

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR INTERVENTION

It is my honour to take over the reins of a society which has such an important role to play in the current changing health care environment.

I would like to thank SASCI members for attending the AGM during AfricaPCR and for their contribution to the election of a new executive committee and office bearers. A society is only as strong as its members and it is highly reliant on entities willing to become involved in order to give guidance to the cardiology environment which we operate in.

Farrel Hellig has stepped down as President, after having served for the maximum 2-year term, and he will continue to advise and guide the Exco as ex-officio president. Farrel has handed over to me a society full of drive and inspiration. Whilst attending Euro PCR recently, it occurred to me that like few before him, Farrel has succeeded in putting SA interventionists on the map. His 12 years of service, and especially the 4 years that he served as president, are appreciated by all the members of the society. I know that I will frequently be knocking on his door over the next months and years. Farrel, thank you so much for the integrity, competence, and huge vision that you have so generously shared over the years. Yours is a hard act to follow! Len Steingo and Graham Cassel also stood down after numerous years of active contribution to the society. Graham was involved, from the inception of SASCI as originator Exco member, and has made several key contributions to create the dynamic society we have today. He deserves special recognition for his years as President and ex-officio. Len has always been a hard worker and persistent contributor, doing much uncelebrated but vital work in varied committees. Gentlemen, thank you. Your contributions have made the society what it is today and it will not be forgotten.

I am pleased to welcome Gavin Angel to the team. The following members continue on the Exco until 2017:

Dave Kettles	President
Farrel Hellig	Ex-officio President
Adie Horak	Vice President
Cobus Badenhorst	Treasurer
Mark Abelson	Secretary

Sajidah Khan, Mpiko Ntsekhe, Chris Zambakides, Jean Vorster, Gavin Angel and JP Theron.

Industry Exco Members continue to serve until the AGM 2016: **Tracey du Preez, Dan Willemse and Andrew Sartor.** We acknowledge your vital roles.

THE FOLLOWING SASCI EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES TOOK PLACE

SASCI Rota Workshop for experienced interventionalists

The convener of these meetings is Adie Horak. In January 2014 more than 50 delegates, including participants from Kenya, Namibia and Mauritius, attended the first meeting. In March 2015 another experts' meeting was held and more than 25 delegates attended.

Visiting Professor Programme

The 2015 Visiting Professor Programme was a huge success. Prof Jean Marco visited South Africa from 15 March - 15 May. His passion for teaching and the quality of his lectures and discussions accentuate the high standard which is at the core of this programme. Not only did he give of his valuable time, knowledge and expertise, he also gave a part of himself to the patients, doctors and staff of the hospitals where he was positioned. The value of his mammoth input will live on long after his departure. If you are interested, look at his blog on the EuroPCR website, and you will get a flavour of his contributions. In due course we will be announcing further visitors to our country. I continue to be amazed at the calibre and the enthusiasm of those we have been privileged to learn from.

Boston Scientific RC Fraser International Fellowship

Ahmed Vachiat (Cardiology Consultant at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital) spent time at Prof Simon Redwood's (Professor of Interventional Cardiology, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist) unit in March 2015 and the feedback regarding his experience and participation has been very positive. He found the team engaging and willing to assist with answers to his questions and sharing their experiences and techniques. He thanked Prof Simon Redwood and his team for the teaching and invaluable experience. He further acknowledged and thanked Boston Scientific, SASCI for the Scholarship and Prof Pravin Manga and Dr Farrel Hellig for their continued support and advice.

Pieter van der Bijl (Tygerberg) visited the unit in April 2015. He attained GMC certification and gained hands on experience as well. Please see his feedback herewith.