The post-Congress issue of our journal is very much a “mixed bag” of excellent articles, comprising the winning prize entries from the SASA 2010 congress, refresher course texts that were not published in our congress edition, as well as some very interesting peer reviewed case reports.

The standard and number of entries for the registrar prizes at this year’s SASA congress was high, with thirteen entries for the communication prize, many of which were of an extremely high standard. The balance of the prize entries will be published in our next edition of the SAJAA.

There are three prize winning entries published in this edition. The first is the Smiths/Aluta winning article, “Safety of Pain Control with Morphine” by Prof Johan (Jeff) Coetzee. Jeff revisits some very relevant and practical aspects of the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of morphine, and their impact on safety. The registrar research prize winner is Dr Gwen Morgan, from Wits University. Her article describes her findings when looking at the possibility of microbial growth in multi-dose syringes in the obstetrics theatres at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital. Dr Kim De Vasconcellos from UKZN is our registrar communication prize winner. His winning entry “Nitrous oxide: who will have the last laugh?” will be published in 3 parts, the first two of which appear in this edition. He has written an in depth review nitrous oxide, describing many aspects of the gas including a critical appraisal of the risks and benefits.

Our three refresher course texts have a cardiovascular “flavour”. The first is a review on the difficult topic of hypotension in children by Dr Jacinta Shung. Prof Lombie Odendaal revisits and updates us on cardio-cerebral resuscitation, and Prof Andrew Levin discusses the cardiovascular effects of aortic clamping and unclamping.

And finally we have five very interesting case reports on a large range of topics, all relevant to the practice of our specialty.

I trust you will enjoy this edition of our journal.

Christina Lundgren
Editor-in-Chief