CONGRESS EDITORIAL
51st SEMDSA Congress 2016

It is a great privilege to be hosting this year’s Society for Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes of South Africa (SEMDSA) Congress in Cape Town, to be held at the President Hotel, Bantry Bay, from Thursday 14 April to Sunday 17 April 2016.

This year’s congress promises to be an exciting occasion, with significant contributions from both international and national experts. We look forward to hosting three international experts.

Prof Mark Cooper is Deputy Director and Chief Scientific Officer of The Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, as well as Director of the JDRF Danielle Alberti Memorial Centre for Diabetes Complications at The Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, Melbourne, Australia. His research encompasses basic, preclinical and clinical research, with the major aim being a reduction in the major burden of diabetes mellitus, i.e. its renal and vascular complications.

Prof Wiebke Arlt is the William Withering Chair of Medicine, and Director of the Institute of Metabolism and Systems Research, University of Birmingham, UK. She leads a large, multidisciplinary research group who investigates the regulation and role of steroid metabolism and action in health and disease.

Prof Thakker is the May Professor of Medicine at the University of Oxford, a Fellow of Somerville College, Oxford, and a Fellow of the Royal Society. His research areas are molecular genetics, calcium disorders, neuroendocrine tumours, parathyroid disorders, renal tubular disorders and multiple endocrine neoplasia (MEN) syndromes. He will focus on hyperparathyroidism and MEN at SEMDSA 2016.

We also look forward to presentations being delivered by two local bone disease experts, i.e. Prof John Pettifor and Dr Tobie De Villiers.

The large number of abstracts received for the oral and poster presentations cover a diverse range of fields and promise to be of interest to those interested in clinical diabetes mellitus, clinical endocrinology and related basic sciences. We are delighted by the international collaborations that have been forged with local research groups which will serve to raise the status of South Africa in the research community. This year’s poster session will assume a presentation format. In addition to the usual display of posters, each presenting author will highlight his or her work in a poster presentation session using 2–3 slides.

In the final analysis, the success of this congress will be judged by the delegates’ enjoyment, the additional knowledge gained, and the friendships and collaborations that are forged or strengthened. In the spirit of this, we trust that your participation in this congress will bear the desired fruit.

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