



Pan-African Society for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (PASCATS)  
Société Panafricaine de Chirurgie Cardiothoracique (SPACCaT)

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **A new society for cardiothoracic surgeons in Africa and in diaspora**

#### **Background**

Pan-African Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery (PASCATS) will be formally constituted from the African Heart Seminar (AHS), becoming the organization representing the professional interests of all cardiothoracic surgeons on the continent and in the diaspora. The predecessor organization, the AHS was started in 2004 as an initiative from Professor Charles Yankah, Berlin and Dr Willie Koen, Cape Town, following the successful start up of an artificial heart program for bridge to heart transplantation during 2000 and 2001 at the Christiaan Barnard Memorial Hospital, Cape Town.

The mission and aim was to create more awareness of emerging cardiovascular disease in the regions in Africa where cardiovascular health care was underdeveloped. It was also aimed at sharing information about the latest developments and advances in the field of cardiovascular medicine, echocardiographic imaging and diagnostics of cardiovascular diseases and surgery to doctors in all parts of Africa.

This initiative has really grown as a pure outreach project in Africa and has become a Pan-African cardiovascular health care project which has given birth to Afroecho 2011 .

A further key aim is to initiate networking amongst doctors in Africa, African doctors in diaspora and non-African doctors interested in cardiothoracic and vascular health care in Africa and thereby share a wealth of medical experience which has never been utilised to its potential.

Pan-African Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery should bring together active individual cardiothoracic surgeons in Africa and in diaspora who contribute to cardiothoracic surgical practice and science to establish the nucleus of a professional body for Africa.

#### **Objectives**

## **Aims and Objectives:**

- **Promote contemporary surgical procedures relating to the treatment of cardiothoracic and vascular disease and data collection to establish a data base.**
- **Promote education, know-how transfer and training of personnel in cardiothoracic and vascular surgery to develop colleagues' own expertise to establish and maintain standards for cardiothoracic and vascular surgery.**
- **Pursue continuing health education programmes, provide a network of knowledge relevant to the field of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery to develop expertise and to share experience with fellow professionals.**
- **Promote a network of members in diaspora and from the international surgical community for knowledge and know-how transfer in the field of cardiothoracic surgery and science. This includes a task force of surgical missions to support self-help projects to reactivate existing cardiovascular programmes. PASCATS will not be responsible for funding missions but would facilitate sponsored manpower for self-help cardiovascular programmes.**
- **Provide the opportunity to develop leadership in the field of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery.**
- **Encourage cardiovascular research.**
- **Promote, represent and protect the professional interests of cardiothoracic surgeons.**
- **Establish a Research Foundation, which will promote cardiovascular research and education on the continent.**

## **BECOME A MEMBER OF THE PAN-AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR CARDIO-THORACIC SURGERY (PASCATS)**

**Who? Cardiothoracic surgeons practicing in Africa and in diaspora. Cardiothoracic surgeons, cardiologists and other medical and para-medical professionals involved directly or indirectly in the development of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery in Africa.**

**Ambitious colleagues are most welcome to join PASCATS to enrich their knowledge of solving cardiothoracic health care problems in Africa. Your membership to PASCATS offers you a win-to-win agreement which will help**

you to cultivate the objectives of PASCATS and motivate you to develop a team spirit for collaboration with medical and para-medical personnel in the field of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery.

Consequently, PASCATS looks for members who are leaders and active in their profession and inspires members to become leaders in their fields through professional networking opportunities and co-operation. Membership provides access to a network of knowledge and know-how transfer and the opportunity to develop your own expertise and share these values with fellow professionals.

Membership shall be accorded to all medical and para-medical professionals involved directly or indirectly in cardiac, thoracic or vascular interventions and research and device technology who have fulfilled the membership requirements. All members shall have voting rights.

#### **MEMBERSHIP PROCESS**

Online application is convenient and quick and will provide you with immediate access to information sources, support, advice and guidance.

#### **PASCATS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

Membership Certificate

Discounted registration fees for the Annual Meeting

Reduced rates to PASCATS meetings

Society Journal (yet to be launched)

Opportunity to participate in the work of PASCATS in committees

#### **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

The annual subscription will be determined, for each category of membership, by voting members of the society at a General Meeting, upon the recommendation of the executive committee.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

Berlin, Germany and Bloemfontein, South Africa

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