

Innovative approaches offer more at 2010 South African Heart Association congress, 8–11 August, Sun City

The organisers of the 2010 South African Heart Association congress (SAHA) are offering an innovative programme with sessions in cardio-oncology (a first for South Africa), women's cardiovascular health, ethics, and South African scientific contributions within the plenary sessions. Parallel sessions, although necessary to cope with special-interest groups, will be kept to a minimum. Interventional cardiology will be well covered.

The August timing of the congress has not deterred international interest and 16 overseas experts in the clinical, interventional and community health fields will participate in the convention. The popular Mayo Clinic echocardiography workshop will be held on 8 August and will focus on new topics not dealt with in earlier workshops held in South Africa.

The congress organising committee, under the chairmanship of Dr Eric Klug, has kept price increases to a minimum. 'We are also providing incentives to delegates to register early and as members of SAHA, thereby obtaining cheaper access.' As the congress also includes a long weekend, family packages will be available. An across-the-board subsidy for registration is being considered.

The theme Holistic Healthcare, inspired by Dr Braunwald's previous appeals for improved overall care in cardiovascular medicine, will be patient focused. 'Our vision for this meeting is to use creative means to enhance the clinician's day-to-day skills, with the end result that the patient sees our combined efforts as co-ordinated, evidence based, sympathetic and ethical. We aim to share frankly our experiences of success and failure in special sessions devoted to *how I do it* and *lessons I have learned*, Dr Klug said. A thought-provoking soapbox session on the last day will include seven succinct presentations on controversial topics in cardiovascular medicine. A wonderful social programme is also being arranged.

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