



## **HeFSSA Annual General Meeting**

31 October 2006

Somerset-West

### **Minutes**

Prof Karen Sliwa (chairperson) welcomed the members, opened the proceedings and summarised the activities of HeFSSA in 2005/2006.

Dr Olaf Forster (treasurer) gave an overview of HeFSSA's financial position and reported that the Society has been registered as a Sec 21 company which will be audited on a yearly basis. HeFSSA banking will be conducted through Standard Bank.

The Executive Committee for next 2-year period (2007-2008) was elected unanimously. Prof Sliwa was proposed and seconded as Chairperson for the next 2-year term by the Exco.

Prof K Sliwa (chairperson)  
Dr E Klug (secretary)  
Dr O Forster (treasurer)  
Mr G Nel (executive officer)

New Exco members proposed and seconded are

Dr K O'Connell (Durban)  
Dr M Mpe (Pretoria)  
Dr S Middlemost (Cape Town)  
Prof J Brink (Cape Town)  
Prof J Moolman (Education Portfolio)

The following industry representatives on the Exco will remain

Mr W Stranix (industry – devices)  
Me E Minkov (industry – pharma ethical)  
Mr R Moul (industry – pharma generic)

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Prof D Damasceno discussed the THESUS Heart Failure Registry.

Prof K Sliwa discussed plans for 2007.

HeFSSA will be actively involved in PASCAR (Kenya, May 2007) and SA Heart Congress (Sun City, Nov 2007).

HeFSSA will host an independent HF workshop in May 2007 with corporate support (specifically Medtronic at this stage).

Meeting Closed.



## **HeFSSA Annual Report October 2006**

### **Inaugural Meeting:**

The Heart Failure Society of South Africa (HeFSSA) is an official special interest group of SA Heart. It was inaugurated during the 6th annual SA Heart congress in the Drakensberg in October 2005. Prof Willem Remme, a prominent European cardiologist welcomed the efforts to establish an African heart failure society and spoke of both, the European and World Heart Failure Societies.

46 attendees signed on as members during the inaugural meeting and together with messages of support from Australia through Prof. Simon Stewart, encouragement from Prof. Bongani Mayosi of UCT and a clear enunciation of our aims and plans by Prof. Karen Sliwa (Chairperson of HeFSSA) from WITS, the meeting was indeed a wonderful initial expression of the enthusiasm that appears to be present among interested members of SA Heart's broad community of cardiologists, specialist nurses, technologists, allied disciplines and representatives of the pharmaceutical and device industry.

### **HeFSSA Workshop at Kloofzicht lodge:**

The first HeFSSA workshop was conducted in the beginning of February 2006 and elaborated on the 'SA Heart Association's ESC Guidelines Publication Project'.

All HeFSSA members were invited in our first newsletter that was distributed by email on 9th January 2006. The workshop was well attended and resulted in very fruitful discussions regarding the adaptation of the guidelines according to local practice. The Executive Committee and the Ethics and Guidelines Standing Subcommittee published the heart failure ESC guidelines as supplements to the SA Heart Journal with the May 2006 issue. The guidelines were accompanied by comments towards certain aspects of the ESC guidelines made by the HeFSSA guideline working group.

During the workshop we had the opportunity to listen to excellent lectures by two international speakers, Prof. A. Mebazza from Paris, France (management of acute heart failure), Prof. Simon Stewart from the Baker Institute, Australia (chronic heart failure management programs) and national speakers like Prof. G. Richards (haemodynamic monitoring in acute heart failure), Dr. E. Klug and Prof. K. Sliwa.

We are grateful for the support from Abbott Laboratory organizing the beautiful venue and inviting the speakers.

### **Registration:**

Olaf Forster (treasurer) organized the registration of HeFSSA as a section 21 company. Since August the organisation has an account with Standard Bank.

### **Alteration of members of executive committee:**

William Stranix replaced Craig Smith as industry representative (device section), Eva Minkov replaced Kevin Frances as industry representative (ethical pharmaceutical) with Roger Moulton co-opted as industry representative (generic pharmaceutical). George Nel joined us as executive officer in June 2006.

### **Industry Launch:**

The launch to industry was very successfully organized by George Nel. We are glad to have 8 pharmaceutical companies as corporate members.



**Website:**

The committee spend much time and energy preparing an exciting new website [www.hefssa.org](http://www.hefssa.org) including detailed sections on guidelines, research projects, a new acute heart failure registry (THESUS) in preparation and case reports.

**Fellowship program:**

In collaboration with the World Heart Failure Society ([www.worldheartfailure.org](http://www.worldheartfailure.org)) HeFSSA has organized 2 fellowship programs supported by Medtronic and the STICARES foundation. Details about the fellows and the progress of their work can be found on our website.

We thank all our members from South Africa, Mozambique, Ghana, Kenya, Europe, America and Australia for showing their support towards the society! It is our hope that all members of SA Heart with an interest in heart failure from both, public and private health sectors join this special interest group and become members of the first heart failure society on the African continent!

With best wishes

Prof. Karen Sliwa  
Chairperson Interim Committee