We remain very grateful to the industry for the financial and strategic support received and would like to thank the following corporate member companies: Medtronic, Pharma Dynamics, Servier, Phillips and AstraZeneca.

‘ We aim to continue to develop our areas of influence. ’

We believe the survival of a strong special interest group in heart failure is in the best interest of all stakeholders (physicians, industry vendors, health funders, hospital groups, and government) and especially patients. For this reason, we appeal to all to get involved in HeFSSA and contribute towards achieving our objectives. Please attend the HeFSSA AGM during the SA Heart Congress and help shape the future.

We aim to continue to develop our areas of influence and offer a helpline through our Executive Officer George Nel, whereby any party can access us with enquiries, requests for assistance, lobbying etc. His direct line is 083 458 5954 or info@hefssa.org. These requests will be dealt with in a professional and efficient manner to provide a vital service to all.

Prof Karen Sliwa
President HeFSSA

SASCI NEWS

It is my privilege to report on SASCI's activity over the past 6 months leading up to the SA Heart Association congress.

SASCI's role as a representative body of cardiologists, both full time and private in South Africa 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.

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 2010)
Executive Officer	George Nel (assisted by Franciska du Toit)

The following major activities/programmes took place since the previous report

Discussions with funders and hospital networks are ongoing with specific focus on all new technologies and procedures to enable funding for these procedures.

Relationship with medical funders

The formal Advisory Board with Discovery Health to discuss numerous aspects of patient care and procedure funding has continued in 2010. We have met on a regular basis during the year to discuss amongst others new products such as Trans Arterial Aortic Valve

SASCI NEWS continued

replacement; the introduction of a drug eluting balloon into the South African market and the use of the MERCI device for the treatment of acute stroke. We have also been involved with pricing of different types of stents and other interventional devices. We remain frustrated in these dealings as they seem to distrust the objectivity of our opinion and the process is drawn out and time consuming but we continue to persist anyway.

TAVI programme

During October 2009 the first trans-femoral and trans-apical replacements were performed under Proctor guidance in South Africa. SASCI was very involved in coordinating the Proctor programme and ensuring its smooth running. The South African cardiologists and cardiac surgeons involved were chosen by the European Proctors and the European Company and not by SASCI. To date nearly 40 cases have been performed country wide with results equalling those from the best units in Europe. Many patients are still being denied this important new technology because of funding but we continue to try and address this issue. We are part of the SOURCE registry of Europe with Farrel Hellig and Martin Sussman being our cardiology and surgical representatives. I know other centres are frustrated at being excluded but initially limiting the number of centres was one of the prerequisites for our country's inclusion. Doctors from other centres are welcome to refer their cases to one of the three current centres and come and learn there.

Mechanical clot extraction during acute stroke (Merci device)

Discovery Health will fund the Merci procedure if a formal Stroke Unit is available at the hospital but will only reimburse an interventional cardiologist for the procedure if no interventional radiologist is on site. SASCI members need to contact Mark Abelson (SASCI member at Vergelegen Hospital) to discuss getting involved in this procedure.

Mark is our most experienced operator with this device/procedure. A SASCI guidance document is available to members and funders.

Cath Lab Registry

We continue to work together with the Executive of SA Heart in bringing the SHARE cath lab registry to all cath labs in South Africa. Dr Cobus Badenhorst is our representative on the committee and hopefully 2010 will see the introduction of the registry in most South African labs. There are many problems ahead and everyone are frustrated by the slow rollout and recent financial issues.

Society for Cardiac Angiography and Intervention (SCAI)

Four South African registrars had the privilege to attend the annual fellows programme in Las Vegas from 7 to 11 December 2009. Dr's Farouk Mamdoo, Rahim Khan, Agostinho de Silva and Lou Hofmeyr made the most of the chance and gained knowledge and experience along with 250 other delegates from 21 countries. The 4-day course was presented by leaders in the field and comprised an up-to-date overview of the entire syllabus of interventional cardiology. According to the SA delegates a fascinating selection of cases was shown and the simulator sessions were exceptionally life-like. Apart from the extensive review of current best therapy in the field of complex PCI and related issues, the eye catching topics discussed were post-CABG angina treatment, percutaneous mitral valve repair, intravascular ultrasound & FFR, and percutaneous valve replacement. This training opportunity was a unique chance to learn from the best in the field.

SCAI fellows programme December 2010

Four South African fellows and one young Mauritian cardiologist will be sponsored to attend this year's meeting. The attendance is made possible through support from

SASCI NEWS continued

SCAI and Boston Scientific South Africa. Recipients for 2010 will be announced during the SASCI AGM 2010.

The 6th Annual SASCI fellows workshop

The workshop was hosted by Dr A Horak at Vincent Pallotti Hospital on 6th March 2010. SASCI executive members who made valuable contributions were Drs Graham Cassel, Tom Mabin, Clive Corbett and Farrel Hellig. 21 Cardiology fellows from across South Africa attended as well as 3 young cardiologists from Mauritius. The emphasis of the SASCI Day was to demonstrate advanced angioplasty techniques through live cases with moderators. All in all six patients underwent PCI with lesions of varying complexity. Total occlusions, bifurcations, calcified lesions and a mainstem lesion were demonstrated. In all cases the emphasis was on the appropriate use of various techniques. Stress was laid on the importance of decision making in angioplasty, as well as the appropriate techniques and choice of equipment during a procedure. Between live cases the panel of experts gave various short lectures including Primary PCI in Acute Myocardial Infarction, FFR and its uses. SASCI would like to thank all the staff from LIFE Vincent Pallotti Hospital for their dedication and hands-on contribution to making this fellow workshop a huge success as well as financial support received from our corporate supporters.

SASCI used the fellows workshop to also announce the recipient of the 2010 Boston Scientific RC Fraser International Fellowship Award in Interventional Cardiology. This award will allow the recipient Dr Neil Hendricks from University of Cape Town to travel to the UK for a period of 4 weeks to work with Prof Martyn Thomas from St Thomas Hospital.

This highly popular EuroPCR cardiovascular interventional meeting moved back from Barcelona to Paris this year. Attended by over 13 000 delegates, the importance of this

meeting amongst cardiologists and the industry was reaffirmed once again. As always the organisation was remarkable, the programme extensive and the faculty world class.

SASCI has been integrated into the EuroPCR umbrella and our members have been playing an increasingly active role in the programme. SASCI members who were invited as faculty included Drs Graham Cassel, formally representing SASCI as President, Tom Mabin, Farrel Hellig and Adrian Horak, all acting as chairpersons and/or members of discussion panels, whilst Helmut Weich and Mark Abelson had abstracts accepted. SASCI participated with the German Interventional Society in a combined session on complications, which had a sellout attendance. Our vascular surgical colleagues from South Africa VASSA chairman, Philip Matley and James Tunnicliffe were also first time participants in the programme.

This meeting remains a must on our annual calendar and our active participation as SASCI is just reward for the hard work the Executive has put into getting the South African interventional community a higher international profile. It will hopefully encourage more of our colleagues to submit cases, abstracts and original work to future PCR meetings.

Congratulations to Tom Mabin who has been appointed to the editorial board of EuroPCR's online publication for 2011!

SASCI IVUS/FFR Proctorship Programme

An internationally acclaimed learning programme was hosted by Dr Farrel Hellig under the auspices of SASCI at Netcare Sunninghill Hospital on 3 and 4 June. The Preceptorship on IVUS, VH and FFR was the first programme of its kind to be held outside of Europe and the US. It is envisaged that this will become a centre of learning in the Southern Hemisphere in IVUS and FFR, and be

available to train students from South Africa and anywhere in the world.

Fourteen interventional cardiologists from across South Africa attended the first programme, which include didactic aspects and a number of interactive sessions with live cases: approach that allows doctors to master this important area of medicine. Feedback from delegates was extremely positive after the course. The presenters of the programme (preceptorship) were Dr Farrel Hellig and visiting cardiologist Dr Jacek Legutko of Jagiellonian University and University Hospital, Krakow, Poland, one of the world's foremost experts in IVUS, VH and FFR. The equipment for the preceptorship was supplied by Volcano Therapeutics South Africa.

Notable activities for the remainder of 2010

The South African Heart Association Congress 2010

SASCI has been represented by Farrel Hellig as part of the Congress Organising Committee.

The congress will be held on 8th to 11th August 2010 at Sun City and is organised by the Johannesburg branch of SA Heart Association. The congress is focusing on holistic health care and coincides with a public holiday, Women's Day. It will focus on overall aspects of cardiac care with a strong focus on heart disease in women. Because of the holistic slant, the special interest groups are all represented in a different manner this year. A contribution from each special interest group will be integrated into every session so that SASCI involvement will be evident throughout the congress. The sessions are likely to be very interesting with the opening preliminary session focusing on acute coronary syndromes and thrombus. There will also be "how to" sessions with short talks which will include contributions from SASCI members. A fascinating plenary session on stroke and an interventional cardiology perspective will be included in this session. A soapbox ses-

sion where the speaker has to briefly justify a one-sided approach to an argument should attract a lot of attention.

Our invited speaker Professor Bernhard Meier (MD, FACC, FESC) is Head of the Cardiology Department, Swiss Cardiovascular Centre, Bern University Hospital, Switzerland. He has been involved in interventional cardiology since its inception and was actually present at the first angioplasty procedure performed by Andreas Gruentzig in 1977. He has a keen interest in atrial septal defects and PFO closure and always offers an interesting perspective in this regard. He will contribute to the soapbox sessions, "How do I do it", basic science and other plenary sessions.

‘ A contribution from each special interest group will be integrated into every session. ’

The SASCI AGM will be on Monday, 9 August (during the lunch break, venue TBC). We encourage members to attend and contribute to SASCI through identifying focus areas for 2011 and beyond. The AGM will also see the ratification of the new Corporate Members Exco representatives for period 2011-2012.

We are extremely excited at the prospect of hosting our first ever visiting professor. This programme promises to be a valuable addition to SASCI's long standing commitment to enhancing cardiology sub-specialty training in

SASCI NEWS continued

South Africa. Professor Jean-Pierre Bassand from France will visit the country in September and October 2010, spending a month at the University of Cape Town [Groote Schuur Hospital] and the University of Witwatersrand [Baragwanath Hospital]. During the two month period he will be involved in formal and informal undergraduate and post graduate training and immerse himself in the daily clinical grind of these hospitals. He will also be conducting lectures for the benefit of the cardiology community at large. We look forward to welcoming him and trust that the experience will be the beginning of a long standing mutually beneficial relationship between South African training institutions and several foreign counterparts. This is a SASCI venture sponsored with an unconditional educational grant from Medtronic South Africa.

Free access to
the online
medical library.

MELiSA

SASCI members will gain free access to the online Medical Library of South Africa. MELiSA offers Medical Professionals the opportunity to keep up-to-date with medical literature through 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 allows access to Pubmed, the Cochrane abstracts, MD Consult and First Consult.

SASCI believes this sponsorship from Pharma Dynamics will promote research and education of 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 negate the need for individual journal subscriptions by members and the society.

As a SASCI member you simply need to do the following to access MELiSA:

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

Interventional Society for Allied Professionals (ISAP)

The formation of ISAP will herald a new era in interventional cardiology for allied professionals. It was felt that although the SASCI constitution allows for Allied Professionals to become associate members of SASCI that this group consisting of interventional nursing staff, technologists and radiographers 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 at a meeting held in Johannesburg on 2 July 2010. ISAP could approach SASCI at our AGM to

become an Affiliate member group of SASCI, all ISAP members will need to be both SA Heart Association and SASCI members.

George Nel (SASCI Executive Officer) has been tasked with assisting the ISAP interim committee in establishing a functional and viable society. I would like to thank the Cross Roads Institute for the use of their facility and initial facilitation of the process.

SASCI in collaboration with the France-Reunion Cardiology Group, and the South African Cardiac Surgery Group, will continue with the 6th Indian Ocean Meeting to be held in Cape Town in November 2011. Tom Mabin will continue his excellent work on behalf of SASCI as part of the congress organising committee. Tom is currently working towards establishing long term collaboration with EuroPCR or Mayo Clinic to support IOM in the future.

I would like to thank our industry partners for their continued and unwavering support of SASCI and the society's constitutional objectives. Without this close and professional relationship very few of SASCI's objectives will be achieved. A special thank you should go to Rob Millar who, as industry representative on the Exco, did a sterling job the last 2 years.

Please contact your Executive Officer George Nel, at 083 458 5954 or sasci@sasci.co.za if you need any assistance or want to formally communicate with the executive.

Dr Graham Cassel
President, SASCI



SASCI
South African
Society of
Cardiovascular
Intervention

PACE NEWS

PACE (Prevent Arrhythmic Cardiac Events) has had a very exciting and busy 2010 thus far. Several activities were initiated and partnered with key health industry players to meet all four it's mission statement goals, namely: education of both medical professionals as well as lay public; awareness of arrhythmia; support of patients and families affected by arrhythmia; and prevention of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

Awareness and education

Soccer spectators pick up the 'pace' at Soccer City

Johannesburg 22 May 2010 – Soccer legend, Lucas Radebe, led thousands of fans in a world record attempt to have the most people take their pulse at the same time. This feat, attempted during halftime at the Nedbank Cup Final at Soccer City, was in aid of the global 'Know Your Pulse'-campaign as part of World Heart Rhythm Week held from 7-13 June 2010. The initiative aims to raise awareness about heart arrhythmias and sudden cardiac arrest or death (SCA). These conditions can occur in apparently healthy, young and fit people and is often caused by an arrhythmic (out of rhythm) heartbeat of which the person is unaware.

Lucas, in partnership with PACE, took a moment to remember Mark Vivien Foe, a Cameroonian football player who died of SCA during a match. He then highlighted that arrhythmic conditions can afflict even the greatest and bravest of heroes: "One day I was at the gym and suddenly collapsed. It turned out I had a heart condition. I now have a pacemaker and can live a normal life. Being aware of your pulse is important because it may indicate an abnormal heart rhythm."

This awareness activity, which reached at least 70 000 people, was enabled through an educational grant from the Medtronic Foundation US.

Over and above the Soccer City awareness event, PACE partnered with Dischem from June to September distributing 20 000 brochures to educate the public on arrhythmia and its signs and symptoms in Dischem Pharmacies and over 1 000 practices around the country.

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PACE NEWS continued

Another PACE partner Netcare 911 sponsored the production of a DVD on arrhythmia: the signs, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment options. The DVD will be shown at high schools around the country as part of the Life Skills syllabus.

South African Airways has also come to the party to assist in educating teachers and other members of the public on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) usage. In its undertaking the SAA aims to train 200 people in association with PACE for the next four years.

living with a pacemaker”, and “Diet and Exercise – what can and can’t I do?”.

Visit the PACE website at www.paceafrica.org for more information on support group meetings.

Arrhythmic Right Ventricular Dysplasia (ARVD) research

The Groote Schuur Hospital ARVD Registry, where affected individuals can submit their data for analysis, plays a crucial role in ARVD management in SA. This is in step with Inter-

‘ PACE will be launching the first-ever research on the incidence of arrhythmia. ’

Prevention and research

SAA has kindly donated 10 Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) that PACE will be handing out to targeted high schools around the country. Teachers at these schools will also be trained and equipped on the correct use of these machines.

PACE will be launching the first-ever research on the incidence of arrhythmia in the African population by screening children from schools in the Arrhythmia Awareness project for possible conditions that can cause arrhythmia. The project is done in collaboration with the FIFA Centre of Medical Excellence at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Patient support

PACE has fully operational patient support groups in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Pretoria, East London, Bloemfontein and Port Elizabeth. Patients and family members affected by arrhythmia get together every three months to share experiences and listen to an expert in this field. Topics include “Living with an ICD”: “The psychological impact of

national activities and other events like Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, which recently held its 11th Annual ARVD Patient Meeting. Prof Hugh Calkins and Prof Gaetano Thiene, from the Univ. of Padua, Italy, addressed nearly 200 patients and families on ARVD issues resulting in challenging questions and excellent suggestions from the audience. SA hopes to host a similar event in the near future.

Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) USA

The HRS held its 20th Congress attended by 13 000 delegates in Denver, USA on 12 May 2010. Upon PACE's suggestion for International Advocacy Organisation participation, HRS introduced a session on Heart Rhythm Advocacy and Support Organisations which included PACE, SADS Canada, the US Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association, Parent Heart Watch, the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association (HCM), SADS America and others. The topic was “Supporting the Patient: A Global Perspective” and much was learnt. The Heart Rhythm Society has appointed a task force to determine future developments.

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 local meetings a maximum of R7 500.**

CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (CASSA)

CASSA has, as always, had a busy year, especially in the field of training and education.

ECG and arrhythmia workshop

The successful and, by now almost famous, CASSA ECG and arrhythmia workshop hosted by Prof A Okreglicki and D Milne was held in George and well attended by especially allied professionals from private and public hospitals around the Cape South Coast. The digi-vote system was used during the Q and A part of the lecture and each and every audience member had the opportunity to actively participate - an informative and fun event indeed.

Similar ECG workshops will be held in Kimberley and Johannesburg towards the latter part of the year. Details will be provided on the CASSA website.

The many faces of AF national symposium

The CASSA National Symposium will be held on 16, 21 and 23 October in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg respectively. The theme is "The Many Faces of AF" and, apart from local experts, two renowned international opinion leaders in the field of arrhythmia and ablation have been invited, namely Proff J Brachman and Neil Sulke. Programme topics include stroke prevention and situation-specific AF (atrial fibrillation) in athletes, the elderly and post-operatively. Cutting edge technology such as catheter ablation will also be discussed. The full-day symposium will conclude with a panel examining and discussing difficult cases.

This event promises to be the flagship event on CASSA's 2010 calendar. Ensure you attend one of the three meetings!

Medical advisors' group conference

Apart from training and education, CASSA actively shapes the health market and is the only Medical Society with a slot on the annual Medical Advisors Group Conference's agenda for the past two years.



The MAG conference will be held at the Mount Grace Hotel and Spa in the Magaliesberg with Prof Martin Cowie (Brompton, London) as the key note speaker during the CASSA session on 4-5 August. Prof Cowie will address issues and controversies around funding guidelines for device therapy and brief advisors from most of the medical aids on the recently launched concept of "remote monitoring". Ablation therapy and the pharmaco-economic data that supports this treatment will also be addressed.

Funder forum

CASSA EXCO members Drs Andrew Thornton and Pro Obel will participate in a 2-day funder forum where they will lecture South African medical aid decision makers on device therapy. Their presentations will be based on real cases which will allow funders to ask questions on recurring issues.

EP workshop for registrars and clinical technologists

A weekend training workshop on Electrophysiology is being planned in association with Johnson and Johnson and the CASSA website www.cassa.co.za will keep you updated on developments and meetings in your area.

Join CASSA and become part of a well-respected, growing professional body that impacts the market in which they play.

Contact Franciska du Toit at 082 806 1599 for information on CASSA and its events.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

The research scholarship is available to all full and associate members of SA Heart living in South Africa. It is primarily intended to assist colleagues involved in much-needed research to enhance their research programmes.

REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Applicants need to be fully paid-up members/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; and
- ▶ Applicants younger than 35 years of age.

ADDRESS APPLICATIONS TO:

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

THE SELECTION PANEL WILL REVIEW APPLICATIONS ANNUALLY AND THE CLOSING DATE IS SEPTEMBER 30.

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

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED ACCORDING TO THE ACCOMPANYING RESEARCH PROTOCOL WHICH SHOULD INCLUDING:

- ▶ An abstract (maximum 200 words);
- ▶ A brief review of the literature (maximum 200 words);
- ▶ A brief description of the hypothesis to be investigated (maximum 100 words);
- ▶ A detailed methodology (maximum 500 words); and
- ▶ References.



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 - Vice-President PASCAR (East)
- Prof Bongani Mayosi - Vice-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 or

Email: sonja@londocor.co.za

