EDITORIAL

It is difficult to believe that a year has flown by since WCA 2008.....what a wonderful and memorable event! I am sure it has been a real challenge for our KZN colleagues to organise the first "post-WCA" SASA Congress. As can be seen from some of the abstracts that have been submitted, it promises to be an exciting event. Welcome to our SASA 2009 edition of the SAJAA.

The year started on a sad note, with the death of one of the doyens of anaesthesia in South Africa, Dr Nagin Parbhoo. Fortunately for SASA, Nagin has left a legacy in the form of the carefully researched history of our Society, which is housed in the UCT Department of Anaesthesia. He was also the editor of our SASA newsletter, Pipeline, for many, many years.

As always, with the congress edition of our journal, we are privileged to publish the abstracts of all the congress prize entries. This year these include topics such as airway safety, cardiovascular monitoring in obstetrics and monitoring of neuromuscular blockade. Our registrars’ research prize entries include a meta-analysis of cardiac morbidity in EVAR versus open AAA repair, clinical outcomes in lone atrial fibrillation, and a study comparing the two sevofluranes available to us in SA. The remaining registrar abstracts cover topics such as potassium changes during CPB, coagulopathy in renal failure, preconditioning, fluid management, negative pressure pulmonary oedema, cricoid pressure, the paediatric ECG and a study comparing the applied knowledge of interns after two weeks as opposed to two months of anaesthesia.

In addition, we have Anthony Travers’ critical look at gender and pain, which dispels any myths about females being “stronger” in terms of pain perception and tolerance. Some of us find this a bitter pill to swallow, having grown up as the “stronger” sex!

The clinical use of HBOC is discussed by our Groote Schuur colleagues, and Dr Olutoye from Texas Children’s Hospital has submitted a fascinating review on Anaesthesia and the EXIT procedure.

I trust you will find something of interest in this issue.....enjoy the read.

Prof Christina Lundgren
Editor-in-Chief