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28 August 2019

President's Report

To the membership of CCSSA, it gives me great pleasure to present to you my report for 2019/2020 in respect of our Society's activities.

Over the past year, we have engaged in numerous activities to ensure that the Society remains the custodian of critical care in SA. We continue to grow from strength to strength. My first year as president has been an exciting challenge. I will highlight some of the major issues over the last year.

In May this year, council came together for an Indaba to review strategic directions for the society. Out of a robust discussion and analysis, we delineated the key factors as part of 4 areas: our pro-active potential, reactive potential, vulnerabilities and temptations of our organisation. Out of this we extracted four key focus areas on which we will be working in the upcoming year. Among these are:

- a drive to uplift the society's profile to ensure that we strengthen our position as the custodians of critical care in South Africa;
- addressing the lack of human resources especially nurses as they are the backbone of any ICU;
- commencing the difficult process of redefining and reorganising how critical care is delivered in private practice;
- re-performing the overdue national audit of critical care resources and services.

Key to our success as an organisation is effective communication among our membership. To this end, electronic communication has improved remarkably. This includes emails, twitter (@crit_sa), and our newsletter. I encourage each of you to become active participants in these communication channels. Remember, the newsletter is yours. We need more member contributions for that.

Board Members: Dr Dean Gopalan (President); Prof Ivan Joubert (Past-President) ; Prof Fathima Paruk (Secretary); Dr Brian Levy (Treasurer); Prof Lance Michell.
Registration Number: 2017226624/08

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Our new constitution has now been in effect for 2 years. The next step was to update the bylaws. Council is currently busy with revising all our bylaws. Our new constitution also ensures that change occurs at council periodically with councilors serving a maximum of two terms. Consequently, for the next term the following people will be moving off council: Des Cox, who has so ably driven nursing issues, Rudo Mathivha who has been a key part of council for almost 2 decades, Norbert Welkovic who has helped drive private practice issues. In addition, Maryke Spruyt has tendered her resignation from council for personal reasons. We need to place on record the exemplary service and commitment of all these individuals. We look forward to their ongoing involvement and work.

Council will embark on co-opting a Free State representative. Congratulations to all incoming councilors who will be announced shortly. We look forward to working with you in driving the Society forward. A reminder to our membership, councilors represent their branches on council. Please take issues of concern to your representatives so that they can raise these at council level.

Our treasurer, Brian Levy will present his report shortly. He has put a great deal of effort into streamlining our financial issues and status. We are currently registered as a not-for-profit company. Our tax exemption application is still being processed. Whilst it may appear that our financial status is sound, we still need financial prudence in spending. As we are a NPC, branches are encouraged to spend their money on their members' educational and training activities rather than building up reserves.

Alison Shaw has now been functioning as our secretariat for a few years. She has delivered an impeccable service with enthusiasm. She has cleaned up our membership database. It is concerning to note that our membership numbers have dropped by about 12% from last year. Please encourage your colleagues to join the society. We are looking at ways of improving our offering in respect of membership benefits beyond discounted congress fees and SAJCC access.

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Our education and Research committee, now under the leadership of Ivan Joubert, has made grants to support members' research projects. We need to note the generous grant from Fresenius-Kabi to support this initiative. Whilst there seems to be increasing interest from our membership, Members are encouraged to make applications in this regard. The process of such applications are being streamlined. Please watch the website for closing dates for these applications.

Members are reminded of two upcoming international conferences that have been secured. Brenda Morrow is driving the World Federation of Paediatric Intensive Care congress in 2022. Marlice van Dyk and Norbert Welkovics are driving the South and West Asia chapter of the Extracorporeal Life Support Organisation conference in 2020. We look forward to enthusiastic participation by our membership in these events.

Our Nursing Forum group remains highly active but is still very reliant on the massive efforts of a small group of individuals. We acknowledge and thank these individuals. We encourage all critical care nurses in the country to actively participate in this group. The Basic course for nurses has continued being a key training forum as we strive to improve standards in the country. Bronwen Espen and her team are to be congratulated for their sterling work in this regard. Council has again pledged its support for this initiative. The Basic course for doctors is also being rolled out at three centres in the country currently and we hope to have that expanding more widely.

Our journal SAJCC continues to grow under the editorship of Brenda Morrow. An application for PubMed accreditation will take place in Quarter 1 of 2020.

The expert round table meetings preceding each conference have proven to be extremely successful and valuable. You would have found the publication of our triage guidelines in your congress bags. We thank Gavin Joynt for helping us drive this initiative. There will also be a link to the publication on our website. The guidelines for Patient Blood Management, driven by Rob Wise and Kim de

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Vasconcellos, have been completed and is expected to be published in the next few months. This year's round table led by David Thomson centred around brain death. He will be presenting feedback from the roundtable on Sunday. It is hoped that these guidelines will all make a difference to clinical practice.

We also need to recognize the important collaboration with other societies and role players. Our relationship with SASPEN has been strengthened through the joint conferences we have been holding. Our relationship as a Society with the trade also remains strong. In June I attended the Chinese National Critical Care Conference and as part of that signed a memorandum of understanding among numerous national societies from around the world to collaborate on multiple ventures.

The need to organize ourselves better in the private sector warrants the formation of the private practice interest group. This group is meeting during this congress to address numerous issues. Please get involved.

In the high-stress, high-stakes cauldron of ICU, burnout is a major concern. The wellness of members thus needs to be ensured. We will be developing a programme to support our members in this regard. Members interested in being part of our wellness support group please contact Alison.

Lastly, it has been an honour leading our Society over the last year. I look forward to moving us further in the remaining part of my term. Remember, the society cannot be run by a few individuals on council. We need our entire membership.

Dr PD Gopalan
President: Critical Care Society of Southern Africa

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