

## About the journal and this issue ...



The editorial board of *SAJGO* aims to publish original South African research reports. We would like to not only be the mouthpiece of the SASGO, but also the

preferred journal for all our members to publish locally relevant research findings. Two articles that appear in the current journal report on research conducted on the diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of endometrial cancer. Although not all experts will agree that frozen section is an important step in the operative management of this cancer, it is important to reflect on its usefulness. This discussion also opens, once again, the debate on the role of lymph node dissection. In my opinion, it is high time that we agree that more than one "correct" approach exists, and that we do not have a perfect set of rules that will apply to all patients and all surgeons.

The excellent review article by Karin Richter on the incorporation of HPV testing into cervical cancer screening also contains important South African data. This article addresses the differences between cytology and molecular testing, the DNA versus RNA debate, and collection methods. Importantly, the interpretation of test results and the prediction of disease by means of these tests are also discussed. This virologist claims that it is "a time of transition" for clinicians. The article is a must-read for experts in the field and everyone involved in screening. While politicians and administrators are working to rewrite the South African guidelines for cervical cancer screening, this document provides important insights and an excellent overview.

The clinical staging system for cervical cancer was updated by a FIGO working group in 2009, along with all the other gynaecological cancers. In this issue, we reprint the revised staging, with locally relevant

comments by Manivasan Moodley. Gynaecological oncology units, both within this country and internationally, should adopt the newly recommended subdivision of stage IIA.

We continue our focus on breast cancer themes in an excellent pharmacology article on the humanised monoclonal therapeutic antibody targeted at the HER2 receptor, trastuzumab. It is more evident than ever that breast cancer is not merely one type of cancer, but a multitude of different diseases originating in one organ. HER2 testing, eligibility for treatment with the drug, dosing, tolerability and strategies to overcome resistance are discussed. We will continue the mammography debate in the next issue, to be published at the time of the SASCRO and SASMO congress. Please diarise this important congress, where a gynaecology session is planned for Friday, 26 August.

The South African Human Papillomavirus Advisory Board has been in existence now for more than five years. The initial guidelines produced by this group were widely distributed and quoted. *SAJGO* also published these, and we received comments from many colleagues. During 2010, the guidelines were extensively reworked and rewritten. Comments that had been received were incorporated. We are proud to publish, in this issue, the summarised and updated version of the guidelines for the use of prophylactic HPV vaccination in South Africa. For reprints of this document, please contact the publisher of *SAJGO*.

Finally, we hope that the SASGO meeting and the O&G Update will be fruitful for all participants and contributors.

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