

Vascular Society
of
Southern Africa



VASSA

Vaskulêre Vereniging
van
Suidelike Afrika

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021
OF THE VASCULAR SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
HELD ON SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2021
ONLINE MEETING**

PRESENT:

Professor T Mulaudzi - President
Dr P Mistry - Secretary
Dr D Le Roux – President-elect
Professor J Pillai – Treasurer
Professor T Abdool-Carrim (HoD)
Dr I Cassimjee (Exco)
Dr N Cloete (HoD)
Dr M Forlee (Exco)

Dr A Malan (HoD)
Dr T Monareng (Exco)
Dr N Naidoo (HoD)
Dr J Odendaal (HoD)
Dr B Pillay (HoD)
Dr S Tsotetsi (Exco)
Dr J Tunnicliffe (Exco)

CORPORATE REPS:

A Myburgh
P Pather

+ 41 Members as per the attendance register (58 attendees in total)

SECRETARIAT: A McLean & S Parkes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The President, Professor Mulaudzi, welcomed members and thanked them for attending, noting that it had not been possible to hold this annual general meeting in 2020 due to the pandemic.

No apologies were tendered.

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 19th AUGUST 2019

The minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting were taken as read and approved:

Proposed – P Mistry

Seconded – D Le Roux

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The president expressed his sincere appreciation for the support he has received during his tenure over the past 28 months, particularly during the past 14 months with the challenges of the pandemic and the many changes which necessitated devising different approaches to the delivery of services.

- Given the lockdown restrictions, it was not possible to hold the usual Vascular Fellows Symposium or the Vascular Education Forum which led to the idea of organizing the VASSA Grand Rounds on the last Saturday of each month. These successful webinars started in June 2020, involving some eminent international speakers and attracted a wide range of participants.
- Travel restrictions have prevented attendance at international meetings both now and in the foreseeable future. However, the opportunities to attend online meetings and workshops have provided positive outcomes.
- Guidelines:
 - In 2020 the Vascular Access Guidelines were published as a supplement in the SAJS and the President expressed his appreciation to all the members who made it possible to achieve this.
 - The PAD Guidelines have been finalized.
 - The Carotid Artery guideline meeting was held in February 2020.
 - Plans for a HIV & Vasculopathy meeting are under consideration and it is hoped that this will be possible before the end of this year.
- ESVS: Several members have joined the European Society for Vascular Surgery at a considerably reduced fee. We also have representation in the ESVS Council by Dr Le Roux. Dr Mistry has been attending the ESVS Secretaries' meetings.
- Training the Vascular Fellows has been adversely affected by the Covid situation mainly because elective theatres were cancelled and the lack of ICU beds as most of the resources were directed towards fighting the pandemic. Covid numbers are now coming down and most hospitals have now increased activities in terms of elective surgery and more ICU beds are becoming available.
- Vascular certificate examinations will be held next week which will be the first time that candidates will be writing two papers. The number of questions has been increased to 150 in a bid to improve the validity of the examination and in so doing it is hoped to increase the pass rate.
- The President thanked our partners in industry for their support of VASSA and for their dedication to furthering vascular education which has also promoted VASSA globally.
- He thanked Mrs McLean and Mrs Parkes for their support and assistance in the efficient running of the association, and he concluded by thanking VASSA for giving him the opportunity to serve as their president.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Corporate Membership:

Professor Jay Pillai reported that VASSA has 14 corporate members, 6 of which are platinum members. Over the two years 2020 and 2021 corporate membership fees have been decreased to R50 000.00 across both periods in a bid to save them some money and in view of some of the challenges they have had in terms of income. He recommended that the new executive discuss this in terms of some new information which has been brought to his attention.

- The main income in 2020 was derived from:-
 - R59 000.00 from the profit share of the ASSA-SAGES Congress held in August 2019
 - Corporate membership fees of R650 000.00
 - A very generous donation of R300 000.00 from Boston Scientific
 - VASSA membership fees
- Expenditure items included:-
 - Administration costs, bank charges, travel, congress costs etc
 - Corporate guideline meeting - R222 000.00
 - Aortic Working Group meeting - R7200.00
 - SAJS – VASSA Guidelines supplement - R98 800.00
 - Online European Vascular Course, Maastricht - R15 200.00
 - VASSA 2020 postponed conference - R98 800.00, paid to Tanya of Conference Partner for expenses incurred prior to the pandemic, some of which will be postponed to the conference in 2022.
- The overall balance of R1.5 million is an improvement on the previous financial year.

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

a. Society Membership

Dr Pradeep Mistry reported that VASSA currently has 122 members, 65 of whom are Vascular Surgeons, 32 Associate members, 5 international members, 13 Fellows, 1 registrar, 2 techs, 3 nurses and 1 honorary member.

b. Corporate Membership

He referred to the details of the 14 Trade members as given by the Treasurer in his report.

A special welcome was extended to the new corporate member, Merit Medical, who joined “the family” at the beginning of this year.

c. 2022 Membership Fees

Not discussed.

d. Guidelines

The Secretary extended thanks to Professor Sandie Thomson for his assistance with publishing the *Vascular Access Guidelines* as a supplement in the SAJS. He also thanked all the contributors to the guideline development and the corporate members for financial assistance towards the meeting costs.

It has been agreed that the *Carotid Artery Guidelines* will not be published because the document is just a precis (South African) of the European guidelines. They will be placed on the VASSA website.

Dr Nad Naidoo, who is the Chief Editor of the *PAD Guidelines*, is arranging for these guidelines to be published in the SAMJ.

A meeting to discuss the development of a VASSA *HIV & Vasculopathy* position statement was originally planned for August this year during the now postponed

ASSA-SAGES Congress. The meeting will potentially be postponed to 2022, subject to further discussion by Exco.

e. Grand Rounds

The Grand Rounds were an initiative which was started at the beginning of the pandemic with meetings mainly on the last Saturday of each month between 08:00 and 10:00 and have already covered a broad range of topics.

Dr Cloete's meeting on extracranial carotid disease which was scheduled for January had to be postponed to March 2021 for Covid reasons.

Participation in these meetings has ranged between 120 and 220 attendees depending on the topic and the interest.

Development of the new roster from April 2021 up to January 2022 is in progress and confirmation of co-ordinators and topics will be advised.

f. Aortic Working Group

The last meeting of the group, attended by 20 members, was held in March 2020 at the Johannesburg Country Club. The intention to hold six-weekly meetings was not feasible during the pandemic so the plan now is to arrange online meetings every six weeks with cases presented on the platform, M & M discussions, and tricks and tips on procedures which have been performed and related outcomes. The group has been contacted by Medscheme who have indicated that they are willing to reconsider approvals of FEVAR and complex aortic procedures and they may require input from the Aortic Working Group in terms of approvals and rejections.

6. FUTURE MEETINGS

The 2021 ASSA-SAGES Congress has been postponed to August 2022 at the Drakensburg Convention Centre. As previously agreed, Bloemfontein will be responsible for organizing the vascular programme during that meeting and Dr Asha Malan serves on the LOC on behalf of VASSA.

A short Exco meeting will be held immediately after this AGM

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

a. Nominations received for positions

This being the first online meeting to elect the incoming Exco members, Dr Mistry explained the process of nominating members for positions and of voting via the poll function on a ballot forms created for this purpose by Terrence (WedigitSA).

b. Voting

The co-opted members are the academic heads of vascular units. Office bearers will be voted in first, followed by voting for the four/five Exco members. Agreed that since Dr Mistry would be serving as President-elect and as Secretary, five positions for Exco members would be available this year.

All VASSA members whose fees were fully paid up by the end of 2020 are eligible to cast their votes.

Corporate members have taken the decision not to vote for VASSA Exco members this year.

The new corporate representative has already been voted in by Trade and Dr Mistry welcomed Renate de Wet from Baroque to the position of the new representative for a two-year tenure.

Dr le Roux extended appreciation and thanks to the outgoing representative, Ansu Myburgh, for all her assistance and hard work during her term as the corporate representative.

c. Results of the Election

The VASSA Executive Committee for 2021 – 2022

President	Dr D le Roux
Past President	Professor T Mulaudzi
President-Elect	Dr P Mistry
Secretary	Dr P Mistry
Treasurer	Professor J Pillai
Exco Member	Dr I Cassimjee
Exco Member	Dr B Dube
Exco Member	Dr T Monareng
Exco Member	Dr J Tunncliffe
Exco Member	Dr B Natha
<u>Co-opted Members:-</u>	
HoD SMU	Dr N Cloete
HoD UCT	Dr N Naidoo
HoD UKZN	Dr B Pillay
HoD Stell	Dr J Odendaal
HoD UP	Dr B Sikhosana
Corporate Representative	Ms P Pather (Boston Scientific)
Corporate Representative	Ms R de Wet (Baroque Medical)

8. GENERAL/AOB

On behalf of the members and the outgoing executive committee, Dr le Roux thanked Professor Mulaudzi for a great job done during his tenure as President and said that the new committee looked forward to his continuing input as Past President.

Professor Abdool-Carrim stated that he would be leaving the VASSA Exco after 25-30 years and thanked members, past, present and future, for the opportunity to serve. He advised that his term as HoD at Wits had come to an end and that Professor Jay Pillai has been appointed to that position.

Professor Mulaudzi advised that Dr Bokie Sikhosana would be taking over of Head of Vascular at the University of Pretoria with effect from 1st March 2021 and would therefore be joining the VASSA Exco as a co-opted member.

9. NEXT MEETING

To be advised.