

Vascular Society
of
Southern Africa



VASSA

Vaskulêre Vereniging
van
Suidelike Afrika

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019
OF THE VASCULAR SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
HELD ON MONDAY 19th AUGUST 2019
AT 11h50 - CTICC MEETING ROOM 241-2.43
CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE**

PRESENT: Professor T Mulaudzi - President
Dr P Mistry - Secretary
Dr D Le Roux – President-elect
26 Members as per the attendance register

In Attendance: Mrs A McLean

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The President, Professor Mulaudzi, welcomed members and thanked them for attending. Accepted apologies from those unable to attend.

Apologies noted: T Abdool Carrim, B Pillay, N Pearce, J Pillai, J Tunnicliffe

2 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 19th October 2018

The minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting were taken as read and approved:

Proposed – P Mistry
Seconded – D Le Roux

3 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Professor Mulaudzi thanked members for all the support given to him during the year.

Guidelines:

- i. Peripheral Arterial Disease Guidelines
PAD Guidelines are currently being developed during this congress.
- ii. Carotid Artery Guidelines will be updated at a meeting in Pretoria, 21-22 February 2020.

International Meetings

As members of global vascular societies, WFVS and ESVS, it is important that VASSA is represented at the international meetings.

i. WFVS

In December last year Prof Mulaudzi, Prof Pillai and Dr Le Roux all gave presentations at the meeting in Montevideo. The majority of the other talks were given in Spanish.

In May this year Professor Mulaudzi attended the WFVS conference in Japan where most of the talks were given in Japanese - only one full session was in English.

Sponsorship

Extensive discussion took place at the recent VASSA Exco meeting on the new rules governing sponsorship.

Noted that the VASSA Travel Grant, administered by Tanya Schmidt of Conference Partner is going reasonably well so far with grants, either restricted or unrestricted, from a few of the trade companies which are bound by Eucomed, AdvaMed or SAMED regulations.

However the funds are limited which creates some difficulties and restricts travel opportunities.

The President then projected examples of some of the travel funds which have been allocated this year, without divulging the names of the donors or the recipients. He illustrated the fact that R78 000.00 donated specifically for the meeting in Liverpool was insufficient and so the attendees had to contribute from their personal funds. The R70 000.00 donated for members to attend this IAP 2019 congress was fully utilized.

R68 000.00 for 2020 has been allocated to the 2 applicants.

With the new criteria, it means that members who have received a grant to attend a meeting are precluded from receiving funds for a second meeting during the same year.

Applications from individuals who are not paid-up members of VASSA are automatically rejected.

Noted that this new travel grant model, which has been in place for just 3 or 4 months, is very much a work in progress and modifications may well be required going forward.

Fellow Training

Professor Mulaudzi stated that:

- The major problem in all provinces throughout the country is subspecialty training across all the disciplines, not only vascular. In Natal, the province has taken the training posts and training numbers away from the institutions.
- Three fellows have recently qualified with the Certificate in Vascular Surgery
- Four candidates have just written and the results of the examinations are awaited
- The proposal to change the change the ratio from 1:1 to 1 trainer to 2 trainees has been approved by the College of Surgeons and the secretary of the College will send the required letter to the Examination and Credentialing Board. The ratio of one consultant to 2 fellows is in the interests of service delivery.
- It is proposed that the structure of the examinations will change from MCQ and essay type questions to the whole exam being MCQs. Much thought needs to be given to maintaining the standards of the qualification and introducing more

facets of assessment to ensure that the examination is robust, objective and fair.

- The proposed changes will be emailed to the membership, inviting comment and input.
- Agreed to look into international standards of examination, for example the ESVS standards, via the relevant websites.

TREASURER'S REPORT (appended)

Dr Mistry presented the Financial Report on behalf of the Treasurer, Professor Pillai. He advised that the major expenses since the last AGM were:

- R88 000.00 – Ultrasound Workshop held at Sunninghill Hospital in February
- R86 000.00 – European Vascular Course in Maastricht in March
- R95 000.00 – Vascular Fellows Symposium in Stellenbosch in July
- R20 000.00 – WFVS meetings in Montevideo and Japan

The bank balance has remained static over the past few years, despite inflation and deterioration of the value of currency, indicating that funding for educational initiatives is used up each year. The balance in the bank is preserved in case of unexpected expenses or failed congresses. Noted that the current IAP congress may well run at a loss and VASSA may need to contribute.

Corporate members: Prime Surgical is no longer a member but proposes to re-join when circumstances permit.

SA Biomedical has temporarily suspended their membership of VASSA.

5 FUTURE MEETINGS

VASSA 2020

The next VASSA stand-alone congress will be held in Bloemfontein 22-25 October 2020, hosted by Dr Pearce and will follow the same basic format as this current meeting.

2021 will be a combined meeting. Date and venue to be advised.

6 MEMBERSHIP FEES 2020

Agreed that Corporate Membership fees would not be increased next year and will remain at R50 000.00 per company per annum.

Individual membership fees will also remain unchanged for the year ahead;

- R 735.00 per annum – Vascular Surgeons
- R 265.00 per annum – Associate Members
- R 265.00 per annum – International Members
- R 105.00 per annum – Vascular Technician

7 NEW MATTERS

- a) Agreed that Lewis Levien and John Robbs, the remaining founding fathers would be invited to the VASSA Congress in Bloemfontein next year and would be honoured for their contribution to the society and to the specialty.
- b) Recommended a change in the VASSA constitution to permit retired vascular surgeons to retain their membership at no cost.
- c) Professor Mulaudzi applauded and thanked Dr Nad Naidoo for organizing the vascular programme for this congress.
- d) He thanked Eastern Sun Events for their management of a wonderful meeting with many fruitful discussions.
- e) Special mention was made of the support from Trade members which has contributed extensively to the success of the Society.

8 **NEXT MEETING**

The next AGM will be held in October 2020 during the VASSA congress in Bloemfontein.

The meeting closed at 12h40

amc\VASSA AGM minutes 19 August 2019

APPENDIX 1 – Financial Report



02 - VASSA -
Financial report 201