

Vascular Society  
of  
Southern Africa



Vaskulêre Vereniging  
van  
Suidelike Afrika

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018  
OF THE VASCULAR SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA  
HELD ON 19TH OCTOBER 2018  
LAGOON BEACH HOTEL, CAPE TOWN**

**1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The President, Dr Tunnicliffe, welcomed members and thanked them for attending. He noted that this was one of the best attended VASSA AGMs he has experienced. Apologies noted: M Forlee, B Pillay, A Ramnarain, L Tudhope, M Veller. 11 Proxy forms were submitted by members unable to attend.

Dr Tunnicliffe explained the new voting procedure and requested members to cast their votes for the office bearers first, whose names appeared in the top section of the ballot forms, and to hand in that section of the forms for counting by the Election Officer.

**2 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 6TH AUGUST 2017**

The minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting were taken as read and approved:  
Proposed – T Abdool-Carrim  
Seconded – P Mistry

**3 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

J Tunnicliffe delivered an abbreviated report and noted that a full copy would be emailed to members who wished to receive it. He extended his thanks to the executive committee for their assistance and support and to the corporate members for their logistical, financial and personal support during his term of office.

Voting process: The Election Officer will always be one of the academic heads of department as they are the permanent members of the committee, who will oversee the voting to ensure a clear and transparent process. Counting of votes will be done by the Election Officer, a member of the secretariat and a member of the corporate body, not necessarily one of the corporate representatives.

Training posts have been receiving a lot of attention and concern with training opportunities for fellows and registrars amid difficulties in the state sector of bankruptcy, frozen posts etc. VASSA has been in communication with the Department of Health and their response is awaited. VASSA is strongly committed to pushing the agenda for training of Vascular Surgeons in this country.

NHI: VASSA has made a brief submission, although not as extensive as the SAMA, SAPPF and Surgicom submissions. He encouraged everyone in private practice to become a member of an organization such as Surgicom to look after their interests.

HMI: Health Market Enquiry recommendations are going to reshape the practice of medicine in South Africa, not necessarily for the better. Stressed the importance of keeping abreast of the news and commenting when necessary. The final HMI report has been delayed. The interim findings were predictable in claiming that the private sector was responsible for driving costs. Many of the submissions have been completely ignored.

Practice Cost Study: The studies were done in 2009. The data is variable. The highest number of submissions were from surgeons. The Anaesthetists ran their own process but have not shared their info.

P Matley pointed out that all the information available indicates that price control is going to be imposed on the private sector well in advance of implementation of the NHI. The authorities claim that they will engage with the profession. Surgicom will represent its members and will be referring extensively to the practice cost studies in dealing with this on behalf of private practice surgeons and he appealed for support from every general and vascular surgeon by applying for membership of Surgicom (@R750.00 per month).

What happens to the private sector will have a serious impact on public sector too and is of very grave concern.

ESVS membership: Three ESVS officials are with us at the congress: immediate past president Alison Halliday, a past president Martin Björck and president-elect Stéphan Haulon, and have advised that the ESVS constitution has now changed to allow membership outside of Europe and preferential membership rates can be extended to South Africa and VASSA members.

The reduced country membership fee will be Euros 60 per annum for doctors and Euros 40 for nurses, technicians etc. Their journal (*European Journal of Vascular & Endovascular Surgery*) would be available to those members in electronic, not paper format. The full membership fee of Euros 140 would be payable for paper copies of the journal.

VASSA proposes that members wanting to take up this offer of ESVS membership should submit their full names, email addresses and contact details to VASSA before the end of November. Payment can then be made through VASSA at R1750.00 per annum which will cover the VASSA and ESVS membership for one year, January to December. VASSA will arrange a single money transfer to ESVS for these memberships.

Proposed that all members of VASSA Exco and Fellows will be entitled to ESVS membership at VASSA's expense which will mean that there will be 10 or more linked members entitling VASSA to a seat on the ESVS Council. They have two council meetings a year, one of which is always at Charing Cross.

There is absolutely no obligation on any VASSA member to take up this offer of ESVS membership.

An email will be sent out to explain the procedure and will include a form to be completed in terms of membership options.

- 4 **TREASURER'S REPORT (appended)**  
The Treasurer, J Pillai, noted that the balance of R3.8 million represents an increase of about 8% on the previous year and this is what the Society requires in terms of a break-even point.  
Income includes R148000.00 profit from the 2017 Congress, R384000.00 membership and educational support paid by 8 of the 13 corporate members and R57000.00 VASSA membership fees.  
Corporate members whose fees are still outstanding will be contacted individually.  
Expenditure included R320000.00 on education and travel, including guideline meetings and VEF activities.
- 5 **FUTURE MEETINGS**
- a. **WFVS Montevideo, Uruguay, 5-8 December 2018**  
VASSA will have their own session at the WFVS in Montevideo, 5-8 December 2018. Five members of the VASSA Executive will be participating and will report back: T Abdool-Carrim, D le Roux, T Mulaudzi, J Pillai and B Pillay.
- b. **U/S Workshop 2019**  
The VASSA Ultrasound Workshop will be held in Johannesburg on Friday 1st February 2019, and will be organized by D le Roux and P Mistry.  
Fellows and trainees costs will be covered by VASSA.
- c. **VEF 2019**  
In 2019 the Vascular Education Forum will be held in association with the Academy of Family Practice, as was successfully done in 2017. J Pillai will host the VEF, the date and venue of which will be advised as soon as information is available from the Academy.
- d. **VASSA 2019**  
**(Combined meeting with ASSA-SAGES-IAP): 16-20 August 2019**  
The focus of the Vascular programme for the ASSA-SAGES-IAP Congress to be held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre will be on Practice Guidelines, updating the PAD Guidelines. One international guest will be invited to be part of the guidelines process.
- e. **VASSA 2020**  
The next VASSA stand-alone congress will be held in Bloemfontein, hosted by N Pearce and will follow the same basic format as this current meeting.
- 6 **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**
- a. **Nominations Received for Positions**  
The new voting system has been introduced in a bid to formalize the procedure and prevent a recurrence of a non-member of the society being voted on to the executive and to avoid any perception of unfairness or bias.
- Members in good standing are nominated well ahead of the annual general meeting. Nominees are required to sign acceptance to indicate that they are willing to stand. The ballot papers are then populated with the names of the nominees and distributed to voters at the AGM.
- At the meeting with the VASSA Corporate members on 16 October, a decision was taken by the corporate partners that they did not wish to participate in either the nomination or voting process for VASSA Executive Committee members. Two representatives from the Corporate Members serve on the VASSA Exco for a period of two years. At least one of those representatives is requested to attend every Exco meeting.

Ansu Myburgh (Marcus Medical) and Christo Swanepoel (Medtronic) were elected by their members to represent Trade on the VASSA Exco for 2018-2020.

J Tunnicliffe thanked the outgoing corporate representatives, Arabel du Plessis and Peter Rheeders, for their participation and support during the last two years – a job well done, keeping us and your colleagues in line.

**b. Voting**

Votes were counted and checked by the Election Officer, N Naidoo, assisted by Wanda from Eastern Sun Events.

**c. Results**

Members of the new Executive Committee were announced and congratulated:

President	Professor Thanyani Mulaudzi
President-Elect	Dr Dirk le Roux
Secretary	Dr Pradeep Mistry
Past President	Dr James Tunnicliffe
Treasurer	Professor Jay Pillai
Elected	Dr Ismail Cassimjee
Elected	Dr Martin Forlee
Elected	Dr Taalib Monareng
Elected	Dr Sabatta Tsotetsi

**7 MEMBERSHIP FEES 2019**

**a. Current 2018 Fee is R735.00 full member, R265.00 Associate member**

Except for members applying to take up the ESVS offer of reduced membership rates, the VASSA membership fees will remain unchanged.

**b. Proposed 2019 Fee**

- 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
- R1000.00 per annum – ESVS membership

**8 NEW MATTERS**

**a. Coding**

The question on how to code for vascular procedures which have no codes will be addressed by J Tunnicliffe's in Session 11 on Saturday. SAMA code book is out of date. A number of codes will go live on 1st January. SAMA rules of billing make it possible to bill for procedures which have no codes.

Appealed to the next Exco to devote their attention to coding issues. O&G have done a great deal of work on their coding.

**b. Access to Electronic Libraries for Private Practitioners**

J Tunnicliffe will investigate a link to one of the Universities to allow private practitioners to access electronic libraries.

**c. Sponsorship of third party conferences**

SAMED regulations changed with effect from 1 January 2018, completely prohibiting companies to give sponsorship to health care professionals to

attend third party conferences/meetings or for these professionals to solicit sponsorship, ostensibly to get rid of perverse incentives and corrupt activities. However, it is permissible to apply for an educational grant which can be given by trade to a third party event organizer or to a society and then disbursed to applicants in the form of air tickets, accommodation vouchers or registration fees, provided that no cash money is involved.

The education grant can be either an unrestricted or a restricted grant, but the restrictions cannot be so focussed as to be prescriptive. Industry is not entitled to know the identity of the recipient until after the event. There is a considerable amount of bureaucratic administration involved and Exco is investigating various options, contacting companies for quotations, including asking Eastern Sun Events to quote on providing a service, as VASSA has neither the capacity nor expertise to take on the administration.

The regulations apply only to device companies, not the pharmaceuticals. J Tunncliffe will convene a small working group with two corporate representatives to design a mechanism and selection process which will ensure VASSA's compliance with the regulations. Members are requested to email their comments and recommendations to incorporate in the procedure document.

SAMED regulations are somewhat vague in terms of meals provided, gifts etc but the various companies tend to have their own regulations and restrictions within the Eucomed regulations.

Sponsorship for the academic units is less complex but the same regulations tend to apply to state employees as well as private.

**d. Collaborative Study**

Any members interested in participating in a collaborative study are asked to contact Dr Dirk le Roux.

**e. VASSA Prizes**

- Historically, the VASSA prize for the best paper has been R5000.00. This has been changed to cover a case where there may be a tie, i.e. two or more winners, then an amount of R3000.00 will be awarded to each winner rather than apportioning the R5000.00. The winner/s will be announced at the gala dinner.
- The monetary award for the VASSA Prize for an exceptional candidate in the Certificate of Vascular Surgery has been raised to R10 000.00 which will be awarded with a certificate at the gala dinner.

Congratulated Nad Naidoo on the superb organization of the very successful congress noting that there have also been many complimentary remarks from the international visitors.

The outgoing president handed over to Thanyani Mulaudzi and wished him all the best for his term of office.

**9 NEXT MEETING**

The next AGM will be scheduled during the ASSA-SAGES Congress in August 2019.

The meeting closed at 17h55.



# VASCULAR SOCIETY of SOUTHERN AFRICA

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## Financial report – 30 June 2018

### Balance Sheet

	1-Jul-17 to 30-Jun-18	1-Jul-16 to 30-Jun-17
Balance brought forward	3,804,412.92	3,419,731.76
Accumulated funds	<u>324,216.30</u>	<u>384,681.16</u>
	<b>4,128,629.22</b>	<b>3,804,412.92</b>
<b>Employment of Capital:</b>		
Investment Account	4,127,871.79	3,803,899.07
Current Account	<u>757.43</u>	<u>513.85</u>
	<b>4,128,629.22</b>	<b>3,804,412.92</b>

### Income and Expenditure

#### **Income:**

Congress	ASSA 2017	148,745.97	
Membership	Corporate fees	384,000.00	528,000.00
	Members fees	57,115.00	53,241.00
Course fees	Ultrasound course	3,100.00	
Return	Bank fee	18.16	
Sales			200.00
Sponsorship	Medtronic		450,000.00
Interest Income		<u>198,960.28</u>	<u>194,302.23</u>
		<b>791,939.41</b>	<b>1,225,743.23</b>

#### **Expenditure:**

Administration		65,535.00	58,500.00
Bank Charges		1,105.06	1,034.00
Congress	VASSA 2018	40,000.00	
	VASSA 2016		477,731.12
Exco meetings		56,304.10	5,944.74
Gifts etc.		733.61	741.00
Guideline meetings		67,776.54	
Fellow prize		10,000.00	
Sponsorship	European Vasc. Course	42,000.00	60,000.00
	Other		13,500.00
Travel	AACVTS, VEF & WFVS	154,848.80	153,895.66
VEF activities		<u>29,420.00</u>	<u>69,715.07</u>
		<b>467,723.11</b>	<b>841,062.07</b>

<b>Net Income/Loss:</b>	Accumulated funds	<b>324,216.30</b>	<b>384,681.16</b>
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## VASCULAR SOCIETY of SOUTHERN AFRICA

### VASSA Corporate Members (as at end Oct 2018):

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
<b>Platinum:</b>									
Bard Medical		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marcus Medical		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medtronic		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vascumed		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Standard:</b>									
Babcock			✓	✓	✓	✓			
Bayer		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Baroque Medical			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Boston Scientific			✓	✓	✓				✓
Disa (J&J Cordis prior to 2016)		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
KCI - Acelity		✓		✓	✓				
Surgitech			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Previous Platinum:</b>									
SA Biomedical (Prime Surg.)				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sanofi				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Previous Standard:</b>									
Aspen					✓	✓			
Covidien (Medtronic from 2016)						✓	✓	✓	✓
First Medical					✓				
Terumo (Vascumed from 2017)				✓					

✓ Fully paid membership fee

✓ Reduced or condoned membership fee