

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT 2013

Looking back at the highs and lows of 2013.

The SASSH academic year started with our annual refresher course in Cape Town. The topic of the course was arthritis and is always popular with both surgeons and therapists. Our overseas guest speakers were Professor Hermann Krimmer from the University of Würzburg and Professor Ladislav Gagy from the University of Zürich.

A month later in March the IFSSH meeting was held in New Delhi. This was Prof. Mennen's last meeting as president of IFSSH. We would like to congratulate him on his term as IFSSH president and thank him for his hard work and continuous support for SASSH. I was told that 25 members of SASSH attended the IFSSH meeting. This was a great opportunity for us to visit India, both academically and for leisure travel before and after the congress. India is a unique country with its own unique problems, that I think most South African's can appreciate.

The next event was the 44th congress held at Kwa Maritane on 30/08/2013 to 01/09/2013. We were very fortunate to have three very good international speakers. Alexander Shin from the Mayo Clinic, Scott Wolfe from the Hospital for Special Surgery and Greg Bain from the University of Adelaide. With three such excellent speakers, this could only have been an excellent meeting. Congratulations to all the prize winners of the congress.

On the Monday morning a hand refresher course was held at the SAOA meeting. We were very fortunate that our three international speakers could stay until Monday and present their papers also on the Monday. I would like to thank Andrew Barrow from SAOA for his support and help to organize the Monday morning refresher course.

The low of 2013 was undoubtedly the resignation of Hendrika van der Merwe. After years of loyal services, Hendrika decided to resign and her last congress was the meeting at Kwa-Maritane. We would like to thank Hendrika for all her hard work and wish her and her family all the best.

Andi Askew was appointed as the new secretary in November 2013 and we are all looking forward to a long and good relationship with Andi.

Financially SASSH is in a very good position, but we still have to maintain caution in the future, as this can change quickly. Mr. David Pretorius was appointed as auditor, with the sole purpose to maintain continuity in the finances as the members of the exco come and go on a regular basis.

My best wishes to everyone for 2014.

Johan