



SASES

The South African Society of Endoscopic Surgeons

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**SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF ENDOSCOPIC SURGEONS
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
HELD ON SATURDAY 17 AUGUST 2019 AT CTICC, CAPE TOWN**

PRESENT: Prof E Panieri (President)

40... Members as per attendance register
In Attendance: Mrs S Parkes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The President thanked everyone for attending. Apologies were noted

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2018, AT THE VINEYARD HOTEL, CAPE TOWN

These have been circulated and taken as read.

Accepted: Dr A Potgieter

Seconded: Dr H Bougard

3. MATTERS ARISING - Nil

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – PROF EUGENIO PANIERI

Dear members,

It is a privilege and an honour to be your President, and to serve the society with the elected EXCO. I would like to thank you for electing us to serve you in this position.

I believe SASES to be the best, most functional society in the SA general surgery spectrum, and we will endeavour to continue making it relevant, functional and helpful to you and your patients.

I also need to take this opportunity to formally thank the EXCO for their support. We should all appreciate the time and effort each member offers the society, time taken from family moments, from social and fun activities, or other work commitments, which is instead given to SASES. We are all deeply appreciative of the generous and enthusiastic attitude the EXCO has towards all matters pertaining to SASES.

We also have to acknowledge Ms Susan Parkes, who gives the Society essential, and extremely efficient administrative support.

The task of this report is to briefly update you on the core activities the Society has been busy with over the last 12 months.

It is good to remind ourselves of the MISSION AND OBJECTIVE OF THE SOCIETY, as set out in the constitution:

SASES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018/19

PRESIDENT: Prof E Panieri, **VICE PRESIDENT:** Prof A Numanoglu,
PAST PRESIDENT: Dr D Brombacher, **TREASURER:** Dr C Sofianos; **SECRETARY:** Dr E Coetzee
MEMBERS: Prof Z Koto, Prof M Brand, Dr G Reimers Dr H Bougard, Dr R Oodit, Dr J Lubbe

The objects, for which the Society is established, are:

2.1. To promote a high standard of endoscopic surgery by formulating guidelines for basic and advanced training in recognised training centres.

To this effect the training center at RXWMCH continues to function effectively, with the excellent support of Prof Numanoglu and Mr van Geems, and offers a range of basic and advanced laparoscopic workshops. There are a number of other University based training centers in the country managed by our members with excellent training opportunities.

2.2. To provide guidelines as to the credentialing and ethics of the practice of endoscopic surgery and to advise and assist official bodies such as South African Medical Association and the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) on these matters.

Our website offers guidelines on a range of minimally invasive procedures, which are due for review and update, and has engaged with primarily medical funders to support laparoscopic surgery.

We have engaged repeatedly with Discovery over funding models for bariatric surgery, and it is formally acknowledged by Discovery that Proventi accredited surgeon will be supported to practice bariatric surgery. This has been a real battle, and want to formally acknowledge our former President Dick Brombacher, for taking this on, and Jeanne Lubbe who has really driven the process to fruition over the last 12 months.

2.3. To promote the dissemination of knowledge of the science of endoscopic surgery through continued education programmes which will include the holding of regular congresses and/or workshops on the subject, sponsorship of journals, distribution of newsletters, and liaison with allied local and international societies.

This is the area of greatest society activity. We have committed to running a standalone SASES only meeting every alternate year, after the resounding success of the previous meetings at Champagne Castle Sports Resort, and last year at the Vineyard Hotel. To this regard we have committed to next year's meeting being held again at the Vineyard Hotel here in Cape Town from the 4-6 September.

We continue to sponsor international laparoscopic fellowships to centres of excellence in Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium. We are grateful for the continued support of the surgical industry to make this possible. The contribution to surgical practice from these fellowships is enormous, and it is vital that we continue to keep them vibrant and relevant.

We have an excellent and solid partnership with HIG, who continue to play an increasingly important role in the surgical spectrum of societies in the country.

We have become the official home of the South African ERAS branch, and we support the initiatives in this field. Life Health has announced it will fund the roll out of ERAS in 5 hospitals this year, and a further 5 in 2020. Congratulations to Ravi Oodit for working so hard behind the scenes to make this happen.

We host regular webinars, accessible to all members, on a trimester basis, and add hoc workshops.

2.4. To support and encourage laboratory and clinical research in endoscopic surgery.

This is the area the society has been least active in, and is ripe for fresh ideas and new enthusiasm, and where perhaps we have not fully met our constitutional mandate.

What are the challenges for SASES:

Maintain a fruitful relationship with industry partners. They are beset with regulatory systems that make it extremely difficult to sponsor and support surgeons and events. The economic climate is delicate and volatile. We have to lobby and cajole them for resources and unequivocal long term support. Many other surgical interest groups and societies do the same, and we have to maintain our relevance to them.

As surgical societies we have rationalise the ever more congested local congress calendar. There are barely more than 600 practicing General Surgeons in South Africa, who have to choose between supporting- ASSA, SASES, SAGES, SRS, Colorectal Society, VASSA, BIGOSA, Endocrine Interest Group, HIG, ERAS society, SRS, Burns Society, Trauma Society, Transplant Society, SASSIT refresher courses, HPB society, and then University Department congresses held annually at UCT, Pretoria and biannually at Wits. Not to mention the College of Surgeons and HPCSA!

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And guess what- these societies are almost all run by the same people, a small group, and all go begging to the same industry players, for sponsorship.

SASES has to ensure it remains relevant to you, its members. To do this we need your active participation and ideas. Laparoscopic surgery has long moved out of the “fancy technology” “experimental world” and is well established as routine, bread and butter general surgery practice.

I see SASES as the home society of the General Surgeons in SA. As such we will endeavour to run congresses that are not esoteric, but meet the needs of the practicing general surgeon, with limited emphasis on the “superspecialist”.

Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to your support over the next year.

Prof Eugenio Panieri, FCS(SA)

SASES President:

Chair: Academic Program 2019 Congress

5. HIG PRESIDENT’S REPORT – HEATHER BOUGARD

HIG which was formed in August 2014, and will move to an elected Executive committee, voting to take place at the HIG/ SASES Congress in September 2010. Immediate past president to remain EXCO to elect Incoming President and Office bearers Max 2 terms for president 5 additional members 1 co-opted from SASES treasury 1 additional optional co-opted member

Our aims are to

- Develop guidelines for hernia management for the South African environment.
- Develop a national training programme for trainers and trainees for open and laparoscopic hernia repair
- Address the possibility of a national data base or registry
- Help identify locally relevant research questions and facilitate the process of research
- Establish a close working relationship with all the role players

❖ Free membership for all ASSA/ SASES members who register with our Hernia Registry.

We currently have seven Alliance Members.

2019 Fellowships were awarded to

- ❖ Ahmed Bhyat - Belgium - (Medtronic pledge)
- ❖ Danie Folscher - Sweden - (Ascendis pledge)

Hernia Training

- ❖ All workshops are CPD accredited
- ❖ Laparoscopic skills workshops continue at 3 centres – any other centres who wish to hold workshops should contact us
- ❖ Pursue advanced courses in complex abdominal wall reconstruction, advanced laparoscopic techniques and uncommon hernias

Medical Funders

- ❖ Approached to assist funding guidelines (Medscheme). Significant input. Lots of concordance. Increase in laparoscopic funded procedures

HIG is Associated Chapter of EHS

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- ❖ Contribute to training
- ❖ Contribute to future guidelines
- ❖ Access to research grants
- ❖ Access to training material (Hernia school)
- ❖ Monothematic congress support
- ❖ Accreditation of Hernia Centres
- ❖ Help with research protocol review and paper writing

Guidelines

Our update of the latest British Guidelines will be published in 2019

Social Media

Active on:

- Website
- Youtube channel
- Facebook Group

Registry:

Heather gave an overview of the Registry, which is one of a kind

- All inclusive
- Groin hernia's - Inguinal + Femoral
- Ventral hernia's
- Para-stomal hernia's
- Prophylactic mesh placement
- Double as a clinical note keeping tool & anonymous registry
- The system will remind you of follow up
- Can upload pictures/photo's
- Will be app base

Registry will cover 4 sub-groups of patients. The first data we will produce will be outcomes. The database is easy to use, and we will be using grant money to incentivise surgeons. Top contributors will win free registration to the HIG/SASES conference in September 2020 and there will also be an institutional prize for the top public sector users.

6. FINANCES - D SOFIANOS

Dr Sofianos stressed how difficult it is to award Fellowships without the requisite funds having been received from sponsors, albeit for educational grants. He presented a power-point presentation outlining the situation on both SASES and HIG

	AGM 2018	AGM 2019
TOTAL MEMBERS	275	294

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AMOUNT COLLECTED:	R 95,990	R99,760
TOTAL MEMBERS PAID:	253	256
OUTSTANDING MEMBERS:	23	38
HONORARY MEMBERS	4	4
PERCENTAGE PAID %	92%	87%

Our financials are audited by JN Chartered Accountants, and are available on request from the Secretariat.

CURRENT BALANCES:

	AGM SEP 2018	AGM AUG 2019
CURRENT SASES	R 620,682.95	R 46,631.45
NOTICE SASES	R 1,552,290.94	R 1,857,305.02
NOTICE HIG	R 290,179.95	R 824,367.25
CURRENT HIG	R 922,667.30	R 790,989.76

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TOTAL	R 3,385,821.14	R 3,519,293.48
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Our finances are in a good position, despite having to use own funds to fund our Fellowship recipients (until such time as the sponsors pay us)

7. REPORT BACK FROM TRAVELLING FELLOW – CHRISTO KLOPPERS

Refer to our website for full report

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Will be held at the SASES/HIG stand-alone meeting at the Vineyard in Cape Town 3-5 September 2020

SASES AGM 17 AUGUST 2019 CTICC(1)

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