

INTRODUCTION

WHY CAPE TOWN 2015?

On behalf of the SA Urogynaecology Association and the SA Urology Association, it is with great pleasure that I submit a bid for the joint ICS / IUGA meeting to be held in 2015. I believe there are many important reasons for considering Cape Town as the preferred venue for this important joint meeting.

The meetings have never before been held on the continent of Africa, and ICS or IUGA organizations have never held major scientific meetings in this continent. Africa suffers a huge burden of disease of incontinence, and especially obstetric fistula cause enormous suffering. A combined meeting would highlight the massive problems of urinary fistula, and hopefully address the issues in a unified and coordinated manner.

A combined meeting would draw workers from across the continent, and allow a better level of understanding and awareness of the problems besetting Africans, with improved education resulting. Cape Town and South Africa are the gateway to our continent, and a conduit of access. Arguably no other continent has so much pathology, with so few health workers addressing male and female urogynaecological issues.

The organising committee has undertaken to provide 20 delegates from developing countries with bursaries, enabling poorly - resourced doctors to attend the meeting at no expense to themselves.

We have a record of successful high powered academic meetings, such as the FIGO 2009 meeting at the Cape Town International conference venue. Our congress centre is adjacent to the many Cape Town hotels and huge waterfront precinct, a heaven for visitors and tourists. During the hosting of FIFA world cup and recent U2 functions, tourists were safe and relaxed, with no untoward incidents reported. The organizers of academic, sporting and social functions have a proven track record, with attractive options for sightseeing. The Robben Island and Table mountain attractions are on our doorstep, with easy access to a hinterland that lends itself to relaxed exploration.

So far all these reasons, and many more, Cape Town offers a unique and safe venue that would benefit locals and visitors alike, if a combined meeting was allocated to our city.

Yours Sincerely
Bid Committee

PROPOSED DATES

Saturday 26 September – Saturday 03 October 2015, which is springtime in Cape Town. As yet, there are no competing events scheduled for this period.

Cape Town offers superior value for money as a conference destination. The African experience is unique and unequalled by any other conference destination. Cape Town is the premium conference destination in Africa and the Middle East despite stiff opposition from other destinations.

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Gynaecologists

- Peter de Jong (co-chair) IUGA member
- Steven Jeffery IUGA member
- Kobus van Rensburg ICS member

Urologists

- Frans van Wijk ICS member
- Gawie Bruwer (co-chair) ICS member
- Ilse Breytenbach ICS & IUGA member

Physiotherapist

- Bettina Moser (co-chair)

LOCAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Will consist of Dr's Peter de Jong, Stephen Jeffery, Ilse Breytenbach, Frans van Wijk and Bettina Moser.

PROPOSED VENUE

The Cape Town International Convention Centre Profile

The Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) is so much more than just another convention centre. Set in the heart of the Cape Town city centre, the CTICC is a place where people from all walks of life are brought together, a tangible demonstration of the power of partnership, and an excellent example of the success that can be achieved when public and private enterprises work together towards shared goals.

Thanks to its innovative wheelchair friendly design with meticulous attention to detail, its comprehensive array of world-class services, five star accommodation facilities, and dedicated staff with a proven passion for service excellence, the CTICC consistently delivers the kind of memorable experience that keeps event hosts, and their guests coming back - again and again.

Facilities include:

- Auditorium for 1 500 people
- Auditorium for 620 people
- Roof Terrace Room seating 400 people
- 33 breakout rooms varying in size from 25 - 320 people each
These are suitable for congress workshops
- State of the art 11 399 m² exhibition and trade show space
- Spacious and deluxe banqueting and function rooms of varying sizes including magnificent ballroom (2000 m²) with majestic city views
- 1 400 secure parking bays
- Banqueting facilities for 4000 seated guests

AUDIO VISUAL FACILITIES

The Cape Town International Convention Centre combines aesthetics with supreme functionality. The highly sophisticated IT network with its fibre optic backbone, includes some 2000 CAT5e data points located across the exhibition halls, meeting rooms and public spaces. This infrastructure is used to offer a host of technology services which include secure broadband internet. Every corner of the CTICC is also covered by separate wireless networks. Remote control touch panels in certain venues allow event organisers to control light levels, blinds, and projection screens. Should a power failure occur, emergency back-up generators guarantee an uninterrupted power supply.

CONFERENCE CREDENTIALS

Cape Town has successfully hosted and secured for the future many top class international congresses and conventions with the assistance of local organisers.

SPONSORSHIP FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CITY

The Cape Town convention Bureau assists local organising committees with the process of obtaining local government and the city support, once a conference has been secured. This has resulted in complete sponsorship of for example, the opening ceremony, as happened recently at the International Security Congress in 2010.

DELEGATE BURSARY SCHEME

Many doctors from under - resourced countries do not enjoy the possibility of international travel to academic meetings, despite the huge benefit such attendance affords. To make a combined meeting of this nature as accessible as possible, to as many doctors as feasible, a bursary scheme has been designed. This is similar to the FIGO scheme, whereby doctors from developing countries would apply for a bursary.

There are 20 bursaries, each of R10,000 which covers the cost of economy class air travel, accommodation and meeting registration. Applications are reviewed by a committee, and 20 delegates from developing countries would be financially assisted to visit Cape Town for the duration of the meeting.

TRANSPORT

International Direct Flights

21 direct flights daily provide access to South Africa from virtually every corner of the world including, Amsterdam, Buenos Aires, Dubai, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, London, Melbourne, New York, etc. There are hourly connecting flights to Cape Town from Johannesburg, daily as well as direct Cape Town flights to London, Europe, the far East and Australia.

The Cape Town International Convention Centre and other conference venues and hotels in the Cape Town central business district are a 15-minute drive from Cape Town International Airport.

By Taxi or Coach

Luxury air-conditioned coaches and shuttle buses will move delegates between the airport, hotels, the CTICC and their functions. Metered taxis are also available.

By Bus

The new Integrated Rapid Transit (IRT) System offers international visitors a scheduled bus service between the city centre, the airport, and suburbs in Cape Town. By consolidating existing rail, bus, minibus and metered taxi services, the IRT provides an efficient and robust transport network. The first phase of transformative development focus on offering a safe high-quality bus-based (Bus Rapid Transit) system that delivers fast, comfortable, and cost effective urban mobility in the city centre with competitive prices. CCTV surveillance cameras and security personnel are available to ensure commuter safety and security is prioritised. Infrastructure is wheelchair friendly.

MyCiTi bus service

The MyCiTi airport-to-city service runs between the newly completed Cape Town International Airport and the Civic Centre bus stations via the N2 and Eastern Boulevard. This service operates between 20 and 24 hours a day at a cost of R50,00 one way. It departs every six to 30 minutes, depending on demand. The MyCiTi inner-city bus service provides convenient transport to hotels, accommodation nodes, restaurants, entertainment areas, parking areas, and places of interest. Each journey costs R8,00 and buses depart every 10 to 30 minutes and operate between 20 and 24 hours a day.

“Topless tours”

This service visits the major attractions around the city and is a convenient way to experience Cape Town's many varied attractions. The bright red “Hop-on Hop-off” city sightseeing service comes complete with nine multilingual commentary channels, plus a “kiddie’s” channel and is an ideal and convenient method of travelling to and viewing the most popular attractions in and around Cape Town. Tickets can be bought on board the bus or online by visiting www.citysightseeing.co.za or from the Cape Town Tourism Visitor Information Centre.

Bus charters

Should a tourist group want to visit any area that is not on a normal bus route, a bus or coach may be chartered to drive the group to and from the destination. This should be planned well in advance and information is available from www.satsa.com.

ACCOMMODATION

Cape Town has a wide selection of superb hotels in all categories that promise local and international business visitors a pleasurable stay in the Mother City. With access to more than 5000 rooms, all within walking distance, the Cape Town International Convention Centre is ideally located to accommodate the specific needs of any delegation. The on-site hotel, the 5 star Westin Grand Cape Town Arabella Quays Hotel, has 483 rooms and suites and provides delegates with immediate access from the hotel to the heart of the convention centre. Guests have access to more than 2500 five star rooms, 3500 four-star rooms and 2200 three-star rooms. There are an additional 8000 moderately priced rooms in the city's excellent guesthouses and lodges. Cape Town is a value-for-money destination and hotels offer excellent service to our delegates. Currently, conference delegates can expect to pay for accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, twinshare, inclusive of VAT and 1% tourism levy:

5 Star – from R2300 – R6500 per person
 4 Star – from R1050 – R2195 per person
 3 Star – from R980 – R1300 per person
 (2011 rates; Peak Season)

Rates are of course seasonal with a peak towards the end of year which co-incides with both South African school holidays as well as the Northern Hemisphere winter months.

SOCIAL PROGRAM

1. Welcome Reception

The Congress will be opened in true South African tradition. Cape Town's Mayor or the Western Cape Premier to deliver an official opening address at the CTICC. Thereafter guests will be entertained by cultural artists representing the rich diversity of the South African rainbow nation. The Welcome Reception will be hosted in the exhibition area. This is the time to mingle, to meet new friends and greet old acquaintances. The ambience, music, food and wine will welcome delegates to the flavour and spirit of Africa!

2. President's Dinner

This is by invitation only. Two Hundred delegates will be entertained whilst enjoying a beautiful Cape Town sunset over Table Mountain. Guests of the President will enjoy the magnificent spectacle of the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront venue from Bahia Restaurant, which serves a top class, world cuisine menu.

3. Dinner in the Winelands

Arguably some of the best wines in the world are produced in the Cape Winelands. Steeped in history and heritage these wine estates offer the perfect backdrop to host groups of different sizes. Events can be customized to suit the requirements of the group.

4. Gala Dinner at the CTICC

Delicious food, personalised service and an inspiring venue in one of the world's most beautiful cities are what make dining at the CTICC such a unique and impressive experience. The facility can accommodate up to 4000 seated guests.

5. Themed Evening at Moyo Restaurant

Located on the Spier Wine Estate in Stellenbosch, delegates will experience a truly unique modern sophisticated African evening at the Moyo Restaurant. Coal fire will abound with the best seafood to a wide range of meats being cooked the traditional South African way, plus “potjiekos” and other delicacies.

DAY TOURS

Table Mountain

A cable car ride to top of Table Mountain, a World Heritage Site, is a highlight of any visit to Cape Town. The best views of Cape Town are from the top of Table Mountain. Facilities on the mountain include a self-service restaurant, bistro, and a shop selling gifts and curios.

Peninsula Tour/Cape Point

Drive along the coast to Cape Point, the most southern tip of the Cape Peninsula via, Chapman's Peak. The Cape of Good Hope section of the Table Mountain National Park's flora is something to behold, with its fynbos species found nowhere else in the world. Here you can see a variety of wildlife that includes baboons, rhebok, Cape Mountain zebra, bontebok and the elusive eland. Following the coastline along False Bay, return to Cape Town by way of the Simon's Town naval base and stop at Boulders Beach to view African penguins.

Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens

Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden is world-renowned for the beauty and diversity of the Cape flora it displays and for the magnificence of its location against the eastern slopes of Table Mountain. Kirstenbosch grows only indigenous South African plants. The estate covers 528 hectares and supports a diverse 'fynbos' flora and natural forest.

Cape Winelands

Visit Groot Constantia, the area's oldest wine estate with its grand Cape Dutch homestead. Only a few minutes drive from the city centre, the breathtaking beauty of the valley and vineyards are unique in a modern cosmopolitan environment, preserving the cultural and historical heritage of the oldest wine area in the Cape.

Robben Island

Robben Island is one of South Africa's four World Heritage sites. This barren windswept island was the prison home of former President Nelson Mandela for 18 years. Here you can experience the view that kept Nelson Mandela's dream of freedom for his country alive.

SECURITY

Cape Town is as safe as most international cities, and this is in no small measure due to the efforts of the Central City Improvement District (CCID).

One of the main drivers behind the establishment of the CCID in 2000 was to make Cape Town's Central City the safest in the country. The vision was to set up effective preventive and reactive security measures through highly visible police officers, mobile vehicles and a bicycle squad twenty four hours a day. Altogether, 200 security officers keep the streets of the CBD safe, day and night, for all those who work in, live in or visit the city. The dedicated team of security managers and foot officers, who are highly visible, patrol the streets on a 24-hour basis.