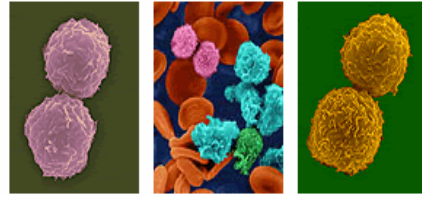




*South African Stem Cell
Transplantation Society*



Annual General Meeting minutes

**Michelangelo Hotel, Nelson Mandela Square, Johannesburg
17.00 Hrs. Friday 30 January 2009**

The meeting was opened by Professor N Novitzky as the designated chairman of the Society.

The minutes of the 2008 AGM were accepted without changes.

(A Davidson/M du Toit)

Urgent Matters: No urgent matters were raised.

Society matters:

- **Registration of the SASCTS as a non profit organisation (Dr. D. Moodley):**
An application for registration of the society as an NPO (Non profit organisation) has been lodged with the registrar of companies. Registration with SARS as a section 18 organisation for VAT and Tax exemption is more problematic and costly. After several false starts a decision was been made to have the process managed by a reputable company which has yet to be identified. Costs are estimated in the region of R 40,000. This approach was adopted after extensive debate. To be followed up by **Dr D Moodley**.
- **Society Website (Dr. A. Davison):** This is up running. Cost is minimal. Design is functional and is intended to be an avenue for communication and reference. Many registrations for the meeting were received via the website. Selected presentations from the meeting are to be placed here for easy reference. Dr Davidson will continue to assist with the management of the site but responsibility for it will need to devolve to a new committee member. **(Committee)**
- **Transplantation Register:** The intention to create a National register of sites performing transplants and to record transplant activity and outcomes was discussed and debated by the chairman and members.

A preliminary list of rules to secure data, deal with confidentiality and regulate potential publications was presented and will be made available on the website. Data registration will be voluntary at this stage but the intention is for this to be inclusive of all sites. Several sites are already reporting independently to the EORTC system and the register should replace this activity. Details as to access and control details of the register still need to be

clarified. It was pointed out that RSA falls within a Pacific/Southern/Australian region and details of our participation in this region are not clear at present. With the globalisation of transplant activity and information systems the formation of a well run domestic database has become essential and is long overdue. **(Prof Novitzky & new committee)**

- **Election of Society authorities:** Five Nominations were received and duly seconded. There being no objections, all those nominated were duly elected.

Chairman: Prof N Novitzky.

Secretary: Dr D Reynders.

Treasurer: Dr J Thompson.

Coastal representative: Dr M du Toit.

Inland representative: Dr D Moodley.

- **Funding for the Society:** Roche Pharmaceuticals have been the major sponsor of meetings over the past 6 years. However the current economic climate and growth of numbers as well as the creation of a formal society structure mean that there will be a need to share the financial burden and for the society to look at budget based planning for future meetings. Many delegates can also be expected to pick up a greater portion of travel and accommodation expenses. Membership fees in the form of an individual subscription as well as a possible centre based subscription were discussed. This will be taken further by the new committee. **(Committee)**

Conference matters - 2010 conference:

- **Venue:** This will rotate to Cape Town in 2010 with the exact dates still to be co-ordinated with the international conference calendar.
- **Workshops:** Themes suggested were (1) Immunological aspects of transplantation including immune reconstitution, graft manipulation, and basic sciences etc. (2) Economics of transplantation. (3) Current protocols, tricks and techniques in transplantation although this might be more suited to a website based "blog".
- **Guest speakers:** This was left to the new committee.

Further matters: Notice was given by the chairman of the possibility that we could bid for the annual EBMT meeting to be held in Cape Town in 2014. Details to be explored further.

There being no further matters the meeting closed at 1820.