



MESSAGE From the Executive

This is our final issue before the end of the year, and what a year it has been. There is no doubt that the high point for the Society was our second biennial conference in September. We had an even better turn-out than our first conference in 2012, with over 900 delegates from across South Africa and the world. Of course I am biased, but I thought that a really good time was had by all. The conference opened on a public holiday (Heritage Day) and I thought no one would turn up – to my surprise over 600 people attended the opening session. The plenaries were of an international standard and featured national and global experts. The opening plenary on the elimination of TB by Dick Chaisson reminded me that while we may be turning the tide on the HIV epidemic, we have lots still to do regarding TB. There were thought-provoking debates that at times I thought may end in fisticuffs (academic of course). While the programme focused on clinical aspects of HIV, I received many positive comments about the ethics sessions, and as usual, the skills-building sessions were oversubscribed. I was also particularly impressed with the quality of abstracts we received. The nine submissions judged 'the best' by a panel of researchers have been included in this issue. I hope you will read them.

On a private note, there were some other highlights. One exhibit featured an ice-cream guru who, after asking you some questions, would provide you a personalised dessert. Not sure if it fits in with healthy living, but there was much laughter and fun. Occasional sightings of the Springbok rugby team, who were staying in a hotel opposite the conference centre, also added to my experience. But most of all, I was affected by the realisation that I have the privilege to head up a fantastic membership organisation of HIV clinicians. I met old friends and made many new ones. We are all bound by a common purpose. The team who organised this conference, led by



Lauren Jankelowitz, did a superb job. So brace yourselves, there will be another one in 2016. Save up your pennies and get your research done so that you, too, can be part of this experience.

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SAVE THE DATE

13-16 April 2016

Sandton Convention Centre

**3RD SOUTHERN AFRICAN
HIV CLINICIANS SOCIETY
CONFERENCE**

