



www.fertiltysa.org.za

**Southern African Society of
Reproductive Science & Surgery**
Suider Afrikaanse Vereniging vir
Reproduktiewe Wetenskap &
Chirurgie

Members Newsletter No 2

Sept 2007

A member of



From the desk of the Chairman

It is with pleasure that I inform all our members about the activities of the new committee. There is a great enthusiasm and eagerness amongst the group to tackle the issues of the Society. We had a very successful brainstorming session about 6 weeks ago which formed the basis for our vision and objectives for the coming year.

The Committee consists of Prof. Thinus Kruger (Chairman), Dr Paul le Roux (Vice Chairman), Prof. Danie Franken (Secretary), Prof JS Bagratee (Treasurer) Drs Mohamed Cassim, Herman Netshidzivhani, Silke Dyer, Igno Siebert and Mr Dudley Randall (from the Turners Conference Group). Ex-officio is Dr Paul Dalmeyer.

The SASRSS is currently divided into different sub-committees, namely Finances, Accreditation and Training, Policy, CME and Data Capturing. The committee has decided to invite/co-opt members in those areas where representation is needed. All SASRSS members are invited to forward discussion points through the secretary.

Thinus Kruger

Member Activities

The 10th Semenology Workshop in conjunction with the World Health Organizations' Human Reproductive Programme will be held at Tygerberg Hospital from 3-7 December 2007.

The Area Manager, Prof Davy M. Chikamata MD FRCOG, for Africa & Eastern Mediterranean Regions Department of Reproductive Health & Research World Health Organization, Geneva, wrote;

As part of a research capacity strengthening activities in the management of infertility, the Programme (HRP) has since 1997 provided technical and financial support to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Tygerberg Hospital, Cape Town South Africa to conduct the Semenology workshop. The training is based on the WHO manual for semen analysis. The Department has to date trained >100 health care workers from 15 countries, to perform semen analysis according to international standards from Africa and Eastern Mediterranean Regions. The course content was recently been revised to include a session on cytology. The course has greatly contributed to improved management in the two regions.

The workshop directors are Prof DR Franken, Dr R Menkveld and Dr N Aneck-Hahn (Pretoria). The faculty of these highly acclaimed workshops included individuals from different disciplines i.e. Dr Aneck-Hahn (Department Urology, University Pretoria), Dr Christine Kigonda (University Nairobi), Dr Stefaan du Plessis (Department of Physiology, University of Stellenbosch) Dr Ursula Habenicht (Bayer-Schering Pharma AG, Berlin Germany). Prof R Bornmann (Department Urology, University Pretoria) and Prof R Henkel (University of Western Cape).

ESHRE special task force

The Executive Committee of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) recently started with a new "Special task force" dedicated to infertility in developing countries. This new ESHRE special task force aims to encourage more and affordable infertility treatment in developing countries.

The first project of this task force will be the organization of an expert meeting on the topic of "Developing countries and infertility". This meeting will be organized in Arusha, Tanzania, from 15 until 17 December 2007.

In between 25 to 30 experts will be invited. In attachment you will find a provisional outline of the scientific program. In another file the most important aims of the meeting are discussed. Two members of the SASRSS namely Dr Silke Dyer and Prof Danie Franken have been invited to participate as invited speakers during the meeting. Dr Dyer will address the meeting on "Infertility: the HIV challenge" while Prof Franken will share his experience with semen training in developing countries.

19th World Congress on Fertility and Sterility in South Africa

Following six years of hard work by, both the IFFS Scientific and the Southern African Society for Reproductive Science and Surgery (SASRSS), LOC committees the 19th World Congress on Fertility and Sterility took place in Durban. The event turned out to be major success in all aspects, and was enjoyed by all who participated.

A total of 1248 delegates from 81 countries attended the event – representing the true federation for what IFFS stands for. A first attempt was made by IFFS to structure pre-conference workshops. Although a small start the attendance was mixed but overall a successful and solid base for future development. 153 free accepted communication papers accepted and 134 posters approved. What industry is concerned, 35 exhibitors participated represented in a total of 60 booths.

The Scientific program was exceptionally well structured by the International Scientific Programme Committee led by Prof. Roger Kempers in conjunction with the South African Scientific Programme Committee headed by co-chairs, Prof. Thinus Kruger and Prof. Zephne van der Spuy.

There were 19 Trilogy and 4 plenary sessions. In addition a keynote lunchtime address, a first for IFFS. The scientific highlights were many and too numerous to mention, but the focus on the African pandemic of HIV certainly struck a sensitive and emotional note from delegates after a superb plenary by Prof. Mitch Besser and the satirist Pieter Dirk Uys's key note address.

The opening ceremony consisted of addresses by, Dr Paul Dalmeyer, Prof. Bernard Hedon, Dr Roger Kempers, the mayor of Durban, and the official opening was conducted by acting Minister of Health for South Africa, Mr Jeoff Radebe. Entertainment with an African flavor a fertility design (The Bareness of the Kalahari to the fruitfulness of Kwa-Zulu Natal) as a theme was provided following the addresses and presentation of Honoree Life Membership awards, awarded to Prof's Ian Cooke, Gab Kovacs and Gamal Serour.

At the closing Ceremony the two best poster awards were made to Dr.Yung Kuei Soong from Taiwan and Dr. Gisela Zang from Argentina. They were congratulated in absentia. The presidential gavel was handed over by the outgoing president Prof Bernard Hedon to the new President Prof. Basil Tarlatzis. Thanks and congratulations were conveyed to the South African committee and their organizers for their efforts in running a successful congress. Dr. Paul Dalmeyer handed over the responsibility for the next IFFS conference in Munich to Prof .Hans Tinnenberg of Germany.

Dr. Dalmeyer acknowledges the outstanding contribution and efforts of the local management committee consisting of Prof. Zephne van der Spuy, Prof. Thinus Kruger, Dr. Alan Alperstein, Dr. Roelof Menkveld, Turners Conferences and all others who made this an event the society and South Africa can be proud of.

As a final note the LOC would like the Durban event to be remembered as a successful contribution for IFFS and that it is imperative that developing countries play a integral and important part in the future of IFFS.

In Memoriam: Jean Cohen



karen.maris@eshre.com

Founding father and ESHRE's second chairman 1987-1989

Jean Cohen died suddenly last week in Morocco. In recommending Jean Cohen as his successor as ESHRE's chairman, R.G. Edwards described Cohen as "deeply involved in many of the fundamental ethical and organizational activities in human reproduction both in France and internationally".

Jean Cohen had qualified in Paris in 1959. From 1965 to 1974 he had worked as an "assistant" in O&G to Professor Bernard Meier at the Hrpital Saint-Antoine in Paris, and from 1974 to 2002 as director of the Centre de Striliti at the Hrpital de S0vres.

As well as chairman of ESHRE from 1987 to 1989, Cohen was a past president of the Sociiti Franaise de Gynecologie and Sociiti Franaise pour l'Etude de la Fertiliti, and chairman of IFFS from 1992 to 1995. Cohen was made an honorary Vice President of the American Fertility Society in 1992, an honorary member of IFFS in 1998 and an honorary member of ESHRE in 1999. He was editor of his own journal Contraception Fertiliti Sexualiti from 1963 and of Gyn.Obs from 1973, and an assistant editor of Human Reproduction from 1991 to 1997.

During ESHRE's early years it was Cohen who took the first initiatives for the formation of the journal, instigated contracts with publishers, put ethical issues high on the society's agenda, devised a structure for training, recognized the value of acceptable corporate sponsorship, and determined to put the society's finances on a sound

basis.

His aim was to enhance in all aspects the research on reproductive clinical science. His contribution to the ethical standards of ESHRE and his constructive, intellectual and humanistic participation to the ESHRE Ethics Task Force were outstanding.

Our condolences go to his wife and whole family. As a role model and teacher, he has stimulated many members of ESHRE during his long professional life. His memory will continue to inspire us.

ESHRE Central Office, Meerstraat 60, B-1852 Grimbergen (Beigem) Belgium

Members Forum

Dr Roelof Menkveld, the former secretary of SASRSS, has been elected as vice chair of ESHRE's Andrology Special Interest Group.

Dr Nadia Falzone from the Tswane University of Technology extended her family by the birth of bambino Chiara in July 2007. Congratulations to Her and Poalo.

Dr Nadia Falzone completed her PhD entitled; "The effect of non-thermal 900 MHz mobile phone radiation on human spermatozoa".

Prof Danie Franken newly elected secretary of the SASRSS was elected as member of the World Health Organization's Biomedical Specialist Panel.

Prof Thinus Kruger, Danie Franken and Roelof Menkveld joined the grandfathers club during the year

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chairman

Prof TF Kruger

Vice-Chairman

Dr P le Roux

Secretary

Prof DR Franken

Treasurer

Prof JS Bagratee

Ex Officio : Past President

Dr. PI Dalmeyer

Members

Dr MI Cassim

Dr S Dyer

Dr H Netshidzivhani

Dr I Siebert

SECRETARIAT :

Carol Randall

Turners Conferences (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 1935

Durban 4000

South Africa

Tel: +27 31 3321451

Fax: +27 31 3325709

Email: sarsrs@fertilitysa.org.za

Calendar of Forthcoming Events

September 3-7

3rd Embryo Implantation Control Summer School, Jena, Germany

September 5-7

3rd Royan Int'l Congress on Stem Cells Biotechnology,
8th Royan Int'l Congress on Reproductive Biomedicine, Tehran, Iran.

September 6-9

7th Clinical Conference of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Infertility (EDF), Cairo, Egypt

September 13-15

5th World Congress on Ovulation Induction, Rome, Italy

September 14

ESHRE Campus 2007
Symposium on Data Collection and ART Monitoring, Sofia, Bulgaria

September 14-16

2nd Int'l Symposium on Genetics of Male Infertility, Florence, Italy

September 19-21

2nd Congress Int'l IVI, Barcelona, Spain

September 21-22

ESHRE Campus 2007
3rd Course on Molecular Basis and Translational Studies in Reproductive Medicine, Symposium organised by the Special Interest Group

"Reproductive Endocrinology", Utrecht, The Netherlands

September 21-22

9th Seminar of the European Society of Contraception

"From abortion to contraception", Bucharest, Romania

September 24-27

Basic Semen Analysis Course, Porto, Portugal

September 26-29

7th German Endometriosis Congress, "Endometriosis, uterus & fertility" Berlin, Germany

September 28-30

36th Annual Scientific Meeting ISEH Society for Hematology and Stem Cells, Hamburg, Germany

October 1-2

Human Reproduction in 2007, Mykonos

October 4-7

"Stay together - Grow together", 5th Annual Meeting of the Austrian IVF-Society, Deutschlandsberg, Austria

October 5-6

Surgery and Reproduction: A new possibility or an open question?, Rome, Italy

October 7-11

17th World Congress on Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Florence, Italy

October 10-13

7th Congress of the European Society of Gynecology, Maison de La Chimie, Paris, France

October 13-17

63rd Annual Meeting of the ASRM, Washington, DC, USA

October 18-21

World congress on Fallopian Tubes, Kalkota, India

October 19-20

European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, Fisiopatologia della Riproduzione Umana. III Corso di Base, Cefalù (Palermo), Italy

November 1-2

3rd International Conference on Science and Ethics of Assisted Human Reproduction and Stem Cell Research, Berlin, Germany

November 8-10

ESHRE Campus 2007, Reproductive Andrology. Organized by the Clinical Andrology Training Subcommittee of the Special Interest Group on Andrology of ESHRE and the Educational Committee of the EAA, Brussels, Belgium

November 8-10

SIGI 2nd Int'l Summit on Reproductive Medicine, Valencia, Spain

November 8-10

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome – A condition of our time, Joint RCOG/ESHRE Conference, London, UK

November 8-11

The 2nd Asia Pacific Congress on Controversies in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Infertility, Shangri-La Hotel, Shanghai, China

November 22-23

13th Course on Andrology Fundacio Puigvert, Andrology and Sexual Medicine: we share the present, we prepare the future
Barcelona, Spain

November 30 -1 December, **ESHRE Campus 2007**

International Conference on Ethics of Stem Cell Research and Moral Responsibility in ART, Organized by the ESHRE Special Interest Group Ethics and Law and the Bioethics Institute Ghent (BIG), Ghent, Belgium

December 6-7

ESHRE Campus 2007, Early Pregnancy Winter Course, Organised by the ESHRE Special Interest Group Early Pregnancy, Brussels, Belgium

December 7-8

Symposium on Premature Ovarian failure and Poor Ovarian response, Sofia, Bulgaria

December 7-9

International Congress on Controversies in Management of Advanced Reproductive Care (IC-MARC 2007). Manipal, India

February 18-20

3rd Bi-Annual Joint Caribbean Infertility Conference 2008, – 'Moving Points in Reproductive Medicine' Moving Points in Reproductive Medicine (Boston IVF & Sims Fertility Clinic Dublin), Antigua, West Indies

March 4-8

20th EBCOG European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

18th Portuguese Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Lisbon, Portugal

March 11-14

10th World Congress on Endometriosis, Melbourne, Australia

March 13-14

12th Reinier de Graaf Symposium, Groningen,

The Netherlands

April 11-13

2nd Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE2008)

& 6th Biennial Meeting of the Pacific Rim Society for Fertility & Sterility

(PRFSFS2008), Singapore

April 23-25

8th International Symposium on Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis, Barcelona, Spain

April 30–May 3

10th Congress of the European Society of Contraception "Non-contraceptive impact of contraception and family planning", Prague, Czech Republic

July 6-9

24th Annual Meeting of the ESHRE, Barcelona, Spain



www.fertiltysa.org.za