

In the SASCRO orbit Number 20 – Oct 2018

Dear colleagues.

The first meeting of the new SASCRO executive committee took place in October of this year.

1. SA Congress of Oncology, August 2019

We are most privileged that Archbishop Desmond Tutu has graciously given us permission to name the lecture at SACO after him. The lecture will be known as:

The Archbishop Desmond Tutu distinguished lecture.

The lecture at SACO 2019 will be delivered by Prof Stones, a paediatric oncologist, from Bloemfontein.

The following Societies will participate in the meeting:

- SA Society of Clinical and Radiation Oncology
- SA Children's Cancer Study Group
- SA Gynecology Oncology Society
- SA Association of Medical Physics and Biology
- SA Society of Oncology Nursing
- SA Oncology Social Workers
- SA Association of Radiation Therapists

Alicia Sherriff is the coordinator of the Academic program and Rhyno Kriek is the Congress organizer.

Abstracts of the meeting will be published in the SA Journal of Oncology.

2. SA Journal of Oncology

The Journal has met its targets for 2017 in publishing 12 original peer reviewed articles. These articles have already been downloaded 6700 times this year. SAJO will maintain high standards through local and international peer review and is keen to be helpful to local authors.

3. Ra 223 and access to Calibrated Well chambers by Rad Onc's

Rad Onc's are licenced to administer Ra223. We expect that there will be additional unsealed radio-active isotopes available for therapy in the future.

Rad Onc's do not usually have a calibrated Well chamber. The radio-isotope vendor (e.g. Bayer for Ra 223) can be helpful in organizing access to a calibration chamber through a third party or practices can make their own arrangements with Nuclear Medicine departments.

The Nuclear Medicine Society has supported a Statement on our website on the multi-disciplinary approach to therapy, which recognizes the clinical role in patient care of Rad Onc's. http://www.sascro.co.za/downloads/SASCRO_Statment_on_unsealed_radio_active_sources_April_2016.pdf

4. Codes for special RT procedures

The private practice sub-committee of SASCRO aims to be helpful in developing new codes for developments in RT for which no codes exist at present. Providers can provide information to SASCRO which can endorse the codes and submit them to SAMA. The private practice subcommittee will seek to develop a template for submission of new codes for Radiation Oncology.

The following links may be helpful:

- https://www.samedical.org/private-health/mdcm_code_submissions_and
- https://www.samedical.org/files/REVISED_PROCEDURE_SERVICE_BASED_ON_CCSA.pdf

Please direct any queries to Maryna van der Westhuizen at mvanderwesthuizen@telkomsa.net who will forward them to the private practice subcommittee.

5. SA Academic Meetings in 2018 of interest to Radiation Oncology

a. ESMO Summit Cape Town Feb 2018

<http://www.esmo.org/Conferences/ESMO-Summit-Africa-2018>

This will include a full session on developments in Radiation therapy in addition to a series of disease orientated sessions. Suresh Senan from the Netherlands will be in attendance, as well as an excellent international faculty.

b. ICON Congress August 2018

Attendees will include 2 distinguished Radiation Oncologists - Mary Gospodarowicz of the Princess Margaret Hospital and Yolande Livens who is the President of ESTRO. In addition David Kerr, the Editor of the Journal of Global Oncology, will attend.

6. Feedback and Review

There was feedback on activities from the:

- Private practice subcommittee (Wilhelm van Zijl)
- Academic Departments subcommittee (Hannah Simonds)
- Treasurer (Samuel Fourie)
- MACC and Stakeholders meeting on NCCP (Sudeshen Naidoo)
- College of Radiation Oncologists (Alicia Sherriff)

Members of the Committee also reviewed the:

- SASCRO SASMO Congress of 2017
- Format of the SASCRO AGM
- SASCRO website
- SASCRO newsletter (In the SASCRO orbit)

7. Annual census of oncologists in SA.

This will be kindly conducted by Maryna vd Westhuizen in the early months of 2018.

I welcome all comments and suggestions which advance the aims of SASCRO. I wish SASCRO members all the best for the coming festive season and 2018.

Kind Regards,

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