



## NEWSLETTER TO SASGO MEMBERS

The year 2022 went by so quickly, as each and every one of us tried hard to catch up and reconnect with life post-COVID.

SASGO is a non-profit organisation open to all interested members. We welcome generalists, gynae-oncologists, pathologists, registrars, nurses and all allied members with an interest in Gynae Oncology.

Elections were held in February 2022. Dr Nomonde Mbatani took over as SASGO chair from Prof. Greta Dreyer, who is a great supporter of the organisation.

Dr Tracey Adams and Dr Emma Bryant were nominated as secretary and treasurer respectively. Dr MC Van Aardt is in charge of SASGO research.

Prof. Hannah Simonds is the Editor in Chief of the South African Journal of Gynaecology Oncology (SAJGO), with Dr Linda Rogers as Second in Chief. The journal has published about 10 original articles this year. SASOG/SASGO members are encouraged to send in original research, case series and any relevant and interesting contribution to the journal. We also would like to invite any member who may be keen to assist with journal article reviews. Kindly contact the SAJGO.

As we know by now, SASGO and IGCS signed a strategic alliance partnership in 2020.

The dual (SASGO/IGCS) fee qualifies members to the following benefits:

1. Participation in IGCS Early Career Research and Publication Network.
2. Access to member-only portal of IGCS with webcasts on a variety of topics, access to the surgical film library which is in partnership with AAGL. There is also a pathology corner for pathologists with an interest in gynae-oncology pathology.
3. SASGO members are involved in IGCS education, scientific committees, training and mentorship programmes.

We were all pleased to hear that Prof. Greta Dreyer is President Elect of IGCS. I know that she will bring the care of cancer patients in low- middle-income countries to the fore.

### SASGO 2022 activities

- February: Professor Nicola Colombo was an invited IGCS speaker.
- SASGO had a session at IGCS: The theme for the meeting was "Adapting to burden of disease whilst maintaining

quality of care." It was a true pleasure to see several SASGO members who attended in person, despite the travel challenges faced and all presented at the session.

### Advocacy

- Dr Tracey Adams is a clinical co-chair of the patient-led Every Woman's Study In Low Income Countries (EWS-LMIC), which looks at women diagnosed with ovarian cancer. This study was initiated by the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition (WOCC) and partially sponsored/supported by IGCS. The study is specifically looking at the demographics, experience, knowledge, and treatment differences world-wide and we will be representing South Africa. The collaboration includes the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and KZN. We would still welcome collaboration from other provinces to make this collaboration representable.
- We have requested IGCS to sponsor videos, where patients who have undergone either chemotherapy or radiation, will share their experiences of treatment. The application was made through the SAMRC-GCRC (University of Cape Town). These videos will be made available to SASGO/IGCS and SASOG members in future.
- January is cervical cancer awareness month. We hope that you will all contribute in some manner to raise awareness and education to the communities about the benefits of screening.
- In 2022, SASGO members attended meetings with the cancer alliance called the solution lab; this is aimed at creating a document regarding cervical cancer that is implementable and cost-effective. This will be presented to government.

To all our members, the SASGO executive would like to encourage you to suggest any ideas on how we can improve SASGO. The society is ours to improve.

Lastly, but importantly, we would like to invite you all to the third SASGO conference – which will be held in Stellenbosch from **19–21 May 2023!** Kindly diarise this date. We look forward to meeting everyone once more.

May we all have a well-deserved and peaceful Festive season!

Till we meet in 2023!

Inshallah!

**Nomonde Mbatani**

## SASGO members and IGCS colleagues at the IGCS congress in New York



**SASGO**  
South African Society of Gynaecologic Oncology  
**CONGRESS 2023**  
Protea Hotel Stellenbosch 19 - 21 May



**SAVE THE DATE**



  
**www.sasgo2023.co.za**  
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