



Ocularists Association of Southern Africa 11th Annual Congress at sea

April 2013 marked an exciting date on the calendar for the Ocularists Association of Southern Africa, as we held our 11th Annual Congress at sea.

On the 8th April 2013, the delegates and family members boarded the sleek MSC Sinfonia cruise ship to set sail on a 5 day unforgettable Congress cruise on the high seas en route to Maputo, Mozambique. After settling in, the Congress delegates and family members all enjoyed an introductory cocktail party and were welcomed by OASA's President, Pedro Carvalho.

Great new friendships were formed and from then it was smooth sailing for all the cruise mates.

The OASA congress was a huge success and we want to thank all the speakers for their innovative spirit and for bringing an interesting programme to the table.

Different factors and topics within the realm of patient care in the Ocularistry industry were discussed and we were honoured to have Dr Pax Ramela (CEO of SAOA) address us on the changing role of professional associations, guiding us through all aspects of public health as well as reminding us of important valuable issues with regard to patient care.

Our commitment to deliver high level excellent service to the public, along with continuing our legacy to make a remarkable difference in the lives of our patients, will remain our main focus.

Our overseas delegates (from USA, Australia & The Netherlands) contributed to this successful event, each

delivering unique issues from a global perspective and willing to share their knowledge and talents with regard to creating and fitting custom moulded Ocular prostheses and scleral lenses. OASA is proud to be a part of a global team of passionate professionals practicing as Ocularists.

We especially want to thank Prof Michael Wilkinson (Ophthalmologist practicing at Penn State, Medical Centre, USA) for a very informative presentation with regard to the treatment of Paediatric Anophthalmic orbits, Prosthetic eye Complications due to Eyelid and Orbital Abnormalities from a Surgeons' perspective.

Interacting with our overseas guests and the information learnt especially whilst exchanging ideas with regard to defining the skills of the new generation Ocularistry, leading up to the development of a curriculum and implementation of training in South Africa, proved extremely valuable.

We wish to thank our OASA Congress organisers, Beryl Carvalho & Chantal Downward, our Sponsors - Bausch & Lomb, Allergan, Genop Healthcare, EyeSite, & E2, for their dedicated assistance and the MSC Sinfonia crew for their excellent service provided. We will forever cherish these unforgettable warm and wonderful memories.

Unfortunately the surrounding sea view with its breathtaking sunsets and the time spent with a mix of cheerful personalities on board the marvellous cruise ship had to come to an end. As we said our goodbye's and disembarked, leaving the ship to sail off into the sunset onto another excursion, we knew that our Ocularistry profession too, will set sail to new horizons. ☑