

## SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR INTERVENTION

**T**he South African Society of Cardiovascular Intervention (SASCI) has been very active in the first half of 2014.

### Memorandum of Understanding

SASCI has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Discovery Health which will see them visiting your practice with a proposal for voluntarily participation in a global fee arrangement for suspected IHD patients.

### Coding

Coding however remains a major challenge requiring extensive time. Even with inclusion in SAMA, DBM individual funders (administrators) still need to decide to firstly include new codes in their coding structure and then decide on the funding level. SASCI is working to make claiming a less cumbersome and complex procedure. JP Theron must be acknowledged for his hard work in putting together a coding handbook for cardiology. The first draft will be available for review by the end of June and will be sent to the Exco for comment. Lenny Steingo, Mark Abelson and David Jankelow have been very involved in the process. This information will eventually be communicated to members and funders and will hopefully lead to a reduced number of queries in future.

### AfricaPCR

In our previous newsletter we reported on the successful AfricaPCR Course 2014. We are currently in the planning stages of the second standalone AfricaPCR Course in 2015. A needs analysis has been prepared and it has been discussed with the AfricaPCR Board.

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### AfricaPCR 2015

The Forum, The Campus, Johannesburg, South Africa  
26 - 28 March, 2015

### Visiting Professor Programme

We also reported on the Visiting Professor Programme 2014 - Prof Tony Gershlick (University of Leicester, UK)

left a legacy that will remain for a long time in the respective departments and with the individuals who interacted with him during his 2 month visit. SASCI has a standing invitation for VPP 2015 with Prof David Holmes (USA) and we hope to finalise the details in the near future. Medtronic must be thanked for their longstanding and continued support of this programme and thanks also goes to Pharma Dynamics who continue to sponsor the Visiting Professor Evening Lecture series.

### Rotablator meeting

Locally SASCI also hosted a very successful Rotablator meeting which was attended by more than 50 cardiologists. On the international stage SASCI was well represented at this year's EuroPCR 2014 congress.

### Annual SASCI Fellows Programme

The 9th Annual SASCI Fellows Programme took place from 6 - 8 June 2014 at the Balalaika Hotel in Johannesburg with Chris Zambakides as programme convenor. Thirty two fellows/registrars and recently qualified cardiologists attended this popular workshop, including delegates from Mauritius and Angola. SASCI plans to develop the programme for 2015 to further increase peer interaction and include even more case based discussions. SASCI wishes to thank Chris Zambakides (convener) and the faculty Farrel Hellig, Dave Kettles, Adriaan Snyders, Anthony Becker, Rafique Essop, Rashid Essop and JP Theron for their extensive contribution to the success of this long standing meeting. The following meeting sponsors are also gratefully acknowledged: Angio Quip, Aspen, AstraZeneca, Baroque, B Braun, Biotronik, Boston, Cardiac Output, Cordis, Medtronic, Paragmed, Pharma Dynamics, Sanofi, Torque Medical and Volcano.

### SA Heart Congress 2014

Having started the year at full pace, we now have to keep up the momentum that we gained as we go into the latter half. True to form, SASCI actively supports the SA Heart Congress 2014 and contributes to the scientific programme. Jean Vorster (SASCI) has been tasked to assist Sajidah Khan (SA Heart congress chairperson) in developing a focussed interventional programme. The international faculty will include a high-powered delegation from the European Society of Cardiology who will be hosting 2

dedicated sessions at SA Heart. These sessions will include “hot messages” and “late-breaking clinical trials” from the 2014 ESC Congress in Barcelona. SASCI members are invited to participate in a joint session with anaesthetists, surgeons and cardiologists called “Let the Team Meet” and to submit unusual or vexing clinical cases/images for the session entitled “Out of Africa - the weird and wonderful”.

### Early Reperfusion STEMI

Lecture material is available and members should contact the SASCI office if they wish to get involved within regional educational initiatives. Adriaan Snyders is the SA Heart project leader and he is assisted by Dave Kettles for SASCI.

“Our corporate supporters have been committed to our society.”

### Post Graduate Cardiology Training programme

The society supports a Post Graduate Cardiology Training programme. The aim is to ensure that individuals receive exposure to high volume interventional units and also get the opportunity to observe and work with different operators, including surgeons, in the private environment. SASCI will establish a Task Group, with an open invitation to all Heads of Departments to participate, to form and drive this addition to interventional cardiology training in South Africa.

### ESC eLearning Platform

Sajidah Khan is the South African national coordinator for the new ESC eLearning Platform. This programme focuses on web based Fellows training and offers training in 6 sub-specialties with the first module being interventional cardiology. The duration of the EAPCI Learning Pro-

gramme is 3 years (in addition to theoretical training there is a very specific interventional case mix requirement for certification). Although we do not have a candidate participating yet, SASCI hopes that the first South African trainee will join this programme in the not too distant future.

### RC Fraser International Fellowship

The call for nominations for the 2014 RC Fraser International Fellowship has been distributed to all roll players and the next recipient, who will be able to spend one month at Dr Martyn Thomas’ unit in the UK, will be announced soon.

### Executive members

We express our sincere appreciation towards the committed Executive members who form the heart of this society: F Hellig (President), G Cassel (Ex-officio President), D Kettles (Vice-President), C Badenhorst (Treasurer), A Horak (Secretary), S Khan, M Ntsekhe, C Zambakides, M Abelson, L Steingo and J Vorster.

### Corporate supporters

The following loyal corporate supporters have been committed to our society and have been supporting education in South Africa: Amayeza, Angio Quip, Aspen, AstraZeneca, Baroque, B Braun, Biotronik, Boston, Cipla, Cordis, Edwards, Logan Medical and Surgical, Medtronic, Paragmed, Pharma Dynamics, Sanofi, Scientific Group, Surgical Innovations, Terumo, Torque Medical, Volcano as well as Cardiac Output, Condor Medical and Disa Vascular. We are looking forward to continuing our collaboration with you.

Please contact SASCI’s Executive Officer, George Nel at 083 458 5954 or email [sasci@sasci.co.za](mailto:sasci@sasci.co.za) if you need any assistance or need to formally communicate with the executive.

**Farrel Hellig**  
President, SASCI



SASCI

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