

## SCAI Fall Fellows Course 2017

### Feedback Report

For the past 7 years, SASCI with unconditional support from **Boston Scientific and SCAI** was able to sponsor four senior South African Fellows in interventional cardiology to attend the annual Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) Fall Fellows Workshop.



The SCAI Fall Fellows Course 2017 was hosted in Las Vegas, Nevada from 8 – 12 December with the theme ***Preparing the Future of Interventional Cardiology***. The program not only allowed our fellows to attend world-class lectures on topics like “Tools, strategies, and drugs for optimal intervention” and “Step-by-step approach for the challenges of vascular access” but offered them the opportunity to meet the international invited faculty members.

Dr Yuvashnee Govender, senior fellow at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal briefly shared her experience with us:

*As its historically said that "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas". Therefore, I won't divulge much.*

*Amongst the highlights were meeting international experts in Structural interventions, Coronary disease and Congenital Heart disease. It was very interesting to recognize the difference in prevalence of cardiac diseases and the focus of cardiologists in 1<sup>st</sup> world countries as compared to 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries like Sub Saharan Africa.*

*A lot of focus has been on the aging population, TAVI procedures and their access to innovative procedures performed daily e.g., TAVI, implantation of the various circulatory assist devices and the number of cardiac transplants that are performed annually.*

*As a female cardiologist there was a session dedicated to female interventional cardiologists and the challenges we face. I was also exposed to a good support system for our female colleagues and registered in an organization WIN (Women in Interventional Cardiology). We were offered pig hearts for dissection and to study the anatomy for structural interventions in Congenital Heart disease.*

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#### SASCI is a Special Interest Group within SA Heart Association

D Kettles (President), F Hellig (Ex-officio President), H Weich (Vice-President), C Badenhorst (Treasurer), G Cassel (Secretary)  
S Khan, M Ntsekhe, C Zambakides, J Vorster, G Angel, JP Theron, M Makotoko, A Vachiat, S Pandie, W Howell (ISCAP)  
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*Finally, I would like to thank SCAI, SASCI, Department of Cardiology (UKZN) and the responsible sponsors for making it possible for me to attend this once in a lifetime Interventional course in Las Vegas.*



*Dr Y Govender attending a dissection session, studying the anatomy for structural interventions in Congenital Heart disease*

We also received feedback from Dr Mfundo Mathenjwa, senior fellow at the University of the Witwatersrand, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital:

*I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you and SASCI for this marvellous opportunity granted to me to experience cardiology in a resource rich setting.*

*The lectures were to the point and abreast with current literature and innovative interventional strategies. From interaction with other fellows who were from the USA, I got a true impression of how lagging behind Africa is. Virtually every hospital in the USA performs interventional percutaneous procedures (e.g., TAVI, MitraClip, Left atrial appendage closure, percutaneous closure of ASDs and PFOs, LVADs, Impella). These procedures are predominantly a preserve of the affluent who attend private hospitals in South Africa.*

*This just informs me that we have massive strides to take in the socioeconomic front to allow our community to acquire maximum benefit from the enterprises of interventional cardiology.*

*The SCAI congress ignited and consolidated my fascination with coronary and cardiac structural interventions. I desire that SASCI maintain this programme to benefit more upcoming aspiring interventional cardiologists.*

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Dr Arthur Mutyaba, senior fellow from the University of Cape Town reported on the course as follows:

*I recently had the privilege of attending the SCAI fellows' interventional cardiology course in Las Vegas, Nevada (USA) under the auspices of SASCI.*

*The trip was a wonderful educational opportunity and is highly recommended for all fellows towards the end of their training. Besides residence at a luxury hotel and the opportunity to experience the Las Vegas buzz, the educational value of the trip was immense.*

*The course material covered was specifically aimed at fellows in training and was delivered by a world-class faculty. The opportunity to interact with fellows from other nations and learn about their practice of cardiology was enlightening. A highlight for me was the opportunity to listen to Dr. Richard Schatz speak about the journey of developing the first balloon expandable stent, the Palmaz-Schatz stent in 1985.*

*I am grateful to SASCI for this wonderful opportunity and would encourage all fellows to apply for the course when the opportunity arises.*



*Dr Arthur Mutyaba (Left) and Dr HW Snyman (Right) from Stellenbosch University, Tygerberg Academic Hospital attending the SCAI Fall Fellows Course 2017*

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*The Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas, NV where the annual SCAI Fall Fellows Course is hosted*

The SCAI Fall Fellows Course 2018 will once again take place at The Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas, NV from 7 – 11 December 2018. SASCI is looking forward to offering the opportunity to four senior fellows to attend again in 2018.

We would like to thank our loyal sponsor, **Boston Scientific** for their ongoing support towards this initiative.

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