



Since its inception seven years ago, the Gastroenterology Foundation has raised over R13 million in the form of generous pledges from the pharmaceutical industry. It has sponsored 12 research grants, 40 travel awards to fellows in training for international travel and 246 local travel awards. It has also awarded a three year travelling scholarship to the United States completed in 2011 and sponsored a travelling fellowship to Oxford in 2013.

Much of its focus is on the continuing medical education of Gastroenterology and Hepatology fellows in training, those in teaching hospitals as well as private practice.

The Gastro Foundation sessions at the annual South African gastroenterology conference (SAGES) are very popular and attract many participants. The Foundation continues to host "meet the professor" sessions at SAGES for all training fellows and hosts a session on research related topics. The Twilight symposium is an evening symposium hosted by the Gastro Foundation which invites a visiting professor to discuss a topical issue in depth.

In February 2010, the first post-graduate course for training fellows was held at Spier over three days, and twenty-five fellows and many of the heads of departments throughout the country attended. This proved to be very successful and has been repeated annually.

In addition to the education of gastroenterology fellows, the Gastro Foundation has turned its attention to gastroenterologists and hepatologists in practice and in this regard has hosted a number of CME meetings in liver diseases, acid reflux disease, paediatric gastroenterology and inflammatory bowel disease. These take the form of Interest Groups and we host an average of 6 - 8 meetings per year.

Since Gut Microbiota has become of great interest to clinicians we are inaugurating a Gut Microbiome Interest Group and this will be held at SAGES in September 2014. We have invited Prof Eamonn Quigley to give the inaugural lecture.

A major advance is the collaboration with the AGA in bringing the DDW post graduate course, held annually at the DDW meeting in the USA, to South Africa. This year we plan to host the post graduate course in Ghana in September before bringing the course to Cape Town a week later.

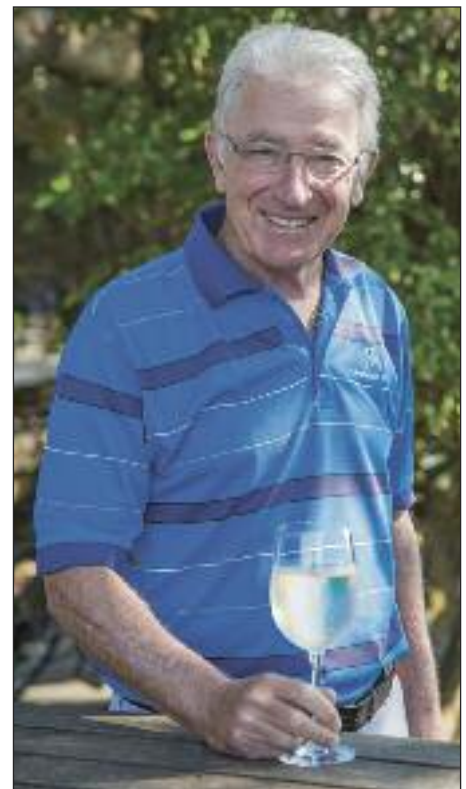
The Gastroenterology Foundation of South Africa continues its proud commitment to the post graduate Gastroenterology and Hepatology training of fellows and of all gastroenterologists in practice. We have laid the Foundation in South Africa for Hepatology - for the training, education and research of this subspecialty and we plan to expand into the rest of Sub Saharan Africa.

Announcement of Patron

The Gastro Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of a patron to the Gastro Foundation – John Platter.

John, a good friend, and an icon in the wine industry is a name well known to many.

A retired Stellenbosch wine farmer and wine writer he founded the eponymous Platter's South African Wine Guide with his wife Erica in 1980. He came to the country in 1974 as a foreign correspondent for the American news agency, United Press International, after covering events in 40 countries in Africa, Europe and the Middle East. Platter has judged at numerous wine events around the world, has served on the South African Wine and Spirits Board, the South African Wine Trust, and has contributed to international wine books, including the Oxford Companion to Wine. 'Africa



Uncorked' a wine and people book on all the wine countries of Africa, won the Glenfiddich Award in London in 2013, the annual 'Oscars' of wine writing. He was awarded the 'Order of Bernardo O'Higgins' by Chile for services to international cooperation. Platter was born in Hungary to an Italian father and Scottish mother and was raised and educated in Kenya where his parents farmed with cattle. He has one son, Cameron, an artist and Fine Arts graduate from UCT.

'It's a singular privilege to become a patron of the Gastro Foundation and to support its crucial role in funding world-class higher medical education for bright, dedicated young South Africans,' Platter said. 'The early outcomes of these initiatives are bearing fruit already. South Africa must not falter in its duty to its gifted young doctors – and to the nation - to sustain its distinguished international place in medicine and at the frontiers of research. As a beneficiary of early diagnosis and quality interventions to survive cancer, I've encountered at close quarters the critical importance of advanced education. The cliché is true: the well-being of the nation depends on it,' he said.

Microbiota Interest Group Meeting

Wednesday 3 August 2014 : The Westin

Evidence linking Gut microbiota and human disease continue to be generated at a rapid pace and it is therefore opportune that we launch a Gut Microbiota Interest Group. The inaugural lecture will be given by Eamonn Quigley a visitor to SAGES and ISUCRS 2014. This will take place on Wednesday 3 September 2014, 18:30.

AGA Post Grad course : Ghana and Cape Town

Collaborating with our African colleagues in Sub Saharan Africa has long been a priority of the Gastro Foundation and now the opportunity arises with the AGA post graduate course which will take place in Ghana on 1st September 2014 with a large delegation from Nigeria followed by a repeat of the course at the SAGES/ISUCRS meeting in Cape Town a few days later (Thursday 4 September 2014). The programme covers all the important issues raised at the AGA Spring Post Graduate course held at DDW in Chicago May 2014. Prof Peter Kahrilhas (Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, USA) together with Prof Reid Ally (Wits) and Dr Mark Sonderup (UCT) join us in Ghana.

Twilight Symposium

The Gastro Foundation is pleased to host the Twilight Symposium this year with Satish Keshav of Oxford University talking on "Iron deficiency in Gastroenterology". We are pleased to announce Takeda as the sponsor of the Twilight Symposium this year and look forward to hosting this meeting with Takeda in future years. The Twilight Symposium will be held at 17:30 on Friday 5 September 2014 at the CTICC.

Liver Meeting

Still in the planning phase is the Liver Meeting for 29 November 2014.

With the exciting advances in the treatment of chronic hepatitis C viral infection we are devoting the whole of the Liver Interest Group Meeting in November 2014 to viral hepatitis. In order to begin collaborating with the rest of Africa we plan to invite 10 leading Hepatologists from Sub Saharan Africa to attend. With the exciting newer therapies for chronic HCV infection a large proportion of the meeting will be devoted to the treatment of chronic HCV but will also include issues in the treatment of HBV infection.

Gastroenterologists, especially those in private practice, are frequently called upon to treat patients with chronic hepatitis viral infections particularly HCV and HBV. The rapid availability of DAA's in the treatment of HCV makes ongoing CME of the treatment of HCV infection mandatory.

The Gastro Foundation continues its efforts in upholding the standards of GI Hepatology teaching, creating and opening communications with national and International colleagues, raising sponsorship for local meetings and bringing interesting meetings to colleagues in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Africa. An important role of the Foundation is to foster interest and education in post graduate gastroenterology and takes great pride in hosting the annual Weekend for Fellows in February each year.

We have these exciting plans for 2014, and hope to bring you even further interest in 2015.

Sincerely
Chris Kassianides
Chairman