

Critical Care Society of Southern Africa

The President, Professor Mervyn Mer, and several council members recently had a fruitful meeting with the national Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi. The Minister listened to a presentation on the goals of the Critical Care Society and stressed the Department of Health's commitment to rebuild academic medicine and strengthen management in the health services, and his support for protocol-driven patient care. A partnership between the Society and the Department of Health will be fostered.

Critical care has received a further boost to its academic profile with the formation of a Department of Critical Care at the University of the Witwatersrand. Professor Guy Richards is head of the new department. The only other universities with critical care departments are the University of the Free State and Medunsa.

The BASIC (Basic Assessment and Support in Intensive Care) course has been introduced to South Africa and two successful courses have been run by the Department of Critical Care at Groote Schuur Hospital. This introduction to intensive care was developed in Hong Kong and Australia and consists of two days of lectures and skill-station demonstrations. For information about future courses contact Ingrid on 021 404-3279.

The Society's website has a new look! E2 solutions has been appointed to develop the new website. It should be up and running soon at the usual address, www.sajcc.org.za

Upcoming meetings. The 2010 Congress will be held in the Drakensberg on 13 - 17 October. The refresher course this year will be in Cape Town on 26 - 28 November. Next year's congress will be held in Durban in July. For more information on these meetings contact our congress organiser, Sue McGuinness, on suemc@icon.co.za

W L Michell

Formation of the Emergency Nurses Society of South Africa (ENSSA)

We are proud to announce the formation of the first emergency nurses' society in South Africa. The society was established during the 2nd EMSSA 'Emergency Medicine in the Developing World' Conference held on 24 - 26 November 2009 at the Cape Town International Conference Centre, an achievement made possible by the efforts of a number of dedicated emergency nurses throughout South Africa and considerable support from the Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa (EMSSA).

ENSSA has been established as a separate organisation under the auspices of EMSSA, and it will strive to develop and promote emergency nursing in South Africa through leadership, education, collaboration and practice development and research.

ENSSA will accept as members any nurses (registered or enrolled with the South African Nursing Council) who are involved in emergency care. Nurses from outside South Africa are also welcome to join. Membership of ENSSA can be attained through joining EMSSA.

The current ENSSA Executive Committee consists of 6 people who will be responsible for the development of this society over the next two years. They are Petra Brysiewicz (Chair), Tanya Heyns (Vice-Chair), Jean Augustyn (Secretary), and Gayle Partridge, Celia Embleton and Jasmin Gassiep (co-opted member).

We welcome any suggestions to assist us in the development of this organisation, and look forward to your active membership in the months and years to come. Please access our website via the Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa website at www.emssa.org.za for additional details as well as information on how to join this exciting organisation!

P Brysiewicz