

19 October 2017

Members of the Council, fellow colleagues in Critical Care,

President's report 2016/2017

It is a pleasure for me to deliver my report on the activities of the Society for 2016/2017. This has indeed been an exciting and productive year. In the interests of time my report will focus on those issues that have been of most importance.

The 2016 AGM left Council with two pressing issues – both supported by the members present at the AGM. These were the revision of our constitution and changes to the business and banking structure of the Society. I'm please to report that substantial progress has been made with both.

A task team, ably led by Dean Gopalan, led the constitutional re-write. Many electronic meetings, emails and discussions led to the final draft that was placed on the Society's website for comment. The proposed draft has the approval of the Council. I am deeply indebted to Dean Gopalan for his savvy leadership and for keeping the process on track. Many thanks too, go to all the members who took the time to read and submit comments. The task team is grateful for your input. I trust that the adoption of the new constitution will facilitate access to Council from interested members. There is now an urgency to have the proposed constitution adopted by the membership and approved by this AGM. The reason for the urgency is allied to the second task that we needed to undertake.

Brian Levy has led us through a long and frustrating process with registering the Society as a not for profit organisation. The Society is now officially an NPO with a company registration number and board of directors. VAT registration is complete and a new banking structure to support the NPO is finalised. The last step in the process is application for tax exemption. This has been a mammoth task. My thanks go to Brian who has spent countless hours jumping through the hoops of bureaucracy and red tape that this process entailed. The NPO now needs a constitution to lead it into the future.

Both of the above should bring relief to our members, congress and refresher course organisers and the trade and government structures with whom we engage. I trust that the changes will finally allow provincial and hospital financial support for members who wish to attend meetings. We can officially register with governmental agencies as a service provider.

Our new secretariat has been a resounding success. Alison Shaw's enthusiasm and initiative is impressive. My thanks go to her for so many tasks that she has ably engaged in. The membership database has been updated and cleaned completely and the database can be interrogated on a number of levels.

Our membership sector split indicates that 15% of members are from the private sector and 23% from the public sector. There are clearly a large number of members that have not indicated their affiliation.

I urge all members to please ensure that their details and demographics are updated.

Our current membership breakdown is as follows:

Total members	658
Doctors	270
Nurses	210
Physiotherapists	25
Dieticians	10
Occupational therapists	1
Uncategorised	142

During the course of the year a number of important activities have taken place. It gives me pleasure to report on these.

1. Communication within the Society has been improved. All members should have received our quarterly newsletters - two have been released to date. Heidi Kruger has produced a slick and informative product that I trust meets with your approval. I encourage all our branches and members to submit material for inclusion in future newsletters.
2. Council has actively engaged in a new electronic meeting format. A number of electronic meetings have been held by Council, the constitutional review team and the nursing forum. A positive knock on has been a major reduction in our meeting costs.
3. An excellent refresher course was hosted by the Western Cape branch in the Waterfront in July. My congratulations go to Brenda Morrow and her organising committee.
4. The Education and Research Committee has blossomed under the leadership of Andrew Argent and Brenda Morrow. A generous grant from Fresenius-Kabi now allows the Society to actively support research by society members. Members are encouraged to submit proposals and requests for consideration. More information is available on the website.
5. A patient information leaflet and consent form for use in ICU have been completed and should be available to our membership shortly. The production of the documents has been led by Brian Levy.
6. A number of members have been endorsed by the Society to act as official representatives in World Federation and national initiatives. These are:
 - a. Guy Richards – Task team for critical care related to tropical illness.
 - b. David Thomson – Neurologic task force
 - c. Mervyn Mer – Candida auris guideline development group
 - d. Isabel Coetzee – Nurse representative to the WFCCN
7. The Society has expressed its sincere thanks to Shelley Schmollgruber for representing it on the World Federation of Critical Care Nursing. We congratulate and welcome Isabel Coetzee as our newly elected representative – a process undertaken by the Nursing Forum.

8. The Nurses Forum has continued to grow in stature. As requested last year, meetings are minuted and there is improvement in the transparency of the group. My sincere thanks go to Des Cox and Bronwen Espen in this regard.
9. Bronwen Espen deserves special recognition for her ongoing leadership of the BASIC for nurses course in South Africa. To date 500 nurses have had the opportunity of completing the course. It is imperative that we seek to increase the number of trainers in the country to support a growing number of members seeking to do the course.
10. Our journal editors, Lance Michell and Brenda Morrow are congratulated on producing the largest ever, edition of the Southern African Journal of Critical Care. Council agreed to support the additional costs that were involved. Application for PubMed accreditation is currently taking place.
11. Fathima Paruk is to be congratulated on putting the first Round Table discussion together at this year's congress. The focus has been on ICU triage and resource allocation in South Africa. Members are please to provide feedback and comment on the draft document that will be placed on the website. I trust that similar round table meetings will become a regular part of the Society's activity.
12. We have received branch AGM and financial reports from around the country. These will be placed on the website for members to access. My thanks go to all branch chairpersons and committee members who are actively engaged in branch activities. It is through your efforts that the Society grows and prospers.
13. The Society has made application to be a registered as an accreditor of CPD activities. We are awaiting the results of our application. As soon as opportunity arises we will do the same with nursing CPD.
14. A fantastic congress was held in 2016 in the Drakensberg at Champagne Sports Resort. Our thanks and appreciation go to Maryke Spruyt and her team for all of the blood, sweat and tears that goes into organising an event of the magnitude that our congress has.
15. The organising committee of this year's congress, chaired by Fathima Paruk, is congratulated on what at this point in time is set to be an outstanding success.

In the year ahead I would like to see further development of the Private Practice interest group, headed by Brian Levy. It is essential that we find a way to provide a career path for intensivists in the private sector. A host of other issues related to intensive care in the private sector also need to be addressed with some urgency. Council has supported the hosting of a meeting in this regard, early next year.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our secretary, Fathima Paruk, for her invaluable support and assistance during the course of the year. Her patience and unflappable demeanour have made my job a pleasure.

We have made significant progress in the past year and have no doubt we are moving in the right direction. My thanks go to all of our council members who have supported me during the course of the year and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Let's unite our efforts to build an eminent organisation that supports our important clinical practise – The Critical Care Society of Southern Africa.

I wish you all well for the remainder of 2017 and trust you will remain happy and healthy, achieve your goals and prosper in your activities in critical care.

Yours faithfully,



Ivan Joubert
President