



**President's Annual Report AGM 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2013**

Dear colleagues

It is just over a year 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), Paul Adams (vice-president), Lindy Mitchell (Secretary), Ebrahim Hoosen, Christopher Hugo-Hamman and Jeff Harrisberg for their support, help and efforts to make an active and vibrant one.

The past year has been one of the busiest and most significant years for our society as we firmly established ourselves within international paediatric cardiology as hosts of the 6<sup>th</sup> world congress. The 6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, Cape Town 17-22nd February 2013 was not without its challenges and difficult moments but culminated in the largest event to date in cardiac health in South Africa and even more important, Africa. The congress was a tremendous success and huge thanks, congratulations and a massive vote of appreciation must go to CHH and his amazing (albeit very small) team for the excellent academic and social programme with world-class faculty. CHH will present a short synopsis of the congress but you can also read about it in CVJA and on wordpress. Please remember that the talks and posters will remain on the website for reviewing and teaching purposes for a full calendar year. This is a brilliant resource and we encourage all to take full advantage of it. In addition the live cases will be edited and eventually released to all teaching units, again fulfilling the academic legacy of the congress. I would like to personally thank CHH for his amazing vision during this entire process, his leadership and unwavering commitment to the congress- it would not have been possible without him. As a society we are deeply indebted to him. Those of us who worked alongside him have gained an even larger respect for his work ethic, commitment, integrity and selfless dedication to children with heart disease. I would also like to thank John Lawrenson and John Hewitson the scientific chairs, for the incredible amount of work that went into the full and varied programme and all the rest of the LOC for their input and equally hard work in different areas. A particular thanks to all the members of our society who helped during the week but also in the years leading up to the congress, in terms of covering LOC's in order for them to be involved in the congress, suggestions and introductions to speakers and marketing the congress. It was a team effort and the PCSSA can be proud of what we achieved.

**Website**

Our website is the mouthpiece of our society and the practitioner and the web based information system for parents and practitioners has been up and running for just over a year now. The practitioner section will require login and is available as a benefit of membership of the PCSSA. We are now turning our attention to active marketing of this resource as well as to the website in general. We are determined to make this resource available to every general paediatrician in the country and market the resource to patients and families affected by congenital and acquired heart disease. To this end, we are redeveloping the website entirely to make it more user – friendly, accessible and easy to navigate. We are incorporating social media networks into the website and will continue to try to be relevant, accessible and accountable to both members and the cardiac public. We are in the process of translating the information into local languages and

adding additional information on Rheumatic Fever. We are also including functionality to allow for access for future live cases or seminars via the website. We hope to offer this as an option for both our members and for members in our affiliated PASCAR sites. This could be both as a training and collaborative opportunity- ward rounds/fellow training/cases. The website is currently under construction and we hope to have beta edition ready before the end of the year.

### **Interventional workshop**

Under the auspices of the PCSSA, Red Cross Department of Paediatric Cardiology hosted Dr Oliver Stumper, renowned paediatric cardiac interventionist from Birmingham Children's Hospital, UK. During his visit, we have supported an interventional workshop, hosted by the Red Cross Children's Hospital Cardiology department, with free registration. The workshop has included live transmission and interactive case demonstrations, trans esophageal echocardiography, and short case presentations and talks from attendees during non-transmission times. This represents the first symposium workshop supported by the PCSSA since the WC and we would like to extend this concept to future workshops in the following years and use these as training opportunities. We would like to thank the RXH team for the opportunity to work together to host this workshop and incorporate our AGM and we would like to welcome Dr Stumper, congratulate most sincerely the team involved in all the preparation, with particular thanks to RDD who has done a tremendous amount of work in a very short period of time.

### **Interaction with the Department of Health**

A major goal of hosting the World Congress was to draw attention within this country of the plight of children with heart disease within the national government. One positive outcome from the world congress was a meeting held with the DG of child, school and adolescent health with members of our society from each of the training institutions and provinces. We were able to present an updated situational analysis including training posts etc and discuss the future of paediatric cardiac services in SA. We had a frank discussion, were invited to submit a list of important needs including filling each open training post, making the provinces such as Limpopo without any cardiac services a national priority. Interestingly since then, we have had several initiations to important national health events, and a Clinical Head of Paed Card has been now advertised within Limpopo. We certainly cannot take any credit for this but are exceedingly pleased to learn of this new development and look forward to working with the new heads of the department in that province. We have contacted the team again to plan for a follow-up meeting in 2014 to continue the conversation, this time in particular looking at training posts and adjuvant training methods.

### **Travel fellowships**

A new fellowship was established this year allowing for 2 fellows to attend the fellow interventional course in Nevada in December. This was worth R20 000 rand and was co-sponsored by the course itself covering registration and accommodation with the additional funds for travel expenses. The recipients this year were Himal Dama and Barend Fourie and we congratulate them and wish them an exciting course. We would like this to be an annual event and thus ask all fellows to look out for the adverts etc.

We are also keen to extend this sponsorship to the rest of our society and are planning to have a travel/workshop scholarship next year open to all- fellows and consultants. This will be particular to attend a workshop or course rather than congress. Watch this space.

**Research grants**

It has also been in the mission of the PCSSA to support research and thus we would like to establish a small research grant to provide seed funding to research from within our society. This will also include a mentorship role from someone within the society and project help and advice. Again watch this space.

The next SAHA congress will be held in October 2014 in Durban organized by the Durban branch under the leadership of Prof S Khan. Ebrahim Hossen is on the committee and is ably representing us. If there are any suggestions for speakers etc, please let him know.

**SAPA congress.**

The South African Paediatric Association congress is going to be held in September 2014 at CTICC and we have been asked to be part of this meeting. We plan to hold a practical workshop, give a plenary talk and a session on paed card events. We would like all to support this chance to teach general paediatricians and may call on members closer to the time for practical help.

**Collaborations:**

We are an affiliate member of PASCAR and we are considering methods in which to closer collaborate/interact with our colleagues in Africa. We have also joined the CHIP network: The CHIP Network, the Congenital Heart Professionals Network, is designed to provide a single global list of all CHD-interested professionals in order to Connect pediatric and adult CHD-interested professionals to events, conferences, research opportunities and employment, Increase education and provider awareness of new developments in the field, Bring the pediatric and adult congenital heart communities into closer contact and Offer a communication tool for critical issues.

**Social media:**

A reminder that we are on twitter@ kidsheartSA , on Facebook and we are currently linking these feeds to our website. All of this is to contribute to the information around children with heart disease here and on the whole continent and to provide information and spread information that we may have.

**Conclusion**

It is our goal in the final part of this executive's team to really build the brand of the PCSSA, continue the momentum from the WC and make the society more relevant to our members but also to the community we represent. We want to include alumni and other interested groups onto our mailing list and include as many of our colleagues onto our official membership. Please already consider whether you would like to become more involved in the society in the future- we would like to see a fellow representative on the committee in the future for example. Your continued support and participation is required to keep the PCSSA an active and vibrant organisation. We hope to see you all to our dinner this evening to enjoy each others company and maintain and build links between all members and potential members of our society.

Thanking you again for your support, as we build our society and serve our community.

**Liesl Zuhlke**