



# VASSA NEWSLETTER

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warm greetings to all VASSA members, especially to those of you who were unable to attend the recent Kwa-Maritane meeting and may therefore feel a little out-of-touch with what is happening in your society. As the new president I intend making communication within VASSA a priority and in the spirit of this I will be writing a regular email newsletter.



*Phil Matley, Rajiv Vohra & Andrew Bradbury*

## KWA-MARITANE CONGRESS

An outstanding meeting was held by VASSA in October. Thanks go to the local organizing committee comprising Martin Veller, Talib Abdool-Carrim, Jay Pillai, Dirk Le Roux, Athar Arain, Pradeep Mistry, Marge Greyling, Yvonne Pyne-James and Amanda Pyne-James as well as the very efficient staff of Kwa-Maritane itself. The international faculty comprised Michael Akesson (Malmo, Sweden), Jonathan Beard (Sheffield, UK), Andrew Bradbury (Birmingham, UK), Carlo Cernetti (Castelfranco, Italy), Sabrina Houthoofdt (Leuven, Belgium), Hendrik Sillesen (Copenhagen, Denmark), Eric Verhoeven (Nuremberg, Germany) and Rajiv Vohra (Birmingham, UK).



*International Speakers at the VASSA Congress 2010*

The organizers this year took the very bold step of asking virtually every vascular surgeon in the country to give a talk. Thanks go to all who did so as the standard was very high.

## VASSA EXCO 2010-2012

At the Kwa-Maritane meeting the executive committee for 2010-2012 was elected/confirmed. They are Philip Matley (President), Jay Pillai (President-elect), Talib Abdool-Carrim (Past President), James Tunnicliffe (Secretary and Chairman of Private Practice Sub-committee), Martin Veller (Treasurer and Wits Representative), Greg Weir (VASSA Registry and Private Practice Sub-committee), Dirk Le Roux (Private Practice Sub-committee), Pradeep Mistry (Fellow affairs) and Seamus Wishart (Corporate members). As before, all heads of academic departments are automatically appointed as full members of exco including Nad Naidoo (UCT and Joint Research Initiative), Bala Pillay (Durban and Fellows Endovascular Training Initiative), Thanyani Malaudzi (Pretoria), Ruan Botha (Bloemfontein and TASC Initiative) and Danie Du Toit (Stellenbosch).



***Kris Michalowski, Charl Dreyer, Helen Hall, MP De Jager & Seamus Wishart at the Congress Wine Tasting***

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

VASSA in 2011 will be held in Cape Town (12-16 April). This will be in conjunction with the Association of surgeons (including its various interest groups), SAGES and the EHPBA international congress. VASSA will offer a full 2.5 day academic programme with a good line-up of international speakers and I encourage all VASSA members to attend. Cape Town in April is wonderful but it is a very busy period so book your accommodation early. Unfortunately this meeting clashes with Charing Cross in 2011 but this is unavoidable due to the timing of the EHPBA meeting.

Some of the 2011 international meetings of interest include: LINC in Leipzig (January 19-22), ISET in Miami (January 16-20), International Endovascular Interventions (Dietrich) Scottsdale, Arizona (February 13-17), European Vascular Course in Maastricht (March 2-4), Euro-PCR in Paris (May 17-20), SVS in Chicago (June 15-18), ESVS in Athens (September 20-25), CIRSE in Munich (September 10-14), MEET in Rome (October 27-29) and Veith in New York (November 18-22).

### **VASSA AT EURO-PCR PARIS 2011**

In 2010 VASSA was invited to run a 90 minute carotid session in conjunction with the Polish Interventional Society. Participants were Jay Pillai, James Tunnicliffe and Philip Matley. This worked very well. In 2011 we have been invited to run a 90 minute session on "Critical Decisions in Critical Limb Ischaemia" in conjunction with the Belgian Society for Vascular Surgery. Speakers are Nad Naidoo, Jay Pillai, Philip

Matley, Patrick Peeters, Frank Vermassen and Marc Bosiers. It would be great to see as many VASSA members as possible attending this.

### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

The Bard Travelling Fellowship has been awarded to Nicholas Pearce, a vascular fellow from Bloemfontein. His presentation at VASSA in October was judged to be the best of the fellows' presentations. We congratulate him and wish him an enjoyable and productive visit to Europe. Dr J Lubbe from Stellenbosch was awarded the prize for the best paper by a trainee at the Kwa-Maritane meeting. Pradeep Mistry has been awarded the CJ Nel prize for the best candidate in the examination for the Certificate in Vascular Surgery. Cobus Van Marle presented the CJ Nel memorial lecture this year and Martin Veller has been awarded the next CJ Nel Lecture. Distinguished service awards have been bestowed on Peter Jeffery, John Robbs and Lewis Levien and will be presented at the next VASSA meeting in Cape Town in April.



***Pradeep Mistry receives the CJ Nel award from out-going President Talib Abdool-Carrim***



***Past-Presidents John Robbs, Talib Abdool-Carrim and Cobus Van Marle***

## VASCULAR EDUCATION FORUM

This education initiative of VASSA with corporate support is aimed at improving the level of awareness and understanding of vascular disease among primary care practitioners and nurses and is now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Successful presentations have been held in Johannesburg/Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Nelspruit. The next meeting will be in Port Elizabeth in November. VASSA is aiming to widen the involvement of local VASSA members in these meetings which will include smaller centers and may be expanded into some of the SADEC countries.

## PRIVATE PRACTICE AFFAIRS

The Private Practice sub-committee (James Tunnicliffe, Greg Weir and Dirk Le Roux) have their hands full dealing with possible new tariff structures and coding following the RPL judgment, a possible revision of the PMB regulations and difficulties that are being experienced with certain medical aids regarding the use of radiology codes for endovascular procedures in spite of the fact that the Radiology Society have agreed to allow us to use these codes. A detailed report-back will be provided in a subsequent newsletter.

## VASCULAR NURSES AND VASCULAR TECHS

The very successful nurses' programme at the congress has highlighted the need for a focus group within VASSA directed at vascular nurses and vascular technologists. We are currently trying to build a data base of nurses and techs that may be interested in order to send them an invitation. Please let us have details of any nurses or techs that you feel may be interested.

## CORPORATE MEMBERS

Platinum status (based on VASSA membership for more than 8 years) has been bestowed on SA Biomedical, Sanofi-Aventis and Vascumed. The other corporate members are Bard, Baroque Medical, Boston Scientific, Cordis/Johnson & Johnson, Marcus Medical and Surgitech. We welcome as the newest members Covidien and Thebe Medical. The corporate members have elected Seamus Wishart from SA Biomedical as their representative on the VASSA executive committee for the next two years.



*Seamus Wishart (SA Biomedical), Jessica Kolberg (Sanofi-Aventis) and Fred Cawood (Vascumed) receive Platinum Corporate Status from Talib Abdool-Carrim*

## HELP US UPDATE OUR RECORDS

The VASSA membership list was lost when a computer was stolen last year. We are trying to update our records. If you receive a membership form with this newsletter it means that you are not currently on our list. If you wish to be a member and are a medical practitioner, nurse, radiographer or any other qualified professional with an interest in vascular disease please complete the form and return it.

## COMMUNICATING WITH THE PRESIDENT

I welcome any questions, suggestions or complaints in the hope that the current exco can best serve the VASSA membership. Please feel free to direct these to me at [pmatley@mweb.co.za](mailto:pmatley@mweb.co.za)

## PHILIP MATLEY

Cape Town, November 2010