

## 43rd SEMDSA Congress 2008



It is a great privilege to be hosting this year's SEMDSA/NOFSA congress in Cape Town, to be held at the President Hotel in Bantry Bay from Friday 11 April to Tuesday 15 April 2008.

This year's SEMDSA congress promises to be an auspicious occasion with significant contributions from both international and national experts. We look forward to hosting Professor John Yudkin, from University College London, who is a world-renowned diabetes epidemiologist. He is to give the W P U Jackson Memorial Lecture, which will focus on examining adipose tissue signals in the whole organism. Additionally, he will address whether the focus of diabetes management is too concentrated on glycaemic control. Professor Luigi Bartalena from the University of Insubria, Italy, who has earned a reputation as the foremost expert on thyroid eye disease, will deliver the Bernard Pimstone Memorial Lecture in which he will address the management of Graves' orbitopathy: present and future. He is also scheduled to critically examine the evidence for the current treatment of Graves' hyperthyroidism. Professor Paul Czernichow, the well-known paediatric endocrinologist from Paris, will cater for the interface between paediatric and adult endocrinology by providing insights on the transition period and growth hormone deficiency as well as the long-term management of Turner's syndrome. Interactive 'meet the professor' sessions have been planned to enhance our exposure to these experts. We have also incorporated a selection of plenary lectures by local

leaders in their fields, covering a range of diverse subjects including pituitary apoplexy and elements of gynaecological and paediatric endocrinology.

The abstracts received for oral and poster presentations cover a diverse range of fields and promise to be of interest to those interested in obesity, clinical endocrinology and diabetes as well as basic science. 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 an entirely different format. In addition to the usual display of posters, each presenting author will highlight his/her work in a poster presentation session using 2 - 3 slides. It is hoped that this format will allow for greater delegate participation.

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

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