



# The South African Transplantation Society

[www.sats.org.za](http://www.sats.org.za)

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05 February 2016

Dear SATS Member

We as the SATS Exco would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. Furthermore, we would like to thank you for giving us the privilege of taking the South African Transplantation Society forward for the next 2 years. It is a daunting task, and one that can only be achieved with your participation and contribution.

We held an Exco "strategy" meeting 2 weeks ago, during which we defined our focus areas for the next 2 years, and I would like to share with you what we consider important to address during our term.

### 1. Membership

We are aware that the membership base has remained static over the last period of time, certainly not growing as anticipated. Furthermore a large proportion of current members have defaulted on their annual subscription, putting some financial pressure on the society. The question has recently been asked "What does SATS provide for me as a member?" I will attempt to answer this question, here, and we certainly have taken this criticism seriously, including it into our corporate strategy going forward. That said; let me pose a question to you: "What can you as an individual bring to SATS?"

New membership is one of our primary focus areas, and in addition to individuals, we are aiming to include Corporate Memberships and Organisational Affiliations to our stable. We have had a very promising response to this initiative, and look forward to this contributing most positively to the society.

### 2. Marketing

We believe that the society needs to become a lot more visible, and we are busy developing strategies around this. In addition to the essentials of updating the SATS Website and considering becoming more active on Social Media platforms, we intend initiating SATS-affiliated education days in an effort to bring our community together on a more regular basis, in addition to raising the profile of the society.

### 3. Ethics Committee

In view of the complexity and nuances involved in the practice of all aspects of transplantation, we have taken the decision to form an Ethics Committee for SATS. This will be led by Mignon McCulloch, with the intention of providing

support and guidance for any issues pertaining to either individuals or institutions affiliated with SATS. Mignon can be contacted at [mignon.mcculloch@uct.ac.za](mailto:mignon.mcculloch@uct.ac.za). Further information will be posted on the website shortly.

#### **4. Accreditation and Legislation**

With a view to the ultimate standardization of transplant services across South Africa, we have had the view that practicing units should ideally be accredited by SATS, this in an effort to maintain appropriate standards and integrity. Whilst this will be difficult outside of a legal framework instituted by the government, we consider this vital in the long term, and will be working towards a SATS “endorsement” whilst we continue to work with the relevant authorities to formalize an accreditation. Amongst other key issues will be defining criteria around accreditation of institutions for training.

#### **5. Listing and Allocation Policies**

Whilst extensive work has been done in this regard to date, the Exco are hard at work putting together national listing and allocation policies, this in an effort to provide equal access and transparency to the listing of transplant recipients as well as the subsequent allocation of organs.

#### **6. National Statistics**

Finally, Maryn Reyneke has done an enormous amount of work towards initiating a database compiling national statistics on organ donation and transplantation. Something that we feel should reside under the auspices of SATS and is long overdue; Maryn and her team will continue to work towards getting this system completed and online.

In closing, we look forward to working together to improve on an already sound society. Implicit in a successful future is the contribution of all of our members, and we anticipate your participation and positive input.

Kind Regards  
Jerome Loveland  
SATS President