



# CMSA NEWSLETTER

*Vincet Anima Doctrinae—The Spirit of Learning Will Prevail*

Volume 1, 2022

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT



**As the first black female president in the 65-year history of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa, I have been privileged and honored to stand amongst excellence, and amongst some of the greatest leaders in our fraternity.**

As I write this message, I am reminded that I follow in the footsteps of giants who went before me and who paved the path to ensure that I can stand where I am today. I honor and thank those who made my historical appointment possible. The CMSA had come a very long way and my appointment is one of the organization's biggest milestones. I recognize this fact whenever I am afforded the opportunity to do so, because it is important, and because representation matters, and the appointment moved forward the needle on the CMSA transformational agenda.

Transformation in terms of race, gender, and organizational culture is now well rooted in the CMSA and our current Senate is the most transformed Senate in the CMSA's 65-year history, not only in terms of racial statistics, but also in that more than 57% of the Senators are women. This is a record number of women senators in the history of the CMSA. Many of them are historical nominations and leading various constituent colleges. This is an incredible achievement.

At the beginning of our term as the CMSA Presidium, Prof Johan Fagan, the late Professor Oluboyo Ogunbanjo, and I embarked on national Listening Tours to hear the voice of the CMSA community. These Listening tours were very successful and supported one of the Presidium's goals - that we shouldn't fear our people, that we should go to our people, hear what they have to say and use that as a mandate to pave the way forward and shape our program and action plans. What we learned in those conversations will guide the CMSA in many years to come.

The call when we started was to build a new architecture for the CMSA that is rooted in our shared values of compassion, kindness and empathy. I believe we have laid the foundation to fulfill that mandate, and we are committed to continue to do so. The CMSA continues to make great strides to improve communication with all our Stakeholders with the focus on transparency regarding the CMSA operations and management, but even more importantly we are focusing more on hearing from our members regarding changes they would like to see, and support that they need, from us. I am proud of the new CMSA architecture of good governance, sound financial policies, an excellent pass rate, firm stance on anti-racism, inclusive governance in terms of leadership by women, uncompromising stance on ending bullying and intimidation and commitment to transformation. What I am most proud of colleagues, is a change in the CMSA culture. We have dismantled the brutality and replaced it with a kind, compassionate and understanding College. May we never again not lead with heart. May we always recognize each other's humanity first, and never forget where we started.

Over the past 3 years, we have met with some of the greatest challenges that the CMSA has faced in years and every member of the team stood up to the challenge. We stood strong in the face of great opposition and did what was right and what needed to be done, even when it wasn't popular and certainly wasn't easy. When the global pandemic COVID-19 hit, we had to manage with no in-person meetings, we had to figure out how to keep the examinations going, and we had to ensure everyone's safety. We did it. When we look back on the long road we've travelled and everything we've overcome, we reserve the privilege and honour to say we were brave, and we faced adversity head-on. We have worked so hard to ensure that we are truly a people's College, and I am proud to say that the College today is certainly much better than where it was three years ago.

We are now well into our third year of successfully running CMSA examinations under COVID-19 restrictions, and I want to highlight the incredible hard work of the CMSA leadership, the Board, the Senators, the Constituent College Presidents and council members, all our examiners, our candidates, our stakeholders, our partners, and our staff. I really want to single out our staff members who are led by our CEO, Prof Eric Buch, and our Executive Director Education and Assessment, Professor Vanessa Burch together with Mrs Yolokazi Kanzi, our Academic Registrar. It is through all their hard work that I can proudly write to you as President of the CMSA and say we are now recognized as global leaders in decentralized specialist medicine examinations.

On behalf of the CMSA I want to salute our gallant professionals across the globe who continue to bravely work during this difficult period of COVID 19 and in the same breath I want to honor those who have sadly passed away. You have all worked extremely hard and sacrificed a great deal, together with support from your loved ones. Never forget where you came from, and what it took for you to be where you are.

To you all, I leave you with an African proverb that says, "Even the mightiest eagle comes down to the treetops to rest." In all you do daily, I urge you not to forget to take a moment to take care of yourselves, recharge your batteries and most of all, to love yourselves, because in that, you strengthen yourselves and ensure you are able to give to society the best that we have to offer.

Continue to raise your head towards the sun, because both metaphorically and literally, that is where our strength lies. - Professor Flavia Senkubuge

## INCOMING PRESIDENT—2022—2025

**Prof Johan Fagan elected as Incoming President of The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa June 2022 – May 2025**



The Senate of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA) has elected Professor Johan Fagan as its President for the May 2022-2025 triennium. He has served for six years as Senior Vice President.

After completing otolaryngology (ENT) training at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and fellowships at the University of Pittsburgh, Johan Fagan was appointed the *Leon Goldman Chair of Otorhinolaryngology* at the University of Cape Town in 2002. He has authored more than 250 articles and book chapters and delivered more than 200 lectures internationally. Johan was admitted to the *College of Fellows of UCT* in 2020 in recognition of his academic contributions.

Prof Fagan has focused much of his career on advancing otolaryngology in lower- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In addition to training South African ENT surgeons, he has trained more than 20 ENT surgeons from other African countries. He established the 1<sup>st</sup> African fellowships for training in Head and Neck Surgery, Rhinology, Paediatric ENT, and Otolaryngology, and has personally trained 16 of the 21 head and neck surgeons in Sub-Saharan Africa. He founded the *African Head and Neck Society (AfHNS)*, designed the *AfHNS Head and Neck Fellowship* programme that is being rolled out in 7 countries, and spearheads the novel *AfHNS Clinical Practice Guidelines for Head & Neck Cancers* that ensure optimal cancer care in resource constrained settings.

To address the unaffordability of medical textbooks for trainees and surgeons in LMICs, Prof Fagan self-publishes two free open access textbooks, *The Open Access Atlas of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Operative Surgery*, and *The Open Access Guide to Audiology and Hearing Aids for Otolaryngologists*, chapters of which have been downloaded approximately 4 million times. He received the *Open Education Consortium (OEC) Award for Open Education Excellence (2017)*, and the *UCT Open Textbook award (2020)* in recognition of the *Open Access Atlas*.

He has also advanced African and LMIC agendas through serving on executive committees of the *Pan African Federation of Otolaryngologic Societies (PAFOS)* and the *International Federation of Otolaryngologic Societies (IFOS)*, and through chairing the International Advisory Board of the *American Academy of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNSF)* and the International Advisory Service of *The American Head and Neck Society*.

Prof Fagan has constantly raised matters of social justice through writings about race bias and research, race bias and ethnicity in otolaryngology academic publications, vaccine nationalism, unethical recruitment of health care workers by the UK and USA during the Covid-19 pandemic, and rules of engagement for surgical outreach to LMICs. Johan has given numerous keynote lectures internationally about high income countries' responsibility to address global inequality in healthcare.

He was awarded a gold medal by *IFOS (2017)*, the *Nikhil J. Bhatt, MD International Public Service Award* by the *AAO-HNSF (2019)*, and a *Paul Harris Fellowship* by *The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International (2021)* in appreciation of his global contributions to otolaryngology.

Professor Fagan has been at the forefront of advancing the field of ENT in Africa where he has displayed great integrity, philanthropy, leadership and a commitment to redressing disadvantage and ensuring high standards of care for all. His election as President of the CMSA comes with a commitment to build on what he has done for ENT for medical and dental practice. Professor Fagan is well positioned to build on the legacy of the past Presidents of the CMSA, Professors Mike Satheke and Flavia Senkubuge in serving its purpose of *promoting the highest degree of skill and efficiency in medical and dental practice and to cultivating the highest ethical standards and professional conduct ... not for pecuniary profit, but for the betterment of humanity.*

Professor Eric Buch CEO, CMSA

*"The College is such an important organization, not only for South Africa, but more and more so for the surrounding countries as well, and we have so much to contribute. I have been schooled by two outstanding past presidents and we have outstanding staff at the top with Prof Eric Buch, Prof Vanessa Burch and Mrs Yolokazi Kanzi and I am just grateful for this opportunity. We have a wonderful team, with Professor Flavia Senkubuge as our Immediate Past President so we won't be losing her skill set, Professor Zach Koto who is extremely well thought of – especially within the general surgery community, and Professor Johnny Mahlangu who comes with exceptional skills. We will have a wonderful term together. Professor Senkubuge has done a great deal of work and initiated many changes during turbulent times which has paved the way for the incoming Presidium to hit the ground running".*

—Professor Johan Fagan, CMSA AGM 29 October 2021

# DYNAMIC PRESIDIUM TO LEAD THE CMSA DURING THE 2022-2025 TRIENNIUM

At the Senate Meeting of 28 October 2021, the Incoming Presidium for 2022—2025 was elected with overwhelming support from the Senate reflected in more than 90% of votes received in favor of the appointments. As incoming President, Prof Johan Fagan will be supported by Prof Zach Koto as Senior Vice-President, Prof Johnny Mahlangu as Vice-President and Prof Flavia Senkubuge, who will continue to give guidance and support in her invaluable role as Immediate Past President.



## SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT Prof Zach Koto

In his address at the AGM, Professor Zach Koto thanked the members of Senate for their great faith in him and said that it was a great privilege to serve as Senior Vice-President of such an excellent organization.

*"I am really looking forward to working with Professor Johan Fagan again. We've worked together on many other projects, and it is a great honor to serve under him as President, and of course, to work again with Professor Johnny Mahlangu with whom I've served with on many other committees of the College. It is a great honor, and I can learn a lot from them, and I am looking forward to equipping myself well in this*

*portfolio,"* he said. He commended Prof Senkubuge for overcoming the challenges she and the College faced over the past 18 months and thanked her for setting the College on the right path. *"It is reassuring to have you, Professor Flavia Senkubuge, as Immediate Past President,"* he said and expressed the confidence that the CMSA will continue on an upward trajectory as a College all can be proud of, that has consistently advocated quality, and moving forward.

Professor Zach Koto is Professor of Surgery and department chairman at the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University. He graduated with a doctoral degree in surgery from UKZN and attained his FCS(SA) in 1992. From 1994 to 2011 he was Head of General Surgery at Sebokeng Hospital where he trained many young medical officers and rotating registrars from the University of Witwatersrand. In 2011, Prof Koto attained his FACS degree and later that year, was appointed as the Head of General Surgery at the University of Limpopo, Medunsa Campus (which was re-named Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University in 2015).

Author of more than 42 publications, Professor Koto is a pioneer in laparoscopic procedures in the management of trauma patients and is renowned for performing the first laparoscopic aortobifemoral bypass graft in South Africa in 2012. It is passion for teaching and developing laparoscopic surgery in South Africa that sets him apart from the rest. Not only does Prof Koto encourage laparoscopic proficiency in registrar training, he also hosts regular laparoscopic workshops for all those who are willing to learn the skill and he hosts the annual TOTMAS (Tricks of the Trade in Minimal Access Surgery) Congress to share his experience and knowledge.

Professor Koto's involvement in surgical training goes far beyond his own university and department. He has been an executive committee member of many surgical societies including ASSA (The Association of Surgeons of South Africa), SASES (South African Society of Endoscopic Surgeons) and SRSSA (The Surgical Research Society of South Africa).

The SASSiT Swann-Morton Silver Scalpel Award for 2017. The Silver Scalpel award recognizes that consultant demonstrating excellence in leadership, professionalism, communication and commitment to training and development. Candidates are nominated by surgical trainees in any surgical discipline and chosen by the SASSiT Executive Committee.

Professor Koto has served the CMSA as Senator since 2014, President of the College of Surgeons since October 2017 and member of the Finance and General Purpose Committee since October 2020.



## VICE-PRESIDENT Prof Johnny Mahlangu

Professor Johnny Mahlangu started his address at the AGM by saying he is humbled and honoured to have been given the opportunity to serve The Colleges of Medicine in the capacity of Vice-President.

*"It is indeed something I take very seriously. We are at an exciting point in the history of the College. It is one organization that has shown repeatedly that it has good governance, it has very solid fiscal prudence, it's a dynamic organization which engages all stakeholders, it's responsive, as we know it has been very exceptionally responsive to the current*

*pandemic. I see our role, collectively, to continue these good virtues that the College has laid down"* he said. He thanked the Senators and past leaders of the CMSA and the outgoing President for showing strength and bravery in leading the College through difficult times. *"I am looking forward to working with the new team. Collectively I think we can make this count as one of the best institutions in South Africa, on the continent, and hopefully in the world."*

Professor Johnny Mahlangu is a Full Professor of Haematology in the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of the Witwatersrand and the National Health Laboratory

Service and a Consultant Clinical Haematologist in Charge of Haematology at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital. He received his undergraduate and postgraduate training in science and medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand with haematology specialist and clinical haematology sub-specialist qualifications through the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa. His main area of research is novel therapies in bleeding disorders in which he has served as Principal Investigator for a large number of international multicentre studies. He has published many peer review journal articles and presented more than 500 oral and posters at national and international scientific meetings

Prof Mahlangu is current President of the College of Pathologists in South Africa, Chairman of the South African Medical Research Council Board and Chairman of the International Society on Haemostasis and Thrombosis scientific and standardization Committee on Factor VIII, FIX and rare bleeding disorders. He is a recipient of many awards the most recent include the Wits University Vice-Chancellor Academic citizenship award in 2018, the American Society of Haematology Global Capacity Building award in 2019, the Publons top 1% cross-field reviewer award in 2019, Wits University Vice-Chancellor Research award in 2020 and an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa in 2020, the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis Esteemed Career award in 2021.



## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Prof Flavia Senkubuge

Professor Flavia Senkubuge, a global health advocate, is the 20<sup>th</sup> President of The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa, the first black woman and only the 3<sup>rd</sup> woman to serve in this position in the CMSA's 65-year history. She was also the youngest president ever of the CMSA and the first specialist in public health medicine to hold the position.

On becoming President of the CMSA, her vision was to "educate, innovate and impact", and the evolution of a "dynamic CMSA that leverages and harnesses the collective excellence of its members and stakeholders and is responsive and creates value for its profession, health system and society." The CMSA Agenda 2022 was born from this vision and is rooted in its foundation of excellence, located in CMSA's ethos, and aims to build in a way that impacts on society. After introducing the income

presidium at the AGM on 29 October 2021, Professor Senkubuge said she is delighted and looking forward to being the Immediate Past President. *"I have the most delightful experiences from the people who went before me, my grandparents and their friends about being elders. I can't wait to be a grandma and support this excellent team of colleagues,"* she said.

Professor Senkubuge grew up in the small town of Cacadu (Lady Frere, in the then Transkei) and with the advent of democracy, her family moved to the small town of Komani (Queenstown) in the Eastern Cape where she completed her high school career. She was raised in an environment where women had their own voice, achieved success in their own right, and shared a passion to make a difference in the world. *"I remember as a young girl being raised around women who were teachers, doctors, nurses, housewives and farmers, but each one of them had one thing in common, the drive to make a difference,"* she says.

Professor Senkubuge, Public Health Medicine Specialist and Deputy Dean Stakeholder Relations at the University of Pretoria takes a special interest in Global Health and is well respected nationally and globally. She has a medical degree from the University of Pretoria, a specialist medical degree in community medicine, holds a Fellowship of the College of Public Health Medicine of South Africa (obtained in 2009), and completed her PhD in 2018. She is the current chair of the World Health Organisation's African Advisory Council on Research and Development where she advises on matters concerning health research and development in Africa. She is also Vice-President of the African Federation of Public Health Association, an organisation concerned with promoting public health in Africa. As the President of Women in Global Health South Africa, Professor Senkubuge is involved with achieving gender equality within global health leadership. In 2017, she was appointed as the Chairperson of the Health Systems Trust (HST) Board of trustees. The HST is a non-profit organization based in South Africa that has been at the fore front of the South African Health system for more than 20 years.

Her research interests lie in Global health diplomacy, Health policy and management, Leadership, and the social determinants of health. At heart she is a philanthropist and passionate about mentoring young people and says her work is rooted in the African Philosophy of Ubuntu, "I am because we are." She wants to make a difference, not only to one person, but to population health globally. She believes that an awareness of intersectionality will make it easier to advocate and implement much needed improvements for the health system of South Africa and globally and that the global health systems have to be based on health justice and drive by social solidarity.

In 2015 the prestigious InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP) elected Professor Senkubuge as a Young Physician Leader, and she was selected again the following year for the panel's international reunion in Geneva. She was also a 2018 finalist for the Women of Stature award in the category Woman in Healthcare. Professor Senkubuge is an accomplished speaker with more than 16 years' experience in public speaking with numerous awards and has had numerous presentations at scientific conferences locally and internationally.



# CMSA VIRTUAL ADMISSION CEREMONY



**The CMSA Admission Ceremony is a highlight on our calendar when we are granted the opportunity to honor our candidates for successfully completing our fellowship, diploma and certificate examinations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we offered our candidates for the first semester 2021 Virtual Admission Ceremonies in October 2021 with the promise of a face to face admission ceremony when that becomes possible..**

Members of the CMSA Senate, Committees and Executive Management gathered at the three CMSA offices in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban to participate in the filming for this event which was broadcasted via the YouTube platform. Due to the number of successful candidates, two virtual admission ceremonies were filmed and we admitted 1228 new CMSA members: 629 medical specialists, 128 sub-specialists and 471 diplomates. Candidates from as far as Blantyre, Gabarone and Nairobi were amongst the extraordinary group of Candidates.



In her opening address, the President of the CMSA, Prof Flavia Senkubuge, said that the Admission Ceremonies were held during unprecedented times when the whole world is battling the novel Corona Virus disease COVID-19, but that the CMSA Leadership, the Board, the Senate and Staff will continue to work around the clock to ensure that the changes due to COVID-19 cause minimal disruption to the CMSA Registrars, Constituent Colleges, Examiners, Stakeholders and partners. *"We are acutely aware of the impact of our decisions and want to assure you that in all our decisions we will use the most cutting edge and current evidence, but most importantly, we will use heart,"* she said.

## Virtual Admission Ceremony for Diplomates

On 5 October 2021, during a Virtual Admission Ceremony, 471 Diplomates were admitted as CMSA Members.

In pursuit of its commitment to advance the standards of medical practice the CMSA offers 6 postgraduate Higher Diplomas and 13 postgraduate Diplomas. Ten disciplines were represented at this Ceremony, including Anaesthetics, Paediatrics, Forensic Medicine, HIV Management, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics, Ophthalmology Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine and Otorhinolaryngology.

It was an honour and privilege to have Prof Marian Jacobs, retired Dean of the Faculty of Health Science at the University of Cape Town and currently Emeritus Professor Paediatrics and Child Health at the institution as guest speaker at this event. Her message reflected a deep appreciation and understanding of the journey of our Diplomates, and their families and friends during these unprecedented times and their resilience and determination to overcome the challenges of the past year to successfully complete their diploma examinations. Her words will continue to inspire and encourage our Diplomates in their ongoing journey and the challenges they will face and her message of kindness will be remembered not only by our Diplomates, their family and friends, but also by the leadership and staff of the CMSA.



The successful Diploma candidates are able to bring greater expertise to medical practice to critical fields such as HIV care and mental health and in neglected

areas such as geriatric medicine, allergology, sexual health and HIV medicine, and ophthalmology. The Diploma in Family Medicine enhances general practice. Diplomas that improve skills in hospitals, especially those without specialists and in rural hospitals are offered in anaesthetics, child health, obstetrics, orthopaedics, forensic medicine, surgery and internal medicine. Frontline care is served by the Diploma in Primary Emergency Care. The recording of the event can be viewed [here](#).

## Virtual Admission Ceremony for Fellows and Certificants

629 Medical Specialists and 128 sub-specialists were admitted as CMSA members at the Virtual Admission Ceremony on 7th October 2021.

The CMSA is unique in that it embraces 29 Constituent Colleges, representing all the disciplines of medicine and dentistry. All disciplines were represented with successful candidates in 34 certificate and 37 fellowship examinations.

Professor Lionel Green-Thompson, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town honored us with his presence as guest speaker at this event. Sharing his first experience with the CMSA examinations, and his account of how it transpired will encourage and inspire our candidates and members to continue their journey and not become discouraged when they are faced with numerous professional and personal challenges and disappointment. He also urged them to continuously reflect on their competency, personal and professional growth, as they strive towards excellence as health care professionals. His words will continue and encourage not only our candidates, the CMSA leadership and staff, but all who were privileged to hear his speech, in their ongoing journey and the challenges they will face.



One of the highlights of the evening included bestowing of Fellowship by Peer Review (FCPHM) on Prof Mohamed Jeebhay.

This was followed by the awarding of medals to distinguished candidates for their exceptional performance in the 2020 examinations and the admission of Certificants and Fellows by examination.

The recording of the event can be viewed [here](#).

In closing the Admission Ceremonies, Prof Senkubuge reminded colleagues that being sensitive, kind, understanding, kind, and caring and compassionate is even more important during this difficult time, not only to others, but to ourselves as well.

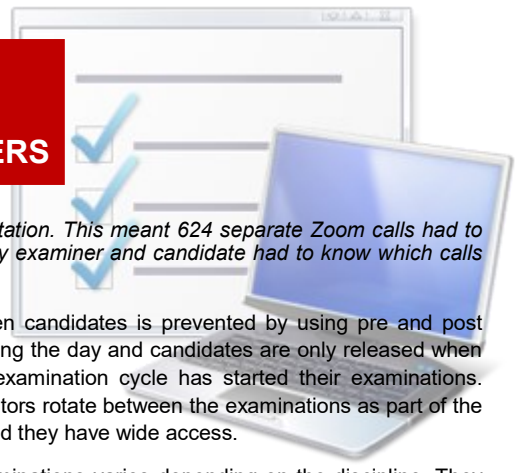
In a special message to the graduates, she said: *"You have all worked extremely hard and sacrificed a great deal together with the support from your loved ones. As you begin this new journey in your career, never forget where you came from and what it took for you to be where you are. Remain in our beautiful country. Remain humble. Never lose your humanity and continue to do great things. Remember that your voice counts. You count. You matter and you are needed more so than ever during this time to take your place."*



**By mid-June 2022, the CMSA will have hosted 8 in-person admission ceremonies at five different venues across South Africa. Read more on this and the historical, first Eastern Cape Admission Ceremony hosted in Mthatha in our next issue.**



# TRANSFORMATION AND RE-ENGINEERING OF THE CMSA EXAMINATIONS ENSURES CONTINUITY AND IMPROVED SUPPORT AND SERVICE TO OUR CANDIDATES AND EXAMINERS



The CMSA was able to continue offering examinations to medical doctors during the COVID-19 pandemic by completely transforming and re-engineering its examination processes, proudly adding 3187 new members to its ranks.

Traditionally about 600 candidates and 400 examiners from around the country gather at on one host medical school for a week of oral, practical and clinical examination for this national examination, without which you cannot become a medical specialist or sub-specialist. *“But, with COVID-19 this was out of the question”* said Dr Flavia Senkubuge, President of the CMSA. *“Colleges around the world were cancelling their exams, but we felt we could not do this to our candidates who would have been left in limbo, nor to our country, which faces a serious shortage of medical specialists. The CMSA Senate made a bold decision that has become a world leading innovation: to do structured oral examinations by videoconference. We have become global players in re-engineered and decentralized examinations using the zoom platform, have really flattened the curve of disparity, and our pass rates have actually increased.”*

The Examination and Credentials office is in the process of being re-engineered to better serve our candidates and examiners. This includes improvements to our databases, processing of results and providing collective preparation courses nationally for examination candidates, an increase in CMSA staffing and added value for money.

## ONLINE WRITTEN AND STRUCTURED ORAL EXAMINATION BY VIDEOCONFERENCE EXPLAINED

Examinations is our core business and structured oral examinations by videoconference is a new development that has been gaining a lot of traction and support within the CMSA. In her presentation to the American Board of Medical Specialists on online structured oral examinations by videoconference and below is a brief breakdown of how these examinations are conducted.

The examinations are structured into 20-minute units of assessment. A candidate would, for example go through eight units of structured oral examinations by videoconference. There are two examiners per station and would be examined by 16 examiners in total with 20 minutes with each pair of examiners. In some cases, Colleges have case preview time where the case the candidate will be presented with is looked at in advance to enable them to go through the material and they can prepare for the oral examination. Other colleges take the candidates through the cases step by step. Each of the eight sessions are individual zoom calls and we have found the zoom platform most reliable for our purposes.

CMSA Executive Director for Education and Assessment, Professor Vanessa Burch explained. *“Candidates chose to attend one of 8 exam sites where there were strict COVID protocols – Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, East London, Johannesburg, Polokwane, Port Elizabeth or Umtata. To ensure social distancing, examiners could join from anywhere – their hospital, office, or home. This required some organisation. For example, one part of the examination for anaesthetists had 12 virtual stations with 2 examiners per station or 24 in all. All 52 candidates had to*

*be examined at each station. This meant 624 separate Zoom calls had to be scheduled and every examiner and candidate had to know which calls to join.”*

Communication between candidates is prevented by using pre and post examination rooms during the day and candidates are only released when the last group in the examination cycle has started their examinations. Convenors and moderators rotate between the examinations as part of the moderation process, and they have wide access.

The format for the examinations varies depending on the discipline. They can be patient-based, with PowerPoint presentations which can include images or video clips, or use simulated or real patients and electronic case notes. They can be topic based with or without images or data or task-based where the candidate prepares a presentation for the examinations panel.

The process also requires extensive preparation of examination material. Every examiner's panel meets with Professor Vanessa Burch is held where she explains the examinations' process, the concepts by which the examinations are designed, approaches are developed, and the examiners then work in teams to develop and review the material. All the material is Cloud-base stored and distributed from there on the day of the examination under strict security protocols.

In terms of the assessment process, there is a set of structured questions with real time online assessment and asynchronous assessment of the recorded interview and examiners' notes on the candidate's performance. All examiners download a marking memorandum on the day of the examination and experience has shown that a simple bullet point list works best for this purpose. The examiners' report on the examinations is recorded and the performance of each candidate on each question is documented against a marking rubric and a scoresheet.

The marks and comments are captured and collated on an Excel spreadsheet, but we are working with Speedwell to capture it in the Speedwell system as well.

Much time is invested in examiner and candidate preparation. Examiners receive an

examinations orientation pack, attend zoom orientation sessions as well as a Zoom Dry run one week before the examination. An early morning Zoom check in is also done on the day of the examination. Our candidates received candidate information leaflets, are offered general Candidates Webinars and specific Zoom orientation sessions on the structured oral examinations with examples of questions. Candidates also receive links to video clips on how to use zoom effectively. Some colleges require interactive computer drawing tools, and hands-on training in using these tools are provided to the candidates on-site. *“We don't want technology to be an interfering factor in distracting them from good performance in the examinations,”* said Prof Buch.

## IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS, SUPPORT, AND AUTOMATION OF SYSTEMS

The new format of examinations highlighted the need for improved infrastructure for communications, not only with regards to technology, but also by employing additional staff to enable us to link staff members to specific colleges which will make it easier to identify the correct individual to who candidates and examiners can refer problems, queries, and requests for support. For example, for all the anaesthetic examinations the examiners will have one staff member to liaise with for setting up the examinations and examination papers and similarly the candidates will have one CMSA administrator to liaise with. We are in negotiations with Speedwell and the CMSA IT Support supplier to design a patch that will automatically download the information, freeing up time and speeding up the process.

Automation of systems is also a priority, for example, automating the downloading of Candidates' portfolios for review. To improve the results processes and communication, we are investigating the possibility of synchronizing the Speedwell and CMSA database .

*“We have become global players in re-engineered and decentralized examinations using the zoom platform and we are speaking to a number of international platforms and colleagues who are learning from us about the ways we are conducting these particular, decentralized examination. We have really flattened the curve of disparity. It is an examination that is now defensible, it is objective, and our pass rates have actually increased.”*  
Professor Flavia Senkubuge.



At the moment, Speedwell has results available when the examination finishes, but there is no way of downloading the information into the CMSA examinations and marks database. A staff member copies and types the results from the Speedwell system to the CMSA database.

A second staff member double checks that the information has been captured accurately and then the manager would have to review and approve it before it goes to the CMSA Academic Registrar, Mrs Yolokazi Kanzi. In his report at the Annual General Meeting Professor Mthunzi Ngcelwane, Chairperson of the Education and Credential Committee, said that delays in the releasing of results is the biggest complaint amongst examiners and candidates. *"We are working on the process for remarking scripts to ensure that they can be marked in a minimal time. Senate has approved the use of two remarkers for each examination so we can get the remarks done very quickly. The biggest delay in the results lies in the check and balances that we have to do to ensure that the results we publish are correct,"* he said. *"There is nothing worse than the CMSA publishing those candidates have passed, when they have actually failed, and vice versa. For me, it is much more important to release the results two, or three, or four weeks later if that ensures that the results are perfect,"* he concluded.

Another exciting development in the pipeline is a Dashboard for Candidates' results to enable them to track the status of their results in the system, right up to Senate ratification. We are also developing a database to capture examiners', and candidates' concerns. Previously this was handled manually on a one-on-one basis, but now all these concerns will be entered into a database and reviewed weekly by our Academic Registrar and our Director Education and Assessment, Prof Vanessa Burch.

Administrative matters are dealt with internally, and where they relate to policy matters, they go back to the relevant College and if necessary to the Examinations and Credentials Committee. To improve communication and resolve queries, each Constituent College has been allocated a dedicated staff member to deal with any matters that may arise during the planning and execution of the examinations.

The Speedwell eSystem is also being improved to ensure that examiners will only be able to mark their own questions and will not have access to other examiners' questions and marks given. For multiple marking of questions, more than one examiner will be able to mark a question but will still not be able to see other examiners' scores. We have built up a relationship with the development team at Speedwell and we are working closely on improving the system.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

The Executive Team of the CMSA, supported by the Board and the Examinations Credentials Committee, has developed a very strong risk averse approach

Right from the beginning when we prepared for the structured oral examinations by video conference, we worked towards protecting our examinations against loadshedding and general loss of electricity and connectivity. We have backup generators and new computers at all the CMSA examination venues. New computers ensure longer battery life, but in addition we have powerful UPS banks that can run computer and internet connectivity for a couple of hours. *"We've managed to see ourselves through loadshedding without dropping any examinations,"* says Prof Eric Buch. The CMSA has also developed a system for both the Speedwell platform and structured oral examinations platform and structured written examinations that when the candidate moves from one question to the next, the answer is automatically saved in the Cloud. If connections are lost for any reason, the only answer lost is the one currently being worked on. This includes the MCQs. When the system reboots, the candidate can continue.

With regards to internet connectivity, we have Fibre connectivity at the CMSA, and we have router back-up through providers including MTN, Telkom and Vodacom simcards and we are now upgrading to microwave connectivity as our backup. At the non-CMSA sites in the Free State, Polokwane and the Eastern Cape, we have simcards present for two providers that we have established provide the best connectivity in the area. Once we have established offices in these areas, we will be installing microwave connectivity which is much more stable, speedy and secure.

There is also a dedicated IT Team onsite at each venue on every examination's day. Our onsite invigilators are Zoom trained, have full sets of operating procedures to cover all eventualities and there is a national co-ordination process via WhatsApp which is managed by Mrs Shanelle Visagie, the CMSA Examinations Coordinator.

*"We have not had glitches of significance that have compromised our examinations over the three semesters in any significant way,"* reported Prof Buch at the AGM on 29 October 2021. *"The oral examinations by videoconference have worked remarkably well,"* he said.

## NEW EXAMINATION FORMAT WELL RECEIVED BY

We have not had objections and complaints of significance to the modality. A survey which Professor Buch presented at the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on candidates' experience with the online examinations by videoconference reflected a very positive response with candidates reporting that they feel less intimidated and believe they perform better in a videoconference environment than what they would have done in a face-to-face examination. *"The online examinations have allowed us to offer written examinations to those candidates outside the country who could not travel because of Covid, in countries such as Uganda, Mauritius, Ethiopia and Zambia – to mention a few,"* said Professor Mthunzi Ngcelwane, Chairperson of the Examinations and Credentials Committee.

The CMSA has an appeal mechanism by which the candidate can appeal decisions regarding their examination results and in some cases, candidates have elected to take the CMSA to court. *"Over the past year we have had no cases where we had to defend our College in court or through our lawyers. It speaks to the method by which we are now conducting the examinations as being clear and fairer,"* Prof Ngcelwane said.

Professor Koto, President of the College of Surgeons thanked Prof Ngcelwane and the Education and Credentials Committee for the excellent work done over the past year. *"The College has never been in a better space than now, and it comes at a time that we are faced with formidable and unprecedented challenges in COVID-19. We had to rapidly and completely change the method of assessment and make game-changing decisions such as the employment of Professor Vanessa Burch who is an undisputed leader and expert in the field of assessment and has made huge improvements in terms of the quality of assessment. The new methodology of assessment, is objective, sound educational principals are applied, are beyond reproach and can stand up to scrutiny. The ECC has done splendid work under the leadership of Prof Ngcelwane,"* he said. *"I must say without fear of contradiction, that the College now is in a better space than it has ever been in its long and colorful history."*

***"The CMSA has been transformed into a high-tech examination body and is now at the leading edge internationally in relation to assessment of specialist trainees, and our candidates now have the benefits of fair, but robust assessments and examinations. For these achievements we need to thank our colleges for their preparedness to adapt to the challenges COVID presented and for embracing modernisation of the examinations, and we need to thank the Universities and the HPCSA for their continued trust in the CMSA to offer fair, high quality, unitary examinations." - Professor Johan Fagan***





# CMSA EXECUTIVE TEAM

## Professor Eric Buch - Chief Executive Officer



Professor Eric Buch's appointment as Chief Executive Office of the CMSA in March 2020 is historic as it is the first time in CMSA's 65-year history that a medical specialist is appointed as CEO.

Professor Buch is a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Professor of Health Policy and Management at the University of Pretoria (UP) and formerly Dean of its Faculty of Health Sciences.

Professor Buch was formerly Health Adviser for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Deputy Director General for Health Care in Gauteng Province, Executive Director for Health, Housing and Urbanization of Johannesburg and a Director of the Centre for Health Policy at the University of the Witwatersrand. He also served as General Secretary of the anti-apartheid National Progressive Primary Health Care Network (NPPHCN), was active in the National Medical and Dental Association (NAMDA) and co-founded the University of the Witwatersrand Rural Health Services Development Unit in Bushbuckridge. He has served as Chair of the Board of the National Health Laboratory Service and on the Boards of the Global Health Workforce Alliance and Health Systems Trust. In 2015 he was awarded the Public Health Association of South Africa's "Phila" Lifetime Achievement Award.

*"If there was ever a man who could ride the lightning and come out the other side unscarred, it is Prof Eric Buch. He joined the CMSA at a time of great turbulence when our team needed to heal and it needed to grow and he was and is up to the task and has not wavered."*

**Prof Flavia Senkubuge**

## Professor Vanessa Burch - Executive Director: Education and Assessment



Professor Vanessa Burch is a Rheumatologist and Health Professions Educationalist who holds a PhD in Assessment from Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Vanessa Burch was Professor and Chair of Clinical Medicine at the University of Cape Town from 2008-2018. She is currently Honorary Professor of Medicine at UCT and works as an Educational consultant to the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa. She has received numerous awards for Health Professions Education,

serves on the editorial board of international medical education journals, and is the founding editor of the African Journal of Health Professions Education. She is widely published and is considered a leader in Health Professions Education in sub-Saharan Africa.

Professor Burch has received four national lifetime awards for teaching excellence: Distinguished Teacher's Award at the University of Cape Town; National Excellence in Teaching and Learning jointly awarded by the Council for Higher Education (CHE) in the Department of Higher Education and Training and the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA); Distinguished Educator (South African Association of Health Educationalists (SAAHE)), and most recently, a Teaching Advancement at University (TAU) fellowship, jointly awarded by

the CHE and HELTASA. Vanessa Burch is also a Fellow of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER), founding Director of the sub-Saharan Africa FAIMER Regional Institute (SAFRI) and holds a Teaching at University (TAU) Fellowship from the Council for Higher Education of South Africa.

Her education research and education expertise include assessment of clinical competence, novel methods of teaching and assessment in the workplace, clinical reasoning, curriculum design and program evaluation.

## Mrs. Yolokazi Kanzi – Academic Registrar



Mrs. Yolokazi Kanzi was appointed as Academic Registrar on 1 January 2020 to the CMSA. Prior to this appointment, Mrs. Kanzi held the position of Deputy Academic Registrar at the CMSA.

Mrs. Kanzi brought with her a wealth of experience from various Academic Institutions such as University of South Africa, University of Pretoria and Stellenbosch University. Her previous employment

at the HPCSA has also proved of great benefit to her. Her background in Academia involves quality assurance, marketing and public relations, program management, student enrolment, student and academic systems as well as database management. She holds a BA (Language and Communication Studies) from the University of the Western Cape (UWC). She is a member of the Board of Directors as well as a member of the Senate of the CMSA.

## Mr. Jerome Davies CA (SA) – Executive Director: Finance and Administration



Mr. Jerome Davies was appointed as Executive Director: Finance and Administration on 1 April 2022. Mr Davies is a Chartered Accountant (SA) with over 16 years post article experience. Mr Davies has over 14 years' experience in various roles from Financial manager, Financial Operations manager, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Davies has a wealth of finance and operations experience in the Education Sector which includes roles such as Chief Operating Officer of Milpark Education and Milpark Business School as well as Chief Financial Officer of The University of Stellenbosch Business School Executive Education (USB-ED). In these roles Mr Davies gained invaluable experience in finance, operations, management, and organizational development.

He has a Masters in Commerce (Finance) from the University of Cape Town and completed his Executive Development Programme through USB-ED. Mr Davies is also a trustee of the Hexagon Trust, established in 1988 to facilitate bursaries for students of colour from a disadvantaged background. He was a beneficiary of the Trust and the first to also become a Trustee. He is also its representative for the Western Cape students and alumni. In 2015 Mr Davies was recognised by Destiny Man as Top 40 under 40 for his role at USB-ED and the impact that the entity has made in business education.

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Mr Davies is a member of the Board of Directors as well as a member of the Senate of the CMSA.

# YOUNG SPECIALIST FORUM

**We are pleased to inform our colleagues of the formation of a Young Specialist Forum which will be composed of young specialists up to their 10th year post fellowship.**

This group was created from a need identified for representation of young specialist within the structures and functions of the CMSA, and the desire of members amongst the young specialist community to become actively involved in CMSA activities. *“There is a gap that forms between when someone graduates, to the time they are allowed to be an observer, or an examiner, or to be an active part of the body of the College. A number of our young newly qualified specialists would like to be involved in the activities of the College and contribute to the College. The CMSA has transformed so much and a lot of learning as an academic, the examination processes, the collegiality and working with other people happens at the College. Currently people come back into the fold seven to ten years post specializing, and we have discussed ways of bringing OUR newly qualified “young lions” into the College,”* said Professor Flavia Senkubuge, President of the CMSA when the Young Specialist Forum (YSF) was established. The YSF will be led by the Young Specialists Committee. *“This is the first new committee established within the structure of the CMSA since November 2012 and we are very excited,”* she said.

The YSF will be diverse, have representatives from all disciplines, and perform a two-fold function: Firstly, as a pipeline and grooming platform for the next generation of College leaders and as a voice for young specialists. Secondly, establishing ways for Young Specialists to become more involved in CMSA activities such as observing examinations, contributing to a question data bank and mentoring. The vision is that Young Specialist will not only mentor registrars on academic matters, but also more holistically in terms of the work-life balance – e.g., how to juggle studying, work and personal responsibilities and relationships.

To this end, a Young Specialist Steering Committee of has been established. They will be crafting a document that will present the goals, visions and initiatives of the group and actions needed to achieve them. *“It’s a new idea that we are evolving with a group of volunteer interim committee members, but the vision is to have an election where we call for nominations and vote within colleges. We have many exciting ideas from the Board on the development of the group, including peer mentorship and assisting with the development of our examination preparation and*

*delivery platforms. At the moment it is voluntary, but it will evolve into a formal process,”* said Prof Eric Buch, CEO of the CMSA.

The Steering Committee, chaired by Dr Ayanda Trevor Mnguni, is made up of a group of young specialists who approached the CMSA leadership to discuss young specialists becoming more involved within the CMSA structure and the need for academic and personal mentoring of young specialists on their life journey.



**Dr Ayanda Trevor Mnguni** completed his specialist and subspecialist training as the first black African pulmonologist from University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital.

He is the Head of Department of Internal Medicine at Khayelitsha District Hospital and a consultant in the Division of Internal Medicine at Stellenbosch University and Tygerberg Hospital.

His passion lies in teaching and mentoring, which continues to be an invaluable resource to many registrars.

He said: *“I am honoured to serve and be part of the Young Specialist Steering Committee within the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa, a very exciting initiative aimed to bridge the gap between the roles of young specialists and senior members of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa.”*

Colleagues who would like to share thoughts with, or join the Steering Committee should please write to [YoungSpecialistForum@cmsa.co.za](mailto:YoungSpecialistForum@cmsa.co.za).

***“The College should be congratulated on this move,” said Prof Zach Koto, President of the College of Surgeons. “You are absolutely correct that there is that gap where young individuals are not able to participate in the activities of the College and our strategy is to make this a peoples’ College and an accommodating College, and this is a very important part of the future growth of the CMSA,”*** he said.

## CMSA CONTACT LIST

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# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT—66<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—29 OCTOBER 2021

**The Colleges of Medicine’s 66<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held on 29 October 2021. This was the first time that the AGM was conducted electronically.**

The President of the CMSA, Prof Flavia Senkubuge confirmed that there were no objections to proceeding with the meeting. She also confirmed that a quorum of the CMSA membership was present.

The AGM affords Members the opportunity to get a full update on the CMSA and was an interesting event where the President, Chairperson of the Examinations and Credential Committee and the CEO gave updates on how the CMSA has navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, the great strides made in the format of examinations and the progress in improving relationships with all stakeholders. Plans for support for candidates and other educational endeavors was shared by the Chairperson of the Education Committee, the Honorary Treasurer reported on CMSA finances and the Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee on improvements in business processes and operations. Some of these reports are available via the links at the end of this article and we share some of the highlights below.

## CMSA EXAMINATIONS

In the First Semester of 2021, over a period of six weeks, we completed 257 online written examinations, covering different qualifications. These were offered on the CMSA online platform using the Speedwell system. 85 oral examinations were conducted via videoconference over an 11-week period. The new oral examinations format requires that a separate zoom link needs to be created for each candidate. In his report at the AGM on 29 October 2021, Professor Eric Buch said: *“Over the three semesters we are now moving towards 10 000 separate videoconference exam calls that have been set up and have been successfully conducted”.*

The CMSA is now responsible for 34 weeks of digital examinations a year, compared to 6 weeks of handwritten examinations previously. Remote clinical examinations are still conducted by some Constituent Colleges. For remote clinical examinations, a local examiner is present with a candidate and a patient and a briefed national examiner joins by videoconferencing for the case presentation to establish the national platform of the examination. The long-term goal is to replace the clinical examinations with Workplace Based Assessment under the auspices of the Universities, supported by the CMSA in terms of a joint arrangement between the CMSA and the South African Committee of Deans. *“For next year we want to accelerate progress on Workplace Based Assessment, expand our preparation courses for our candidates, grow examiner training and support, grow secure Single Best Answer databases and bring out research publications on what we believe is the globally pioneering work that we are doing. Many colleges around the world cancelled their examinations in the face of COVID and others starting pilot oral examinations by videoconference much later, whereas we are into the thousands of candidates on the new system,”* said Prof Buch.

## CMSA MEMBERSHIP

Improved engagement with all our stakeholders remains a priority, and our most important stakeholders are our members. A lot of thought has been dedicated to improving member communications. A quarterly Members’ Newsletter is planned, and we will, for the first time ever, be issuing annual membership certificates which will be issued on payment of the 2022 membership subscriptions. In his report on the activities of the Education Committee, Prof Dean Gopalan also reminded members that the CMSA is a CPD accreditor, that the Education Committee manages the process and that this service is free to the CMSA Constituent Colleges and their members. *“Please use this facility to get your programs accredited,”* he said.

## YOUNG SPECIALIST COMMITTEE

The group will represent young medical specialists and will provide a platform to groom the next generation of CMSA leaders. It will not only be a bridge between the CMSA and registrars, but also provide a space for academic and personal growth through mentorship. A core group of young specialists will lead the way to establish a Steering Committee of young specialists who desire to make a contribution to the CMSA. They will shape, conceptualize, collaborate and develop the Young Specialist Committee of the CMSA.

## NEW CMSA OFFICES AND EXAMINATION VENUES

Professor Buch also reported on transformation within the CMSA with regards to diversity and the culture of the College and said the next step would be geographical diversity. *“As part of the CMSA’s transformation agenda and commitment to geographical equity, we feel very strongly that there is a need to expand our platform, especially now that we have decentralized examinations,”* he said. The plan is to open offices and continue with examinations in Bloemfontein, East London, Gqerberha, Mthatha and Polokwane.

*“My mandate from the Board is to find a sustainable, affordable solution to do so and I think we are well on the way to achieving that with the support of our Members and the Deans and Universities in those provinces.”* A CMSA delegation visited the Free State and Eastern Cape to discuss the way forward. Conversations regarding opening an office in Limpopo is also planned for next year. Subject to sustainable affordability, the CMSA will continue to offer both written and oral examination in all of these sites. *“As some of the candidates said,”* he continued, *“you have no idea what is does to reducing our stress levels to be at home with our families the night before an examination rather than in a hotel that feels foreign to us. The value is more than money saved by not having to travel.”*

## CEO REPORT

Professor Eric Buch, CEO of the CMSA, reported that the CMSA has maintained business continuity by adapting to the challenges of the pandemic over the past year. The CMSA’s ability to evolve and adapt is also reflected in the reduction of risks in the risk register, despite operating in an increased risk environment.

*“I believe we have made very steady progress over the past year and a lot of that has to do with excellence in our governance structures,”* said Prof Eric Buch. *“The Governance of the CMSA is in very strong hands and there are many aspects in which governance has been strengthened an improved,”* he continued.

The full report from the CEO can be found [here](#).

[Links to reports and documentation:](#)

- \* [Amendments to Memorandum of Incorporation—Proposal](#)
- \* [Amendments to Memorandum of Incorporation—Appendix D](#)
- \* [Report – Social and Ethics Committee presented by Prof Abdullah Laher](#)
- \* [Report – Examinations and Credentials Committee Presented by Prof Mthunzi Nqcelwane](#)





# NEW MEDALS FOR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE

With the key function of acting as the national examining body for medical specialists in South Africa, the CMSA strives to promote the highest degree of skill and efficiency in medical and dental practice. Medals are awarded in various specialities to recognize distinguished results in the CMSA examinations. These medals and awards are made possible by donations and endowments from benefactors, and we are humbled by generous donations which enabled the addition of three new medals.



Dr Ian Huskisson

## The Ian Huskisson Medal

**THE IAN HUSKISSON MEDAL** was bequeathed by the late Dr Ian Huskisson whose dedication and service to the Colleges of Medicine spanned over 50 years. He filled many positions, including Honorary Treasurer of the CMSA, Honorary Editor of the Transactions of the CMSA, Secretary of the Faculty of Medicine 1968 – 1971 and Councillor of the College of Physicians between 1980 - 1995. Dr Huskisson also served as a Trustee of the College of Medicine from 2009 until 2011 and served as an examiner from 1963 to 1999. He was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the CMSA in 1998 and became a Life Member in 1999. Dr Huskisson will always be remembered as the author of “The History of the Colleges of Medicine: The first 50 Years”, which was published in 2005.

Dr Ian Huskisson matriculated with distinctions at Potchefstroom Boys High and completed his MBChB degree at the University of Cape Town in 1954. He was appointed as registrar in the Department of Medicine of the University of Cape Town where he did his specialist training and qualified with his FCP(SA) in 1959. Dr Huskisson assumed many roles in professional organizations, including the Medical Association of South Africa, the Association of Physicians and the South African Rheumatism and Arthritis Foundation.

Dr Huskisson was committed to improving the plight of those less fortunate than himself and dedicated many years to Rotary projects. He was President of the Cape Town Rotary Club and was awarded its Paul Harris Award (highest award for service to the community). After retiring to Knysna, he became a member of the District Literacy Committee and the DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Schedule) programme of the Knysna Rotary Club.

Dr Ian Huskisson will be remembered as a selfless humanitarian and for his dedication to promoting the highest degree of medical practice in South Africa. *“Apart from his numerous accolades he will be remembered as a man of integrity and compassion. He has left the world a better place for his contribution to humanity”* – Emeritus Professor Alan Bryer.

Ian Huskisson was a devoted husband and father to his beloved wife and three daughters. The CMSA wishes to extend its gratitude to Mrs Joan Huskisson for her generous donation and support.



Professor TS Pillay

## New Medals for FC Path(SA) Chem Part 1 and 2

Two new medals have now been added to reward exceptional candidates in Chemical Pathology

The T.S Pillay Medal, endowed by Professor Tahir Pillay, will be awarded to the candidate who attains the top marks in the FC Path(SA) Chem Part 1 examination, subject to them obtaining a distinction in both papers. The SAACB Medal, endowed by the South African

Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine, will be awarded to the top candidate in the FC Path(SA) Part 2 examination, subject to their overall mark being a distinction.

Professor Pillay, who served on the Council of the College of Pathologists from 2011-2020 and as a CMSA examiner / convenor from 2014 - 2020, believes that the introduction of the two new medals will encourage candidates to strive to achieve greater excellence and that this will translate into enhanced skills in the specialty.

Throughout his career, Prof Pillay has actively supported both examiners and candidates in their preparations for examinations. He was involved in the Royal College of Pathologists London examinations from 1998-2005 and ran examination preparation workshops at the University of Nottingham for candidates. He has also regularly conducted Chemical Pathology examination workshops for registrars across South Africa since 2014.

The CMSA wishes to extend its gratitude to Prof Pillay and the South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine, for their generous donations and support.

## The Gary Maartens Medal

**The Gary Maartens Medal** was endowed in 2021 and is to be awarded to the candidate with exceptional performance in both Part I and Part II of the Fellowship of College of Clinical Pharmacology exams.

The College of Clinical Pharmacologists are proud to have reached the point where they have sufficient candidates for their fellowship examination to warrant introducing such a merit award.

The medal is named the “Gary Maartens Medal” to acknowledge Prof Maartens’ enormous contribution to the speciality. Prof Gary Maartens is the Head of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital. He played a key role in establishing the College of Clinical Pharmacologists and was elected its founding President. He worked tirelessly for the registration of the speciality of Clinical Pharmacology at the Health Professions Council of South Africa, paving the way for a new generation of specialists. His academic contribution to the field of infectious diseases and therapeutics is acknowledged and respected internationally.

The medal is endowed jointly by the South African Medicines Formulary and the Medicines Information Centre, both based in the Division of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Cape Town.

Only one medal winner will be awarded per year. Should more than one candidate qualify in a given year, the candidate with the highest final Part II exam mark will be selected.

The CMSA extends a heartfelt thank you to the South African Medicines Formulary and the Medicines Information Centre for the generous donation.



Professor Gary Maartens