

SA HEART® TRAVEL GRANT FEEDBACK - THOMAS ALDERSLEY

I am writing to express my gratitude for your generous sponsorship that enabled my participation at the 8th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Surgery. The opportunity to attend this global event was a transformative experience that would not have been possible without your support.

The Congress was a remarkable gathering of experts and professionals from around the world, and it provided invaluable insights into the latest advancements in paediatric cardiology. Of particular interest to me were the "Global Health" track and the "Big Data, New Technology, Artificial Intelligence" track. These sessions were intellectually stimulating and immensely relevant to my research and aspirations in the field.

During the Global Health track, I was especially grateful to attend the presentation of our recent work, a landscape analysis of paediatric cardiac care in Africa. This work was a collaboration between our research unit, the Children's Heart Disease Research Unit, PASCAR, PANPACH, WSPCHS, ASPCHS, Global Arch and the Children's Heart Link. The project includes 114 respondents, from 93 institutions in 42 countries from Africa. The results of this project demonstrate that human resources for paediatric cardiac care in Africa are limited, with a lack of surgeons and super-specialists services. However, they also demonstrate that these resources are clearly increasing, that infrastructure appears to be adjusting to demand, and that training and experience is growing.

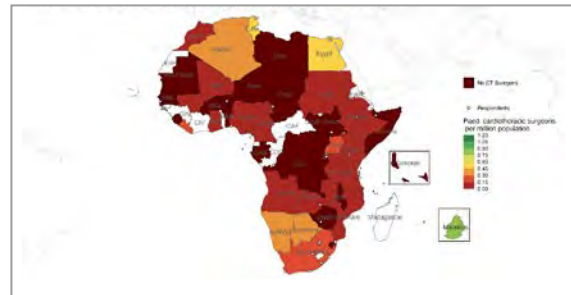


Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, Washington DC, United States of America.

I was particularly inspired by Dr Anthony Chang's talks on "Digital Futures". Dr Chang is the chair of the American Board of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine, the founder of "Medical Intelligence 10", a platform for teaching and



Level of available paediatric cardiac services at national level. All services not only those including specialists.



Paediatric cardiothoracic surgeons at national level. The number of paediatric cardiothoracic surgeons per 1 million population.



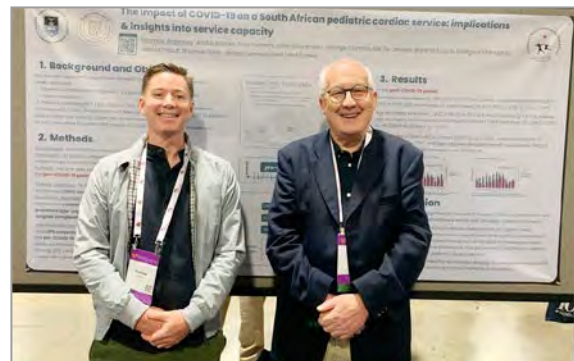
Paediatric cardiac training at national level. Domestic or foreign paediatric cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery training programme.

training in artificial intelligence, and is a "passionate advocate for use of artificial intelligence and innovation in medicine to transform global healthcare for both children and adults".

Attending these tracks allowed me to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current trends, challenges, and breakthroughs in global health as well as the integration of big data, new technology, and artificial intelligence in the realm of paediatric cardiology. The knowledge and exposure I gained during the Congress will undoubtedly shape my future contributions to the field and enhance my ability to make a meaningful impact.

I am also grateful for the opportunity to attend the poster presentation of our abstract (now published: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1177365/full>), "The impact of COVID-19 on a South African paediatric cardiac service: implications and insights into service capacity". In addition, I was able to attend the poster presentation for the abstract, "Outcomes following neonatal cardiac surgery in Cape Town, South Africa" on behalf of the authors who were unable to attend.

Your support not only helped broaden my professional horizons but also reinforced my commitment to furthering the cause of paediatric cardiology and advancing healthcare for children in need. I am eager to apply the knowledge and



Dr Thomas Aldersley and Professor John Lawrenson (HOD Paediatric Cardiology at Red Cross Children's Hospital) in front of his poster in Washington, DC, United States of America.

insights gained from the Congress to drive positive change and innovation within our community and beyond.

Once again, thank you for investing in my growth and development by sponsoring my attendance at this significant global event. I remain deeply grateful for your invaluable support, and I look forward to sharing the impact of this experience in the near future.

Warm regards,

Thomas Aldersley

The Children's Heart Disease Research Unit



CARDIOLOGY CONNECTIONS

24th Annual SA Heart® Congress 2024
Sandton Convention Centre
8 - 10 November 2024

SA HEART® TRAVEL GRANT FEEDBACK - CARMELITA ABRAHAMS

I would like to thank the committee of the South African Heart Association for awarding me with the travel award which has allowed me to attend the 37th International Society for Heart Research (ISHR) – European Section conference held in Porto, Portugal, from 10 - 13 July 2023.

The organisers of the ISHR accommodated scientific talks covering several topics related to cardiovascular disease, including the field of cardio-oncology which is my main research focus. A session titled “New insights into Cardio-Oncology” was dedicated to discussing new findings on anthracycline chemotherapy-induced cardiac dysfunction. In this session, I presented the latest findings of my PhD research with an oral presentation, titled “Cardiac dysfunction in breast cancer patients receiving doxorubicin is associated with a shift in highdensity lipoprotein (HDL) particle subclasses”. Our findings were well received by experts within the audience, who engaged with follow up questions and exchanged ideas for future interests. Other scientific talks in this session discussed novel therapeutic approaches to limit anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity (by Prof Borja Ibáñez, Madrid), transcriptional and metabolic adaptation in cardiotoxic doxorubicin (by Prof Alessandra Ghigo, Milan) and the relationship between cancer and heart failure (by Prof Rudolph de Boer, Netherland). In a different session, Prof Gemma Vilahur from Barcelona gave a talk on HDL particles, where she discussed the impact of dyslipidaemia on HDL-related cardioprotection. In addition to the scien-



Dr Carmelita Abrahams in front of her poster in Portugal.

tific talks, a workshop for early career researchers was arranged with senior researchers sharing their career journey and engaging in a Q&A to offer career guidance.

Attending the meeting has given me the opportunity to meet a network of scientific researchers and potential future collaborators from an international community with special interest in cardiovascular health and disease. Furthermore, the abstract submitted will be published in the Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology (JMCC – a journal that was initially created by Prof Lionel Opie) within the next few weeks.

Carmelita Abrahams

SA HEART® VACANCY CORNER

CARDIOLOGIST WANTED: LIFE ENTABENI, DURBAN

Fulltime cardiologist or physician wanted to join a 22-year-old solo practice in Life Entabeni Hospital, Durban. Joining can be in the capacity of an association or partnership. I have reduced my work to 2 months twice a year and will effectively not be present for 6 months of the year.

Please contact Dr Sathees Singh: ssingh@ion.co.za.

CARDIOLOGY PRACTICE AT SUNNINGHILL, JOHANNESBURG

I am retiring at the end of February 2024. Is anyone interested in taking over a practice at Sunninghill Hospital, Johannesburg? Equipment costs only.

Please contact Dr Anthony Stanley: anthys99@gmail.com, +27 83 409 7558.