

19 Oct 2015

### In the SASCRO Orbit

Dear SASCRO member,

The first meeting of the new SASCRO Committee took place on Monday 12 October.

Below are notes about some of the activities of the SASCRO Committee for information of full SASCRO members

#### 1. Review of the Aims of SASCRO

The Aims of SASCRO are to represent the interests of its members and to uphold excellence in the practice of Clinical and Radiation Oncology.

#### 2. Membership and Human Resources

##### a. Membership lists

A prospective and independent review of Radiation Oncologists in practice was undertaken in Sep 2015.

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Rad Oncs in the Private sector      | 126       |
| Rad Onc in the Academic sector      | 42        |
| <hr/> Total Rad Onc Specialists     | <hr/> 168 |
| Registrars in Rad Onc               | 43        |
| Supernumerary registrars in Rad Onc | 20        |
| Retirees                            | 11        |

SASCRO is the largest organization representing Oncology specialists in South Africa with 168 full members and 42 registrars in training. Our sister organization, SASMO, is understood to have 28 full time members in Medical Oncology.

SASCRO will seeks good relationships with all other professional organizations and their members. The SASCRO Chair has been in contact with the Chairs of both SASMO and SAAMPB and is also seeking to develop relationships with societies representing the different Allied Health Care Professionals.

##### b. Secretarial support

The paid up membership list and the Society's finances are kindly managed by Adelle Coertse in Samuel Fourie's office in Pretoria. There is further secretarial support on an ad hoc basis is through Maryna van der Westhuizen in Cape Town.

c. Committee member portfolios

Ray Abratt – Chair

Magda Heunis – Secretary

Samuel Fourie – Treasures and Information Technology

Michiel Botha – Past chair and Congress 2017 organizer

Jeanette Parkes – Academic sector representative

Robbie de Muelenaere – Private practice representative

Alicia Sherriff – SA College of Radiation Oncologists' affairs

Greg Hart- Practice relationships

### **3. Operational structures**

a. Finances

The finances of the Society are healthy as discussed at the AGM.

b. Website

The website needs an upgrade as well as a higher level of engagement from the website provider. Membership fees should also be payable through the website. A new website provider will be appointed and Samuel Fourie will advise on options.

c. SASCRO election process

The election process was run smoothly and independently. The new SASCRO constitution will allow for future elections to be done electronically.

A member requested that the number of votes received by the candidates be made public. This has not been our practice and advice was taken from Advocate Lemmer of SAMA. She advised that we abide by our practice so as to protect the anonymity of the voters.

Should we wish to change our practice, we should do so at our AGM and that candidates who stand for election be aware of the practice to be followed. It is noted that voting by a show of hands is not recommended.

### **4. Projects for 2016 to further the aims of SASCRO**

There is a need to formulate recommendations for training and technical competency in special procedures such as Stereotaxis, VMAT and prostate brachytherapy. These need to meet high standards as well as be specific and pragmatic in the South African context. These recommendations would not deal with clinical indications. SASCRO would not enforce these standards but it would be a powerful indicator for practices to do so and would be a pointer for future education.

SASCRO will facilitate workgroups to formulate relevant document and / or indicate which published documents should be used. The workgroups will include members of both Academic and Private Sector with the chair coming from the Academic Sector where possible.

## **5. Reports**

### **a. Private practice**

Robbie de Muelenaere is monitoring developments with the Council of Medical Schemes (CMS) and being as constructive as possible. A great deal of work has been done by the Private sector directed towards the CMS, aimed at being helpful to Government in meeting its Healthcare aims. Both Private and Academic practice representatives are, opposed to Medical Aids which stipulate that patients must be treated in the State sector.

### **b. Academic practice feedback**

The academic sector is facing challenges as funding is being cut further. On the positive side, Jeanette Parkes reports that the Heads of Dept. Committee is being expanded to include Limpopo, East London and Port Elizabeth. SASCRO provides financial support for Heads of Dept. meetings.

### **c. College activities feedback**

Alicia Sherriff reports that the College had 13 candidates undergo their Part II exams in the second part of this year. Plans are in place for the annual questions setting workshop for which SASCRO provides financial support.

## **6. SASCRO-SASMO Congress 2017**

Michiel Botha is the co-chair – representing SASCRO. The meeting will take place in Johannesburg. Rhyno Kriek will again be the Congress organizer. The format will be similar to the last Congress.

SASCRO will welcome the participation of the SACCGS in the Congress following an enquiry from Jeanette Parkes.

## **7. Other academic meetings**

Jeanette Parkes has reported on the recent successful SIOP meeting in Cape Town. This was preceded by a 2 day educational workshop for Fellows. This was strongly supported by lecturers attending SIOP. There was attendance from both registrars and oncologists.

## **8. Practices - Continuing Education**

Education in the private sector takes place largely through attending overseas congresses and meetings – often organized by Pharma. Many practices also have regular discussions around new patients. This is strongly encouraged for all practices as it places knowledge into context.

## **9. General**

- a. Accreditation requirements for facilities. SASCRO endorses the international standard that there need to be 2 nursing staff to administer chemotherapy in addition to the pharmacist. This is an International standard. There are important functional reasons for

this – cross checking the drugs, monitoring and counselling patients as well as record keeping, e.g. the start and stop times of chemotherapy administrations.

- b. Prostate cancer guidelines have been drawn up by a variety of professional organizations in South Africa headed by the urologist – Shingai Mutambirwa. SASCRO reviewed these through David Anderson and Lee-Ann Jones. They are being considered further by fellow organizations.
- c. Publications on social media: We note that comments on Facebook are NOT unregulated. They are regarded as public publications and are accountable to the same standards as all publications.

Rosalind Davey, director at Bowman Gilfillan, states that “the common law right to a good name and reputation falls within the broader right to dignity. Our constitutional right to dignity generally holds sway over freedom of expression”.

Below are sample URL’s for the above

<http://www.bluemagnet.co.za/blog/what-you-say-on-twitter-can-hurt-you-legally>

<http://www.news24.com/MyNews24/The-Importance-of-a-Corporate-Social-Media-Policy-in-South-Africa-20131230>

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/opinion/2015/03/30/firms-need-social-media-policy-for-staff>

Comments from any SASCRO member are welcome as these can be directed through any member on the SASCRO Committee or the SASCRO Office.

We look forward 2016!

Kind Regards,

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SASCRO Chair