

2018 HPBASA Presidential Report to Annual General Meeting Dr. Graham Stapleton

Since taking over from Dr Rob Bond after the HPBASA congress in Pretoria in 2017 things have been very active in the Presidential Seat

The overwhelmingly dominant activity since our last congress has been planning for the IAP / ASSA / SAGES meeting and our congress guidelines document.

However, before going into details about the planning for next year's congress, I want to congratulate Professor Ed Jonas and his team, ably assisted by Eastern Sun Events, who submitted a hugely impressive bid to host the IHPBA congress in Cape Town in 2024. I am very proud and happy to announce that the bid was successful and IHPBA is coming to Cape Town in 2024.

I have expressed my thanks to Colin Atkinson, the Medtronic Business Manager for Southern Africa for a generous educational grant of R150 000 to HPBASA, which was allocated to 15 applicants from South Africa and several Sub-Saharan African countries to attend the IHPBA congress in Geneva in September, Advancing HPB surgery globally is a major priority of the IHPBA. As an affiliate of IHPBA and E-AHPBA, that is our task in our region.

There was only one applicant for the Abbott Laboratories travelling fellowship (R50000) but Dr Stefan Hofmeyr was a very deserving recipient of the grant. He spent 3 weeks at Pitie Salpêtrier Hospital in Paris with Professor Scatton and his report is available to anyone who wishes to read it

I appeal to members of HPBASA to submit applications for this travelling fellowship.

I also appeal to senior members who supervise training at the teaching hospitals to draw the attention of their trainees to the existence of this travelling fellowship.

Visiting major centres of excellence in hepatobiliary and pancreatic medicine in other parts of the world, even for shortish visits, can open new perspectives on our exciting area of specialization and our members really should look to take advantage of this generous and far-sighted pledge by Abbott Laboratories.

The insight and broadening of perspectives can only be to the benefit of the individuals, the HPBASA and the people of our region that we serve, which is another of the primary objectives of our association.

In August Dr Stefan Hofmeyr and Dr Forgan from the department of surgery at the Stellenbosch University Medical School, organised an excellent symposium, with a multidisciplinary faculty, on minimally invasive surgery for colorectal cancer and colorectal liver metastases at Tygerberg Hospital and the Sunskills Laboratory. On behalf of HPBASA I fully endorsed this excellent initiative. I congratulate Dr Hofmeyr and his colorectal surgery colleague, Dr Forgan for organising a very high quality meeting. It would be great if similar symposia can be organised, with endorsement or under the auspices of HPBASA, at other teaching or private hospitals in the future.

You will be aware that this HPBASA 2018 congress in Durban was originally scheduled for 5-7 October but because of clashes with other meetings we resolved to postpone the meeting to this weekend, 16-18 November. Given that there is always congestion of other regular meetings, CMSA exams and religious holidays in September and early October, I suggested to the executive committee that we relook at the timing of our meetings and I think we should actually give serious consideration to making late October / early November the preferred time for our annual congresses and AGMs.

I thank and applaud Mags Govender and his team and Alison Shaw and her team at Royal House for organising this meeting so well.

A HPBASA Congress Guidelines document has been compiled and accepted by the Executive Committee, so that there is a clear template for how HPBASA congresses should be organised. This will be published on our website.

A major preoccupation for me this year has been chairing the local organising committee for the IAP / HPBASA / ASSA / SAGES Congress in August 2019. This has involved many meetings and much travelling for Rob Bond, Sean Burmeister and I

Rob Bond and Sean Burmeister travelled to Buenos Aires to attend the 2017 International Association of Pancreatology (IAP) congress and meet with the IAP council members.

In April I went to Seattle to attend the 16th World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery (WCES) from 11-14 April, 2018, primarily to see whether I could meet with experts in laparoscopic and robotic pancreatic surgery

From 26 – 29 April Rob Bond, Sean Burmeister and I attended the *Pancreas 2018* congress at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, where we met with many of the Who's Who of pancreatic research, including Thomas Gress, the incoming president of IAP and we approached several of these experts about coming to Cape Town in August next year

From 4-7 September I and several of our members attended the 13th world congress of the IHPBA in Geneva. I offer my very sincere congratulations to Martin Smith, who has assumed the presidency of the IHPBA, a singular honour for both Martin and HPBASA. I am also very proud of Ed Jonas and John Devar, who are serving on the IHPBA development and the publications and communication committees respectively, as well as Sean Burmeister, who is serving on the membership committee of the E-AHPBA. The winner of the bid to host the 2024 IHPBA congress was announced at the congress and, by all accounts no other bid came close to the quality of the South African bid and the IHPBA had no hesitation in awarding the bid to us. Again, congratulations to Ed Jonas and his team.

I was privileged to be invited to the Congress President's Dinner and National Chapter Presidents' Breakfast, where I met numerous eminent HPB people from many corners of the world, most of whom expressed great interest in coming to Cape Town next year and in 2024.

Rob Bond, Sean Burmeister and I then attended the American Pancreatic Association congress in Miami from 31 October to 3 November and made a presentation to the IAP council about

the current status of our plans for the congress in August next year. We were very well received and they were very complimentary about our presentation.

We have had a few meetings of the local organising committee for the IAP / ASSA / SAGES congress and had some difficult negotiations with our SAGES and ASSA partners, as well as some of the associations affiliated to ASSA. It has been agreed that HPBASA and IAP will be allocated 30% of any profits from the congress and the other associations will continue the fight about how the other 70% of any profit will be divided.

Sean and Rob have been working very hard to draw up a very high class programme that will be of interest to basic scientists, clinical researchers and practising clinicians, including medical, surgical, diagnostic and interventional radiology, oncology and pathology specialists working with diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic diseases. We plan to present the draft programme to the HPBASA / ASSA / SAGES LOC on Wednesday and, assuming it is approved there, we will send it to the IAP Council for their comment and input. We shall then start sending out invitations to people, many of whom we have already approached at the various meetings that we have attended. From our meetings with the IAP council we were also advised to ensure a good spread of speakers from Asia, Europe and America as well as trying to achieve gender equity among speakers.

Because we are ostensibly organising the IAP congress, next year's meeting will be completely dominated by pancreatic topics.

Apart from a post-graduate HPB course on 16 August, there will not be any hepatobiliary sessions.

I want to **VERY LOUDLY** appeal, to anyone who is doing research on pancreatic basic science or clinical topics to submit abstracts for presentation. We anticipate that many of the most eminent researchers in pancreatic diseases will be there and it is going to be a massive opportunity for doctors in our region to get exposure to absolutely cutting edge research into pancreatic disease - from acute and chronic pancreatitis to pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, to IPMN and cystic tumours and pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours; from laboratory bench research to advanced surgical techniques and from diabetes to exocrine insufficiency.

On the financial front we have received assurances of US\$60000 each from Boston Scientific and Medtronic. The idea is that Medtronic and Boston Scientific will be "platinum" sponsors and that we shall have diamond, gold and bronze categories of sponsors. We shall very soon be sending out requests to other potential sources for sponsorships.

While in Miami, I met David Searle, a South African expat from Toronto, who partners with the US National Pancreas Foundation to educate and inform the public, patients and families of victims of pancreatic diseases. The website of his business is www.AnimatedPancreasPatient.com and it might be an interesting project for HPBASA to partner with them to introduce a similar facility for African patients and their families.

I want to specifically thank Rob Bond and Sean Burmeister for their tireless work thus far with the programme and organization of the congress next year. I also wish to thank a group of Cape Town colleagues from several specialties that has shown remarkable enthusiasm to help

us put together a very high quality congress. I hope that we can also call on members from outside of Cape Town to assist us.

Following presentations by SAMED at a recent FOSAS meeting and direct communication by one of their executive with Sean Burmeister I bring to your attention that there is now a Code of Ethical Marketing and Business Practice, which is said to be a powerful vehicle for regulation of how representatives of medical device companies work with healthcare professionals. Corporate rules will no longer allow direct sponsorships from corporates to individuals to attend congresses. While they emphasise their commitment to supporting continuing medical education, the ethically correct way to do this now is by way of educational grants to the various professional societies, which would then be responsible for disbursing the funds to their members. Our executive committee discussed the implications and how best to implement this. Establishing a HPBASA Foundation was suggested, but more work needs to be done on this.

In my capacity as president, I have been approached about some issues of major concern.

1. Jake Krige spoke to me about the proliferation of bile duct injuries during laparoscopic cholecystectomy
 - Prof Krige now has a personal series of well over 200 bile duct injuries
2. I have also been approached by senior people at Medtronic about guidance on how to respond to requests from general surgeons for training in Microwave ablation of liver tumours

At yesterday's ExCo meeting we had a lengthy discussion about how our association can intervene to reduce the problems posed by surgeons damaging bile ducts and inappropriately employing ablation to treat liver tumours. There was agreement that HPBASA should take a stance and that in doing so there will need to be liaison with heads of surgical departments at universities, CSSA, ASSA and SASES.

For those who do not know who our executive is, I would like to briefly introduce them:

Moses Balabayaki from GMH & SMU
Marc Bernon from GSH & UCT
Martin Brand from Steve Biko and UP
Rob Bond from Unitas Hospital, Centurion
Sean Burmeister from GSH & UCT
John Devar from Wits and Baragwanath
Govender Mags Durban
Stefan Hofmeyr, Tygerberg and US
Ed Jonas from GSH & UCT
Jose Ramos from Wits Donald Gordon
Martin Smith from Wits and Baragwanath
Graham Stapleton, Christiaan Barnard Memorial Hospital
Sandie Thomson, recently retired from UCT
Chris Zaidy from Kloof & Unitas Hospitals in Pretoria /Centurion

If any members have concerns about anything related to HPBASA or suggestions about projects that HPBASA could consider please feel free to contact me or any of the executive committee members who may be closer to you

In conclusion I wish to thank the executive committee for their tremendous support and to especially thank Alison McLean from our secretariat for her superbly efficient support in keeping things running smoothly and ensuring that I do what I am supposed to do as president.