



# NEPHRO News

## REPORT FROM PRESIDENT & SECRETARY

Dear Colleagues,

Since the last general meeting in 2020 much has transpired in SA and around the world. COVID19 continued to weave a devastating path in several subsequent waves, especially the deadly delta wave of mid -2021. The world has seen numerous new conflicts and political turmoil, and this has had significant impact globally on economic prosperity. Eskom continues to leave us powerless and metaphorically and has required healthcare services to adapt, at huge costs, in terms of service provision and financial outlay.

Against this backdrop the Society continues to engage with our members, government regulators, funders, and patient groups to play a constructive and positive role, often despite significant obstacles.

Below are some of the activities and achievements over the past two years since the last AGM.

- We managed to host a successful congress in Durban after postponement from the two preceding years. The congress was well attended and well received. We would like to once more congratulate and thank Prof Alain Assounga and Dr Kwazi Ndhlovu who together with the organizing committee and dedicated help from Turners Conferences pulled a veritable rabbit from a hat! We are pleased to report that the congress was also financially profitable and will assist the organization to remain viable. We look forward to welcoming you all again in 2023. The likely venue is Gauteng.
- Our Paediatric colleagues have won the bid to host the IPNA congress in Cape Town in 2023 and we look forward to broad support from the nephrology community for this prestigious international event.
- We have presented to the parliamentary portfolio committee our concerns and constructive suggestions around the implementation of NHI. This was also coupled with an engagement with Dr Crisp, the director responsible for NHI at DoH, at our congress. We have made an impassioned plea for an improvement in several areas including but not limited to better screening and prevention of kidney disease, improved hospital facilities and management, improved training opportunities and more posts for training and broader and improved access to dialysis and transplant services.
- We have pursued the finalisation of dialysis regulations, which have been in limbo for many years and seek to address issues including regulation of dialysis units, basic standards of care and referral pathways. These are hopefully being finalised. We must thank Prof Rafique Moosa in his role as chairperson of the MACOT (Ministerial Advisory Committee on transplant) and Lindsay Jacobs from the DoH who have assisted us with this.
- We have had several online update courses, including one in collaboration with the SA Transplant Society and we are planning to improve the role we play in facilitating mentorship and leadership roles within the society.
- We have engaged with funders including Medscheme, GEMS, Discovery, and others to improve and address issues which affect our members and patients. We are planning to review the coding and billing systems with the permission of our members to address inconsistencies which have led to both abuse by and persecution of members and other providers.
- We initiated and were involved in a court application forcing 'Health -Squared' medical scene to prolong benefits for their members with kidney failure and transplant as well as other emergency conditions to buy time for them to make alternative arrangements for medical cover. We must thank Advocates Gerald Farber(SC) and Yusuf Saloojee as well as the dedicated team from Webber-Wentzel who all generously provided their services at no cost, to the great benefit of the vulnerable members of the scheme. We are likely to face similar scenarios in the future given the precarious financial situation of many medical schemes. We did engage with the Council for Medical Schemes on this issue and hope this type of emergency can be prevented in future. We have played an ongoing role in advocacy for patient and doctor rights and have produced several statements in this area over the past two years.
- Our guidelines group has been active in preparing published guidelines for the use of the COVID19 vaccine as well as working together with the endocrinologists to provide input on the use of SGLT2 inhibitors for diabetic kidney disease. We are also reviewing and preparing several new documents. This is a busy space, and we must thank Dr Malcolm Davies and his dedicated guidelines committee for continuing this important work. More work is needed, and more is coming, and I am sure Malcolm, and his committee will call on many of our experienced members to contribute.
- We have continued our commitment to the SA Dialysis Registry, ably led by Prof Razeen Davids and his team. We thank the sponsors from the private sector and acknowledge the support of government. We will continue to ask Government for better engagement and funding based on the important and concerning trends reflected in the registry. Government's commitment to improving services and moving towards a progressive improvement in services remains questionable.
- Our financial position remains healthy, and the organisation has finally achieved registration as an NGO thanks to the team at Turners. This will necessitate some restructuring of our accounts so be on the lookout for a possible change in our banking details.
- Our Twitter feed is updated regularly and also frequently mentioned. We invite our members to follow us on this platform and engage with us. Our handle is @sa\_nephro.
- Our members have been actively working with CMSA in the examination processes for the first part and the second part of the nephrology exam for adults and paediatrics.

- We remain a committed partner of the ISN, and your membership continues to include ISN membership. Several of our academic hospitals have been hosting ISN fellowships for decades now. We are also dedicated members of AFRAN and contribute to the maintenance of the African Journal of Nephrology. Prof Alain Assounga remains the editor of this publication which continues to grow from strength to strength.

- We are engaged with the transplant society to co-operate in the areas of guidelines and regulations for kidney transplants. The voices of nephrologists, particularly in the private sector have been under-represented at this level.

The office bearers would like to thank the EXCO and ex-officio members for the work they have put in in the last few years. The organisation can only exist and perform a useful role with an active and committed management. The future holds many challenges, and the organisation is actively working to help our colleagues deal with them. Uncertainty around NHI, training of specialists, corruption and poor government facilities are some of the many areas we will continue to deal with. Although numbers of nephrologists in South Africa remain small, we have an engaged and activated membership. We look forward to your ongoing support and aspire to be an agent of constructive and positive change in South African society.

**Dr Shoyab Wadee**  
SANS President

**Professor Nicola Wearne**  
SANS Secretary

## THE MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

The Ministerial Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation (MACOT) was established in 1998 under the chairmanship of Prof Tom Bothwell and included Professors Benatar, Mokhobo and Veriava. Over the years, the membership has changed and has become more representative. All members of MACOT are formally appointed by the Minister of Health. The current committee comprises eight adult nephrologists, an ethicist, a paediatric nephrologist and a hepatologist. The main function of the Committee is to advise the Minister concerning all transplants except deceased donor and living related donor transplants. All transplants in foreign nationals are also reviewed by the Committee. In a recent update of the terms of the reference of the Committee, it will also be advising the Minister on the need for and the authorization of transplant units, determining the future needs of transplant services and auditing the performance of the transplant units.

The current process of applying for Ministerial approval, requires applicants to complete the necessary documentation, including medical and social reports on the both the donor and recipient and to submit these to the National Department of Health. The applications are reviewed by the Committee and a recommendation is made to the Minister. If the application is incomplete or the Committee has queries or requires clarification on any aspects of the reports, these are referred back to the applicants. The most common challenges faced by the Committee are abnormalities either in clinical findings, laboratory results or radiology reports that are not addressed or explained. In order to improve turnaround time at the MACOT, the reviewers are required to report back to the chair within one week of receiving an application. In an effort to modernize the process, the Committee is in the process of developing an online application system with the support of the Organ Donor Foundation of South Africa, which we plan to activate early in the new year. With this, we are also planning an algorithm that will assist applicants to complete the transplant workup cost-efficiently. The Committee has also facilitated the processing of the Dialysis Regulations and the Transplant Regulations by the National Department of Health, which had stalled.

The Committee is aware of the urgent and desperate need to increase organ donation in the country and is working with the Southern African Transplant Society, Organ Donor Foundation of South Africa and the Transplant Coordinators Society to address the situation.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**AFRAN CONGRESS 2023**  
14 – 18 February 2023

**ISN WCN 2023**  
30 March – 03 April 2023



17<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS OF AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEPHROLOGY (AFRAN)  
2<sup>nd</sup> CONGRESS OF AFRICAN SOCIETY OF ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION (ASOT)  
41<sup>st</sup> CONGRESS OF THE EGYPTIAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY & TRANSPLANTATION (ESNT)

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION DEADLINE 1 NOVEMBER**  
**Extended to 1 December**

**14 -18 FEBRUARY** INTERCONTINENTAL CITYSTARS CAIRO HOTEL, CAIRO, EGYPT  
The conjoint congress website: [www.esntcongress.org](http://www.esntcongress.org)



**ISN** INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY  
MARCH 30 – APRIL 2, 2023  
BANGKOK, THAILAND

**WCN'23**

Hosted by  

<https://esntcongress.org/>

<https://www.theisn.org/wcn/>

## CURRENT EXCO

*President:* Dr Shoyab Wadee  
*Secretary:* Prof Nicole Wearne  
*Treasurer:* Dr Julian Jacobs / Dr Zakaria Gangat  
*Past President:* Prof Graham Paget  
*Past Secretary:* Dr Vakhtang Rekhviashvili  
Dr Geoff Bihl Dr Yazied Chohia  
Dr Malcolm Davies Dr Nina Diana  
Dr Sudesh Hariparshad Dr Kagiso Motse  
Dr Albert Muranda Dr Peter Nourse  
Dr Unati Nqebelele Dr Patience Sigwadi  
Dr Wesley van Hougenhouck-Tullenken

## CURRENT EX-OFFICIO

### Registry

Prof Razeen Davids Western Province

### Affiliated Societies

**AFRAN** Prof Razeen Davids / Prof S Naicker  
Western Province  
**ISN** Prof Sarala Naicker Western Province  
**ISPD** Dr Brett Cullis Kwazulu Natal  
**IPTA/SAPA** Prof Mignon McCulloch Western Province

### Medical Schools

Pretoria Dr Albert Muranda Gauteng  
WITS Prof Graham Paget Gauteng  
UCT Prof Nicola Wearne Western Province  
Stellenbosch Prof Razeen Davids Western Province  
Free State Dr Feziwe Busiswa Biswi Free State  
KZN Prof Alain Assounga Kwazulu Natal  
Limpopo Dr Phetho Mangena Limpopo  
Livingstone Tertiary Hospital Nephrology & Hypertension  
Dr Jason Ensor Eastern Cape  
Sefako Makgatho University (MEDUNSA)  
Dr Zubair Asmal Gauteng

### Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC)

Prof Rafique Moosa Western Cape

## CONDOLENCES

Condolences to families and friends of those we have lost.

Prof Tony Meyer  
Prof Anthony Were (AFRAN)  
Dr Edward Mabubula  
Dr Roger M Phillips  
Dr Hendrik Viljoen

## CONGRATULATIONS

The following Paediatricians qualified as Paediatric nephrologist in the past 3 years:

1. Dr Nonhlanhla Mtshali – Sefako Makgatho University
2. Dr Nokukhanya Ngubane– Mwandla Chris Hani Baragwanath
1. Dr Bonisiwe Chauke Makamba – Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital(RXH)
2. Dr Privilage Makanda – Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital – from Zimbabwe
3. Dr Thembisile Mosalakatane – Red Cross War Memorial Children’s hospital – from Botswana
4. Dr Khadija Abugrain – Red Cross War Memorial Children’s hospital – from Libya
5. Dr Paul Mashanga – Tygerberg/Red Cross War Memorial Children’s hospital – from Zambia
6. Dr Judith Aujo – Red Cross War Memorial hospital – from Uganda
7. Dr Beatrice Nyann – Red Cross War Memorial hospital – from Ghana
8. Dr Nisreen Sinada – Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital – from Sudan

### Adult Nephrologist that have qualified in the past 2 years:

1. Dr Zibay Barday – UCT
2. Dr Thabang Tsenoli – UCT – Lesotho
3. Dr Ismail Bandeker – UCT
4. Dr Maria Kamkuemah – UCT – Namibia
5. Dr Mohammed Khuweldi (TBH) – Libya
6. Dr Abid Sheik – UCT (Botswana)
7. Dr Elfatih Hassan – UCT (Sudan)
8. Dr Amna Kunana – UCT (Sudan)
9. Dr Abdul-Jalil Inusah– Stellenbosch – Ghana
10. Dr Salah Bashir – Stellenbosch – Libya
11. Dr Omer Dahab Taha – Stellenbosch – Sudan
12. Dr Peter Maritim – Stellenbosch – Kenya
13. Dr Mohamed Ebrahim Arman Ali – Sudan
14. Dr Siziwe Ndamase
15. Dr Lungiswa Mtingi–Nkonzombi
16. Dr Mthunzi Thusi
17. Dr Dr Botlenyana Lerotholi
18. Dr Onke Nonkala
19. Dr Vimbayi Makanza from Zimbabwe (ISN)
20. Dr Sara Saffer
21. Dr Swati Meel
22. Dr Gerald Maroka
23. Dr Ledile Mokoka
24. Dr Chandni Dayal
25. Dr Naeem Motala
26. Dr Glen Tshakhuma
27. Dr Siphon Mgxeke
28. Dr Nikash Ramsunder
29. Dr Dominic Kumashie
30. Dr Ali Abohajir
31. Dr Tasneem Nurun

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