

EDITORIAL

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2017 is rapidly drawing to a close with healthcare challenges increasing the burden on our scarce resources in South Africa. Dr Demetriou highlights the challenges and options of colon cancer in South Africa and with increasing access to endoscopy services I am sure that the prevalence of gastrointestinal malignancies would reflect that seen in other developed countries. Dr Naidoo's article also highlights our unique spectrum of disease in our patients.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Prof Sandie Thomson, who has been awarded the title of Master of the MWGO by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) at the recent World Congress of Gastroenterology in Orlando. His service to the gastrointestinal aspect of health is remarkable and he seems to be ever increasing in his endeavors.

I would also like to congratulate the new SAGES council elected at the last congress and under the leadership of Prof Jan van Zyl I am sure we will move in a direction that will improve our societies commitment to academia and private practitioners.

A great round of applause should be given to the bidding committee of the HPB Association of South Africa which has successfully bid to host the International Association of the Pancreas' annual meeting in 2019 as a joint ASSA - SAGES-HPBASA/IAP meeting in Cape Town.

Lastly SAGES 2018 takes place in Johannesburg at an exciting new venue, the Forum, and promises to equip our members with new approaches and techniques to improve patient outcomes.

Adam Mahomed

Congratulations to all who passed their exams in 2017

Cert Gastroenterology(SA) Phys

Reena Kara
Leolin Katsidzira
Mahmoud Khierallah

Cert Gastroenterology(SA) Surg

Abdus-Sami Adewunmi
Zaheer Moolla
Meryl Oyomno

Cert Gastroenterology(SA) Paed

Lesley Hendricks
Joan Ikobah
Simone Nicole
Dafalla Rahamtalla
Penelope Rose
Sawsan Yassin

Master of the WGO (MWGO) Award

Congratulations to Prof Sandie Thomson who has been awarded the title of a Master of the MWGO by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) at the recent World Congress of Gastroenterology in Orlando. This award honours Professor Thomson's exceptional professional and personal contributions to the field of gastroenterology and its related disciplines - especially his efforts in the less well-developed regions of the world and in service to the populations WGO is focused on.

The Masters of the WGO (MWGO) Award is the highest honour WGO can bestow and is granted only to those individuals who have provided outstanding dedication to the mission of the WGO and achieved distinction in such areas as scholarly research, teaching, service to WGO and the community at large.

