



# Newsletter

Dear SATS member,

2017 concluded a tough period for our society, "highlighted" by an extremely tough fiscal environment, which has impacted significantly. Management of SATS by the Executive Committee and through our Secretariat has been difficult, and despite extremely hard work from all of the above, in particular from Turners Conferences who manage our secretarial function, income from the annual subscription has been extremely poor, with less than 30 percent of members paying their nominal annual fee. With this in mind, we have taken 2 significant financial decisions. The first, as was communicated at the congress, is to do away with the annual membership fee, this as of 2018. We are looking at several other potential funding options. The second, for which we were left with very little choice, was to terminate our secretarial contract with Turners. Notice has been given in this regard, and the contract will come to an end in April. Tinus du Toit will obviously continue to act as Secretary, and the Organ Donor Foundation have kindly stepped in manage our member database, and have agreed to take over the distribution roll to our member base.

On an extremely positive note, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Professor Assounga and his management team for the superbly organized and financially profitable SATS Congress held in Durban last September. Once again, arranged in an extremely tight fiscal environment, the congress was superbly run, had a quality academic programme, and generated a significant profit for SATS. Detractors so often question the value of SATS. To me, this meeting defined exactly why our organization is so important, providing a platform for interaction, ongoing education and an opportunity to openly discuss the everyday challenges that our community faces. We certainly are all looking forward to the 2019 edition of this meeting.

Another big positive of 2017 saw the launch of the South African Transplant Coordinators Society, an organization, under the auspices of SATS, created to provide a common platform for all transplant coordinators from all spheres of practice within South Africa. SATCS has been widely adopted, and has rapidly collated their MOU and nominated the requisite chairperson and secretary. Good luck, I am sure that you will grow from strength to strength, and contribute enormously to transplantation in South Africa with a unified voice.

We will continue to work hard to ensure our viability, and are constantly looking at ways to grow our community, providing a platform to deal with the highly pressurized and often controversial aspects of transplantation that we face on a daily basis.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jerome Loveland', is positioned below the 'Kind Regards' text.

Jerome Loveland

## SATS 2017 REPORTBACK

The 22<sup>ND</sup> Edition of the Southern African Transplantation Society Congress was hosted in Durban, KwaZulu Natal from the 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017. Approximately 160 delegates attended the 3 day programme themed: "Towards transplant Equity ". The scientific programme was preceded by an 'Indaba' that brought to the table, views and input from civil society. A cross-section of society ranging from religious and cultural leaders to government health officials and organ donors and recipients were represented. Wide-ranging views were presented with the need for greater involvement of society being acknowledged as the key to improving donation rates in KZN in particular, and the country in general. The Indaba was a culmination of previous engagements with the various role-players and ongoing workshops will be held in 2018. The Indaba was very emotive and ended with much optimism (which hopefully translates to improved donation rates going forward).



The scientific programme kicked off with what was a significant milestone for transplantation in South Africa (and the world) – The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first heart transplant internationally by Professor Chris Barnard. Prof Ernette du Toit gave a fist-hand account of that fateful day (via skype) and Professor Johan Brink gave us a snapshot of the development of cardiac transplantation in South Africa from 1967 to the current situation, in his keynote address.

Prof G Mourad, a French nephrologist with a special interest in transplant immunobiology and immunosuppression, provided us with insights into antibody mediated rejection and current and future strategies in immunosuppression. Dr EL Bamgoyi (Nigeria) shared the Nigerian and West African experience with solid organ transplantation, highlighting the progress made and the challenges facing the developing world.

Local experts from around the country highlighted the progress made in all spheres of solid organ transplantation including lessons learned in their units. Prof S Naicker highlighted ethical challenges that we face and where we stand as a county. At the heart of the transplant effort in South Africa, are our co-ordinators, who provided us with an update of transplant activity at the various units around the country as well as research initiatives in their units. Dr Tinus du Toit provided some insights into the challenges of running a DCD cadaver programme. Dr Dave Thomson introduced an online course that will help upskill anyone interested in improving their knowledge and understanding of transplantation.

One of the conference highlights is always the Gala Dinner. A sumptuous dinner, comedic intervention by Mark Banks and live music and dancing, made for a memorable evening and allowed everyone to let down their hair. Sr Michaelides was the fortunate recipient of a travel prize from Investec in the grand prize draw.

The 2017 edition was made possible by some hard work by the KZN local organising committee and the event organisers – Thoughtfire. Funding proved to be a challenge, but loyal support from the trade that always come to the party made for a successful event. Finally, a word of gratitude to all the patrons of the Southern African Transplantation Society that made their way to Durban and supported the event. I'm sure that the next edition in Cape Town 2019 is being eagerly anticipated.

Dr Rajan Moodley

LOC Member – SATS Congress 2017

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## PARTICIPATE IN THE DECLARATION OF ISTANBUL 2018 EDITION SURVEY

In 2008, representatives from the South African Transplant Society, together with 150 representatives of professional societies and organisation from 78 countries, worked on the content of the Declaration of Istanbul (DoI) on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism. To celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the DoI, a working group of the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (DICG) has prepared a draft update of the Declaration. The revisions made in this 2018 Edition are intended to ensure that the DoI remains a valuable source of ethical guidance for healthcare professionals and policy makers during the next decade in the face of persisting and emerging challenges in organ trafficking and transplant tourism around the world. To achieve this goal, the DICG needs your help. The DICG invites you to review and submit feedback on the draft document via the public consultation surveys.



- For more information, and to participate in the survey, [please click here](http://www2.theisn.org/e/463452/r-DoI-2018-Edition/cllwpt/212467172), or use this link: <http://www2.theisn.org/e/463452/r-DoI-2018-Edition/cllwpt/212467172>, The survey will be open until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.
- Feedback is also sought on a draft Commentary Paper which will accompany the 2018 Edition of the DoI via a second survey which is [accessible here: http://www2.theisn.org/e/463452/r-DoI-2018-Commentary-Paper/cllwpw/212467172](http://www2.theisn.org/e/463452/r-DoI-2018-Commentary-Paper/cllwpw/212467172), This survey will also be open until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

The collective feedback from the public consultation will be used to make further changes to the document before the final version is presented in July at a [special workshop in Madrid, Spain](#), during the [Congress of The Transplantation Society](#).

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## NATIONAL DATA ON ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION

To improve data collection on organ donation and transplantation in South Africa the South African Transplant Society (SATS), with the support of the South African Transplant Coordinator Society (SATCS) and the Organ Donor Foundation (ODF), is setting up a Donor and Transplant Registry for South Africa. The Registry will be implemented in different stages and will grow with the needs identified by the transplant community and public.

The first phase aims to collect basic information from the period of 1 January to 31 December 2017. Once all transplant centres have submitted their data, an annual report reflecting national data will be made available on the SATS website and will inform the international registries.

We kindly request all transplant centres to submit their 2017 data. If your centre has not yet contributed please follow this link: <https://form.myjotform.com/73343969798580> to access the online questionnaire

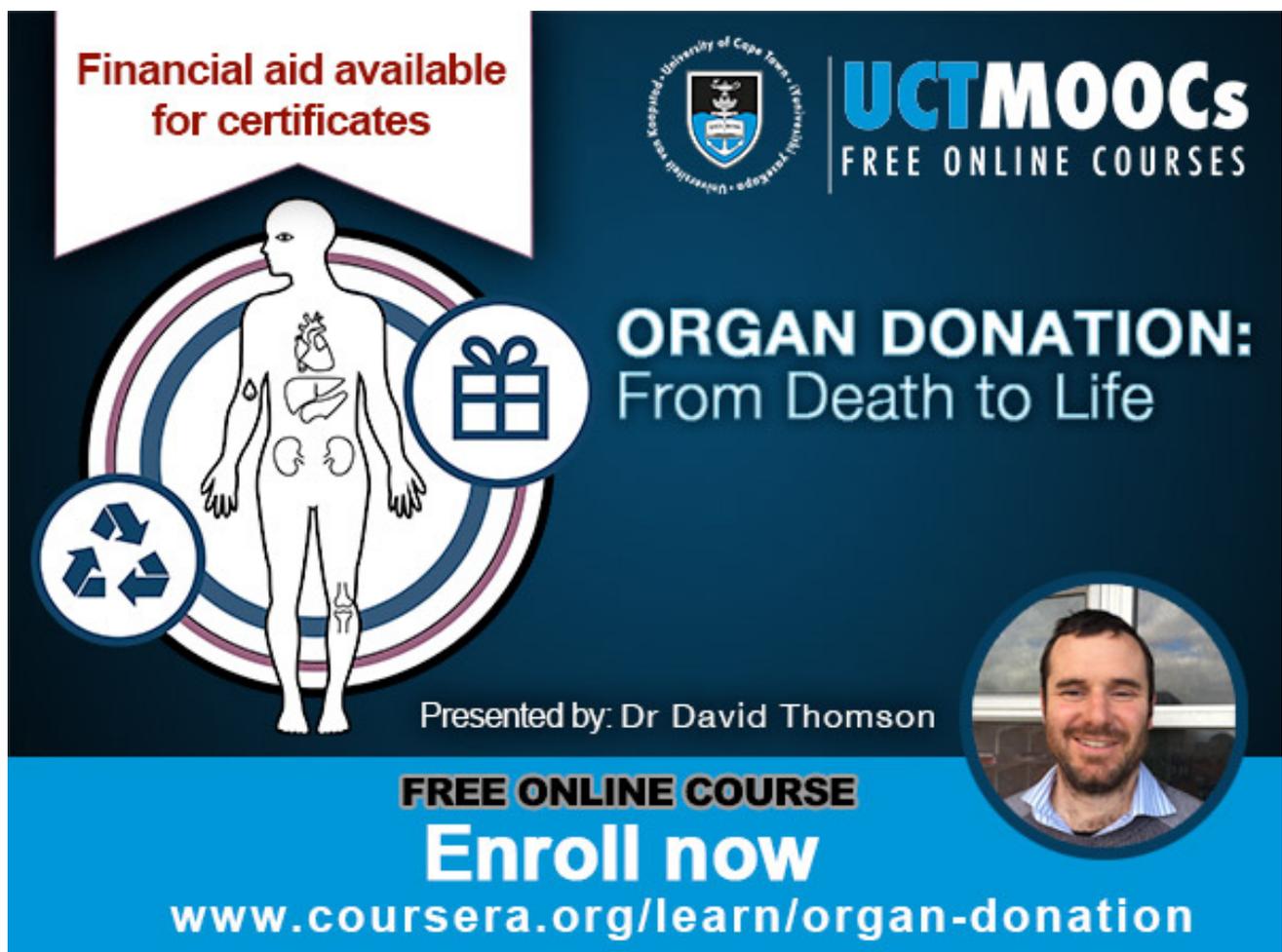
## ORGAN DONATION - EDUCATION FOR ALL

Organ donation depends on people making informed decisions. In South Africa we have a need to educate everyone about organ donation. From the public all the way through to our doctors. We know this because our referral rates and our consent rates are incredibly low compared to the rest of the world.

Brain death is a relatively rare event. Less than 1% of deaths can be considered for possible organ donation which makes it especially important that every opportunity to donate is compassionately explored with a family.

Online education platforms offer a means to reach a large audience. And spreading an educated message about organ donation is how we can go about effecting change in South Africa. Nobody can do everything. Everybody can do something.

**Organ Donation: From Death to Life** is an online course created by the University of Cape Town to help educate the lay public, medical students and doctors about organ donation



The banner features a central illustration of a human silhouette with internal organs (heart, lungs, liver, stomach, kidneys, and intestines) highlighted. To the left of the silhouette is a circular icon with a recycling symbol, and to the right is a circular icon with a gift box. Above the silhouette, the text reads "Financial aid available for certificates". In the top right corner, the University of Cape Town logo is displayed next to the text "UCTMOOCs FREE ONLINE COURSES". The main title "ORGAN DONATION: From Death to Life" is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title, it says "Presented by: Dr David Thomson" next to a circular portrait of Dr. Thomson. At the bottom, a blue bar contains the text "FREE ONLINE COURSE", "Enroll now", and the URL "www.coursera.org/learn/organ-donation".

Running at the start of every month. The course runs over 4 weeks but can be completed at your own pace (faster or slower) in the comfort of your own home.

It is made up of a series of short (5 - 7 minute) videos with each one covering a specific topic related to organ donation. There is just over an hour of videos each week. And you can jump around between the videos.

The course is free to complete.

For a formal completion certificate for your CV (assessed for 25 general CPD points and 5 ethics points for doctors) you will have to pass the multiple choice quiz (MCQ) at the end of each week and either apply for financial aid or pay the course fee (currently \$29).

If you apply for financial aid Coursera.org, the platform hosting the course, takes a week to approve the application after it checks you are accessing the course from a computer in the developing world. So a completion certificate can also be earned for free by all South Africans.

Learning is a lifelong commitment. Our modern world changes so fast. By creating this online course we hope to help get everyone up to date with the latest scientific standards and empower discussions about organ donation.

### **About the course**

Organ Donation: From Death to Life was created by Dr David Thomson a transplant surgeon and critical care specialist at Groote Schuur Hospital with support of the Critical Care Department and the Transplant Unit.

After applying to the Vice Chancellor for funding towards creating a MOOC (massive open online course) about organ donation the University of Cape Town allocated a project manager, two learning designers, a videographer and graphic designer to help create the course.

We created scripts for every video and filmed them in front of a green screen to allow the insertion of graphics and important text. A lot of effort was taken to add visual content in terms of graphics, pictures and videos to make the videos as entertaining and informative as possible. We also created two reenactments: One of brain death testing as it would be performed in real life and one of the withdrawal process in donation after circulatory death. This is not a series of boring didactic lecture series. It is designed to stimulate discussion and thought about organ donation by supplying a raft of information to inform such discussions. We hope you enjoy it.

Watch the course trailer here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ak-kVtmZGRs>

If you are interested in doing the course please visit: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/organ-donation>



## **INTRODUCTION OF SATCS** The SATCS is a special interest group formed under the auspices of the South African Transplant Society in 2017.

The purpose of SATCS is to allow Transplant Coordinators working nationally under different organisations to collaborate and align activities in the interest of clinical governance and quality PATIENT CARE.

By sharing information and experiences, learning will take place, contributing and providing opportunities for personal and professional development of the coordinators enhancing patient care.

Sharing goals through a process of consultation and negotiations

## South African Transplant Coordinator Society (SATCS)

Founded on 30 June 2017, The South African Transplant Coordinator Society is a body created to represent and unite all coordinators in South Africa.

SATS, with support from ODF, hosted a coordinator workshop in Johannesburg on 30 June 2017 to provide an opportunity for coordinators across the country to come together to workshop current issues in procurement and transplantation. The workshop was attended by more than 50 coordinators, some who are full time coordinators and many who are coordinators secondary to their primary role as a professional nurse. The desire to drive change and grow transplantation in South Africa was clearly evident, as was the need for all coordinators to have a representative body.

It is inspiring to see how many nurses are also working as coordinators in remote hospitals around the country. With this however, comes the need for support, advice and education from the main transplant centers in SA. This embodies the primary function of SATCS. Having already elected a steering committee and adopted a Code of Conduct, SATCS is currently working on:

1. Creating a database of all coordinators, job titles, hospitals covered and transplants done
2. Consolidating areas covered by coordinators in each region and identifying hospitals not covered
3. Standardizing documentation, where possible eg. donor booklets, referral forms
4. Providing support and education for coordinators in remote hospitals. Some do not have experience in obtaining family consent, nor do they have a doctor readily available to call on when there is a potential donor.
5. Training of newly appointed coordinators

The current steering committee comprises 6 members, one recipient and one procurement coordinator from each of the three main transplant centers. The members are Anja Meyer (chairperson), Mary Duncan (secretary), Venessa Wentink, Ann Stuart, Luke Steenkamp and Lucille Claasen.

Although in its infancy, SATCS has already made huge strides in uniting the South African Coordinator community and will continue to grow and provide much needed support.

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### SATS WEBSITE

SATS is very excited and working on the design of a brand-new user-friendly website, which will launch in the next few weeks. If you have any interesting photographs of SATS activities, previous congresses, etc. please be so kind as to forward it to: [venters@tut.ac.za](mailto:venters@tut.ac.za). Sandra will also be contacting the various transplant centres around the country shortly to obtain information and relevant photographs to display a little bit about the good work that is being done – please will you provide your support towards this project.



