

South African Menopause Society Congress 2010



On behalf of the Local Organising Committee I wish to extend a warm welcome to all who are attending the 2010 SAMS Congress and hope that you thoroughly enjoy it. This is the first national congress following FIGO, and we have had to work very hard to put together a programme that will not only be informative and progressive but will also provide aspects that are diverse yet reflect the reality of both the ageing male and female.

Through the endeavours of Theo Kopenhager, Trudy Smith, Khrih Lalloo, Peter Ngatane and Syd Hirshowitz the congress will have 7 invited international speakers of repute, 28 locally invited speakers from all over South Africa, and a scientific programme that is stimulating, informative and entertaining. It is interesting to note that among these speakers will be a past president of the North American Menopause Society (Professor Wulf Utian), the newly elected president of the North American Menopause Society (Professor Cynthia Stuenkel), the current president of the International Menopause Society (Dr D Sturdee) and the president-elect of the International Menopause Society (Dr Tobie de Villiers). We are so very proud of Tobie de Villiers. He has achieved so much, yet has remained so humble. He is always prepared to offer advice and never too busy to help. Well done, Tobie!

We extend a warm welcome to Professors Utian, Stuenkel and Maki, Drs Sturdee and Panay and Professors Ferrari and Ferrugia, and trust they will have a pleasant time in sunny South Africa. We thank them all for accepting our invitation to participate in our congress and for sharing with us their expertise and knowledge.

The congress is preceded by three diverse workshops, which each in its own way is unique and will individually offer so much for the participants. We

are again lucky enough to have Professor Utian presenting the NAMS Accreditation Course and offering participants the opportunity of writing the accreditation examinations. Stan Lipshitz has organised an excellent workshop on clinical management strategies for osteoporosis, which will be stimulating and entertaining. The third workshop offers a comprehensive update on imaging in the postmenopausal woman.

Menopausal medicine has had its ups and downs during the past 10 years. It is therefore particularly refreshing and opportune to have speakers of the calibre of those we are fortunate enough to have at our congress. These people have been at the coalfront for all these years with regard to knowledge, management strategies and research within the world of menopausal medicine. The input they bring to our congress is immense and of the utmost importance, but it has also been through the strength, hard work and vision of SAMS that we have been able to maintain and practise First-World concepts in our country. Thanks to members such as Ernie Sonnendecker, Dennis Davey, Pierre Davies, Tobie de Villiers, Mike Davey, and currently Paul Dalmeyer menopausal medicine and SAMS have gone from strength to strength in South Africa. I hope this congress lives up to your expectations.

On behalf of the local organising committee, we hope and trust that this SAMS congress will bring knowledge, enjoyment and friendship to everyone attending.

Franco Guidozi

*Local Organising Committee
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