MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSONS

Dear Fellow ASSA Members

Welcome to the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa Conference 2020. This joint venture is proudly co-hosted by the Durban University of Technology and the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The transformation of research and higher education that Anatomy has experienced over the last decade, in light of enhanced technology, student diversity and resource challenges, has fostered the revolutionization of medical research and education. To this effect, “Riding the waves of change”, has been identified as the theme of the 2020 Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA) Annual Conference.

On behalf of ASSA, it is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in the 48th Annual Conference at the warm subtropical city of Durban, South Africa – home to busiest port in the country and a host of sun-kissed beaches. The conference, held from the 19 – 22 April, 2020, will take place at the Southern Sun Elangeni Conference Centre, situated along the popular “golden mile” of Durban’s beachfront promenade, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

The conference is an opportunity for delegates, including medical and veterinary clinicians, researchers and scientists with an interest in the anatomical sciences, to meet and interact in their specific areas of research. The conference integrates the different fields of anatomy including clinical anatomy, cell biology, histology, neurosciences, developmental biology, oro-facial biology, physical anthropology, palaeoanthropology, veterinary sciences, medical education and ethics. It is also envisaged that the conference will serve as a focal point for the engagement of young academics and students with each other and with senior academics and discipline experts across the country and globe. We encourage all our visitors to extend their stay, in enjoying the opportunity to relax and unwind in the warmest coastal city of South Africa. We look forward to welcoming you.

Chairpersons of the Local Organising Committee

Prof Lelika Lazarus
UKZN

Prof Julian David Pillay
DUT
Message from the President of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa

It is with great excitement that we prepare to attend the 48th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA) – Riding the waves of change. So named in recognition of the technological advancements that is currently being made in research within the anatomical field, as well as in reference to the constant improvement and advancement in medical education.

I would like to thank the members of the Organising Committee from both the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Durban University of Technology for hosting the ASSA conference from 19 to 22 April 2020 at the Southern Sun: Elangeni Hotel and Conference Centre on the beautiful Durban coast! As always, this is an event to look forward to as it provides us the opportunity to see all of our friends and colleagues from other institutions around Southern Africa again. It is also where we can meet and share in the research of the young up-and-coming anatomists and students of the various institutions.

Anatomy departments everywhere are facing more and more challenges, with increasing student numbers, amalgamations, cadaver shortages etc., so more than ever it is necessary for us to stand together and find creative solutions to our challenges. There is nowhere better to do this than at our annual ASSA meetings, and the Sunday workshops organised by the various representatives of our interest groups. I urge all of you to attend these sessions and contribute to the discussions, lectures and even practical sessions that make them such a valuable resource to the evolution of the diverse fields within anatomy!

We will also be wishing a warm welcome to a Life Member of ASSA and a long-time supporter of our Society, Prof. Nirusha Lachman of the Mayo Clinic. She is travelling all the way from the United States to present the Thompson-Stibbe Lecture on “Leveraging a stalwart on the platform of clinical practice, research and innovation: Anatomy reconsidered” prior to the start of the academic sessions on Monday, 20 April.

Along with the stimulating academic sessions, this should also be a time for some rest and recreation too. Where better to unwind than relaxing on the sun-kissed beaches of the Durban Promenade, visiting some of the renowned tourist destination in the area, or just go out and experience the multi-cultural history of this vibrant city.

I hope that, if possible, we will see all the ASSA members at the 2020 ASSA Conference, especially our student members that are the future of our Society.

With best wishes,

Albert van Schoor
University of Pretoria
President: ASSA