SA HEART®
Newsletter of the
South African Heart Association

2023
Volume 20
Number 1

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

SA Heart® has been an integral part of my cardiology journey, having been involved in its structures since my Fellow years. It is now my privilege to serve as your President. Much has been done by my excellent predecessors, and in addition I would like to see:

- More involvement in the structures (local branches, special interest groups, standing committees) by the recently qualified cardiologist and allied health professional. Please email me if you are interested.
- Substantial increase in our paid membership, firstly by registering as members and then paying the annual fee. SA Heart® is a very important cog in the cardiology world wheel, and all of us in the cardiovascular field must support it.
- Increasing our presence and standing in South Africa, as the preeminent representative of "all things cardiovascular" making us the first reference sought, whether in the public health space, private healthcare, and the broader society. We need your active help, support, and participation in these forums.
- A unified sense of direction amongst our special interest groups, under a unified logo and a global brand message. We have wonderful special interest groups, and I encourage you to affiliate with your chosen area of interest, contribute meaningfully to them, but furthering the broad aims of SA Heart® at the same time. Please support your local branches.



Eric Klug

- Contributing to the ongoing education of our membership, opening doors internationally for participation, and locally being a window to present local research.

Please join me in growing our organisation.

Warm regards

Eric Klug
SA Heart® President

SNIPPETS

Members are reminded that SA Heart® has moved to a new membership administration system, and it is absolutely essential to activate your membership on this new portal.

Check your email for details or request same from info@saheart.org. Invoices for membership will no longer be sent for payment and membership renewal. This will be handled online through the new portal only in future and requires members to take responsibility and action.

With great sadness and regret, we publish posthumously the last official communication to SA Heart® by our late Board Chairman, Professor Deon Bezuidenhout, after his sudden illness and untimely death while on vacation in Berlin on 16 April 2023. A full tribute will follow in the next newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

I would like to share the following Board-related items with all members of the South African Heart Association:

BOARD MEMBERS

I am sure that I speak on behalf of all SA Heart® members in thanking Dr Tom Mabin and Dr Tawanda Butau, who have stepped down from their Board positions for personal reasons, for their service and invaluable contributions to the governance of our association. Dr Butau's leadership in the challenging role as chair of the Nominations Committee, Dr Mabin's wealth of experience and institutional knowledge, and both members' input on all aspects of governance, will be sorely missed. The vacant Board positions will be filled by imminent appointments for the remainder of the current term, based on recent nominations by members or recruited by the Nominations Committee and appointment by the Board via the Nominations Committee (now chaired by independent Board member Mrs Robyn MacMhaoinigh, née Hey, as per articles 4.3.5 and 4.3.6 of our Memorandum of Incorporation (MoI).

BOARD STRATEGY MEETING

The Board will hold a strategy meeting on 12 - 13 May 2023 to evaluate progress on short, medium and long-term goals, as established and defined at the strategy meeting held in November 2021, on the 4 main pillars of MEMBERSHIP, EDUCATION, SCIENCE and POLICY, as outlined at the annual general meeting of 2022, and to update and make adjustments based on changing circumstances and ensure incorporation of the vision of the new president.

> "The Board will hold a strategy meeting on 12 - 13 May."

REGISTRATION/ACTIVATION

The Board strongly encourages and entreaties all members, who have not yet done so, to confirm/re-activate their SA Heart® memberships by completing the online process, and to pay their membership fees. The association has spent much in terms resources and effort to develop the new membership system (necessitated by factors outside our control). The system is not yet perfected, but completely functional, and we ask you to please liaise with our general manager if you have any problems, and to order to facilitate the process.

Wishing SA Heart® and all its members a prosperous and fulfilling year.

Best regards

Deon Bezuidenhout
SA Heart® Chairman of the Board



POPULAR CONGRESSES FOR 2023

CONGRESS	DATE	PLATFORM	HOST
12TH SUNECHO COURSE https://consultus.eventsair.com/12th-sunecho-2023	09 - 12 May 2023	Protea Hotel Techno Park Stellenbosch	South Africa
CARDIO ONCOLOGY https://cososa.org.za/save-the-date-cososa-conference-26-27-may-2023	26 - 27 May 2023	Lord Charles Somerset West	South Africa
HeFSSA HEART FAILURE SPECIALIST SYMPOSIUM Please contact info@hefssa.org for more information	23 - 24 June 2023	The Capital on the Park Hotel Sandton	South Africa
SOCTS BIENNIAL CONFERENCE - DEALING WITH THE LEFT https://conference.sctssa.org.za	27 - 30 July 2023	The Capital Hotel, Zimbali Durban	South Africa
CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY https://www.escardio.org/Congresses-Events/ESC-Congress	25 - 28 August 2023	Amsterdam	Netherlands
CMR CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA 2023 www.sacmrcongress.co.za	01 - 03 September 2023	V&A Waterfront Cape Town	South Africa
23RD ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION **https://www.saheartcongress.org**	**26 - 29 October 2023**	**Sandton Convention Centre**	**South Africa**

Check SA Heart® online calendar for updates and training events across the country.
https://www.saheart.org/calendar

WEBSITE LINKS

SA Heart®	www.saheart.org
CASSA	www.cassa.co.za
HeFSSA	www.hefssa.org
PASCAR	www.pascar.org
PCSSA	www.saheart.org/pcssa
SASCAR (Research)	www.sascar.org.za
SASCI	www.sasci.co.za
ACC	www.acc.org
ESC	www.escardio.org
World Heart	www.world-heart-federation.org



SA HEART® JOURNAL CLUB NEWS

The SA Heart® monthly Journal Club continued since our last report with the Cape Heart Institute of the University of Cape Town presenting in September. Prof Sliwa, the director of the institute, gave an introduction to the institute and the research conducted at the insititute. Dr Spracklen in co-operation with Prof Zühlke presented on "Partnerships for children with heart disease in Africa". Prof Lecour gave an overview of their research related to the role of high density lipoprotein (HDL) subclasses and functions in cardioprotection and Ms Abrahams highlighted some of her latest research findings suggesting that doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity in breast cancer patients is associated with a shift in HDL subclasses and functions, an effect which may contribute to the cardiotoxicity observed in these patients. Dr Ndibangwi in co-operation with A/Prof Gasnat Shaboodien presented on their latest discoveries in the genetic causes of heart muscle disease "Cardiovascular genetics: The IMHOTEP study". Prof Thienemann concluded with a presentation on the "Intersection of infectious diseases and cardiovascular diseases". This event was kindly sponsored by Amgen.

In October, the Johannesburg Branch put together a riveting programme with presenters ranging from allied professionals, registrars and basic scientist to professor of cardiology, hosted by the branch president, Dr Ahmed Vachiat and supported by Sandoz. Dr Dineo Mpanya spoke about "Clustering of heart failure patients using unsupervised machine learning algorithms". Dr Zoleka Mbele contributed for paediatric cardiology on "An unusual case of infective endocarditis in a 17-year-old post Tetralogy of Fallot surgery". Prof Ruchika Meel presented "A case of infective endocarditis post COVID-19 pneumonia and literature review". In it she highlighted that clinician remain vigilant for this clinical entity which, if not recognised and treated timeously, is associated with high morbidity and mortality. Ms Nene Mboweni concluded with insights of her research on Atrial Fibrillation in HFrEF; "A Sub-Saharan African Perspective".

In November, we concluded the series for 2022 with Prof Justiaan Swanevelder contributing from a cardiac anaesthetist point of view on "Perioperative assessment of the rheumatic heart and beyond", while Prof Mpiko Ntsekhe presented an update on the Invictus Trial. Both presentations elicited questions from the audience adding to a lively presentation. This event was kindly supported by Organon.

The National Journal Club programme took a break during December and January and the first Journal Club for 2023 on 1 February was hosted by SASCI, with Dr Arthur Mutyaba in the chair, assisted by Dr Farai Dube. Experts from the Cleveland Clinic, Dr Sanjeeb Bhattacharya and Dr Rohit Moudgil presented on the REVIVED-BCIS 2 trial discussing same with our members Prof Eric Klug, Dr Anthony Becker and Cleveland Clinic's Dr Nicholas Ruthmann.

March's programme was an ethical one with our lawyer Mr Joseph Shaw presenting on the proposed amendments to the HPCSA ethical rules as published in the May 2022 Government Gazette. Dr Pumeshen Bisetty as member of our Ethics and Guidelines committee kindly chaired the evening while Mr Shaw explained the Rule 7 relating to the sharing of fees and commission, Rule 8 relating to appropriate business models, Rule 8A relating to the sharing of rooms, Rule 18 relating to sub-contracting and professional appointments and Rule 23A relating to financial interests in hospitals.

The National Journal Club continues on each first Wednesday of the month in 2023 at 18h00.

Have you missed a Journal Club session you wanted to attend? All Journal club presentations are available for view/download in the resource area of our website www.saheart.org for paid up members of SA Heart®.

The SA Heart® leadership once again thanks the generous sponsors and all members and speakers that contributed their time and expertise to deliver these outstanding educational programmes.

Erika Dau
SA Heart® Journal Club

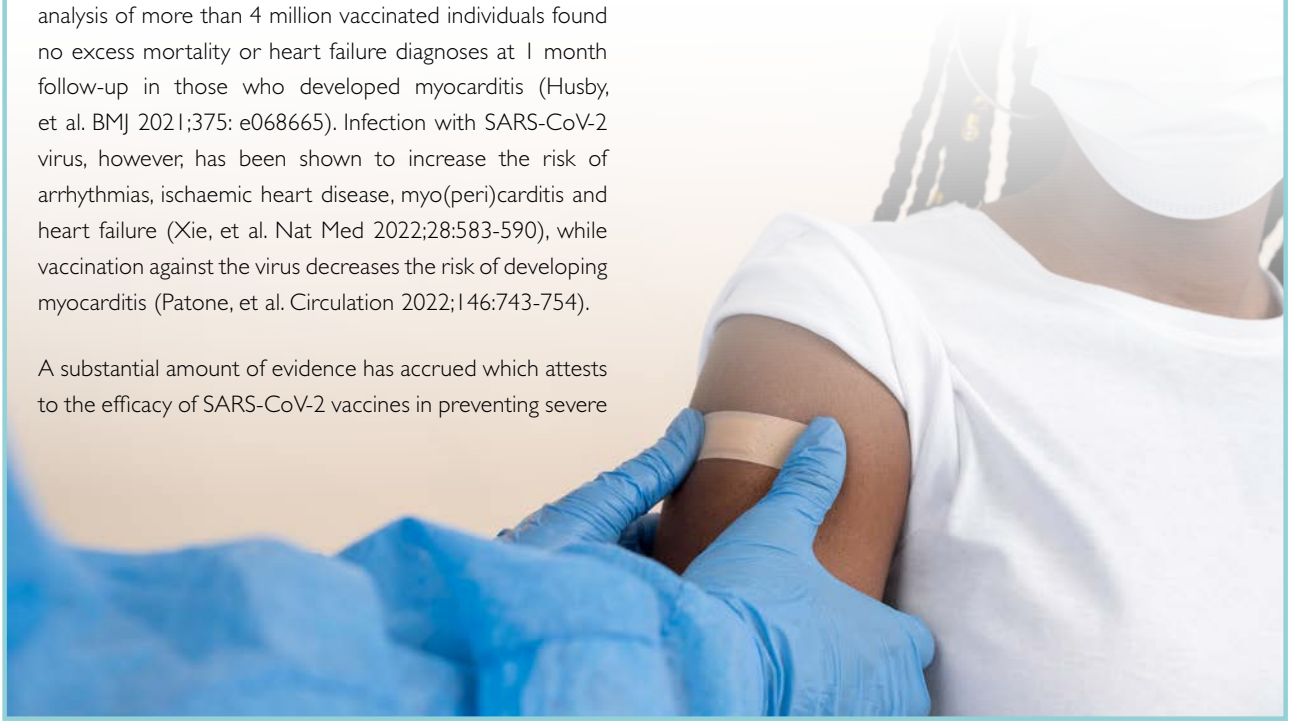
SARS-COV-2 VACCINATION AND CARDIAC HEALTH

It has come to the attention of the South African Heart Association (SA Heart®) that Dr Aseem Malhotra, a consultant cardiologist from the United Kingdom, has publicly expressed views on the cardiac effects of SARS-CoV-2 vaccination, which we believe are at variance with evidence-based scientific data, and which are potentially detrimental to the health of the South African public. The strategic goals of SA Heart® include education of healthcare professionals, as well as members of the public, while adhering rigorously to evidence-based science. While taking cognisance of the right to free speech, it is incumbent on SA Heart® to respond to the irresponsible dissemination of scientific misinformation, which has the potential to seriously harm individuals or which may lead to deleterious healthcare policies being adopted.

> “The strategic goals of SA Heart® include education of healthcare professionals.”

Dr Malhotra claims that SARS-CoV-2 vaccinations cause a significant excess of cardiovascular complications. The primary cardiac complication of SARS-CoV-2 vaccination is myo(peri)carditis. In a large, recently published meta-analysis, including more than 400 million doses of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, 33 cases of myocarditis were recorded per million doses of vaccine administered, which is comparable to influenza vaccines (Ling, et al. Lancet Respir Med 2022; 10:679-688). There is currently no convincing evidence that vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 is the proximate cause of coronary syndromes or cardiac arrests. A meta-analytic analysis of more than 4 million vaccinated individuals found no excess mortality or heart failure diagnoses at 1 month follow-up in those who developed myocarditis (Husby, et al. BMJ 2021;375: e068665). Infection with SARS-CoV-2 virus, however, has been shown to increase the risk of arrhythmias, ischaemic heart disease, myo(peri)carditis and heart failure (Xie, et al. Nat Med 2022;28:583-590), while vaccination against the virus decreases the risk of developing myocarditis (Patone, et al. Circulation 2022;146:743-754).

A substantial amount of evidence has accrued which attests to the efficacy of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in preventing severe morbidity and all-cause mortality (Xu, et al. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2021; 70:1520-1524), including cardiac complications (Patone, et al. Circulation 2022;146:743-754). While acknowledging the existing unwanted vaccine effects, we strongly reemphasise that life-threatening (cardiac) adverse effects are very infrequent, and in no way detract from the favourable risk-benefit ratio of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines for all age and sex groups evaluated thus far (Gluckman, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol 2022;79:1717–1756). SARS-CoV-2 infection itself, carries far greater cardiovascular risk, both in the short- and long-terms.



WORD FROM THE CONGRESS CHAIR

On behalf of the Scientific Planning Committee, I welcome you to participate in the 23rd Annual SA Heart® Congress due to take place on 26 - 29 October at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg.

Following on the success of last year's congress, we wish to further establish the collaborative nature of cardiovascular medicine by more closely aligning with the disciplines that work closely with cardiologists in effectively managing cardiac patients. We hope to host joint symposias with highly specialised disciplines in the fields of cardiac anaesthesiology, endocrinology, critical care, emergency care, sports medicine and radiology to name a few. This is aimed at developing future collaboration with the other academic societies and creating a footprint for cardiologists to work in tandem with these societies and special interest groups. This will enable us to develop permanent relationships in further developing content, research, clinical input and align our diagnostic and therapeutic skills to the benefit of all those entrusted to our care.

Furthering this aim, we are introducing the presence of numerous training villages and symposia which encourages our delegates to gain hands-on practical skills and knowledge in a much more personalised environment. Our supportive industry partners are working tirelessly with us to realise this vision of directing skill-acquisition in the fields of intravascular imaging, guidewire and catheter manipulation, ultrasound-guided peripheral and intracardiac procedures, atherectomy and calcified lesion management, bifurcation stenting, procedural troubleshooting and much more. These training villages will aid exposing delegates to crucial tools thus elaborating on their ability to deal with complex pathology and diagnostic scenarios in a meaningful way.

The dedicated sessions from the cardiac interventional community, heart failure society, imaging and electrophysiology societies and paediatric cardiology society promise to interrogate and teach our delegates the nuances and latest developments in their respective fields.

As always, we look forward to hearing from the basic scientific community with the delivery of numerous abstracts and research so excellently produced in our vibrant country. These innovators will highlight just how important research contributes to the clinical management of patients.

> "Training villages will aid exposing delegates to crucial tools thus elaborating on their ability to deal with complex scenarios."

The popular Fellow's session, business of cardiology, artificial intelligence in medicine and ethics sessions are again anticipated to keep delegates fascinated.

The pre-congress workshops in echocardiography, electrophysiology, paediatric cardiology and cardiology for non-cardiologists once again will provide participants to more practical training with dedicated topics designed to introduce, expand and explain the latest innovations in these respective fields.

Once again, we look forward to making new friends, learning from each other, celebrating our achievements and collaborating in an inclusive and diverse space with welcoming encouragement from our learned peers and fresh talent from across our beautiful country.

Farouk Mamdoo
SA Heart® Congress Chair

CASSA REPORT

CASSA
CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OF SA HEART®

We're pleased to report that our annual CASSA symposium was a great success. We had a packed venue with 130 delegates who attended on the Saturday. All the speakers were excellent. Our international faculty consisted of Prof Eric Rosenthal from London and Dr Kim Rajappan from Oxford.

> "The interactive sessions were challenging and informative."

A wide range of topics were covered including long QT syndrome (LQTS), genetic testing in patients with arrhythmias, novel pacing and ICD indications and a very entertaining debate on the role of ablation in persistent atrial fibrillation. The interactive sessions on device trouble-shooting and the ECG quiz were challenging and informative.

On Sunday morning, we hosted an EP breakfast where challenging cases were discussed.

We'd like to again thank our corporate sponsors, speakers, and organisers for supporting this event.

We're already looking forward to next year's meeting that will be held in Gauteng.

Adèle Greyling
CASSA president



AWARDS

Best poster and oral presentations.

Congratulations go to Dr Bana for best poster presentation as well as Marguerite Blignaut for best oral presentation at the 2022 SA Heart® congress.

BEST POSTER PRESENTATION AWARD: DR TASNIM BANA



TITLE: Characterising the phenotype of subclinical cardiovascular disease in systemic lupus erythematous using multiparametric cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging

Biography

Dr Tasnim Bana is a specialist physician and PhD research fellow supervised by Professor Ntobeko Ntusi at the University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital. She is characterising the phenotype of cardiovascular involvement in systemic lupus erythematosus using multimodal imaging techniques with a focus on cardiovascular magnetic resonance. Dr Bana is also investigating markers of immune activation and proteomic signatures associated with cardiovascular disease in SLE, to determine underlying pathophysiological mechanisms.

BEST ORAL PRESENTATION AWARD: MARGUERITE BLIGNAUT



TITLE: An evaluation of mitochondrial dynamics and mitophagy in an in vitro and in vivo model of obesity

Biography

Marguerite Blignaut is a researcher based within the Centre for Cardio-Metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA) at the Division of Medical Physiology, Stellenbosch University (SU). She obtained her PhD (Medical Physiology) in 2019 from SU, during which she investigated the role of Ataxia Telangiectasia Mutated protein kinase in obesity-induced cardiovascular mitochondrial dysfunction. During her PhD she also had the opportunity to work at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories (RAL, UK) as a Newton-funded sandwich student. She returned to RAL as a visiting researcher during her postdoctoral fellowship at Stellenbosch University, where she further developed her skills in advanced 3D (spheroid) cell culture models and microscopy. Marguerite is currently implementing these advanced in vitro techniques, with collaborators from engineering and physics, at the Division of Medical Physiology to investigate mitochondrial function in cardiovascular models of obesity and insulin resistance. Together with her postgraduate students, she works towards developing chronic, high throughput insulin resistant cell culture models that are easily implementable in South African laboratories and can aid in drug development and cardiotoxicity screening. Over the past few years, Marguerite has been awarded the highly competitive Harry Crossley PhD bursary, a NRF Scarce Skills post-doctoral fellowship, and has recently been earmarked as a FutureGen researcher within CARMA under the mentorship of Prof Hans Strijdom. She hopes that the prestigious SA Heart® best oral presentation award will serve as a platform to expand on basic research in cardiovascular care within South Africa and improve the dialogue between clinicians and basic researchers in cardiology.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available to all members of the SA Heart® Association. It is primarily intended to assist colleagues involved in much-needed research to enhance their research programmes.

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants need to be fully paid-up members in good standing for at least 1 year.
- Applications must include:
  - The applicant's abbreviated CV
  - A breakdown of the anticipated expenses
  - Ethics approval
  - Full details of the research
  - The completed application form - please request a fillable MS Word document from erika@saheart.org
  - Contact details of Head of Department or supervisor/mentor
- The research for which funding support is sought has to have direct relevance to South Africa.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Preference will be given to early and mid-career applicants (<5 years post-qualification as specialist and/or <5 years post-PhD qualification).

CONDITIONS

- Applicants may only submit 1 application every second year. Preference is given to those who have not had previous scholarships awarded.
- Awards are granted for one specific research project. Should that specific project be cancelled or the full amount allocated not be utilised for any reason, then the funds must revert to SA Heart®.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE EMAILED TO:

erika@saheart.org

THE SELECTION PANEL WILL REVIEW APPLICATIONS ANNUALLY AND THE CLOSING DATE IS 30 SEPTEMBER 2024.

One scholarship to a maximum amount of R70 000 will be awarded annually.

SA Heart® commits to inclusive excellence by advancing equity and diversity.

We particularly encourage applications from members of historically under represented racial/ethnic groups, women and individuals with disabilities.

LOUIS VOGELPOEL TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are invited for the annual Louis Vogelpoel Travelling Scholarship for 2024. An amount of up to R20 000 towards the travel and accommodation costs of a local or international congress will be offered annually by the Western Cape branch of the South African Heart Association in memory of one of South Africa's outstanding cardiologists, Dr Louis Vogelpoel.

Louis Vogelpoel was a pioneer of cardiology in South Africa who died in April 2005. He was one of the founding members of the Cardiac Clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town. He had an exceptional career of more than 5 decades as a distinguished general physician, cardiologist and horticultural scientist. Dr Vogelpoel's commitment to patient-care, teaching and personal education is remembered by his many students, colleagues and patients. Medical students, house officers, registrars and consultants benefited from exposure to his unique blend of clinical expertise, extensive knowledge, enthusiasm and gracious style.

A gifted and enthusiastic teacher, he was instrumental in the training of generations of undergraduates by regular bedside tutorials. He served as an outstanding role model for postgraduates and many who have achieved prominence nationally and internationally acknowledged his contribution to the development of their careers.

All applications for the scholarship will be reviewed by the executive committee of the Western Cape branch of the South African Heart Association. Preference will be given to practitioners or researchers in the field of cardiovascular medicine who are members of the South African Heart Association and are resident in the Western Cape.

Applications should include: (i) A brief synopsis of the work the applicant wishes to present at the congress; and (ii) A brief letter of what the applicant hopes to gain by attending the relevant congress. The applicant should submit an abstract for presentation at the relevant national or international meeting. Should such an abstract not be accepted by the relevant congress organising committee, the applicant will forfeit his or her sponsorship towards the congress. (Application can however be made well in advance of the relevant congress but will only be awarded on acceptance of the abstract.) A written report on the relevant congress attended will need to be submitted by the successful applicant within 6 weeks of attending the congress. The congress report will be published in the South African Heart Association Newsletter.

> "A gifted and enthusiastic teacher, he was instrumental in the training of generations of undergraduates."

Applications should be sent to Dr Alfonso Pecoraro, President of the Western Cape branch of the South African Heart Association, Division of Cardiology, Tygerberg Hospital, Francie van Zijl Drive, Tygerberg 7505; or alternatively email: pecoraro@sun.ac.za.

Previous recipients of this prestigious award include Sandrine Lecour, Roisin Kelle, Liesl Zühlke and Prof Hans Strijdom.

Applications close on 31 January 2024.

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Applications for the SA Heart® Travel Scholarship for the second term in 2023 are invited to reach the SA Heart® Office by 30 June 2023.

The scholarship is for the value of up to R30 000.00 for international meetings and R9 500.00 for local meetings.

This scholarship is available to all members of the SA Heart® Association. It is primarily intended to assist junior colleagues to ensure continued participation in local or international scientific meetings or workshops.

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be fully paid-up members for at least 1 year.
- The research presented at the congress for which funding is sought, needs to be relevant to South Africa.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Early and mid-career applicants (<5 years post-qualification as specialist and/or <5 years post-PhD qualification).
- Acceptance of an abstract/poster presentation at the scientific meeting to be attended.

CONDITIONS

- Awards will not be made for conferences or workshops retrospective to the application submission deadline. If the conference is taking place within 6 (six) weeks following the submission deadline, please indicate this in the appropriate place on the application form.
- It is not a requirement for the abstract to be accepted by the conference travel application closing date. Should the acceptance of the paper, including proof of registration, not be available at the time of submission of the application, then a provisional award may be made pending receipt of the acceptance of the paper.
- Please ensure that applications are made as well in advance as possible **(preferably at least 6 months prior to the conference date)**.
- Applicants may only submit 1 application every second year. The scholarship is for the value of up to R30 000.00 for international meetings and R9 500.00 for local meetings.
- Awards are only made in the event that a paper or a poster is being presented or in the event of a workshop attendance, if the reviewers deem the workshop attendance to be of high impact and consequently of benefit to the SA Heart® community.
- The applicant must ensure that the application is fully completed including the requirements as detailed in the checklist section. Applicants are asked to be concise and to only include applicable and relevant information.
- Awards are granted for 1 specific conference. Should that specific conference be cancelled or the full amount allocated not utilised for any reason, then the funds must revert to SA Heart®; and
- A written report on the relevant congress attended will need to be submitted by the successful applicant within 6 weeks of attending the congress. The congress report will be published in the South African Heart Association Newsletter.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- For more information and application forms, please visit https://www.saheart.org/cms-home/category/39.

IN MEMORY OF DR EAMON N. MAREE

Allow me a few words as a tribute to our colleague and friend, Eamon Maree, who passed away recently.

That this was so unexpected for many, bears testimony to the way he conducted his life with a stoic humorous demeanour in the presence of his symptomatic Myasthenia Gravis.

Eamon lived his life as an example of a true physician practising his art with utter dedication to the principles of clinical and personal integrity at the highest level of morality and faithful to the uncompromising tenets of our demanding profession.

His practice was a shining example of adherence to the wisdom of "do no harm". He was a clinician with safe hands in the theatre and a dedicated team player and keeper of peace.

> "He was a pillar of strength and a loyal supporter."

I knew him since 1993 when both of us were Fellows at HF Verwoerd hospital, where we first had to develop cine films and only after studying them intensely next door, could we proceed with an intervention.

Eamon practised at Mediclinic Medforum Hospital, later joined by Willem van Heerden, and then for many years moved to Nelspruit where he provided a much needed service - initially without a technologist, but that didn't deter him at all.

He was a pillar of strength and a loyal supporter of the HeFFSA heart failure educational programme in Nelspruit.



Dr Eamon N. Maree

His love for his work and his patients was the crux of his life.

He never compromised the essence of what he believed to be right, and many of us felt his steel and forthright opinions in debate.

His humour was always evident, and his modesty belied the depth of his knowledge and contribution on all levels.

He was a cricketer on significant level and a Master of the highest order at the Wine academy. He taught his friends how to appreciate a good wine, drinking wine from a tasting glass, that he carefully took out of a wooden box.

He was always patient and undemanding but achieved his mission with quiet insistence. Still waters run deep.

His wife, Hester, has always been an inspiration to him and his daughter, Dana, a chemical engineer, his pride.

His example inspires us and makes us thankful for the privilege and ability to contribute to society.

It was an honour to be his friend.

Adriaan Snyders en Les Osrin