

# Self-education: The responsibility of the ultrasonologist



The importance of self-education is of course true for all medical practitioners, and I suppose everyone wants to do the very best in the job for which they are responsible. But so often I hear people say, 'Is there anything new that I can learn?' Personally, after 30 years of doing ultrasound I am still learning every day.

The South African Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology congress in Durban has been crafted by dedicated members who feel strongly about education, and they have gathered together the very best teachers from four continents to share their knowledge with us. This promises to be a unique congress that will benefit everyone who does obstetric and gynaecological ultrasound. Gynaecological ultrasound, which is often the neglected subject, is being represented by the world expert Professor Lil Valentin. On the obstetric side, fetal wellbeing, fetal anomalies and screening for aneuploidy are covered in every aspect by renowned international figures.

It is also encouraging that there are so many South African speakers who are part of the worldwide

community and who will be contributing to the success of this meeting.

We are supposed to be lifelong learners, and it is our responsibility to make use of such a magnificent gathering of experts. I trust that the Durban committee will be justly rewarded for their efforts by the maximum attendance possible.

We must also remember that ultrasound, especially in obstetrics and gynaecology, is a practical art and we must continue to make sure that our ultrasound reports are detailed and that we always carefully audit what we are doing. Where necessary, never be ashamed to ask for a second opinion. Our patient's happiness depends on our accurate skills – and our skills and expertise can prevent unnecessary medico-legal cases.

I trust that the Durban SASUOG Congress will help you to grow in expertise, and I wish the organisers the greatest success in their endeavours.

**Edward Coetzee**

*Chair: SASUOG*