MINUTES OF THE SASES AGM – CHAMPAGNE SPORTS RESORT
-21 OCTOBER 211

a. Apologies and members attending:

No apologies received
Attendance register circulated
94 members attended

b. Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the AGM on 31 July 2010 had been circulated – were perused and taken to be a true reflection
Proposed: Dr Andre Potgieter
Seconded: Dr Danie Folscher

c. Election of office bearers:

Not applicable as it was a non-election year. Next elections at AGM – Durban – 9 – 11 August 2012

d. President’s report- Bob Baigrie:

1 Website
The issue of payments was addressed the doctors section highlighted, Martin Brand thanked for his hard work. Members were reminded about the Readers section

2 Membership drive
Numbers of members up from 192 to 255 thereby making SASES the biggest subspecialty surgical society.

3 Travelling fellowships
The success of the efforts to establish travelling fellowships was pleasing. These started when Covidien was approached some years ago. The problem was finding both an applicant and a centre to train at. It was a difficult business and the attempts to advertise
and the regulations in English speaking destinations remained a frustration. This was resolved by two developments in the last 12 months: the website which allows the Society to mail the memberships of all the societies in order to advertise and the generosity of Willem Bemelman in Amsterdam Medical Centre. He and his department have been able to tip toe through the Dutch regulations and this year Monde Mjoli, our 2010 SASES/Covidien awardee, was our first fellow. The primary lesson learnt from Monde was that fluent Afrikaans is a necessity to participate fully and this is now a requirement of the applicant.

The second travelling fellowship, the Karl Storz (KZ)/SASES Travelling fellowship was also established in this term of office after a pilot venture by Masee Naidoo in 2010. This fellowship is in Germany with Dr Markus Walz. The language issue is less problematic there, because of the way the working programme of the trainee is arranged.

Both these fellowships are adjudicated on a scoring system awarding points for various items. These include academic publications and the complete absence of these from trainee's CVs is a disappointment. Charl Cooper was announced as the 2012 KS winner in August when Dr Walz visited SA and the winner of the Covidien prize has been chosen 2 weeks ago and will be announced at the gala dinner tomorrow where Willem Bemelman will be present.

Each of these awards amount to about R150 000 of which SASES and the company each pay half

It is hoped that a third fellowship will be established soon, and SASES is talking to J&J Ethicon. A possible destination is India, perhaps Australia.

Please do not underestimate the enormous amount of organisation and work required to arrange and administer these and I must make mention of the great support I have had from Masee Naidoo and Danie Folscher.

4 Laparoscopic Training centre
This consumed a huge amount of time and effort during 2010/11 to establish an independent national training centre. Red X Children's Hospital has built a fantastic facility for laparoscopic and other surgical training. E.g. vascular anastomotic workshops, Gynae workshops, theatre staff training, anything goes.
We had a working party meeting in March with input from Ethicon. Storz, Tygerberg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Gynaecology, Paediatrics, and the Western Cape Dept. of Health, all present.
I stood down as chair of this working group in order to focus on this meeting and Eugene Panieri was invited to take over the chair role. He continues to work away at it. Some of our grand ambition has had to be tempered however, largely for political reasons, and
Eugene, Danie, Alp and his group are adopting a less aggressive and more pragmatic approach. Their plan is to start offering courses at the Red X facility in 2012, and they are currently working on content.

5  FOSAS: TSSA, VASSA, CSSA, ASSA, SRS, SASSiT, CRSSA, SAAPS, Surgicom

Prof S Pillay (Chairman FoSAS); Prof Del Kahn (CSSA President)

Dr E Steyn (TSSA President); Prof M Veller (Chairman ASSA, SG FoSAS); Dr R Baigrie (President SASES); Prof JHR Becker (President SRS); Dr A Bezuidenhout (President SASSiT); Prof P Goldberg (President CRSSA); Dr P Matley (VASSA President); Prof A Nomanaglu (Secretary SAAPS); Dr S Grobler (Surgicom)

Aimed at greater unity and speaking with one voice: e.g. AHC

Co-ordination of meetings

6  Future Meetings

2012 SASES/SAGES 9 – 11 August 2012 Durban
2013 ASSA/SASES/VASSA/TSSA/SAAPS East London April? No SAGES
2014 ISUCRS - International Colo Rectal Surgery meeting 2014
2015 ASSA/SAGES/SASES meeting in August 2015 in Durban

7  Leadership

It is not only in politics that we have a leadership crisis in SA, the societies do too. Next year is an election year and we need new blood. There will be several stalwarts leaving Exco and we need new blood and energy to support the proposed president Danie Folscher. If you are interested then please speak to one of the Exco at this meeting. We have no-one from Pretoria/JHB/PE etc. We have good continuity for West Cape and Natal

8  Compliance regulations and future meetings

This is upon us now and we have to be innovative to find new ways. Major sponsors, e.g. AZ are now unable to sponsor as they did previously and bring surgeons to meetings. They are not even allowed to give you a pen saying Nexiam, or have their name on your programme despite being major sponsors. It breaks compliance regulations. Thus the society will have less support for future meetings, make less profit, and everything becomes more and more challenging for all concerned. So we are incredibly grateful to our primary sponsors of this congress AZ and J&J. Thanks to the direct donation provided this year (after some serious negotiation by your president), we were able to offer huge subsidies to many of you to attend. Please go to the AZ stand and thank them personally. In particular I must thank Peter Russell for the successful negotiations he had with his European heads and he and
my often hard headed negotiations about the funding path for this meeting.

9 Hon vice presidents and honorary memberships
EXCO took a decision to honour in a small way, SASES members who reach 65. You will become honorary members if you have been members for 10 years and then and as poor surgical pensioners; no longer pay a membership fee. Phillip Bornman has been a Hon Vice president for some years, and when we reviewed our history and founding in 1991, we identified Syd Cullis as our first secretary and, now that he has retired, we are pleased to nominate him as our second VP. We will call him up at the gala dinner to officially congratulate him.

e. Treasurers report
The audited financial statements for the period ending June 2011 were presented to the members. The auditors are Jackson Neethling Chartered Accountants and the SASES PBO registration number is 930029141. Total cash at the end of the period was R 1 722 736. Net cash from operating activities was R 153 886. The notice deposit equivalent was R 1 299 915 and the current account R 422 821. Income was from previous congress income (R 250 104), membership fees (R 40 320) as well as interest (R 45 444) and sponsorships (R 100 000).

Sponsorships by the society to its members have increased. Ad hoc travelling bursaries and travelling fellowships totalled R 82 118. Exco meetings cost R 44 655 for the previous year (travel and lodging).

The cost of the website totalled R 16 410

SASES is a growing society with a membership of 255 (up from 192 members a year ago). Members were encouraged to make sure their membership fees were paid up. A proposal to increase the membership fees to R 350 per year was unanimously accepted by the members after being put to the vote.

3 Report back by travelling fellows
Dr Monde Mjoli – the SASES Covidien visitor to Amsterdam
Dr John Devar – the recipient of an ad hoc grant to travel to Japan
Dr Morne Nel – the Visitor to Germany

4 Matters arising / New matters:

Dr Mohamed Mulla congratulated the Society on its efforts. He also extended his thanks for putting back sponsorship money so that registrations could be refunded for members.

Dick Brombacher thanked the members for attending the meeting, and the meeting was closed.

The next AGM will be at the ICC Durban – 9-11 August 2012.