

# Annual Report 2011

## President's Report: Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa Annual General Meeting, East London, and 24 October 2011

Dear colleagues

On behalf of the executive committee of the PCSSA we welcome you to the annual AGM and thank you for your attendance. I would like to convey my thanks to fellow committee members for their support and efforts during the year. They are:

Treasurer and Vice president: Stephen Brown  
Secretary: Liesl Zühlke  
Private Practice: Jeff Harrisberg  
2013 World Congress: Christopher Hugo Hamman  
Ex officio: John Hewitson  
Without portfolio: Paul Adams

### 6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery

Preparations for the 6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery to be held in Cape Town between the 18th and 22nd February 2013 continue at a frenetic pace under the leadership of Christopher Hugo-Hamman. The other members of the organising committee include Stephen Brown, John Lawrenson, Susan Vosloo, John Hewitson, Liesl Zühlke, Jeff Harrisberg and Andre Brooks. This promises to be a landmark congress that will set the trend for future world congresses.

### Annual Congresses

The PCSSA annual scientific meeting held as usual in conjunction with the annual SAHA congress was convened in 2010 by Antoinette Cilliers assisted by Deliwe Ngwezi. The guest speakers were Gil Wernovsky, paediatric cardiac intensivist, Benjamin Eidem, paediatric cardiologist echocardiographer and Steve Westaby, paediatric cardiac surgeon. Our thanks to the convenor/s for an excellent programme.

The 2011 meeting is convened by Paul Adams, assisted by Krubin Naidoo and Lindy Mitchell. The invited international speakers are - Dr Ivan Rebeyka, Chief of Paediatric cardiovascular surgery, Dr Ian Adatia, Director of Paediatric Cardiovascular ICU, both from, Stollery Children's Hospital, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta and James L Wilkinson, Senior Cardiologist, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. Our thanks once again to the convenors for their hard work.

The 2012 meeting, hosted by the Pretoria Branch of SAHA, will be held in Sun City. Our thanks once again to Lindy Mitchell who has taken charge of our scientific meeting.

### Annual Symposium of the Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa

The Annual Symposium of the Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa (WSPCCA), hosted by Rob Kinsley, is another important event on the paediatric cardiac calendar

The 4th Annual Symposium was held on the 23rd and 24th of March 2011. Invited guests included Peter Laussen, an intensivist from Boston, Chuck Fraser and Ed Bove, renowned surgeons from Texas Heart Hospital and Ann Arbor Michigan respectively.

The 5th annual symposium of the WSPCCA will be held on Fri 30th - Sat 31st March 2012 at the Netcare Auditorium, Maude Street, Sandton. Guests include: Tom Spray - Children's Hospital, Philadelphia, and John Brown - Indiana Medical School, Indianapolis. David Barron - Consultant cardiac surgeon, Birmingham and Andrew Argent - Medical Director PICU, Red Cross Hospital.

### Private Practice

Jeff Harrisberg has led the ongoing process to update coding for paediatric cardiac procedures as well as the expansion of the PMB list to include relevant paediatric cardiac conditions. Our appreciation to him and others involved in these important and time consuming processes.

### **Other events**

Dr Joseph De Giovanni, world renowned interventional cardiologist based at Birmingham Children's Hospital in the UK was the guest at a 3 day interventional workshop hosted by the PCSSA and the Paediatric Cardiology Unit at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in November 2010 Paediatric cardiologists from throughout the country attended the workshop, the main focus of which was percutaneous closure of Ventricular Septal Defects. The generous sponsorships of AGA, Paragmed and UK based NGO Midlands International Aid Trust were central to making this event the success it was. A follow up visit is planned for early 2012.

### **PCSSA and SAHA**

A number of important initiatives of the parent body have occurred in the last year that potentially affects us as a Special Interest group of SAHA. The first is a decision that meetings and events of the parent body and SIGS should be centralised and that any fundraising events should be handled via the parent body and a 10% "handling fee" charged. The second is that our website is now hosted under the SA Heart domain, although the content and control of content remain with us. A third is the proposal of online journal access to SAHA members for a suggested annual fee of R1000. The fourth is an invitation from the American Heart Association to "assist in the development of invited sessions on various disease states as they pertain to our region". The letter from Dr Dalby regarding this would have been circulated to all members. Your comments and inputs on these will be appreciated.

### **Advocacy**

Advocacy for children with heart disease remains a priority. To this end an editorial on Paediatric Cardiac Services in South Africa was published in the SAMJ in the February 2011 issue following on previous publications. Further submissions were also made to the department of health during the year; these include submissions regarding the Department of Health Essential Equipment List and Tertiary Services Definitions. We remain committed to continued and consistent presentation of the service needs of our patients to government, and there appears to be slow but steady progress in this regard.

Current projects include submission of a statement on national and regional referral patterns for paediatric cardiac services spurred by a letter from Chris Sutton working in Limpopo outlining his difficulties in getting patients referred to appropriate centres.

Paul Adams together with Liesl Zuhlke has taken on the project of designing the patient information section to our website. Our aim is to have a resource that patients can access in local languages with a printable version that our members could use in their practices. This is a project that has been in "hibernation" for a number of years and we hope to see it reach fruition soon. Members who are interested in being part of this are encouraged to contact us.

### **Conclusion**

I take this opportunity to encourage all members to actively participate in the society. The society is our vehicle for us to promote our interests and those of our patients. Your support, comments, constructive criticism and input are what will make us a vibrant and relevant community.

Ebrahim Hoosen