

NEWSLETTER TO SASGO MEMBERS

Dear Colleagues

Changes in the national political scene have been dramatic in recent months and were mostly seen as positive. In this era of change, SASGO focuses mostly on steady improvements and growth in all our projects.

Collaboration with mother-society SASOG is excellent with ongoing support for the accredited scholarly journal and appreciation for the society and its activities. SASGO appointed a subcommittee to assess and renew procedure codes related to our field in partnership with the Gynaecology Management Group. We suggested changes that are in line with the CPT codes and these were communicated to the South African Medical Association's coding group. The process is ongoing and we will remain in contact with SASOG, GMG, SAMA and its partners.

As a subspecialty, we continue to lead the way nationally in training and assessment. Our members play prominent roles in College positions and examination processes are generally smooth and friendly. We are in negotiations to join the national society for endoscopy in Gynaecology and would also like to be involved with SASUOG in gynaecologic ultrasound matters.

The IGCS has approached SASGO to join its strategic alliance programme and our negotiations are ongoing. We expect that 2019 dues may include IGCS membership fees for all our members who opt in. The combined fee will be discounted from IGCS's side, depending on how many members join. This matter will be on the agenda for the annual general meeting in the second half of 2018. In the IGCS open elections, Greta Dreyer has been nominated for the Africa/Middle East/Europe position on the Council. Electronic voting will open in the middle of April for IGCS members.

The SASGO 2018 conference will be held at Spier Estate (31 August – 2 September 2018) and the preliminary programme is exciting, with local and international speakers invited. Contact persons are meeting Chair Bruce Howard (bhoward@mweb.co.za) or Nomonde Mbatani. We look forward to engaging with you all at this event and at the annual general meeting included in the programme.

The working group for the South African Gynaecologic Oncology Group (SAGOG), launched at the 2016 SASGO congress, met again late in 2017 to plan the road ahead. The name is similar to other international bodies and the aim is to promote and coordinate locally relevant national collaborative research in gynaecological oncology. We have

a unique spectrum of disease in South Africa with an abundance of data waiting to be assimilated and analysed, and a first audit project may be on vulva cancer in South Africa.

At the August 2018 SASGO conference in Stellenbosch, there will be goal-directed meetings led by the working group aiming to identify one or two projects that are in line with the mission of the body. We would like to form study lead teams to develop protocols, identify sites and coordinate each project. The governance, administration and finance will be discussed at the AGM. Interested parties or those who want to suggest projects should contact Dr Dominique Richards who chairs SAGOG at dominic.richards.uct.ac.za. We invite and encourage all paid-up members of SASGO to attend the meeting and the conference.

Since the last newsletter, there was also a SASGO session at the SASMO/SASCRO meeting in Sandton (4–6 August 2017) and a gynaecologic oncology session at the ESMO meeting in Cape Town (15–16 February 2018). Both were organised by Hannah Simonds who is also the editor of this journal. Please continue to support her and Linda by submitting your work for publication.

The pre-conference SASGO meeting at Pretoria Update (7–9 September 2017) was well attended with a well-received programme, and there were many gynaecologic oncology sessions and lectures at SASOG. Our thanks to all organisers, speakers and interactive audiences.

Remember to visit our website at www.sasgoweb.wordpress.com to stay informed of newest developments in the society or to pay your dues. You can contact our office on +27 12 743 6012 during office hours with any membership-associated enquiry or speak to Bertha Grond who manages all administrative and legal matters on behalf of the society; her efforts are highly appreciated. The official e-mail address is sasgopost@gmail.com.

Very best SASGO wishes.

Greta Dreyer (President)

On behalf of the SASGO office

and SASGO executive committee:

Leon Snyman (Secretary)

Haynes vd Merwe (Treasurer)

Bruce Howard (Conference Chair)

Hannah Simonds (Journal Editor)