

Congress Editorial



On behalf of the Society for Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes of South Africa (SEMDSA) local organising committee (LOC), I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the 49th annual SEMDSA congress. The venue is the Southern Sun Elangeni Hotel in sunny and warm Durban.

The meeting begins on Thursday 9th April with the Annual GP Update that includes an exciting line-up of talks by both local and international speakers. This year's congress is special for a few reasons. Firstly, it will be preceded by the International Society for Endocrinology (ISE) symposium that is the first to be held in South Africa and includes three talks, to be presented by international experts in their respective fields of endocrinology. We appreciate the efforts of the ISE in bringing 2 of these speakers, Prof. Roger Bouillon (Belgium) and Dr R Josse (Canada) to our shores and hope that this is the first of many more symposia in

years to come. Secondly, we have invited delegates from other African countries to the SEMDSA congress and this has attracted abstracts from countries such as Cameroon and Tanzania.

With respect to the congress we have an exciting programme and have been fortunate in securing the participation of a number of eminent overseas experts including Prof. Donald Coustan (USA), Dr John Dixon (Australia), Prof. Hugh Jones (UK) and Prof. Hiro Sasano (Japan).

I would like to extend a thank you to the all local organising committee members who assisted with the groundwork for this conference and a special thanks to Prof. Ayesha Motala for her guidance. Indeed, this congress would not be the same without the greatly valued contribution of Shelly Harris, whose dedication and hard work was crucial to the organisation of this meeting. Our thanks also goes out to the pharmaceutical industry for their generous financial sponsorship, which contributes to the successful hosting of this congress. Finally, we would like to extend our appreciation to all the international speakers who have given up their valuable time to be with us on this occasion.

We look forward to hosting you in Durban and wish you an enjoyable and memorable congress.

Imran Paruk

Chairperson: Local Organising Committee
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