

Report back SAUA Congress 2022 – Bloemfontein

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The 33rd Biennial Congress of the South African Urological Association (SAUA) took place in Bloemfontein from 22 to 25 September 2022. Originally scheduled for September 2020, the congress was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were initial concerns and criticisms regarding the choice of Bloemfontein as the host city, with doubts about attendance by urologists. The pre-congress workshops commenced on Tuesday, 20 September, and concluded on Thursday afternoon, 22 September 2022. Attendance exceeded expectations, with 70 delegates participating in the urethroplasty workshop on Tuesday. The urogynaecology workshop and masterclass garnered the highest attendance, with 75 delegates in attendance.

The workshops and masterclasses also encompassed paediatric urology, robotic surgery, uro-radiology/ultrasound, and laparoscopic skills. This congress held particular significance as it coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Department of Urology at the University of the Free State. The success of the pre-congress workshops, masterclasses, and the congress itself was made possible by the generous contributions and support from various trade partners. A total of 42 companies showcased their equipment and treatment options in the exhibition hall.

The congress was officially opened on Thursday evening 22 September 2022 by Prof Francis Peterson, the Rector, and Vice Chancellor of the University of the Free State followed by the SAUA honorary lecture by Prof MLS de Kock.

The congress also featured the South African Urology Nursing Association (SAUNA) programme, featuring guest speakers such as Dr Nelouise Geyer and various specialists, with the primary objective of enhancing urological patient care. The international faculty comprised nine distinguished invitees, with Prof Francisco Martins sponsored by the SAUA and Prof James N'Dow sponsored by the EAU. The local faculty, consisting of academics and private urologists, contributed immensely to the high quality of the academic discussions and lectures. The local urologists and academic staff also acted as chairs during the various academic sessions. The academic programme and scientific content were further enriched by 73 thought-provoking moderated posters presented by urology residents and consultants. Lively debates on controversial issues, such as the management of prostate cancer, took place. The social programme was commendable and enjoyed by everyone, providing opportunities to build friendships and network with the international faculty.

Various awards were bestowed during the Gala Dinner. Dr Farzana Cassim from the University of Stellenbosch received the Karl Storz Prize, and the Van Blerk Prize was awarded to Meyer du Plessis of KwaZulu-Natal. SAUA Honorary Memberships were awarded to Prof James N'Dow and Prof Ahmed Hadidi. Medals for the best moderated posters were presented by registrars Dr Vuyo Lethuli and Dr Peter Afolayan.

The congress ended on a high note with a much needed ethics lecture on the role of mediation in medical litigation cases by Advocate Alan Nelson.



Freddie Claassen welcomed Prof Francis Petersen who officially opened the 33rd Biennial Congress of the South African Urological Association of South Africa



Dr Greg Web the SAUA President welcomed Prof MLS de Kock who gave the SAUA Honorary lecture



Department of Urology University of the Free State and the team organising the 33rd Biennial Congress of the South African Urological Association.



Tuesday urethroplasty live surgery workshop. Dr Bhavic Shah demonstrated how to do a chordee repair in a patient with peyroni disease.

Delegates





Teatime: Time to socialise



Gala dinner



Prof Renaud Bollens enjoyed the Free State cuisine

