The 2005 SEMDSA (Society for Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes of South Africa) and National Osteoporosis Foundation (NOF) conferences will be held this year in Sandton on 9 - 12 April 2005.

SEMDSA and NOF 2005 promise to be exciting and stimulating events. They will include numerous plenary and interactive meet-the-professor sessions as well as high-quality oral and poster presentations. This year a total of seven eminent international guest speakers from the USA and UK will be participating. The emphasis will be clinical, but basic science will also be catered for.

The confirmed guest speakers are Derek Le Roith (diabetes), Maria New (paediatric endocrinology), John Bilezikian (parathyroid hormone and osteoporosis) and Eric Orwoll (male osteoporosis and the ageing male), all from the USA, while from the UK we will be hosting Edwin Gale (diabetes mellitus), Michael Sheppard (thyroid and pituitary) and Eugene McCloskey (osteoporosis). The criteria for selecting our overseas guests are their academic/research excellence and ability to communicate.

Topics to be covered by the overseas guests will include:
- Diabetes mellitus – the changing phenotype of the human species, new insulins, the role of insulin-like growth factors in cancer, the metabolic syndrome, and prevention of type 2 diabetes mellitus.
- Growth hormone replacement in adults
- Thyroid disease
- Low-renin hypertension, congenital adrenal hyperplasia
- Male osteoporosis
- Anabolic therapy for osteoporosis
- Primary hyperparathyroidism, and much more.

Two named lectures, which honour former distinguished members of the Society, are held annually. This year the W P U Jackson Lecture will open the conference. Given by Professor Edwin Gale, it will be entitled ‘Changing phenotype of the human species’. The Bernard Pimstone Memorial Lecture will be on ‘Growth hormone replacement in adults’ and given by Professor Michael Sheppard.

Social events have not been forgotten – there will be two banquets, one each for SEMDSA and NOF. Lunch boxes and teas will be provided daily. Attendance at the social events is included in the registration fee.

An exhibition area will include stands by all the major players in diabetes, endocrinology and bone and mineral metabolism, and there will be a sponsored hospitality suite where delegates can relax.

One early morning breakfast with an overseas speaker is also being sponsored.

The Diabetes Education Society of South Africa (DESSA) will host a mini-congress in parallel with NOF on 12 April 2005.

Further details are available from Shelley Harris on (011) 202-0500, or on SEMDSA’s website: [www.semdsa.org.za](http://www.semdsa.org.za) under 2005 Congress. CPD points will be earned for sessions attended.

**Roy Shires**

Chairperson: SEMDSA and NOF Congresses