

Dear Members and Friends of SASSH,

This year has been a year of unprecedented changes in our life, work and most aspects of the way we live. As a society, we had a very good Hand Refresher Course in Cape Town, in February this year. The plan was to hold the Annual Congress in Cape Town as well, but the first wave of COVID hit us in March. Due to the resulting lockdown, all meetings had to be cancelled. We have had to adapt the way we practice, teaching and learning moved to an online environment and almost all the Hand Congresses around the world for this year were either cancelled or held virtually.

We held our EXCO meeting virtually in August and it was decided that the Annual SASSH Congress was to be postponed until August 2021. This meeting will still take place in Cape Town, so I hope to see all of you there, in good health, next year.

At the same EXCO meeting, Dr Duncan McGuire was voted in to be the next SASSH president. I congratulate him and wish him all the best during the Presidency period which starts in August 2021.

SAOA had their small meeting in October as a Hybrid meeting, as only 100 people were allowed to attend the congress in person. This might be the way all our meetings will happen in the future. The Hand Society was invited to do a Hands Instructional Course on the first day of the meeting and the two-hour ICL was highly appreciated by SAOA members. I would like to thank all the presenters of Hands ICL, as without them I would not have been able to undertake this task successfully.

We are now hearing about the new strain of COVID and its speed of spreading while we are well into the middle of a second wave of COVID infections. We have therefore decided to cancel our forthcoming Hand refresher course, due to be held in Durban in February 2021. We believe it will not be safe to hold this meeting during the uncertainty of the second wave of COVID.

I urge all of you to be safe and follow all the recommended protocols to help flatten the curve of the second wave of COVID. Some of us have lost our loved ones to COVID and I would like to extend my humble condolences to them.

We are reaching the end of this challenging year and I would like to wish all of you happy holidays, a happy New Year and most of all, good health.

Keep well and safe,

Kind Regards,

**Ajmal Ikram**  
SASSH PRESIDENT