



President's Annual Report AGM 20th July 2012

Dear colleagues

Close to two years have passed since the appointment of the present executive committee and it has been a privilege and honour to preside over it. My sincerest appreciation to my fellow committee members Steve Brown (Treasurer), Liesl Zuhlke (Secretary), John Hewitson, Christopher Hugo-Hamman, Jeff Harrisberg and Paul Adams who have volunteered their time and effort to make the organisation an active and vibrant one.

Condolences

We are all saddened by the sudden death of Prof Andrej Okreglicki (AO), electrophysiologist and president of CASSA. He will be remembered as a talented clinician with a gentle personality, always enthusiastic about his profession and ever willing to look at another ECG. Although based at Groote Schuur, he was a regular visitor to Durban and was instrumental in setting up the electrophysiology programme there. Our condolences to his family. He will be missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

SAHA Congress 2012

Our thanks to Lindy Mitchell for taking on with no hesitation the task of organising the paediatric programme for this congress. She and her team are congratulated on putting together an excellent programme with world class faculty.

6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, Cape Town 17-22nd February 2013

With the 6th World Congress fast approaching, we see the culmination of years of hard work coming together to produce the largest event to date in cardiac health in South Africa. Those who have not already registered are urged to do so as soon as possible to take advantage of the significant discounts still available.

Walter Sisulu Annual Symposium

The 5th Annual Symposium of the Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa was held on the 30th to 31st of March at the Netcare Auditorium in Sandton. The guest list included prominent surgeons David Barron, Tom Spray and John Brown. With Rob Kinsley in the chair, this was once again an event with stimulating discussion in an informal setting. Due to the world congress, there will be no Walter Sisulu symposium in 2013.

Website

We are very proud to announce that our web based information system for parents and practitioners is finally up and running. The practitioner section will require login and is available as a benefit of membership of the PCSSA. We plan to further enhance this offering by adding information in local

languages as well as information on Rheumatic Fever. Paul Adams and Liesl Zuhlke will update you on this further.

Education

An education subcommittee of the PCSSA was formed and met on the 30th March 2012 in Sandton under the chairmanship of Steve Brown. The committee consists of departmental heads and the PCSSA executive committee. The role of the committee is to review on a regular basis the syllabus, training requirements, examination content and format for paediatric cardiology as well as to deal with other educational matters. Meetings will be held at least once every two years for this purpose.

EuroPCR and AfricaPCR

PCR is a European organisation focused on education in adult interventional cardiology. There are negotiations to develop an AfricaPCR based on these principles with a vision to include other aspects of cardiology including congenital heart disease. At present, a number of meetings have been held primarily to discuss the content of “Africa PCR”. The PCSSA has been a part of the process with the aim of having content relevant to our membership included in this programme.

Advocacy

Patient advocacy remains an important focus of our society. Two important issues we have flagged for our attention are recommendations for the management of congenital heart disease into adulthood and the appropriate referral of children with cardiac disease within the public sector.

Conclusion

Your continued support and participation is required to keep the PCSSA an active and vibrant organisation. My congratulations to the newly elected president and executive committee who will continue to be advocates for us as well as our patients.

Ebrahim Hoosen