



## **NEWSLETTER Autumn 2104**

The Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa's main objectives are to improve the quality of care for children with congenital and acquired heart disease by promoting research and supporting education and training of heart specialists. The PCSSA is also the primary advocacy group for children with heart disease in South Africa. Membership is open and we actively encourage participation from colleagues in Africa as well as interaction with special interest groups.

### Educational highlights Summer, Autumn

Dr Oliver Stümper, the renowned interventional cardiologist from Birmingham Children's Hospital, UK, visited Red Cross Hospital in October in October 2013. Red Cross Hospital hosted an informal interventional cardiac catheterization symposium under the auspices of the PCSSA. The meeting was attended by over 50 delegates and was informative highlighting stenting procedures and device usage. Hopefully Dr Stumpfer will be back in the future.

In March dr. Matthias Freund, paediatric cardiologist at the University Medical Centre Utrecht, visited Cape Town. A practical workshop on fetal echocardiography was held and enjoyed by all attendees. Dr Freund is keen to return to South Africa and we hope to make this masterclass a larger event , involving a broad range of interests.

### Congress 2014

We look forward to the 15th Annual Congress of the South African Heart Association will take place from 16 – 19 October 2014 in the ICC in Durban. Dr Tom Mabin is chairing the SA Heart Congress Organizing Committee and Dr Sajidah Khan is heading the Scientific Programme Committee – the KZN branch is responsible for the scientific content of the 2014 congress and has invited all special interest groups to participate. Bridging the divide will be an exciting congress. Dr Ebrahim Hoosen is planning the Paediatric sessions and these will be extremely exciting and diverse. We have two wonderful international speakers as faculty: Dr Krishna Kumar, from Cochin India- one of the most humble yet inspirational and talented physicians I have personally ever encountered. He is a Boston childrens' Hospital Fellow( trained under Jane Newburger and with Atul Gawande) and returned to India after his fellowship.

He set up his own cardiac programme that has grown and flourished in Cochinnow with a full-fledged comprehensive programme including Norwoods, interventional programme and a GUCH unit. The surgical programme will include several lectures by focusing the complexities of the REV operation, amongst others. Our surgical speaker is professor Olivier Raisky from the Necker in Paris who has published widely on coronary abnormalities, conotruncal repairs and congenitally corrected transposition. He is extremely well respected as a gifted surgeon and a talented lecturer- not to be missed!.

The plenary programme also is looking very interesting. Please register soon to get the early bird rates- we will also be offering a prize for the best abstract by a fellow – abstract submissions are open!

website [www.pcssa.org](http://www.pcssa.org)

Our new website was launched on 1 February 2014 and we have endeavored to truly provide an up-to-date resource for both members and their patients to utilise and to ultimately provide a resource in local languages as well. Members are invited to assist particularly in editing information and /or translation. An important element is the incorporation of our patient information portal and the Pedheart resources as well as links to related websites and resources. These have included recent podcasts of interviews, recent publications and e-resources for all members. Our next plan is to create links to a pediatric cardiology seminar series and journal club for use by registrars or PASCAR cardiology trainees. Reminder to all: the Pedheart Resource - the most comprehensive congenital heart disease educational website. It has detailed defect and treatment descriptions, in-depth tutorials, a searchable image library, collections of patients' hand-outs and over 1200 PowerPoint slides in several different languages. (<http://www.heartpassport.com/>) In addition, PCSSA now has a site providing information on congenital heart disease for parents (<http://www.africa.congenital.org/>), providing information on congenital heart disease for medical practitioners.

Links to both these sites can be found on the home page of the PCSSA ([www.pccsa.org](http://www.pccsa.org)) Access to the parent information site is available to everyone. Access to the medical practitioner site is limited to paid-up members of the PCSSA.

#### Fellowships

#### THE PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SOCIETY TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP

This travel fellowship afforded two recipients the opportunity to attend the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions Foundations “ 2013 Interventional Cardiology Fall Fellows Course” to be held in Las Vegas,

Nevada from 8-<sup>o</sup>11 December 2013. This course is the premier fellows-only interventional course in North America . This year the paediatric faculty includes John Cheatham and Ziyad Hijazi. The recipients of the first PCSSA travel scholarship was Dr Himel Dama from Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital in KZN and Dr Barend Fourie from Chris Hani Baragwanath Johannesburg. Read about their experience on our website. There are also several other opportunities for fellowships on the website. This will become a yearly sponsored event although the travel fellowship will also be offered to allow members of the PCSSA to attend courses, train with international or local colleagues and visit units for specific techniques or exposures.

Our society remains one of the few advocates for children with heart disease in our country. To all the regular members of the PCSSA, we encourage you to be active in our society; we look forward to receiving your suggestions and new ideas. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and wish you all the best for the remainder of the year.

New executive 2014-2016

Please note that the executive committee will come to the end of its term in September 2014 and there will be space for any interested and committed people on the executive committee. You can serve for a 2 year term 2014-2016 -this promises to be an exciting term with a new congress to prepare for, and new plans for our committee and society. Nominations will open soon and the executive committee will be announced at the AGM. Please let us know if you are willing to serve. Executive members must be paid-up members of the PCSSA.

**PCSSA membership**

We would like to increase our membership of cardiologists, surgeons and any practitioner interested in cardiovascular disease, congenital and acquired, in children. We urge you to contact us if you need any information and access our website for membership details.  
[www.pcssa.org](http://www.pcssa.org)

Contact details:

President: Liesl Zühlke [liesl.zuhlke@uct.ac.za](mailto:liesl.zuhlke@uct.ac.za)

Secretary: Belinda Mitchell [lindy.mitchell@up.ac.za](mailto:lindy.mitchell@up.ac.za)

Kind regards

Liesl Zühlke