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## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers

Welcome to our 2023 edition of the Southern African Journal of Gynaecological Oncology.

2023 has been a year of health budget cuts, making it even more critical than before to work in a cost-effective manner. The Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) programme has been shown to improve recovery and shorten hospital stays after colorectal and urological surgery, and this programme is being trialled in gynaecological oncology at Groote Schuur Hospital. Prof. Tracey Adams has written a guest editorial about the challenges of and opportunities in setting up such a programme in a low-resource setting.

Another innovation in 2023 has been in the diagnosis and management of endometrial carcinomas. Hot on the heels of the results of the PORTEC-3 study, which changed our practice in terms of the adjuvant therapy which we offer for endometrial cancer, comes the updated 2023 FIGO Staging of Endometrial Cancer, which takes the staging into the molecular realm. Prof. Greta Dreyer and Prof. Leon Snyman have managed to simplify and explain the very complex new staging system for us, though unfortunately, for now, the expensive mutational analysis for POLE remains out of reach for those of us in the public sector.

Despite all the current interest in endometrial cancer, cervical cancer remains our biggest burden of disease. In this edition we have Dr Robyn Adams et al.'s study on visual inspection using the naked eye and colposcopy as a predictor of CIN2-3, and Dr

Shane Sithole's article looks at the prevalence of macroscopic cervical cancer in women on ARVs in Pietermaritzburg. There is also a case report on the rare instance of a postmenopausal woman with a choriocarcinoma.

There have been a number of worthwhile congresses to attend this year, including the SACO conference in Cape Town at the beginning of September, the ESGO congress in Istanbul this month, and the IGCS congress is due to start in Korea next week. Most importantly, our own South African Society of Gynaecological Oncology congress was held in Stellenbosch in June. It was organised by the Gynaecological Oncology Unit at Tygerberg Hospital, and began with a day of workshops. We were privileged to hear fascinating lectures given by international visitors Prof. Jonathan Ledermann, Prof. Christina Fotopoulou, Dr David Atallah and Dr Tonui Kipkirui, and were also treated to inspiring talks by a number of South African speakers. We enjoyed a debate about the role of secondary cytoreductive surgery for ovarian cancer, and heard presentations on a wide range of subjects, including HIPEC, cervical screening guidelines, surgery in the obese patient, and the role of race as a variable in biomedical research.

As always, a big "thank you" goes to our editorial team at Medpharm Publications for putting up with editors who do not always answer e-mails promptly, and to all those who support our journal. Please keep your submissions coming!

**Linda Rogers**

**Hannah Simonds**