

50th SAGES Congress



9 - 11 August 2012
Durban, South Africa



Index:

Message from the Chairman of the Congress Committee	2
Message from SAGES President	3
Gala dinner venue, menu, programme	4-5
SAGES History Prof. I.N Marks	6-7
Pavlov	8-9
Eponymous Lectures	10-12
The good ship SAGES	13
Past Presidents 1962-2012	14-15
Memories from Past Presidents	16-36
Messages from Internationals	37-43
Other Messages	44
Gastroenterology Foundation	44
African Institute of Digestive Diseases	45-46
South African Gastrointestinal Nurses Society (SAGINS)	47-48
Pharma - The Early Days	49
Congress Organisers	50
Office Bearers	51-55
Life Presidents	55
Honorary Members	55
Notes	56
SAGES Secretariat	57

Message from the Chairman of the Congress Committee:

Keith Newton

It is a great privilege to have been involved in organizing this landmark congress - SAGES 2012. History informs us that SAGES, which was perhaps conceived in Cape Town, was delivered in Durban in 1962 - so it is appropriate to celebrate this milestone congress in Durban. One can only marvel at the foresight of Solly Marks and colleagues all those years ago – having started SAGES - setting out on a journey to regularly display and chronicle the art and science of gastroenterology at an annual congress and it is this vision which still guides us today as we get together for our 'Golden Anniversary Congress'.



That SAGES and its congresses have involved surgeons, 'pure' scientists, dieticians and nurses bears testament to the vision of the founding members.

The production of this commemorative booklet, whilst long in planning, turned out to be quite a helter-skelter labour of love by Solly Marks and Karin Fenton, with valuable assistance from Flip Bornman and Elwin Buchel - and for this the LOC is eternally grateful. We also appreciate all the contributions from SAGES presidents, members and friends which have helped to make this booklet possible.

We have no doubt that SAGES congresses will continue to educate, inform and build bridges till the end of time.



Message from the SAGES President:

Paul Goldberg

SAGES was conceived at a MASA meeting in Durban in 1961. This booklet records the memories of some of the Past Presidents of the Society and those of some of our International visitors. It highlights the different problems and issues faced over the last 50 years. The challenges have included changes in just about every aspect of gastroenterology. In this period we have seen the introduction of endoscopy, effective acid reduction drugs and antibiotics instead of surgery for peptic ulceration. The changes in management of inflammatory bowel disease and colorectal cancer have been equally profound. Economic challenges are pervasive. It seems that much has changed in the practice of Gastroenterology but many of the challenges have remained the same.



The economics of Gastroenterology remain high on the agenda of Societal business. The introduction of new techniques, technologies and drugs remain a challenge. This relates both to the gaining of knowledge of the development, its evaluation and its remuneration.

The pioneers of the Society identified training of future gastroenterologist as an important goal. This has continued to be a key function over the last 50 years. The formation of the Gastrofoundation has assisted by shouldering much of this load.

SAGES remains strong but is facing ongoing challenges. These include the economic pressures related to the changes in relationships with industry. The members are facing similar pressures from medical funders. The effects of the introduction of NHI are currently unpredictable but extremely important. Education and training will remain a key thrust. The formation of the Solly Marks Trust is for this express purpose.

2012 will see an increase in relationship building in Sub Saharan Africa. This is likely to grow with the establishment of African Travelling Fellowships that are planned for 2014.

I believe SAGES has a great future. The Society will continue to be a powerful voice for its members.

I wish SAGES the all the best for the next 50 years and beyond.



SAGES



SASES



SAGINS

SAGES / SASES / SAGINS CONGRESS GALA DINNER 2012

- Menu -	
Starter: Cape Malay style grilled vegetables presented in a phyllo triangle	
Main Course: Seared fillet of beef with mustard thyme crust	
Dessert: Variety of sweet treats	
White Wines Vergelegen Sauvignon Blanc Nederburg Chardonnay	
Red Wines Graham Beck Reserve Nederburg Merlot	



- Programme -

18h30	Welcome drinks in the foyer area
19h30	Master of Ceremonies, Keith Pettengell
19h35	Welcome by Conference Chairman, Keith Newton
19h40	Starters
20h10	Scholarships/ Awards: SASES SAGES Prizes
20h40	Main Course
21h10	Thanks to International Guests SAGES - Paul Goldberg Richard Hunt, Chris Mulder, Eamonn Quigley, Andreas Sturm, Guido Tytgat, Janneke van der Woude, Mary Afihene, Hussein Abdel-Hamid, Prof Ojo, Godfrey Lule SASES - Bob Baigrie Pradeep Chowbey
	Responses from Guests Richard Hunt - on behalf of the international guests Eamonn Quigley - on behalf of WGO Guido Tytgat Issy Segal Solly Marks
	Thank you - Keith Newton
21h40	Dessert & Entertainment

SAGES History

SAGES was established 4 years after the first meeting of the WCOG in Washington, DC in 1958, and shortly after the founding of the Australian and Canadian GI societies. The emphasis in those days was on clinical or paraclinical research. Newly available quantitative tests of acid and pancreatic function were employed, and the incidence of gastro duodenal, pancreatic and other diseases documented in various centres.

By a happy accident of timing, cimetidine, the potent H2 receptor antagonist (H2RA) was developed at about the same time as the fibre-duodenoscope became available, and the concept of controlled – clinical trials firmly established. The impact of cimetidine and, with it, realisation of the financial potential of the ulcer market, set the scene for an ongoing race for the new H2RA's and, in the early 80's by the ever more potent proton pump inhibitors. PHARMA and SAGES became linked in an almost symbiotic relationship - SAGES helped orchestrate clinical, paraclinical and indeed basic drug studies, and PHARMA facilitated academic and exchange programmes, and some of the social requirements of our now burgeoning society. None the less, the integrity and independence of SAGES was jealously guarded, even if it meant walking a tight rope at times. This happy state continues even after the DU Kingdom of acid was seized by a lowly bacterium - courtesy GERD and NERD and, of course, the biologicals.

SAGES enjoyed tacit support from the surgeons from the start, but they took a more active part from the early 70's. They may have been seduced by developments in endoscopy which in those days was in the hands of medical GI. The surgeons soon became the most competent endoscopists in the surgical world. And more. Three of the five SAGES Presidents in the past ten years have been surgeons- all senior academics. The laparoscopic explosion has tested the unity of purpose of the medical and surgical members but a strong mutual interest in GERD, liver disease, IBD and routine and interventional endoscopy endures.

The changing clientele is perhaps the most remarkable change seen in GI clinics today. Fifty years ago, the clinics were dominated by patients with ulcer disease, post gastrectomy syndromes, chronic pancreatitis, hiatus hernia, IBD and by IBS. DU is now a rarity and the dreaded post gastrectomy or post vagotomy sufferers hardly a memory of a memory. GERD and NERD, IBD and IBD veterans of the knife, and IBS seem to have taken over. The clinic will no doubt undergo a similar tectonic change once PHARMA has found the magic bullet for IBD – or scientists the “H pylori of IBD”. The loss of IBD clientele may well question the need for GI clinics in their present form.



A final word about our long standing relationships with overseas colleagues, medical and surgical. The subtle interplay between top internationals and ourselves cannot be underestimated and provides an invaluable access to our trainees on the one hand and an occasional source of overseas experts on the other. It may also facilitate involvement in overseas meetings - a win-win situation.

Long may the multi-faceted nature of SAGES continue. Yes, and thank you all for having me around these last 50 years.

Solly Marks

SAMJ 1987; 72; 3

A quarter century of SAGES

The South African Gastro-enterology Society (SAGES) was conceived during the 1961 congress of the Medical Association of South Africa in Durban, when Drs Marks, Bank, Elsdon-Dew and Powell decided to explore the possibility of launching a South African society entirely devoted to gastro-enterology. A Constitution was drafted, and a year later the birth of SAGES was celebrated at its first meeting in Cape Town in 1962. The membership, 12 in the early 1960s, increased gradually to about 35 in the mid-1970s. During this period, annual meetings took place in conjunction with the South African Medical Congress (MASA), the Association of Surgeons Congress or the Association of Physicians Congress. By 1979, however, membership had increased to 88, which allowed SAGES to run its meetings independently of other societies. The first such meeting, combined with an Endoscopy Workshop, was held in Cape Town in 1980. The current membership is 123 and over 300 persons have registered for the 1987 conference organised by the University of Stellenbosch.

SAGES was afforded observer status at the Organisations Mondiales de Gastroenterologie (OMGE) in Munich in 1962. It was admitted to the OMGE in Tokyo in 1966 and has enjoyed membership of the world body since then. SAGES became an official subsidiary of the Medical Association of South Africa in 1976 when its Constitution was finally ratified. Dr I. N. Marks was President from 1962 to 1975, when he became Life President. He was followed by Professor S. Bank (1975-1978), Professor M. G. Moshal (1978-1980), Professor C. J. Miény (1980-1985) and Professor R. E. Kirsch (1985-1987). The Constitution was amended in 1985 to allow for a President-Elect and Professor I. Segal, the present incumbent, becomes President after the SAGES meeting in July.

SAGES has hosted a number of overseas guests during the past 25 years. These include: W. Sircus, C. Booth, S. Truelove, S. Taylor, R. Wright, E. Lee, G. Misiewicz, K. Wormsley, R. Celestin, G. Watkinson, P. Cotton, I. Isherwood, J. Piris, E. J. Holborrow, L. Blumgart, D. Colin-Jones, A. G. Johnson, A. Read, D. P. Jewell, D. Johnston, K. W. Heaton, I. A. D. Bouchier, J. Birdsell and P. Salmon (UK); D. C. H. Sun, J. Walsh, J.

Malegalada, W. Silen, G. Waye, H. Shinya, R. Farmer, H. Conn, B. Korelitz, H. Spiro, M. Samloff, W. Griffen, C. Rubin, K. A. Kelly, B. Hirschowitz, A. R. Moosa, H. A. Reber and J. H. C. Ranson (USA); G. Tytgat, K. Huibrecht, I. Wererman (Holland); M. Cremier and G. Vantrappen (Belgium); W. Creutzfeldt, H. Henning, R. Hammer, M. Classen (West Germany); F. Halter (Switzerland); H. Sarles (France); T. Gilat and E. Theodor (Israel); H. Shirakabe and H. Watanabe (Japan); C. S. Lee and K. U. Chien (Taiwan); and G. Whelan and D. W. Piper (Australia). Most of these visitors were invited guests at our Annual Meetings, but some participated in the joint meeting of SAGES and the Society of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes in Cape Town in 1977, and others were involved in the 1st International Workshop in Crohn's Disease hosted by SAGES in Cape Town in 1979.

The quality of these overseas speakers, the dedication of the organisers and the generous support of the pharmaceutical industry played a large part in the growth of SAGES over the years, particularly in the past decade. SKF provided funds to facilitate a quarterly newsletter, regular committee meetings, an overseas Fellowship and internal Fellowship; Continental Ethicals have sponsored the Best Investigator and Junior Investigator Awards and the Solly Marks Lectureship in Gastro-enterology from 1982 and, in 1986, the Mike Moshal Lectureship; Glaxo provided funds to allow a SAGES presence at international meetings; Madaus and Nattermann have regularly sponsored overseas visitors to SAGES meetings; and MSD, Searle, Adcock-Ingram, Protea Holdings and others have also been most helpful.

What of the next 25 years? SAGES will have to decide whether it will support the plea by many of its members to have gastro-enterology registered as a specialist discipline, will have to continue to set guidelines for the cost-effective practice of gastro-enterology and will constantly have to strive to raise the already high standards of its meetings even further.

I. N. Marks
C. J. Miény
R. E. Kirsch

Professor I P Pavlov

Last Testament to Young Russian Scientists

February 28, 1936

What shall I wish for the youth of my motherland who are devoting themselves to science?

Before everything else I wish them consecutiveness. I can never speak without emotion about this most important condition of fruitful work. Consecutiveness, consecutiveness and more consecutiveness. From the very beginning of your work train yourselves to be strictly consecutive in gathering knowledge.

Grasp well the A B C of science before attempting to climb to its summits. Never attempt to deal with subsequents without first mastering antecedents. Never attempt to cover your lack of knowledge by guesses and hypotheses no matter how bold. No matter how this soap bubble may delight you by its iridescence, it will inevitably burst and lead you nowhere. Accustom yourself to restraint and patience. Learn to do the spade work in science. Study, compare, accumulate facts!

No matter how perfect the wing of a bird may be, it would never lift the bird without the support of the air. Facts - they are the air of the scientist. Without them you can never fly. Without them the "theories" you evolve are but fruitless efforts. But while studying, experimenting, observing, try not to remain on the surface of the facts. Do not become archivists of facts. Try to penetrate into the secrets of their origin, search persistently for the laws which govern them.

Second - modesty. Don't ever think that you already know everything. And no matter how highly you may be estimated by others, always have courage to say to yourself, "I am an ignoramus". Do not let pride possess you. Pride will make you dissent where you should agree. Pride will make you reject useful advice and friendly help. Pride will make you lose objectivity.

In the collective which I happen to direct everything is a matter of atmosphere. We are all harnessed to one common work, and everyone moves it according to its strength and circumstances. Very often we cannot even tell what is "mine" and what is "yours", but the common work only gains from that.

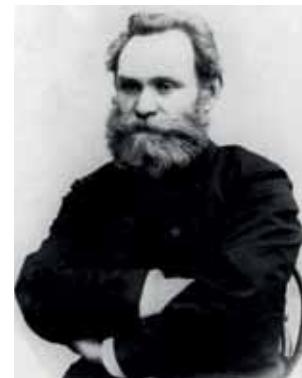
Third - passion. Remember that science asks of a man his whole life, and if you had two lives, even that would not be sufficient for you. Science demands from man much effort and a great passion. Be passionate in your work and in your seeking.

Our motherland opens a great field before scientists, and one must give credit where credit is due - science is being generously introduced into our country. Generously to the limit! And what is to be said about the position of a young scientist with us? Here everything is clear without saying. Much is given to him, but much also will be asked of him. And for the youth, as well as for us, it is a matter of honor to justify the great trust which our motherland has placed in our science.

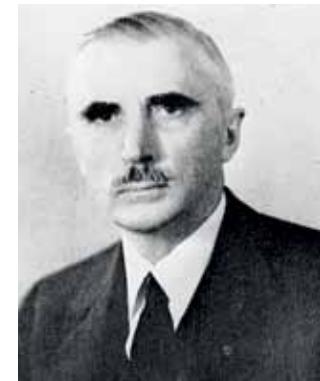
I.P. Pavlov

From I.P. Pavlov to B.P. Babkin to
S.A. Komarov to I.N. Marks (1956)
and to SAGES (2012)

Pavlov Dynasty



I.P. Pavlov 1849-1936



Dr BP Babkin 1877-1950



Dr SA Komarov 1892-1964



Prof I.N. Marks



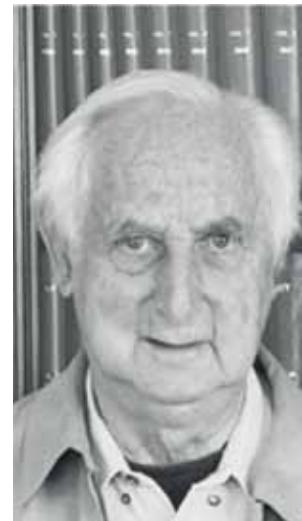
SAGES

Eponymous Lectures

THE SOLLY MARKS EPONYMOUS LECTURE

Emeritus Professor I N (Solly) Marks obtained a BSc (1946) and MBChB (1949) at the University of Cape Town and passed the Edinburgh Membership in 1953. He was awarded the FRCP (Edinburgh) in 1965.

He served his Registrarship in Gastroenterology at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh from 1953-1956 and was a Research Fellow and Instructor in Gastroenterology at the Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia from 1956-1959. He established the Gastrointestinal Clinic at Groote Schuur on his return to South Africa in 1959, and was Head of the Clinic from 1959-1970 and again from 1978-1992. He was awarded an ad hominem Associate Professorship in 1983, and was appointed to the newly created post of Professor of Gastroenterology in 1986; He was elected a Fellow of the University of Cape Town in 1990, and was awarded the Salus Gold Medal by the Department of National Health and Welfare in 1993. He was elected Emeritus Professor of Gastroenterology in 1995.



Solly Marks has had an equally close association with SAGES -the South African Gastroenterology Society. He has also attended all 14 of the WCOG congresses since their inception in Washington DC in 1958. He was presented a Founders Gold Medal by SAGES in 2004 and became a Master of the world body (MWGO) in 2009. He was a founder member of the Society, President (1962-1975) and, since 1975, has been life-President of Sages. He might truly be called the father of modern gastroenterology in South Africa.

His extensive research experience is reflected by over 400 publications dealing mainly with basic, clinical and therapeutic aspects of peptic ulcer, pancreatitis, and small and large bowel disease. These include about 50 invited chapters in various text books of gastroenterology. He was on the Editorial Boards of a number of journals, has honorary membership of a number of Gastroenterological Societies, and has given a large number of named and other invited lectures both locally and abroad.

PREVIOUS LECTURERS:

1983 Prof IN Marks	1993 Prof SJD O'Keefe	2003 Prof P Sharma
1984 Dr ARP Walker	1994 Prof I Modlin	2004 Prof W Sandborn
1985 Prof CG Bremner	1995 Dr C Imrie	2005 Prof S van der Merwe
1986 Prof W Gevers	1996 Prof D Castell	2006 Dr C van Rensburg
1987 Prof I Segal	1997 Prof PB Cotton	2007 Dr P Rheeder
1988 Prof J Terblanche	1998 Prof P Malfertheiner	2008 Prof L Laine
1989 Prof PC Bornman	1999 Prof G Tytgat	2009 Prof P Moayyedi
1990 Prof S Bank	2000 Prof M Buchler	2010 Prof M Goetz
1991 Prof JP Wright	2001 Prof M Farthing	2011 Prof S Spechler
1992 Prof IN Marks	2002 Prof J Sung	2012 Prof IN Marks

LOUIS MIRVISH EPONYMOUS LECTURE

Dr Mirvish was one of the first two graduates in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Cape Town. Throughout his professional life he maintained a continued interest in the Medical School, with clinical research and post-graduate teaching his special interests. He was one of the founders of the original Cape Town Postgraduate Medical Association whose journal "Clinical Proceedings" was, after a few years, taken over by the Medical Association of South Africa. In 1932 Louis Mirvish established practice as a specialist in gastroenterology and metabolic diseases, in which capacity his ability was such that in time he came to enjoy the widespread confidence and respect of his medical colleagues in South Africa, as well as beyond its borders. He wrote and published papers, the results of his research on gastroenterology and the treatment of diabetes and compiled the Diet Book for the Groote Schuur Hospital.



At the time of his death on 18th November 1991, Louis Mirvish was senior physician at the Groote Schuur Hospital and a part-time lecturer in medicine at the University of Cape Town.

Louis Mirvish was a man of wide culture and inquiring mind with intellectual interests that embraced not only an enthusiasm for the advance of scientific knowledge, but many other aspects of culture -more especially art, history and antiquities. He encouraged and assisted painters and sculptors, and founded the Jewish Museum in Cape Town, as well as the Sheltered Employment Society.

As a tribute to his memory his family, friends, patients and colleagues established the Louis Mirvish Memorial Foundation. At the request of the Trustees, the College of Medicine of South Africa took over the administration of the Foundation. The lectureship has been an annual SAGES event since 1984.

PREVIOUS LECTURERS:

1963 Prof JH Louw	1987 Prof IW Simson	2000 Prof J Krige
1965 Sir Charles Illingworth	1988 Prof TH Bothwell	2001 Prof JA Louw
1968 Dr IN Marks	1989 Prof RE Kirsch	2002 Prof H Obertop
1969 Dr W Sircus	1990 Dr D Jewell	2003 Prof B Levin
1972 Prof C Booth	1991 Dr RN Allan	2004 Prof P Cotton
1973 Dr TC Chalmers	1992 Prof T de Meester	2005 Prof J Tack
1975 Prof WC Mackenzie	1993 Prof R Dowling	2006 Prof T van der Merwe
1976 Prof Guan-Bee Ong	1994 Prof MJG Farthing	2007 Prof CJ Mulder
1978 Dr D Wilson	1995 Prof J Lennard-Jones	2008 Prof J Heathcote
1981 Prof MM Schuster	1996 Prof IAD Bouchier	2009 Prof S Schreiber
1984 Prof CJ Mieny	1997 Prof BN Tandon	2010 Prof J Deviere
1985 Prof K Heaton	1998 Prof Beighton	2011 Prof I Modlin
1986 Prof JA Myburgh	1999 Prof J Fevery	2012 Prof E Quigley

Professor Moshal, the son of a Durban physician, graduated with an MBChB at the University of Cape Town in 1960. He displayed an early interest in gastroenterology and immediately after completion of his internship spent two years as a registrar with the Gastrointestinal Clinic, Groote Schuur Hospital. He completed three years as a registrar in general medicine at the same hospital before proceeding overseas on a Cecil Johan Adams Travelling Fellowship. This allowed him to complete his gastroenterology training at the Hammersmith Hospital (1967) and at Harvard (1968-1969). He established the Gastrointestinal Unit at King Edward VIII Hospital on his return to South Africa in 1969 and, within a short time, developed it into one of the major gastrointestinal centres in the country. His clinical and endoscopic data was rapidly translated into numerous publications as the unit was primarily involved in various aspects of research in duodenal ulcers, pancreatitis and topical sprue. This was possible only because of his inquiring mind, enthusiasm, tremendous capacity for sustained effort and ability to attract colleagues from other disciplines. His research and organisational ability was to prove invaluable in 1978, when he accepted the post of Director of the Research Institute for Diseases in a Tropical Environment in addition to his commitments at the Gastrointestinal Unit.



Professor Moshal was an early Member and, later, Secretary (1975-1978), President (1978-1980) and a Life President of the South African Gastroenterology Society (1981). He played a large part in maintaining the impetus of the Society in the difficult mid-seventies and, at all times, was a forceful organiser at home and a superb ambassador at numerous international meetings abroad.

He was also a Member of the Natal Coastal Branch of the Medical Association of South Africa (1977-1981) as well as holding the posts of National Secretary and Vice-President of the Full-Timers' Medical Association.

Professor Moshal will be remembered for his pioneer work in endoscopy and ulcer trials in this country and, to those who were fortunate to know him, for his warmth, puckish sense of humour and selfless drive.

PREVIOUS LECTURERS:

1986 Prof IN Marks	1995 Prof SK Spies	2004 Prof J Northover
1987 Dr JM Spitaels	1996 Prof AA Haffejee	2005 Prof C Hawkey
1988 Prof CJC Nel	1997 Prof D Kahn	2006 Prof E Quigley
1989 Prof AE Simjee	1998 Dr M Kamm	2007 Dr M Farnell
1990 Prof DV van Thiel	1999 Prof P Bornman	2008 Prof S Travis
1991 Dr RW Beart	2000 Prof J Malagelada	2009 Prof R Spiller
1992 Dr YD Graham	2001 Prof S Hadziyannis	2010 Prof S Brant
1993 Prof A Warshaw	2002 Prof G Farrell	2011 Dr CJ van der Woude
1994 Prof M Kew	2003 Prof S Sarin	2012 Prof A Sturm

Captain of the good ship SAGES

By Elwin Buchel

The good ship SAGES was launched in 1962. Standing on the bridge that day was a much younger Professor Solly Marks. On his left was First Officer Simmy Bank, and on his right the more junior Mike Moshal. On the quay, a smiling blonde woman waved her approval. Inge and Solly celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 11 June this year. She has been first mate, confidante, and wise counsellor.

For 50 years now, the good ship SAGES has sailed the seven seas to foreign lands. It has survived high waves, low days, deep troughs, barren islands and even mutiny, yet, during his time at the helm, the ever-vigilant Captain Marks always kept one eye on the compass and the other on the horizon, while deftly setting the course. Between voyages, he travelled to multiple gatherings of like-minded colleagues. There, comfortably ensconced among fellow captains of other ships and industrious units, he would sip Moët et Chandon and chew the fat.

The ship's log tells us that the first port of call on its maiden voyage was a long since forgotten destination called Pariet cell island - a cellular port with high acidity, now divested of its previous energy because of PPIs. After taking on a cargo of fresh opinion and fermenting arguments, the ship dropped anchor at the islands of Gastrin, Bilroth and Vagotomy. At each stop, SAGES lingered a while then weighed anchor and set sail in a new direction. More than 30 years later, a vast new continent called Helicobacterland - a hitherto undiscovered, yet fertile shore, which, even now, has been only partially explored - was reached.

The days became weeks and months and years and for Prof. Marks sailing ever onwards was his greatest pleasure. He called for slower speeds and increased vigilance on the misty, moonless nights, which, thankfully, were brief, although occasionally icebergs did appear.

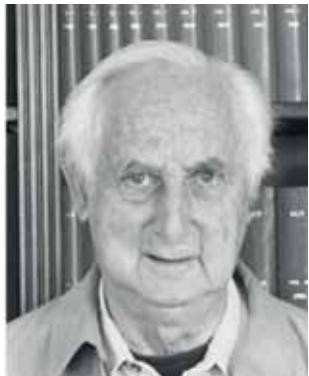
As time passed the inevitability of retirement and of relinquishing the Captain's Chair to First Officer Japie Louw loomed ever closer on the horizon. By now, SAGES and the Cape Town GI Unit were synonymous, and if you captained the one you were in charge of the other.

It's close to 20 years since Solly vacated the Chair of Cape Town Unit Professor, yet he continues to have access to the captain's table. When called upon, he is always more than happy to share his thoughts, and prejudices, with his erstwhile colleagues.

Legend has it that when winter storms rage above Table Mountain the good ship SAGES can be seen from the harbour's edge ploughing through the waves in the distance. Look more closely and Captain Marks can be seen, ever vigilant, ever restless, pacing up and down on the deck.

Past Presidents

1962 - 2012



IN MARKS
1962 - 1975



S BANK
1975 - 1977



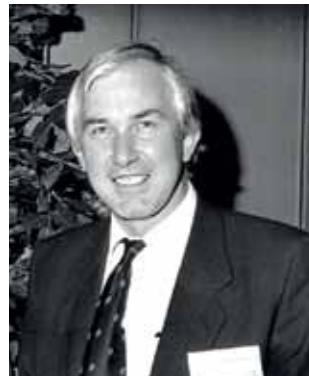
M MOSHAL
1978 - 1980



S SPIES
1995 - 1997



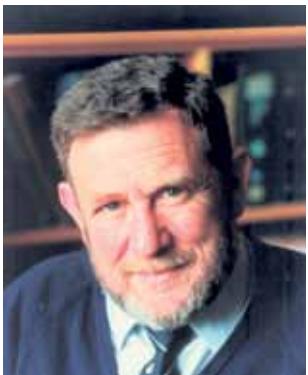
H SCHNEIDER
1997 - 1999



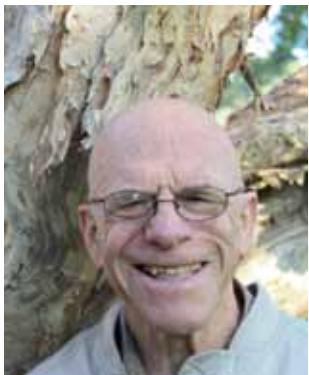
E BUCHEL
1999 - 2001



C MIENY
1981 - 1985



RE KIRSCH
1985 - 1987



I SEGAL
1987 - 1989



H GRUNDLING
2001 - 2003



JEJ KRIGE
2003 - 2005



SR THOMSON
2005 - 2007



JP WRIGHT
1989 - 1991



PC BORNMAN
1991 - 1993



AE SIMJEE
1993 - 1995



CCM ZIADY
2007 - 2009



R ALLY
2009 - 2011



P GOLDBERG
2011 - 2013

Memories from Past Presidents

1981-1985 : Prof CJ Mieny

In 1981 Prof C.J. Mieny, Head of the Department of Surgery of the University of Pretoria, was elected President of SAGES.

He was the first Surgeon to be elected to this office. Traditionally the society was regarded as the domain of the medical gastroenterologists. Prof Mieny saw it as his brief to confirm the de factor presence of surgeons in the society since the late 1960's.

He was re-elected to the Presidency for a second term in 1983 to continue this process.

In 1986 SAGES presented an illuminated address to Prof Mieny in recognition of his leadership and unique contribution to the Society during his four year term as President.

1987-1988 : Issy Segal

As a member of SAGES I was privileged to belong to this unique organisation. Sometimes there were differences between personalities but like most large happy families these were always settled without any rancour.

SAGES gave its members opportunities to venture out into Africa and become leading lights as forerunners and teachers particularly for countries in the developing world. We developed strong alliances with the international scene of digestive diseases and had the good fortune to be part of the world camaraderie of gastroenterology.

It was always an exciting learning experience to take part in the SAGES congresses. May SAGES look forward to celebrating their CENTENNIAL MEETING !!

1989-1991 : John Wright

Congratulations to SAGES A Work In Progress

On thinking about SAGES one is struck by its uniquely all inclusive nature. Its members come from the lofty ivory tower to the diagnostic gastroenterologist, from the general practitioner in the smallest dorp to the interventional endoscopic surgeon and from the microbiologist to the histologist. The question is why?

Initially started by academic gastroenterologists who were interested in clinical peptic ulcer disease and chronic pancreatitis married to a fascination with the underlying physiology of gastric acid and pancreatic secretion.

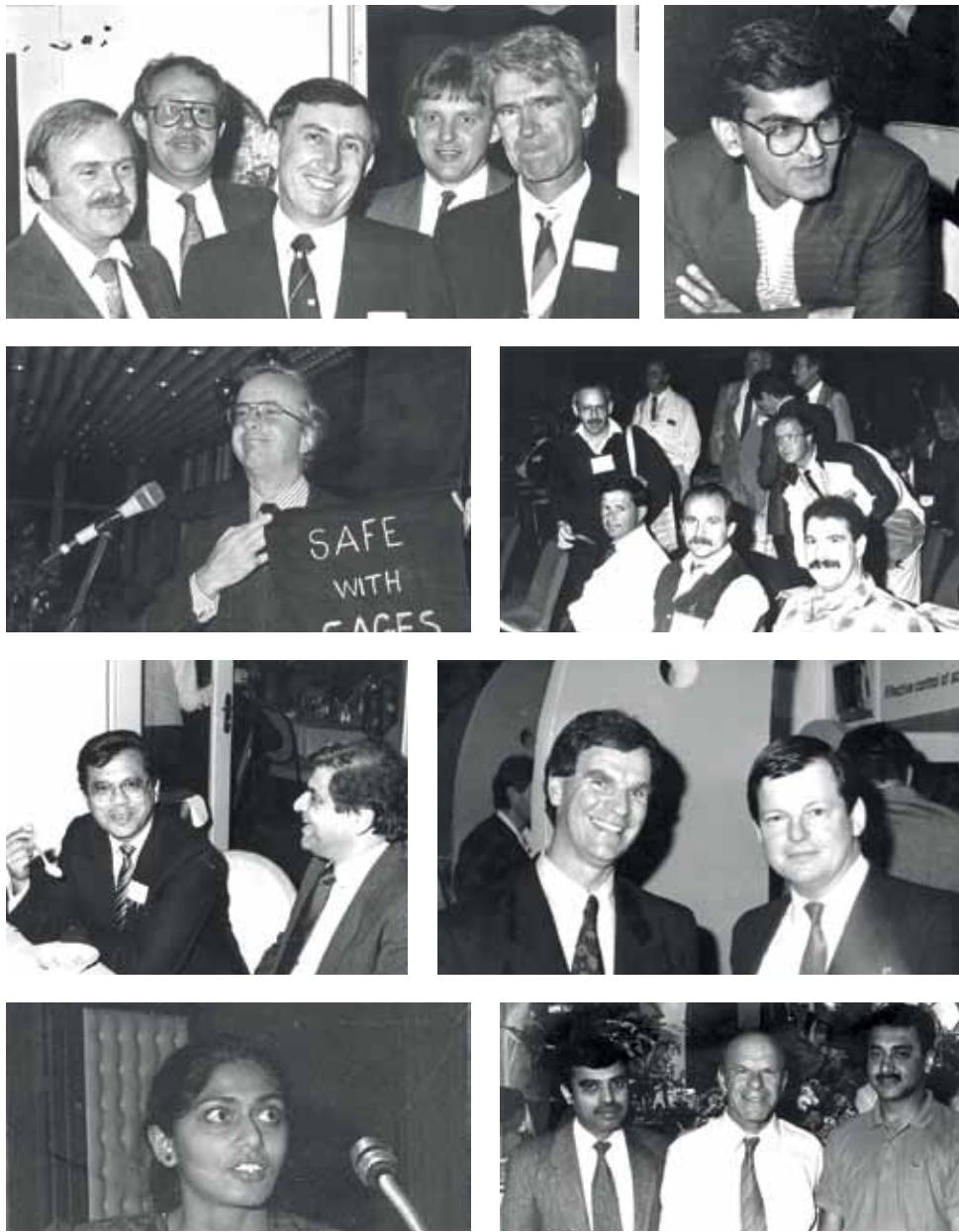
This initial purity of purpose was upset by 2 cataclysmic events. The first was the arrival of flexible endoscopy. Within a few years we had general practitioners, radiologists, surgeons of all varieties and medical gastroenterologists performing the new techniques. Endoscopic workshops and internationally famous endoscopists were soon hot footing to our game reserves.

1990 - 1991



From left to right: Profs Bornman & Mieny, Drs van Zyl, Macleod, Grundling; Drs Botha & van Eeden; Dr Macleod, Prof Segal; Dr Ziady, Dr & Mrs Buchel; Drs Garisch and Gotsman; Prof & Mrs Kottler

1990 - 1991 (2)



From Left to right: (front) Drs. Grundling, Wallace & Schulenburg; Dr Soni; Dr Pettengell; Drs Schneider, Bloch, N. Ziady & Bukofzer; Drs. Adams & Prof. Simjee; Dr Garisch & Prof. Krige; Dr Lakhoo; Prof Parekh, Prof. Segal & Dr Mohamed

1990 - 1991 (3)



From left to right: Mrs & Dr Burns; Drs Karusseit & Buchel; Dr Robson; Mrs & Dr Mekel, Mrs & Dr Garisch; Dr & Mrs Retief & Prof. van der Merwe; Drs Botha & Spitaels

This cornucopia of activity only became possible because of the second major event which was the funded double blinded studies into cimetidine and ranitidine. This provided the oil to keep the show on the road. Membership of SAGES exploded. Conferences, local and international, became the stamping ground of our members.

The initial interest in gastrointestinal physiology and disease pathogenesis was lost in the surfeit of new techniques, endoscopes, snares and baskets. This technology pushed academic gastroenterology to the periphery. The interests of the membership were well catered for and the society prospered. This is why SAGES was such a successful society.

Now 2 new events are starting to re-shape SAGES. The first is the recognition of endoscopy as a standard clinical procedure. In spite of dedicated over servicing, there are more endoscopists than are needed in the major centres. This is slowly sending more patients to the diagnostic medical gastroenterologists and less to the perfunctory endoscopist. The second is the reduction in simple funded studies along with a general reduction in disposable income of individuals and institutions.

This has hit the training academic centres particularly badly.

The program of this, the 50th annual, meeting of SAGES it appears that academic gastroenterology may be making a comeback. There are however still numerous plumbing sessions which cover the passing and manipulating of tubes. The good news is that physiology, pathogenesis and treatment of disease processes, which has been waiting many years for recognition, may be clawing their way back.

Maybe the next 50 years will see us return to our roots.

1991-1993: Flip Bornman

Looking at the minutes of SAGES council and the AGM for the period 1992-1993 brings back many happy memories of my tenure as president of SAGES. My tasks as president were made easy by competent and proactive members of council. As secretary, Elwin Buchel was most supportive and Fanie Spies jealously guarded the finances of the Society. Herbie Schneider with his committee did sturdy work as chairman of the Fees Committee. Derek Burns was chairman of the Peer Review committee and he and his team were instrumental in launching several practice guidelines which were published in the SAMJ. During this period it became evident that there was a need for the Fees and Peer Review committees to work more closely to ensure that the principles of good clinical practice were upheld.

There were a number of highlights during this two year period.

Despite the economic down turn of that time the Society has prospered, thanks to the generous sponsorship by industry and two successful congresses in Durban (which earmarked the 30th anniversary of the Society) and the subsequent one in Cape Town (1993). The Society's assets doubled during this period from R120,000 to R216,105 although the annual membership subscription fees were still a meagre R30! Major sponsorships from PHARMA including Keatings, Roussel, Lennon and in particular Glaxo contributed significantly to research, travelling fellowships and bringing funding international visitors to share their expertise with GI units around the country.

It was during this period that the Constitution of the Society was changed in order to embrace a wider community of gastroenterologists including those from outside the borders of South Africa.

1992 - 1993



From left to right: Dr Bank; Mrs & Prof Bremner; Drs Shmeizer, Strimling & Berkowitz; Dr & Mrs Elloff, Dr Barnetson; Dr & Mrs Botha; Prof Grundling; Prof Louw, Dr Bukofzer & Prof Kew; Prof & Mrs Bornman

In addition, the constitution allowed para-medical practitioners such as nurses, dieticians and scientist to join the society as associated members. These changes allowed for the Society to become a truly multi-disciplinary gastroenterological discipline. While surgeons had already been an integral part of the Society for a good many years, the establishment of the South African Society of Endoscopic Surgeons (SASES) in 1993 brought about a closer liaison with the surgical fraternity who embraced, with great enthusiasm, the new era of laparoscopic surgery. The first combined meeting of these two Societies was held during the 1993 SAGES congress in Cape Town and it is pleasing to note that this tradition has continued until today.

Another highlight of my presidency was the recognition of gastroenterology as a sub-specialty by the then Medical and Dental Council of South Africa. The names put forward for registration under the grandfather clause were Profs IN Marks, PC Bornman, AE Simjee and Dr H Schneider. However, the process of registering as a sub-specialist gastroenterologist proved to be problematic -as was discovered by Dr Spitaels at the time, an experienced practicing gastroenterologist in Durban. He was unable to register due to stringent criteria set by Council and, as a consequence, was lost to gastroenterology.

Importantly, a formal link with OMGE was established.

I am most grateful for all the opportunities that SAGES had afforded me to develop my academic career and, above all, will cherish the wonderful camaraderie that I enjoyed with its members over the years. SAGES is truly an unique Society with very few equals. May I wish SAGES "long life".

1997-1999 : Herbie Schneider

It was a great honour and privilege to serve on SAGES council for a number of years, and finally to assume the presidency.

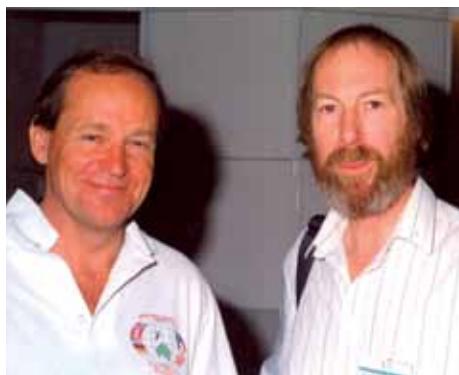
The contact with friends, colleagues and the SAGES membership will long be remembered and cherished.

The highlights for me personally were the successful SAGES conferences organized during my term, and being part of the committee that redrafted the SAGES constitution. I will never forget the day that we were on the way to the venue for a council meeting when it was announced that Nelson Mandela was to be released from prison.

It gives me great comfort to know that SAGES continues to be guided by such competent and committed colleagues.

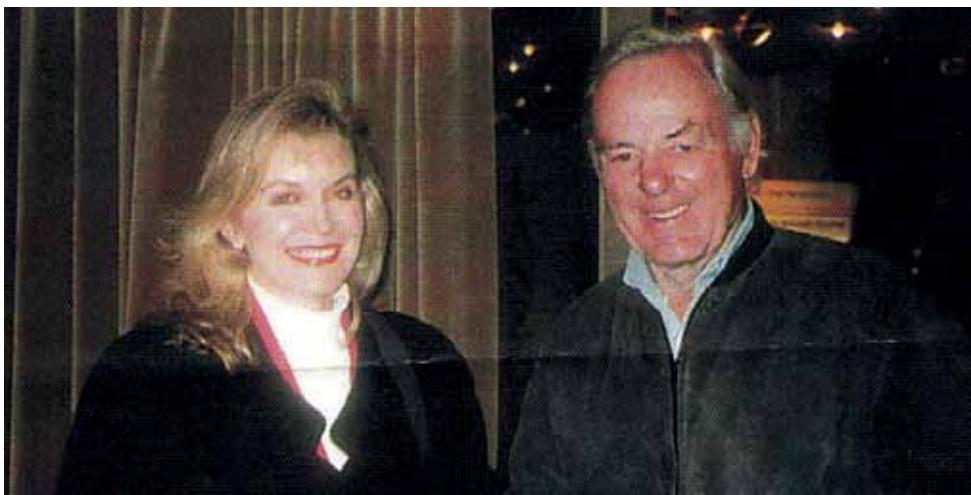
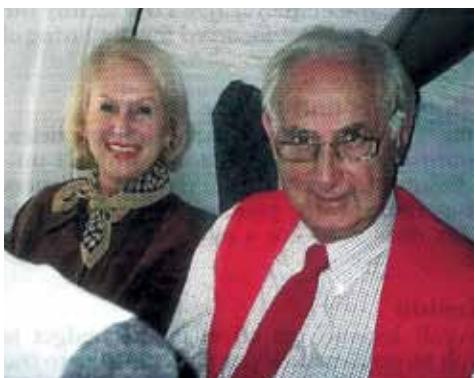
I wish the organizing committee and the membership a very successful 50th SAGES conference. I regret not being at the meeting-I will just have returned from the USA celebrating my first Grandson's first birthday.

1994 - 1995



From left to right: Mrs & Prof Segal; Dr Burns & Prof Louw; Dr & Mrs Funnel; Mrs & Dr Greyling; Dr Elliot & Prof Wright; Drs Spies & van den Bogaarde

1997



Left to right : Profs van Rensburg & Louw, Profs Tandon & Simjee, Mrs & Prof Marks; Prof O'Keefe, Dr Lagaud and Prof Talley; Ms Beamish & Prof van Rensburg

1999-2001: Elwin Buchel

On my time as SAGES president (1999-2001)

It's 18 July. Karin Fenton, the ever-energetic SAGES secretary-general for the past decade, has sent me a reminder email about my contributions to this book. Today is also Nelson Mandela's 94th birthday and Bill Clinton and his daughter Chelsea are in Qunu, in the Eastern Cape, celebrating with Madiba. Qunu is just over the hill from Maclear, where I practiced as a country doctor for five adventurous years. But Madiba's birthday reminds me of SAGES 99 at Sun City, because we'd invited a Nelson Mandela impersonator to say a few words.

SAGES 99 was also when Herbie Schneider garlanded me with the president's seal of office. Bonhomie and goodwill abounded at the terrace dinner that evening, and in my acceptance speech I thanked my GI mentors, Carl Mieny, Robbie Mekel, Johan Fevery, Guido Tytgat, Chris Mulder and Fanie Spies, as well as Solly, Flip, Tiaan, Herbie, Jake, Sandie, James, Ahmed and Keith. They were the guiding lights of my GI and SAGES years. I asked Tiaan van der Merwe to be my secretary and, later, when I went to Abu Dhabi, Hennie Grundling stood in for me. (In that first year away I flew home eight times to meet with Tiaan.)

At the time, Mynhardt Claassen was president of OMGE and had set himself the task of closing the last gap between Africa and the Middle East on the world gastroenterology map. He set up an inaugural meeting in Algeria on 29 January 2000 to establish AMAGE. The first president was Prof Assalah, the father of Algerian GE. After the two-day meeting with African and Middle Eastern delegates, several excellent meetings in Egypt and Jordan followed. A strong South African contingent contributed to the proceedings. (Herbie Schneider is a past AMAGE president and its life blood.)

After 12 years on the SAGES executive - six as secretary - I remain endlessly grateful to many of my SAGES colleagues. Jake Krige deserves a special mention. He quietly and effectively sorted out troublesome issues (like the gentleman who wanted to go viral about scopes, claiming they were not adequately sterilized). Sandie Thomson, a modest Scot with a talent for organization, is another colleague whom I'd like to mention here. He and Keith Pettengell were both stalwarts during those two years (and subsequently too, of course).

Solly remains the essence of SAGES. His wisdom is endless, and his wit sharp. May we spend many more hours reminiscing, Solly.

2001-2003 : Hennie Grundling

Congratulations SAGES on fifty years of great achievements. May the next fifty be even more prosperous.

It was a real privilege to serve as the first president from the Free State. The biggest achievement during this time was the appointment of Karin Fenton as secretariat. She proved to be the anchor in SAGES while councillors changed at a regular basis. This caused good communication with our members through newsletters in paper as well as a well improved website.

We had the first ASSA-SAGES Congress at Sun City in 2002 that started this amicable collaboration with all surgical divisions in one congress. A ten-year agreement was finalised with AstraZeneca whereby an annual R100 000 bursary became available for the next ten years. The Netherland-South African-collaboration-agreement was signed in Amsterdam October 2002 by which students from both countries could be exchanged annually.

This started a regular three month and fourteen days training courses for young South Africans. Heads of departments started to meet on a regular basis at the annual congresses from 2002. The formation of SAGES Academy of digestive diseases (SAGES-ADD) was finalised with OMGE and AMAGE whereby the African Institute as well as other universities could make their training facilities available to the rest of Africa. Even a new constitution and official tie were adopted in 2003.

Indeed a busy time, but a wonderful experience to lead SAGES.

2003-2005 : Jake Krige

It was a privilege and an honour to be nominated and then voted the 14th SAGES president and the 3rd surgeon after Carl Miény and Flip Bornman to lead the Society in 2003.

My most significant initial responsibility after leaving the Treasurer portfolio and becoming President-Elect was to chair the committee that wrote the new SAGES constitution. I wrote the first draft and the committee and I then worked hard to polish and produce a final version for ratification and acceptance at the next SAGES AGM.

We made it evident in the new constitution that the purpose and function for which SAGES was formed was to promote an interest in and the study of digestive diseases and abnormalities of the gastrointestinal system, liver, bile ducts and pancreas and to serve as the leading authority and major voice in gastroenterology and to effectively disseminate knowledge of the science and practice of gastroenterology through continuing education initiatives and the provision and endorsement of appropriate guidelines for the practice of gastroenterology and to foster development of well-trained, competent gastroenterologists to support health, research and teaching.

In 16 typed A4 pages we set out the powers, special provisions, amendments, standing orders, membership requirements, criteria for change in membership status, functioning of the governing body, officers, election process of council, conduct of general meetings and standing committees and the administration and financial management of the society.

In my President's report at the SAGES AGM in Durban in August 2005 I indicated that the major thrust since I took office in August 2003 had been the implementation of the SAGES Operational Plan which was commissioned by Council in 2002. The most important component had been to promote academic performance in the Society and enhance research both in terms of output and quality. We reviewed the current scholarships available and indicated that ideally SAGES should have three major funded scholarships. This would enhance academic performance by continued development of young members. In addition we endeavoured to increase the research exposure at congresses and promote junior investigator awards. Discovery provided funds for junior investigator awards and we funded 8 investigators for SAGES 2005 and these were awarded to bright young investigators who had their abstracts accepted for presentation at SAGES 2005.

In 2004 we sent 8 young gastroenterologists to the 2 week Dutch course and planned for 4 to go in 2005. We sent 6 young trainees for the 3 month programme with Chris Mulder. The Dutch programme was enormously successful and the younger members who attended found the exposure very beneficial. At the senior level, 3 of SAGES members attended Train the Trainers in New Zealand and 3 attended TTT in Uruguay in 2005. We investigated running a Train the Trainers course in South Africa and planned this for SAGES 2006 in Port Elizabeth.

2004 (1)



From left to right: Prof Novis, Prof & Mrs Clain, Prof & Mrs Bornman; Prof Marks; Dr & Mrs Schneider & Prof Marks; Profs Krige, Marks & Cotton; Prof & Mrs Marks & Mrs Krige; Prof Marks, Mrs & Mr Fenton; Prof Modlin, Dr Watermeyer, Prof Marks, Prof & Mrs Krige; Prof Modlin & Dr Bloch

Through the kind offices of Altana Madaus and AstraZeneca, 4 academic members of SAGES were sent to DDW in New Orleans in 2004 and five academics were sponsored to SAGES in 2004. In 2005 AstraZeneca sponsored 2 delegates to DDW in Chicago and 2 delegates went to the World Congress in Montreal.

The secretariat in Cape Town became fully operational and functioned smoothly. Karin Fenton very efficiently communicated with members and council and dealt with the numerous public enquiries. Her enthusiasm and dedication was marvellous. We, in particular, improved communication with Heads of Departments.

We established an effective communication portfolio under the guidance of Paul Goldberg. The website was improved by Medmall. We were grateful for the sponsorship of Altana Madaus for their considerable financial input. A great amount of effort went into developing and maintaining the website for SAGES members use. We strongly urged all our members to visit the website on a regular basis to justify our expense and provide input. We have sent out hardcopy newsletters as well as email newsletters which have kept our members informed about activities on Council and SAGES related business. The South African Gastroenterology Review Journal, edited by Herbie Schneider, Keith Pettengell and John Wright, was established as the official SAGES journal.

The Private Practice Committee was chaired by Dr Stephen Grobler and aided by Dr John Wright - South, Dr James Garisch - Central and Dr Chris Ziady - North, and kept members informed about new decisions in the private sector. Guidelines had become increasingly important in our practice especially to health funders. Dr James Garisch chaired this sub-committee with the help of Dr John Wright, Dr Chris Ziady and Dr Stephen Grobler. We developed links on our website with OMGE, the AGA and the BSG which provided us with access to their guidelines.

The Academic and Scientific Committee chaired by Dr Christo van Rensburg supervised the scholarship awards and the academic papers for the congress. We were delighted by the quality and the number (49) of the abstracts submitted to SAGES in 2005. Jan van Zyl was given the new CPD validation and trade liaison portfolio and Chris Ziady did sterling work as the honorary secretary and John Wright kept a close watch on the finances of the Society.

Being part of the ISW 2005 was a challenging exercise for SAGES and Sandie Thomson handled the local SAGES organisation with aplomb and distinction. Sandie never got flustered despite last minute crises.

A particular joy at the SAGES banquet at the 2004 combined SAGES ASSA congress in Cape Town was the tribute to Solly that Flip and I arranged and choreographed. Overseas guests at the banquet were Peter Cotton, Dirk Gouma, John Northover, William Sandborn, Guido Tytgat, Chris Mulder, Gil Barbazat, Jonathan Clain, Adrian Di Bisceglie, Peter Ferenci, Hobart Harris, Richard Hunt, Irvin Modlin, Ben Novis, Lydia Petrovic, Massimo Pinzani, Hans Lonroth, Ferdinand Köckerling, Masaki Kitajima, Rüdiger Siewert, Demetrios Demetriades and Jan Rauwerda. Memorable tributes to Solly were given by Peter Cotton, Gil Barbazat and Irvin Modlin. Flip and Jake produced a tribute booklet recording Solly's association with SAGES since inception.

My congratulations to SAGES on achieving this milestone and my good wishes to all SAGES members for the years ahead.

2004 (2)



From left to right: Prof Thomson, Mrs Schulenburg & Prof Panieri; Ms Collett, Mrs & Prof Marks & Prof Bornman; Dr Watermeyer, Prof Marks & Mrs Krige; Mrs & Dr Girdwood & Mrs Yvonne Pyne-James; Prof Krige & Thomson; Prof & Mrs Marks; Profs Novis, Clain & Bornman; Prof Veller, Mrs Pyne-James & Dr Pillay

2005-2007 : Sandie Thomson

Milestones and recollections

Anniversaries are milestones. They mean more to those with grey hair and eventually become appreciated by the young as they either develop some themselves or lose it. Last year was my Dad's 90th. This year will also be my 60th. For those who are good at maths, I was 10 when SAGES was founded 50 years ago and it is good that we record our recollections of the Society for posterity. This is a tale of one surgeon who has had the privilege of being involved with and eventually leading the Society.

Initiation into SAGES

I came to the country in 1986 and became involved in SAGES from 1994. I was elected onto council at Sun City a year. In the initial years I plodded along doing my bit as directed by the senior members of the organisation. I remember the rumble into Africa at Victoria Falls and the initial and subsequent rumbles into the gastroenterology jungle of Africa and later AMAGE. Others are better qualified to elaborate on these and other events in their tenure. My endeavour is to relate what went on whilst I had the gong.

Taking on the Gong

I became President in Durban in 2005 at the combined SAGES ASSA ISS Surgical Week, the only Scotsman to hold the gong. The decision to join the surgeons was taken at the 2004 AGM in Cape Town. It caused much unhappiness as the organising committee preparations to hold it in Port Elizabeth were advanced. I was landed with the congress organisation and its integration into the meeting. Keith Newton and I were instrumental in setting up a pre-congress workshop at our new Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital. We imported not just frozen pig stomachs, which is a story in itself, but two Austrian endoscopists and their able assistant in black leather. They ran the hands-on procedural lab whilst we were being entertained on endosonar by Jonathan Clain from the Mayo Clinic. Johnny Clain and Mike Sarr, the Senior Surgeon at Mayo and already a friend of South African surgery, were easily persuaded to bring an outstanding Faculty from the Mayo Clinic for the ASSA SAGES meeting in 2007 without the encumbrance of transatlantic air fares.

World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) Links

My involvement with OMGE/OMED now the WGO started in 2003 when I attended the third Train The Trainers (TTT) in New Zealand as a South African delegate. I felt that the TTT was a course that could help build up our training capacity in South Africa if we could host it here. The upshot was that we hosted a TTT prior to the rearranged Port Elizabeth congress in 2006. James Garish was the star of the show at the cultural evening with his Sangoma impersonation being the main attraction. The congress, whose theme was obesity, was slightly overweight for some of the physicians but yielded a great profit, a fact our treasurer greatly appreciated after the lean year with the surgeons in Durban.

I have watched the WGO become more relevant to us under the leadership of President Eamonn Quigley, and AMAGE emerge as the orphan sibling of the Organisation. Herbie Schneider took the helm during my tenure.

The Gastro Foundation amidst much scepticism started on my watch to fill a void SAGES had failed to embrace. Chris Kassianides, its founder, is a very unique individual with an Egoli outlook. Due to his fiscal talents and the foresight of his trustees, our members have benefited immensely. The focus has rightly moved to the fellows in training with the highlight being the annual fellows weekend at Spier.

2005



From left to right: Mrs Fenton & Dr Greiner; Drs Leith, Barrow, Cariem & Levin; Prof Clain, Dr Garisch & Prof Marks; Prof Dusheiko & Thomson, Profs Newton, Thomson, Mrs Fenton & Prof Schoefl; Dr Buchel, Profs Marks, Thomson, Krige & Spies; Prof Hawkey; Profs Haefner & Thomson; Prof Tack

2006



From left to right: Prof Marks, Drs Wallace & Pettengell; Dr Girdwood, Prof Marks & Dr Garisch; Prof Le Brecque, Prof Quigley, Prof Toouli, Prof & Mrs Tytgat; Prof van Rensburg, Dr Kruger, Prof Grundling; Mrs & Dr Jonker; Dr Naidoo, Prof Newton, Dr Mansoor; Dr Bernon, Ms Seedat, Dr Chinnery; Prof Scopinaro & Prof van der Walt

Towards the end of my watch Pauline Hall, the Australian hepato-pathologist, sadly passed away. She had made a great contribution in collaboration with Chris through the Liver Interest Group. They galvanised the hepatology community into a more concerted relationship north and south.

My WGO involvement with their telemedicine initiative also commenced with Professor Shimizu for Kyushu University in Japan and these efforts are now making significant progress.

Where are we at

There remain some great characters in the Society and a great camaraderie. It is the Society with the best spirit I know and the most effective for its members. Academic gastroenterology is not looking so down trodden as it was a few years back when I published my report on Academic Gastroenterology. Surgical gastroenterology is thriving. Medical gastroenterology is awakening. I have welcomed the return to the fold of Mashiko Setshidi from USA with her PhD. It is encouraging that several others are intent on obtaining higher degrees in our system to increase the pool of critical thinkers. The future is at least rosy.

Thanks

Karin Fenton was SAGES biggest asset during my tenure. Long may she reign! I was thankful that Solly Marks was around during my period in office. I look forward to hearing his "ramble through the brambles".

2007-2009 : Chris Ziady

As the organizer of the Multidisciplinary SAGES congress at Sun City and then being inaugurated as the President of the Society following Prof Sandie Thomson at the Gala dinner at the Congress, I was catapulted in no small way into the leadership position with a big bang! As only the previous Presidents from Private Practice such as Herbie Schneider will fully understand, the demands of the Society, coupled with the pressure of practise cannot be underestimated. However, I believe that because most of our members are in the private sector, this is actually a desirable situation and I trust that the needs of the majority of our members concerns got the full attention they deserved.

A mere six months after the record breaking Sun City congress, I ventured into organising a first SAGES Endoscopy Congress, held at Unitas Hospital in March 2008. The meeting was sound in principle, because I still believe there is a great need for better education and skill development of the country's endoscopists, but unfortunately despite an incredibly gifted overseas faculty and an outstanding programme, there was little response, and a poor turnout, resulting in a financial loss for the Society. The concept of an annual Endoscopic Congress was thus shelved.

One seed that has been sown which I hope will prove to be of great benefit to the Society was the registration of the Solly Marks Educational Trust, for the purpose of gathering and administration of funds for educational purposes. The success of this Trust will lie in the hands of future Trustees and SAGES Council.

Lastly, but certainly not least, is my thanks to the Society for the honour of being entrusted with SAGES leadership and serving on the Council for 6 years. I had an incredibly dedicated, sincere and hardworking team of colleagues, as well as the most competent Secretary in Karin Fenton to perform the numerous administrative functions and to guide the Society into a meaningful next-phase under the new President in Reid Ally to continue the cause.

2009-2011 : Reid Ally

The striking thing at the time of my presidency was the poor perception our members had of SAGES as a governing body. This was both the private practice members, as well as those in the public hospitals, who felt that SAGES had let them down in various situations. Of course, most of these concerns were because our members were not really aware of what the council had been doing. The first thing that needed to be done was to create a better way of communicating with our members. We noticed that the website was infrequently used, so a handout, containing a summary of each of the council member's achievements in their portfolio's was distributed.

Broadly, our vision was to improve the practice of gastroenterology for all our members. To deal with the issues of the private sector; remuneration for services rendered, creation of practice guidelines which could be used to deal with the issues of private practice, co-payment issues for endoscopy and biologic therapies. Academic gastroenterology was improved by several endeavors which were initiated and consolidated. One of these was the empowerment of the HOD subcommittee of which one of its major functions was the standardization of curriculum development and exams. This was achieved by SAGES council granting ex-officio membership to the nominee from that committee. Gastro Foundation Weekend for Fellows new trainees were not only encouraged to enter the subspecialty, but also to develop a career path in academic gastroenterology. These weekends provided useful guidance on research, preparation of abstracts and applications for research and travel grants. Further impetus for training in gastroenterology was further fostered by the WGO Train the Trainers slots for mature trainees. SAGES support for the establishment of two new subspecialties namely Advanced Hepatology and Paediatric Gastroenterology was another highlight during my tenure as President.

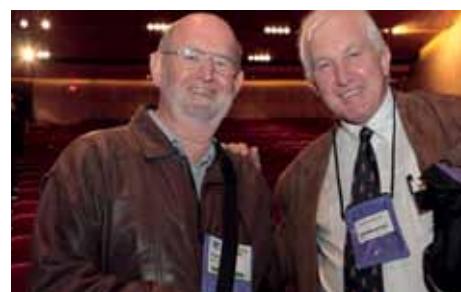
Council also endeavoured to improve the education of General Practitioners by having workshops during the annual SAGES meeting as well as continued CPD programmes. SAGES also endorsed the WGO annual World Digestive Health Day for patient advocacy with the organization of local events. Credit should be given to David Epstein for the increased attention to patient support groups for IBD.

Liaison with the WGO and AMAGE was strengthened and the outreach programmes to our Sub-Saharan colleagues encouraged by the South African Academy of Digestive Diseases, under the SAGES umbrella.

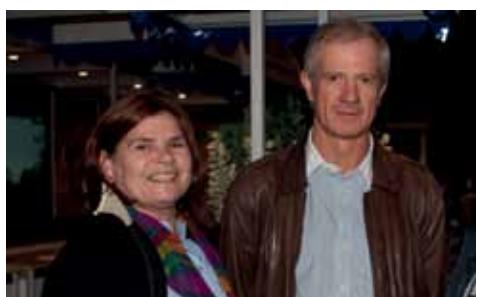
Despite the difficult economic times, our relationship with the Pharma was strengthened and their support to us reassured.

I had an amazing team, enthusiastic, energetic, forceful but mostly amicable and supportive. Together with the indescribable effort from Karin Fenton, I believe we had created and strengthened the various portfolios that will change the image of SAGES, as the governing council.

2007 - 2009



From left to right: Prof Goldberg; Dr Ziady & Prof Clain; Prof Veller, Dr Loots & Prof Thomson; Prof Grundling & company; Profs Bornman & Marks; Drs Kruger & Berkowitz; Prof van der Merwe & Dr Buchel; Dr Ziady



From left to right: From left to right: Dr Fredericks; Mrs Fenton & Prof Thomson; Sr van Wyk & Prof van Zyl; Dr Goetz & Prof Marks; Profs Mulder & van der Merwe; Prof Ramos; Prof Ramos, Dr Naidoo & Dr Li; Drs Brant, Botha & Kruger

Messages from Internationals

Irvin Modlin

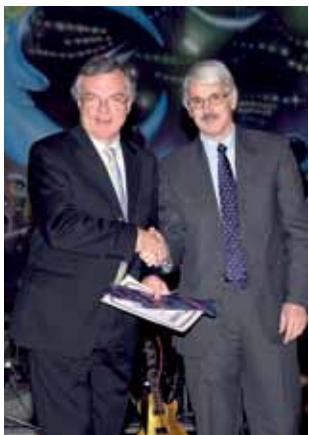
I much appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this unique 50th anniversary of SAGES. Although categorized as a distinguished international visitor, I feel it is fair to point out that I grew up in Oudtshoorn and Cape Town and therefore am uniquely disqualified, being neither distinguished, international or a visitor. Nevertheless, the pleasure of opining at the 50th birthday of the brainchild of Solly Marks is an opportunity that no sensible individual involved with the gastrointestinal tract could pass. Whether the opinion passed is solid and will stand the test of time or merely a gaseous effervescence post endoscopic event I leave to the peers of the lumen to decide.

Solly Marks, recently returned from the UK and the USA, prevailed upon like minded colleagues to establish a society that would embrace the global values of gastroenterology and mould them to the service of the physicians and patients of Southern Africa. This vision has not only lived through 50 years of success but grown to encompass all Africa and spread its words and thoughts to the great academic centres of the world. It has nurtured grand endeavors and supported young men and women who have made their mark far and wide not only in person but in print. Intellectual gastroenterological leaders of both thought and deed have been the proud recipients of invitations from the society and their contributions have fostered both progress and goodwill allowing the reputation of the society to spread from Boston to Berlin and London to Los Angeles.

Despite the stones and pebbles of politics and divergent languages, the creed of patient care and the unanimity of the spirit of medicine has not only prevailed but enabled SAGES to establish itself as a society of excellence devoted to all physicians who seek to understand more, practice better and care for all. The society despite being initially of gastroenterological origin, very early had the foresight to embrace the trinity of science, surgery and 'scoping with the result that the consortium of knowledge provided a rainbow of intellectual and practical applications usable not only by all but disseminated to all. Of such vision is a great society forged and to the foresight of the diverse leaders over the years kudos must be given. Each step was upward and forward, thoughtful and careful, providing balance and clear vision not blinded by global concepts alone but mindful of local needs. Always in the background guiding and chiding each new leader, now with a smile sometimes with a quirk, was the Solomonic wisdom and subtle thought of its "President for Life".

In 1952 Queen Elizabeth was crowned, Mandela sanctioned for breaking curfew and Nehru elected prime minister. The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie opened in London, the first commercial jet (Comet) flew, the first Nuclear submarine (Nautilus) began, King Farouk abdicated and Jackie Robinson sued the NY Yankees for racism. Much has changed in the world since then, and as much in the world of gastroenterology. The problems of peptic ulcer have been resolved, molecular targeted therapies have emerged for inflammatory bowel disease and neoplasia, CAT scans and MRI have changed the view of the interior and endoscopes have taken the macula to the mucosa. Laparoscopes have altered surgery forever and robotics will even further move the manual dexterous from the serosa to the cyber. Extraordinary diseases have become ordinary and ill understood maladies commonplace in their solutions. Through all these changes SAGES has been primus inter pares. It remains for the society to now address and resolve the travails of a modern Africa. Training, teaching and transformation should become the three T's that will lead to the future. A visceral hegemony guided by a trans African Gastroenterological society embracing Rhodes' original dream and enfolding not a railroad but a lumen of knowledge that will stretch from the Cape to Cairo.

Internationals (1)



From left to right Prof Modlin, Mrs & Prof Marks; Prof Shapiro; Profs Quigley & Thomson; Mrs Marks & Prof Hunt; Profs Jewel, Hellers, Marks & Lam; Prof Williams

The success of SAGES is not the product of random meetings, academic quirks or inspired wagering, but is the well deserved outcome of the clear vision that facilitated the establishment this great society and has nurtured and guided its goals, values and its members to such well deserved success. It is my belief that the next 50 years will further embellish the great legacy that those of you attending this meeting will surely carry forwards with pride and accomplishment.

In closing one might reflect upon the success gained by not only fusing disciplines within a medical society such as SAGES but also the melding of ideologies whether they be the call of CJ Langenhoven... *Ons sal antwoord op jou roepstem or the proud words of Enoch Sontonga, Nkosi sikele' iAfrika Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo.*

As a past privileged recipient of the honors of delivering the Marks and the Mirvish lectures, I salute the success of a great society (SAGES) within the embrace of a greater society- South Africa.

Peter Cotton

I was very disappointed not to be able to accept your kind invitation to attend the meeting and to help you celebrate your golden anniversary.

I love to travel and it has been my privilege to visit and lecture and/or perform in more than 50 countries. Some memories are more vivid than others; amongst the strongest, for many reasons, are those of my first visit to South Africa in 1973. The initial invitation came from Mike Moshal, and his hospital in Durban was the first I visited. I admired his energy and enthusiasm for teaching, and we became friends, for all too short a time. There were other highlights of that trip almost 40 years ago, not least visiting the incredible Baragwanath Hospital, and, on a lighter note, my first game park. But the biggest benefit of the whole trip was my introduction to the sage of SAGES, the incomparable Solly Marks, who quickly became and remains a friend and mentor. I much admired how he built the unit at Groote Schuur, and indeed rebuilt it several times. I take every opportunity to quote some of his pearls of wisdom, especially "Peter, consider the patient as a whole, rather than just the hole in the patient". Although I may be known as an endoscopist, I share his concern that many gastroenterologists throughout the world have become technicians rather than physicians, not least in USA, where colonoscopy consumes those in private practice. My conviction that endoscopy is a wonderful tool, but only a tool, led me to spearhead the merger of the Endoscopy and Gastroenterology Societies in Britain in 1980.

If anyone is interested to learn more about my endoscopic travels, please check out www.peterbcotton.com, which has details of my book "The tunnel at the end of the light; my endoscopic journey in six decades". All proceeds support training in advanced endoscopy procedures. The changes we have witnessed in our specialty over the last 50 years have been amazing. Who can possibly imagine what the next 50 years may bring? I have no doubt that SAGES will make many contributions. Thank you and good luck.

Eamonn Quigley

The contributions of South African gastroenterology and gastrointestinal surgery have been legion and include those innovations and research findings made in South Africa itself as well as the incalculable impact world-wide of its academic and clinical Diasporas. As a past-president of the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO), I must acknowledge the unflinching support, constant commitment and direct programmatic input of SAGES and its members to the goals and programmes of WGO.

Internationals (2)



From left to right: Prof Reber, Dr Girdwood, Profs Marks, Myburgh, Nel, Wright, Gilinsky & O'Keefe; Profs Marks & Sachs; Prof Von Trappen; Profs Buechler & Malfertheiner; Prof Farthing; Mrs Marks & Prof Truelove; Prof Roediger

South African gastroenterologists and gastrointestinal surgeons are fundamentally committed to training and education in gastroenterology and gastrointestinal surgery, not only in their native country, but throughout Africa and most especially in those Sub-Saharan countries where such training is either non-existent or still in development. Without the support of SAGES, our Train-the-Trainers programme would never have come to Africa and plans for training centres in East and West Africa would not have been initiated. Through the support of South African gastroenterologists and gastrointestinal surgeons the African Institute of Digestive Diseases (AIDD) which is housed within the gastrointestinal unit at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto has trained several physicians and surgeons from Sub-Saharan Africa and, in so doing, made an invaluable contribution to advancing the care of digestive diseases in the continent.

On behalf of the World Gastroenterology Organisation, I wish to recognize the contributions of SAGES to gastroenterology research, education and clinical practice in South Africa and its exceptional, selfless and ongoing commitment to world gastroenterology and to the care of digestive diseases in Africa, in particular. SAGES has been an example to all.

On a personal note, my participation in past SAGES congresses have been a highlight of my career and visits to this country have provided so many moments to be cherished.

Richard Hunt

It is a enormous honour and great personal pleasure to be invited again to a meeting of SAGES here in Durban and I was delighted to be able to accept on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the organization. When I reflected on my first visit to a SAGES meeting, which was held in Pretoria, I was surprised to findthat it was 24 years ago in 1988, almost half the age of SAGES. What a wonderful meeting it was too!

Issy Segal was President at the time and believe the meeting was held at the Dutch Reform General Synod building, which lent itself to friendly but challenging debate, which was followed by a memorable SAGES dinner and my first wonderful visit to the Kruger National Park. Subsequently, I have been privileged to attend further annual meetings at Elephant Hills, in Port Elizabeth and in Cape Town where the welcome and hospitality has always been so warm, generous and memorable. There have been other medical meetings that I have had the opportunity to attend, which have provided opportunities to see more of the country and visit hospitals in Durban, Cape Town, Johannesburg and of course the enormous hospital at Baragwanath.

My association with South Africa goes back much further than this when I was the Medical Officer on HMS Vidal in 1968/1969 and we visited Simon's Town on two occasions and was introduced to traditional South African hospitality. I recall visiting the Red Cross Hospital at Rondebosch at that time and was overwhelmed by the site of the large ER with more than 20-30 babies on iv fluid replacement because of Kwashiokor. I fell in love with the Cape wine lands on that visit when the helicopter pilot on the Vidal flew his aircraft off the ship to the air force base at Ysterplaat. On several occasions he knocked on the sickbay door - "would you like to go for a ride Doc?" I put a note on the door "Gone Fishin'" and directed any emergencies to the military hospital at Wynberg! We then flew over the wine lands around Paarl, Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Hawequas mountain. He dropped me on the mountain tops above those glorious valleys to go walkabout and photograph that spectacular scenery, while he completed his training evolutions. My godfather had been Chaplain at the Dockyard church at Simon's Town just following the end of the second world war and on subsequent occasions when in Cape Town, I have had the opportunity to revisit the Naval Base, notably on one occasion with Flip Bornman when we bumped into an old shipmate from my HMS

Vidal days who was by then Captain of SAS Drakensburg. It's a small world indeed!

One of my longest medical visits to South Africa was in early 1994 when I had the wonderful opportunity to be a visiting Professor at Groote Schuur Hospital for almost three months. This was a wonderful time in my life when I stayed with Solly Marks in his visitors quarters, where he provided a phone line which had my name in the Cape Town directory for years afterwards! It was an enormous privilege to share much time with Solly and we indulged ourselves in extemporizing debate on the evolving state of play in the control of acid secretion! Solly was so excited by all this that he even managed to have his first grandchild born while I was there, which serves as another wonderful memory of happy times.

This Golden Anniversary for SAGES by chance coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology which we celebrated in February of this year. This provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what our organisations have achieved and where they are headed. I bring congratulations and best wishes from my colleagues in Canada and the CAG and look forward to another memorable SAGES. Thank you again for giving me this opportunity to be part of your celebrations.

Chris Mulder

South Africa, a Rainbow Nation under construction. I was introduced to South African Gastroenterology in the late 1980's when Elwin Buchel, former Head of Department of Gastroenterology in Pretoria, joined us at the GE-unit in the AMC in Amsterdam. I met Elwin on frequent occasions thereafter but turned down invitations to visit South Africa because of the apartheid regime.

Academic interface

My first visit to South Africa was in 1998, when I attended a meeting in Cape Town hosted by Issy Segal and Japie Louw. About 50 South African, 10 Belgians and 20 Dutchmen attended. One of the positive spinoffs of this meeting was that between 1999-2008 almost 100 South Africans selected by SAGES joined postgraduate courses in the Netherlands during 2 week rotations in Arnhem and later Amsterdam. I have since visited South Africa on some 20 occasions, 10 of which were to attend and participate in SAGES congresses. Further student exchange programmes were organised during these visits. Karin Fenton was, and is, most helpful in the logistics of under - and - post graduate exchanges. Challenges of the Rainbow Nation

In South Africa, the health care system still faces major problems. Despite the upgrading of several academic hospitals (Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in Durban, Steve Biko Academy Hospital in Pretoria, and Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital), healthcare workers still emigrate in significant numbers. During this period, senior academics (Japie Louw, Isidor Segal and Schalk van der Merwe) left the country. Job satisfaction, safety, better working conditions at the universities/public hospitals and career opportunities for fellows to be trained as medical specialist, are important to keep doctors in South Africa. Many large urban regional hospitals are in desperate need for upgrading. From a gastroenterological perspective, there is a lack of adequately trained gastroenterologists to serve the country as a whole and is made even more difficult by the paucity of regional GE-units, particularly in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Limpopo. SAGES and other Societies must be more proactive to address these serious shortcomings in our healthcare system.

Conclusion

It's a privilege to be an honorary member of SAGES and to attend its meetings. I am also delighted that we are in a position to host your undergraduates in our hospital in Amsterdam and this way

assist with the training of future gastroenterologists. In my opinion, academic medical complexes will continue to be the cornerstone of training in South Africa. I hope you will in the near future be able to train adequate numbers of specialist gastroenterologists in South Africa for the entire population in the true spirit of your Rainbow Nation.

Prof Olusegun Ojo, Nigeria

I send my best wishes to the Executives and entire Membership of SAGES. I first attended a SAGES Meeting in 1996, also in Durban, early on in my career as a gastroenterologist, and had a most memorable experience. I feel very privileged to be present at this historic meeting on the Society's 50th Anniversary and look forward to a great celebration. Viva SAGES.

Ben Novis

I have so many pleasant memories of the meetings of Sages that I attended, starting in 1970 with the meeting in Newlands, Cape Town. I remember that I presented a paper on Intestinal Lymphoma Presenting with Malabsorption. Subsequent congresses included one in Johannesburg and two in Pretoria, my home town. The last congress I attended was in 2004 which was particularly memorable because it honored Solly Marks, who was the founder of Sages together with Simmy Bank. Solly has continued his involvement with Sages.

I wish the best of luck in your 50th Congress in Durban. I wish I could attend. May the next 50 years of gastroenterology in South Africa be as exciting as the first 50.



Profs Guido Tytgat, Richard Hunt & Solly Marks on the occasion of Prof Marks' WGO award for services to gastroenterology

Other Messages

Andy Girdwood

My first SAGES congress was in 1978. The overseas speaker, there was only one, was Gaston Vantrappen from Belgium. He came as Solly's guest and stayed in the cottage at Southern Cross House. One of the traditions was to attend the Tuesday afternoon ward round and meetings in the GI Clinic before SAGES. My wife was designated to take him on a tour of the Winelands on the Tuesday morning with strict instructions to get him to the X-ray meeting by two fifteen which she did. Gaston enjoyed his morning and partook liberally of all there was to offer. James Garisch and I had prepared interesting cases for the meeting. Needless to say in the darkened X-ray room Gaston fell into a deep coma and the only pearls that were forthcoming were gentle snores. He livened up during the ward round and then gave us a fascinating talk on his 37 cases of *Yersinia Enterocolitica* which had just been published in Gastroenterology. Although I have looked hard since then I think I have seen only two cases. The next day was SAGES Congress which was a single day at Tygerberg. SKF with their wonder drug Tagamet were the main sponsors. The SAGES banquet was held at Solly's house where all the delegates and their spouses sat down to dinner in their dining room and Inge served us a magnificent meal. Things have changed a lot since then.

M C Kew

Congratulations to the South African Gastroenterology Society on reaching your 50th SAGES congress.

This is indeed an impressive milestone and one with which you can justifiably feel proud. The meetings have played a signal role in promoting gastroenterology in South and Southern Africa. I have no doubt the meetings will continue to be of the highest standard.

Gastroenterology Foundation:

Chris Kassianides

With the inauguration of the Gastroenterology Foundation of South Africa 6 years ago, alarm bells began ringing and red flags were seen rising from the SAGES office. How gratifying therefore it is to see that over this time we have succeeded in sharing our common goals of providing further opportunities and training to our Fellows, and continuing our pursuit of medical education to our colleagues, both Hepatologists and Gastroenterologists in private practice.

So here we have "the new kid on the block" wishing SAGES a happy 50th Anniversary and hoping that the combined commitment and relationship will continue from strength to strength.



Left to right: Drs Kassianides & Watermeyer & Prof Thomson

African Institute Of Digestive Diseases:

Issy Segal

SAGES was conceived during the Masa meeting in 1961 and held its inaugural meeting in Cape Town. Among the pioneers it is Solly Marks who has been the anchor throughout the 50 years of the society, which has mushroomed to cover the entire South African scenario in gastroenterology. A year later the situation in South Africa provided a platform for the next important renaissance - the formation of the African Institute of Digestive Diseases.

It was realised that diseases such as diarrhoea, viral hepatitis, AIDS and malnutrition were endemic in Africa. Cancer of the oesophagus is the commonest cancer in men. Among urban dwellers alcoholism is common and increasing particularly among men. Thus alcoholic liver disease and acute and chronic pancreatitis are prevalent. The resources to investigate and treat these diseases were scarce and facilities are generally poor.

South Africa is the economic powerhouse in Africa and it was believed that it would be advantageous to locate an institute for digestive diseases in Johannesburg, the largest metropolis in South Africa. An ideal site for the Institute was the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, affectionately known as 'Bara'.

Bara Hospital:

Bara was officially opened in 1942 and the Department of Medicine was established in 1948. The hospital was soon affiliated to the University of the Witwatersrand Medical School and continues to serve a vital academic role.

The hospital has over 3300 beds and is one of the largest hospitals in the world. Its modern technological, laboratory and diagnostic facilities have provided an enviable record of service to a community of between 3-4 million people in Soweto and its environs. The hospital has an excellent record of medical research and training for students, both undergraduates and postgraduates; many of whom have excelled nationally and internationally.

Soweto is a coalescence of a divergent and rapidly changing society, including immigrants who have been resident for 70 years and their urban born offspring who are forth and fifth generation Sowetans, migrants who return back each year from their families in rural areas and a diversity of intercontinental immigrants from other parts of Africa. In this kaleidoscopic milieu lifestyles and dietary patterns are in process of transformation and Sowetans are a people in transition.

The Gastroenterology Unit was established in 1975 by Professor Isidor Segal and his dedicated staff. It has gained an international reputation for its work with developing populations.

Concept of the Institute:

From the mid-1950's Africa provided fertile soil for medical advances and medical schools such as those at Makerere, Nairobi, Cape Town and Johannesburg won particularly high reputations for their work on geographic pathology. Tragically political strife and internecine wars destroyed some of the paramount institutions and destabilised medical training. In South Africa the political philosophy of apartheid isolated the leading economic power of Africa so as to virtually preclude cross-fertilisation of ideas and GIT techniques with other African countries. But in the early nineteen nineties with the end of colonisation and the demise of apartheid; new opportunities emerged for medical advances in Africa.

Among a group of gastroenterologists at Bara, an ambitious plan was drawn up with the triple aim of ameliorating disease, improving standards of health and education and inspiring confidence in the community. The goal was to establish an African Institute of Digestive Diseases, AIDD at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital.

The AIDD established 2 training centres one at Bara Hospital and the other at the Johannesburg Hospital. Both teaching hospitals are attached to the University of the Witwatersrand as part of the Academic program. The Institute reports regularly to the Executive Council of SAGES as an affiliate of SAGES. At the outset the faculty of the training centres comprised 7 certified gastroenterologists; 2 fellows and 2 medical officers, a cohort of 11 excluding the endoscopy nurses; there is one laboratory technologist who assists in research procedures and manometry. To date we have trained 10 health workers. They are from various parts of Africa including; Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Cote'd Ivoire, Sudan, Mali and Tanzania. The trainees have been very enthusiastic with minimal 'culture shock' and rapid adaptation to local conditions. They are exposed to a range of health patterns in urban and informal 'squatter' communities.

Medical Millieu:

The African continent is characterised by poor medical resources. Basic diagnostic instruments including proctoscopes and sigmoidoscopes are not always available. Fiberoptic endoscopes, ultrasound machines and X-Ray equipment is scarce as are staff. Storage space to house equipment and skilled people to maintain equipment is not available. There is a shortage of skilled teachers and little contact between local clinicians and international experts. Postgraduate courses and conferences scarcely get off the ground and libraries cannot function effectively because of the high cost of books and journals

Acknowledgement of these issues is giving direction to the Institute. Communication between regions has been facilitated by computers and are regarded a priority in all training centres to facilitate communication and access to medical journals. The AIDD has been viewed as a pilot program for similar training centres internationally, particularly in developing countries. It is gratifying to note that the AIDD is being used as a model for the establishment of other training centres in countries such as Rabat(Morocco)La Paz(Bolivia),Karachi(Pakistan)and Bangkok(Thailand).To date there are 14 Training Centres world wide

Gratitude is due to Professors Meinhard Classen, Guido Tytgat, Eamon Quigley and Chris Mulder who enthusiastically gave of their organisational skills, teaching abilities and diplomacy to move the institute forward. Global Gastroenterology is indebted to them.

In conclusion the ideals and philosophy of the African Institute of Digestive Diseases go far beyond the frontiers of gastroenterology there is an ideal opportunity to break down artificial borders and cultural barriers and to pool the African continent's rich resources of talented people.

South African Gastrointestinal Nurses Society (SAGINS)

- a happy partnership with SAGES

Maré van Wyk: Past President

SAGINS was the brain child of Mrs Helené Negrine, Head Nurse of the Gastrointestinal Clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital. With the rapid development of diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopic procedures in the 1980's, she recognised the need for establishing a Society to promote the interests and training of nurses working in the field of gastroenterology. The process was initiated in 1988 and the official ratification of the Society took place during the SAGES congress at Sun City in 1989. Some of the major players who took the Society forward include Lindy Schulenburg, Maré van Wyk, Belinda Thomson and Mavis Jordaan.

The Society was enthusiastically embraced by GI nurses whose current membership number is about 150 and growing. From its inception, SAGINS became an integral part of SAGES congresses with presentations by nurses and invited speakers during dedicated parallel sessions. Activities outside congresses include participation in various workshops attended by overseas experts, the establishment of support groups for chronic gastrointestinal conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease and, regular regional workshops with the trade on maintenance and disinfection of endoscopic equipment. These SAGINS initiatives, including the G.I.T. Gossip news letter are generously supported by the trade.

There is no question that the Society has been instrumental in improving the standard of GI services in South Africa. GI units around the country have benefited enormously by these well trained GI nurses without whom gastroenterologists would not have been able to provide the high standard of care for patients with complex gastrointestinal diseases. SAGINS has a good fiscal relationship with SAGES and overall the marriage has been a happy one; there is no reason why this should not continue to blossom in the future.



Some of the major players

Nursing Brigade



Pharma - the early days



Conference Organisers



Office Bearers

1961	Founders Meeting Present	: Dr IN Marks : Dr S Bank : Dr S Powell	: Dr J Elsdon-Dew (No office Bearers)
1962-1966	Annual meeting with the Medical Association of South Africa in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. President Secretary	: Dr IN Marks : Dr S Bank	
1968-1969	Meeting held at S.A. Medical Congress, Durban	: Dr IN Marks : Dr S Bank : Dr MG Moshal	: Dr R Mekel : Dr OAA Bock
1970	Meeting held in Pretoria		
1971-1972	President Secretary/Treasurer International Relations Research Committee	: Dr IN Marks : Dr S Bank : Prof.J Terblanche : Prof. SJ Saunders : Dr OAA Bock	: Dr W Silber
1973-1974	President Secretary/Treasurer International Relations Research Committee	: Dr IN Marks : Dr S Bank : Prof.J Terblanche : Dr MG Moshal : Dr OAA Bock : Dr W Silber	: Dr R Mekel : Prof. SJ Saunders
1975-1977	Life President President Secretary Treasurer Research Co-ordinator Teaching & Education International Relations Committee	: Dr IN Marks : Prof. S Bank : Dr MG Moshal : Dr H Serebro : Dr GO Barbezat : Dr BH Novis : Dr H Kaven : Dr R Mekel : Dr F Retief	: Dr OAA Bock : Dr W Silber : Prof.J Terblanche

1978	Life President	: Dr IN Marks	1989-1991	Life President	: Prof. IN Marks
	President	: Dr MG Moshal		President	: Prof. JP Wright
	Secretary	: Dr J Clain		President-elect	: Prof. PC Bornman
	Treasurer	: Dr R Hinder		Secretary	: Prof. AE Simjee
	Committee	: Prof. C Miény	: Dr JM Spitaels	Treasurer	: Dr SK Spies
		: Dr D Clain	: Dr W Silber	Committee	: Dr DG Burns
		: Dr R Mekel	: Dr JP Wright		: Prof. CG Bremner
					: Prof. CJC Nel
					: Prof. RE Kirsch
					: Prof. J Terblanche
1979	Life President	: Dr IN Marks	1992-1993	Life President	: Prof. IN Marks
	President	: DR MG Moshal		President	: Prof. PC Bornman
	Secretary	: Dr JP Wright		President-elect	: Prof. AE Simjee
	Treasurer	: Dr R Hinder		Secretary	: Dr EH Buchel
	Committee	: Prof. C Miény	: Dr JM Spitaels	Treasurer	: Dr SK Spies
		: Dr D Clain	: Dr W Silber	Committee	: Prof. CG Bremner
		: Dr J Calin	: Dr R Mekel		: Prof. J Terblanche
					: Prof. CJC Nel
					: Prof. RE Kirsch
					: Prof. I Segal
1980-1982	Life President	: Dr IN Marks	1993-1995	Life President	: Prof. IN Marks
	President	: Prof. C Miény	: Dr MG Moshal	President	: Prof. AE Simjee
	Secretary	: Dr JP Wright		President-elect	: Dr SK Spies
	Treasurer	: Dr R Hinder		Past President	: Prof. PC Bornman
	Committee	: Dr H Bloch	: Dr S v.d. Spuy	Secretary	: Dr EH Buchel
		: Dr JM Spitaels	: Dr I Segal	Treasurer	: Prof. Grundling
		: Dr Visser	: Dr N Laage	Committee	: Prof. S O'Keefe
					: Dr. M Voigt
					: Dr. P van Eeden
					: Dr H Schneider
					: Prof. v d Merwe
1983-1984	Life President	: Dr IN Marks	1995-1997	Life President	: Prof. IN Marks
	President	: Prof. C Miény	: Dr PC Bornman	President	: Prof. SK Spies
	Secretary	: Dr JP Wright	: Dr AE Simjee	President-elect	: Dr H Schneider
	Treasurer	: Dr R Hinder	: Prof. R Kirsch	Past President	: Prof. AE Simjee
	Committee	: Dr S v.d. Spuy	: Prof. I Segal	Secretary	: Dr EH Buchel
				Treasurer	: Prof. H de K Grundling
				Committee	: Prof. H Becker
					: Dr. S Bukofzer
1985-1986	Life President	: Dr IN Marks			: Prof. JEJ Krige
	President	: Prof. RE Kirsch			: Prof. SR Thomson
	President-elect	: Prof. I Segal			: Dr. M Voigt
	Secretary	: Dr JP Wright			
	Treasurer	: Dr SK Spies			
	Committee	: Prof. PC Bornman	: Prof. CJC Nel		
		: Prof. AE Simjee	: Dr HM Bloch		
			: Dr CG Bremmer		
1987-1988	Life President	: Prof. IN Marks	1997-1999	Life President	: Prof. IN Marks
	President	: Prof. I Segal		President	: Dr H Schneider
	President-elect	: Dr JP Wright		President-elect	: Dr EH Buchel
	Secretary	: Prof. AE Simjee		Past President	: Prof. SK Spies
	Treasurer	: Dr SK Spies		Secretary	: Dr H Bloch
	Committee	: Dr DG Burns	: Prof. CG Bremner	Treasurer	: Prof. H Grundling
		: Prof. RE Kirsch	: Prof. PC Bornman	Committee	: Prof. JHR Becker
		: Prof. CJC Nel	: Dr H Schneider		: Prof. JEJ Krige
					: Dr. K Pettengell
					: Prof. SR Thomson

1999-2001	Life President President President -elect Past President Secretary Treasurer Committee	: Prof. IN Marks : Dr EH Buchel : Prof H Grundling : Dr H Schneider : Prof CF van der Merwe : Prof JEJ Krige : Dr. R Ally : Prof JA Louw	: Dr. J Garisch : Dr. K Pettengell : Prof SR Thomson	2009-2011	Life Presidents President President -elect Past President Secretary Treasurer Co-opted Members	: Prof IN Marks : Prof Reid Ally : Prof Paul Goldberg : Dr Johan Botha : Prof Christo van Rensburg : Prof Keith Newton : Stephen Grobler	: Prof I Segal : Dr Chris Ziady : Prof Jan van Zyl : Dr Gill Watermeyer : Dr Mark Sonderup
2001-2003	Life President President President -elect Past President Secretary Treasurer Committee	: Prof IN Marks : Prof H Grundling : Prof JEJ Krige : Dr EH Buchel : Prof SR Thomson : Prof R Ally : Dr J Garisch : Dr SP Grobler	: Prof I Segal : Dr JP Wright : Dr CCM Ziady	2011-2013	Life Presidents President President -elect Past President Secretary Treasurer Co-opted Members	: Prof IN Marks : Prof Paul Goldberg : Prof Christo van Rensburg : Prof Reid Ally : Dr VG Naidoo : Dr Mark Sonderup : Dr Johan Botha : Prof Keith Newton : Dr Stephen Grobler	: Prof I Segal : Dr Adam Mahomed : Prof Jan van Zyl : Dr Gill Watermeyer
2003-2005	Life President President President -elect Past President Secretary Treasurer Committee	: Prof IN Marks : Prof JEJ Krige : Prof SR Thomson : Prof H Grundling : Dr CCM Ziady : Dr JP Wright : Dr J Garisch : Dr SP Grobler	: Dr CJ van Rensburg : Dr JH van Zyl : Prof PA Goldberg				: Dr Chris Kassianides
2005-2007	Life Presidents President President -elect Past President Secretary Treasurer Committee	: Prof IN Marks : Prof SR Thomson : Dr CCM Ziady : Prof JEJ Krige : Dr JAM Garisch : Prof PA Goldberg : Prof R Ally	: Prof I Segal : Dr SP Grobler : Prof K Newton				
2007-2009	Life Presidents President President -elect Past President Secretary Treasurer Committee Co-opted Members	: Prof IN Marks : Dr Chris Ziady : Prof Reid Ally : Prof Sandie Thomson : Prof Christo van Rensburg : Prof Paul Goldberg : Dr Johan Botha : Prof Keith Newton : Stephen Grobler	: Prof I Segal : Corne Kruger : Schalk vd Merwe : Jan van Zyl : Chris Kassianides				



Profs Bornman, Wright, Bank, Marks, Mieny, Kirsch & Segal

Life Presidents

Prof IN (Solly) Marks Prof Mike Moshal Prof Issy Segal

Honorary members

Prof Bornman	Prof I MacLeod	Prof CJ Mulder	Prof AE Simjee
Dr A Keet	Prof IN (Solly) Marks	Prof JA Myburgh	Prof SK Spies
Dr Lawson	Prof R Mekel	Dr D Proctor	Prof J Terblanche
Prof H Grundling	Prof C Mieny	Prof I Segal	

Notes

SAGES Secretariat



Karin Fenton,
SAGES Secretariat



Pam Smorenburg, SAGES
Subscription Secretary

