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## THE PRESIDENTS

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### THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

*A black and white print of the medallion to be put here ?*

*Please see the frontispiece of this book for a photograph of the Presidential Medallion.*

At the first Combined Meeting of all six Orthopaedic Associations of the English-speaking World in London in 1952, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother made a formal presentation of a gold medallion as the Jewel of office to each of the member presidents. The South African emblem was received by the President at the time, G.T.(Gumee) Du Toit. The medallions were the work of renowned silversmith Mr Leslie Durbin of London. The superb craftsmanship of each is in vitreous enamel on sterling silver, with the edge in gold. The colour of the background of each medallion distinguishes it from those of the five sister Associations, that of the South African one being cerise (cherry red). The central figure of each medallion is the Tree of Andry, flanked by two cherubs who represent "humanity in medicine". The names "Caritas" for our caring ethic and "Caveat", a warning against ethical pitfalls, were given to those cherubs by the outgoing president in his valedictory address in 1983. Atop the South African medallion is a protea and at its foot is a springbok head.

Because of concerns for the security of the medallion while the President is travelling, in 1981 the South African Orthopaedic Association commissioned Mr Durbin to make a replica for day-to-day use by the President while abroad.

On the occasion of the 1982 Combined Meeting in Cape Town, the British Orthopaedic Association presented Jeanne Heywood, wife of the South African President, with a gold brooch crafted by Mr Leslie Durbin of London and made in the likeness of the Tree of Andry. She handed it on to the incoming President's wife, to be worn at major congresses by the wives of succeeding presidents. The emblem was stolen at a later congress and a replacement

was commissioned by the South African Orthopaedic Association from the same silversmiths in Britain.

## **THE PRESIDENTS BEFORE 1982**

*This section will give only brief notes on the early presidents. Fuller accounts and photographs of them are to be found in "To Benefit the Maimed" by George Dommissie.*

**1942-1948: F.P. (Fouch or F.P.) Fouche**.of Johannesburg. This vibrant man was the obvious choice as first Chairman of the newly formed Orthopaedic Surgeons' Group, precursor of the SAOA. He was a colourful and forceful character, but was a lone orthopaedic surgeon in a hostile environment of general surgeons. His first hospital beds were in the Germiston Hospital, courtesy of Dr Carl Moller Snr. He struggled to gain recognition for his speciality in the Johannesburg General Hospital. He was eventually appointed as Orthopaedic Surgeon there. He was a frequent visitor to orthopaedic meetings in the United States, where his ingenuity and eloquence earned him election as a Corresponding Member of the American Orthopaedic Association, Fellowship of the American College of Surgeons and Honorary Membership of the International Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology.(SICOT)

The most prestigious eponymous lecture of the SAOA , delivered by an eminent orthopaedic surgeon, every year is named after Francois P. Fouche – See Appendix B on p 102 - 105

**1949-1952: Hamilton (Paddy) Bell** of Cape Town was elected as the second and last Chairman of the OSG, which was renamed the South African Orthopaedic Association in 1952. He was later to become the first Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Stellenbosch

**1952-1953. G.T. (Gumee) Du Toit**, first President, SAOA. When the South African Orthopaedic Association was born out of the OSG and the title of its chief executive officer was changed from Chairman to President, Gumee Du Toit of Johannesburg was elected unanimously to fill the office. He was later to become the Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Pretoria

**1953-1955: J.M. (Jock) Edelstein**. The Second President of the SAOA was "Jock" Edelstein of Johannesburg. He would later be appointed Professor at Wits.

**1955-1957: C.T (Carl) Moller** of Johannesburg. During a long term on the Executive Committee, his biggest thrust was through his chairmanship of the Fees and Salaries Subcommittee. He was also a big player in the Medical Association. His sterling contributions earned him the Association's highest accolade, Life Membership.

**1957-1959: A.J. (Arthur) Helfet** of Cape Town. The author of three orthopaedic textbooks, he was twice invited to deliver the Hunterian Lecture to the Royal College of Surgeons in London and was later appointed as Professor to the Albert Einstein Hospital in New York

**1959-1961: R.C.J. (Jos) Hill** of Durban. A colourful personality, he is remembered as founder of the Rhino Club after a humorous and legendary incident when he and other orthopaedic surgeons were chased by a rhino in the Hluhluwe Game Reserve.

**1961-1963: J.C. (Johan) Du Toit** of Pretoria He made great academic contributions to South African Orthopaedics as Head of Department at Pretoria and later as Professor at MEDUNSA.

**1963-1965: W.T. (Bill) Ross** of Johannesburg. After service as Wing Commander in the RAF during World War II, he engaged in private orthopaedic practice in association with G.T.(Gumee) Du Toit.

**1965-1967: Sidney Sacks** of Johannesburg. He was an active academic contributor at congresses and published several papers that earned him two awards of the SAOA's Smith and Nephew Literary Prize.

**1967-1969: G.F. (George) Dommissie** of Pretoria. After distinguished war service in the UK and in North Africa, he engaged in private and University practice in Pretoria. His greatest contributions were a seminal book on the blood supply of the spinal cord and another, *To Benefit the Maimed*, on the history of South African Orthopaedic Surgery. He was honoured by being invited to give several eponymous lectures at home and abroad.

**1969-1971: T.B. (Theo) Enslin** of Bloemfontein. He was a distinguished private orthopaedic surgeon who was appointed to head the Department of Orthopaedics when the University opened its Medical School in 1970. He delivered the F.P Fouche Lecture in 1977.

**1971-1972: George Dall** of Cape Town. He was Chairman of the Faculty of Orthopaedics at the College of Medicine and had a distinguished career as Nuffield and Pieter Moll Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at UCT. He became full-time Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

**1973-1975: C.J. (Cyril) Kaplan** of Durban. His contributions as wartime medical officer and distinguished private practitioner won him an invitation to deliver the prestigious Hunterian Lecture in 1958. While President, he was initiator of the Lesotho Project which sent orthopaedic teams from round the country on monthly missions to Lesotho.

**1975-1977: J.A. (Jan) van der Merwe** of Cape Town. He excelled as congress convener and was author of *The Congress Instructional Manual of the SAOA*, a blue-print for the running of congresses. He was the SAOA's meticulous Membership Secretary for many

years. He is a Life Member of the SAOA and was awarded the SAOA Medal for extraordinary service to the profession in 2010

**1977-1979 : Martin Singer** of Cape Town. A prominent private practitioner, he was also Head of the Groote Schuur Hospital Hand Clinic for nearly four decades from 1966. He wrote a book on polio management and published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals. He was invited to deliver the prestigious F.P Fouche Lecture in 1977. He is a Life member of the SAOA.

**1979-1981: Adolf Johannes (Kienie) Wienand** of Pretoria, Coming from a successful private practice, he became full-time Orthopaedic Consultant at No 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria. After years of service on the Executive Committee, his presidency was noted for his efficiency and quiet diplomacy. He was awarded the SAOA Educational Medal in 2010.

## THE PRESIDENTS AFTER 1981



**1981-1983: A.W.B. (Brookes) Heywood,**  
MB.ChB.(UCT), MCh (Orth)(L'pool), FRCS(Ed)  
Born in 1925.

*Further details of his contribution as Professor in Cape Town appear on p 34.*

After attending school in Stellenbosch and Grahamstown and graduating MB.ChB. in Cape Town in 1950, he ran a rural general practice for five years and then won the Baron Hartley Scholarship from UCT to take him for three years of orthopaedic training in Edinburgh, Dundee and Liverpool.

After a further year as Senior Registrar at the Karl Bremer Hospital in Bellville, he engaged in private orthopaedic practice and served as part-time Consultant to the Groote Schuur Hospital and the Princess Alice Orthopaedic Hospital.

In 1985 he succeeded George Dall to the Nuffield and Pieter Moll Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery at UCT.

He was Chairman of the SA Rheumatism and Arthritis Association in 1972-73 and Chairman of the SA Arthritis Foundation from 1969 to 1982.

He was invited as guest lecturer to five countries abroad, and in South Africa was the F.P.Fouche Eponymous Lecturer to the SA College of Medicine in 1988.

In the SAOA, he served on the Executive Committee from 1972 to 1983 and was President at the time of the 1982 Combined Meeting of the Orthopaedic Associations of the English-speaking World.

He was awarded the SAOA Medal for Education.

He was honoured with Life Membership of the SA Orthopaedic Association and Honorary Fellowship of the British Orthopaedic Association, and was awarded the Bronze Medal of the Medical Association of South Africa.

His lifelong hobby is boatbuilding and sailing.



**1983-1985: B.B (Bernard) Mandell.**

MB,BCh(Wits), FRCS(Eng)

Born in 1927.

Bernard Mandell graduated in Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in 1952. After receiving surgical and orthopaedic training in South Africa and the UK, he was admitted to the FRCS in 1959. He served as Senior Surgeon to the Chamber of Mines Hospital in Johannesburg in 1964 and 1965, before moving to Welkom in 1966. There he entered private practice while serving as Senior Consultant Surgeon and Head of Department at the Anglo-American, Rand Mines and Gencor Hospitals.

On retirement in 1992, he was appointed Principal Surgeon and Head of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Cecilia Makiwane Hospital in the Eastern Cape.

Throughout his career, he showed a unique flair for organization and leadership. A calm and adroit chairman, he served on the Executive Committee of the SAOA from 1969 and was elected President in 1983. Meanwhile, outside orthopaedics, he was elected Branch Councillor of the Goldfields Branch of the SA Medical Association in 1968, and became its President in 1972. He was elected Federal Councillor of the SA Medical Association from 1973, member of its Executive Committee from 1984, and Chairman of Federal Council from 1987 to 1998. He added luster to the name of South African Medicine when he was elected to serve as President of the World Medical Association from 1996 to 1997. Back home, he

was honoured by being elected First President of the post-Apartheid South African Medical Association from 1998 to 2001.

He was Guest Speaker or delivered keynote addresses at 19 meetings at home and abroad, and delivered four eponymous lectures including the First G.T. du Toit Lecture to his own Association.

His honours include the Bronze and Gold Medals of the Medical Association of South Africa, the Gold Medal of the British Medical Association, and Merit Award and Life Membership of the SA Orthopaedic Association.

In 2003 he was awarded the Past President Gold Medal. by the SA Medical Association.

He was awarded the SAOA Medal in 2010



**1985-1987 : Reith Bernard Goldschmidt**

MB,BCh(Cantab), LRCP,FRCS(Eng)

Born in 1931.

Reith Goldschmidt was born in Cape Town, the son of a urological surgeon.

He received his medical training in Cambridge and London, qualifying in 1957. After his internship he trained in orthopaedics in various hospitals in London and Oxford, and in 1962 he was admitted to the FRCS(Eng).

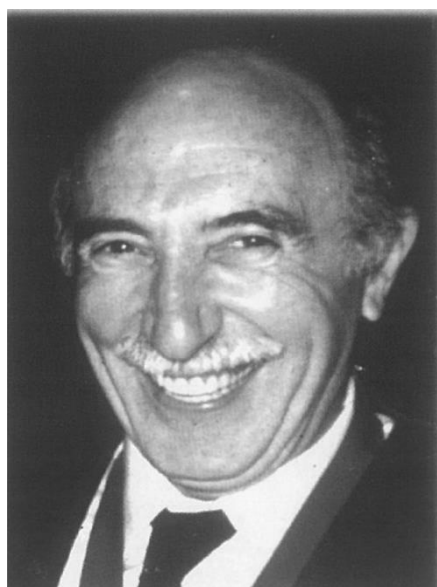
He returned to Cape Town in 1968 as full time Specialist in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Groote Schuur Hospital. When he entered private practice in 1971, he retained that post in a part-time capacity, together with posts at Princess Alice Orthopaedic Hospital, Red Cross Childrens' Hospital and the New Somerset Hospital.

A tireless worker, he gave much time to the Cape Cripple Care Association and traveled regularly to Namaqualand to run clinics for that organization. In 1984 he left private practice to become full-time Senior Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Red Cross Children's Hospital where he started the fracture service for the newly developed Trauma Unit. In 1987 he took charge of the Princess Alice Orthopaedic Hospital as Principal Specialist.

From 1994 to 1995 was acting head of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery after the resignation of Professor I. Learmonth. After his retirement, he returned to the Red Cross Childrens' Hospital in a part-time capacity, concentrating on cerebral palsied children

He was elected to the Executive Committee of the SAOA in 1975, served as its Secretary for four years from 1981, and was Secretary to the Organizing Committee of the 1982 Combined Meeting of the Orthopaedic Associations of the English-speaking World. He was elected President of the SAOA in 1985.

After his presidency, he served for four years on the Editorial Committee of the British Volume of the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery.



**1987-1989: Joseph Norman (Jos) Bear,**  
MB,BCh(Wits) FRCS(Ed)  
1928-2003.

Jos Bear matriculated from Durban High School and studied Medicine at Wits, qualifying in 1950. He trained in Orthopaedics at Baragwanath Hospital and the Middlesex Hospital where he was admitted to the FRCS.

On returning to South Africa he took up an appointment at the University of Natal Medical School's Orthopaedic Department, working at the Addington and King Edward VIII hospitals.

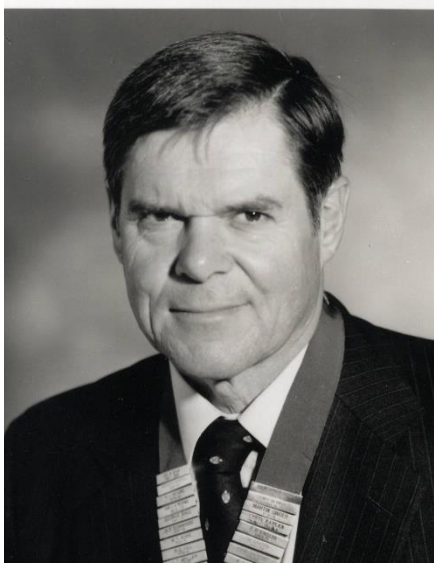
He entered private practice a few years later, retaining his appointments on a part-time basis. He was visiting orthopaedic surgeon to the McCord Zulu Hospital in Durban and also to hospitals at Eshowe, Nongoma, Bethesda, Manguzi, Mseleni and Hlabisa.

He was actively involved in organizing the orthopaedic services to Lesotho with Anton Rupert's flying doctors. His special interest was in paediatric orthopaedic surgery and in surgery of the foot.

He was elected to the National Executive Committee of the SAOA in 1977 and did invaluable service as Honorary Treasurer for 19 years. He was elected President from 1987 to 1989 and was then appointed as the South African representative on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery.

Jos was an unassuming but deeply respected member of the orthopaedic community with a well developed, quiet sense of humour who imparted his orthopaedic wisdom to generations of orthopaedic trainees at the University of Kwazulu Natal.

Outside orthopaedics, he was an active Rotarian for many years.



**1989-1991: Donald Bernard (Don) Mackenzie,**  
MB,ChB(Pret.),M.Med.(Orth)(Pret) FRCS(Edin)  
F.C.S.Orth.(S.A.)  
Born in 1937.

Don Mackenzie graduated from the University of Pretoria in 1961 and worked there for a year as an intern.

After a spell at Addington Hospital he did five years of general practice in the Transkei before starting orthopaedic training in Pretoria in 1969.

He was admitted to the FRCS.(Edin.) in 1971 and was orthopaedic registrar to Mr M.A.R. Freeman at the London Hospital in 1974. He then worked under

Professor John Charnley at Wrightington.

He was the deputy leader of the South African Travelling Fellows Group to North America in May 1975.

He entered private practice in Pretoria and was elected to the Executive Committee of the South African Orthopaedic Association in 1985, becoming its President from 1989 to 1991. After his Presidency he relocated to Port Elizabeth to continue private practice.

His special interest is shoulder and elbow surgery and he was the Inaugural President of the South African Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons Association from 1990 to 1995.

He was honoured with Life Membership of the SAOA.





**1991-1993 Stephanus Naude (Fanus) du Toit,**  
MB,ChB(UCT), MCh (Orth)(L'pool)  
Born in 1937.

After matriculating at Paarl Boys' High School, he qualified MB.ChB. at the University of Cape Town and did his internship there in 1963.

Fanus then moved to New York where he spent three years as an Orthopaedic Resident at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and then a further 18 months as Fellow in Orthopaedic Surgery in Galveston, Texas.

He spent a year of study in Liverpool, graduating there as MCh (Orth).

After a six-month spell as General Surgical Registrar in Durban, he commenced private orthopaedic practice there in 1970.

He served with enthusiasm on the Executive Committee of the SAOA from July 1973 to 1994, and was President from 1991 to 1993.

During his presidency, he motivated successfully for the SAOA Trust monies to be invested in fixed property. The premises, in Durban, became the first location of the SAOA Secretariat which was subsequently moved to Bloemfontein.

He has many interests outside orthopaedics. In rugby, he was a league player, then a referee, and is now Consultant to the Natal Sharks team. Other interests are birding, wildlife photography, woodwork and genealogy.



**1993-1995: Jacob Jozua (Jos) van Niekerk,**  
MB, Ch.B M.Med(Chir)(Pret)  
Born in 1937.

Jos van Niekerk, the son of a doctor, matriculated at Heidelberg. He qualified MB.Ch.B at the University of Pretoria and then did a year of housemanship and a year of senior housemanship at the Academic Hospital in Pretoria.

After working as a medical officer in Germiston he returned to Pretoria as an orthopaedic registrar and qualified as M.Med(Chir) in 1967. During that year he was part of a Cripple Care overseas travelling group to orthopaedic centres

in the UK.

In 1968 he entered private practice in Johannesburg and was appointed Visiting Orthopaedic Surgeon to the Boksburg Benoni Hospital (now Oliver Tambo Memorial Hospital) where he served from 1969 to 1992.

From 1969, he served the Southern Transvaal Branch of the SAOA, first as Secretary and then as Chairman. He was SAOA Congress Chairman in 1981. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the SAOA in 1977, chaired the Fees and Salaries Subcommittee, and became President in 1993.

He was Chairman of the Representative Association of Surgical Disciplines from 1989 to 2001.

His special interest has always been foot and ankle surgery and he was a founding member and first President of the South African Foot Surgeons Association from 1998 to 2000.

He delivered the prestigious F.P.Fouche Lecture in 2007.

He was awarded the South African Orthopaedic Association's highest honour, Honorary Life Membership, and received the SAOA Medal for exceptional service to the profession in 2011.

Outside orthopaedics, he has been on the medical committee of the Transvaal Rugby (Golden Lions) from 1972. His many other interests include classical music, history, golf, birding, game spotting and fly-fishing.



**1995-1997: James Bertin Craig,**  
MB,BCh.(Wits), FRCS(Edin). FCS (Orth)(SA)

Born in 1947.

The son of an eminent orthopaedic surgeon, James Craig had his schooling in Johannesburg and graduated in Medicine from the University of Witwatersrand in 1970.

After varied Senior House Officer appointments, he was admitted to the FRCS Glasgow and Edinburgh.

He then trained in orthopaedics on the registrar rotation at Wits and was admitted to FCS(Orth) in 1979.

He commenced working as a Consultant at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in 1979, and won a spine fellowship at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, in 1981.

He was ABC Travelling Fellow in 1984. And entered private practice in Johannesburg in 1985.

He was elected to the Executive Committee of the South African Orthopaedic Association 1986 and became its President in 1995.

He wrote many articles and delivered many lectures. One of these was the Jimmy Craig Lecture, named after his father, to the Paediatric Orthopaedic Society

Outside orthopaedics, he is active in the Scout movement and in church affairs, and enjoys tennis and golf.



**1997-1999: Robert B. (Robbie) Snowdowne,**  
MB,Ch.B(Pret), M.Med(Orth)(Pret)  
1939-2006.

*Further details of his career as Professor at Bloemfontein appear on p 53.*

Robert Snowdowne was the son of a doctor.

After leaving school, he first trained as a prosthetist and orthotist, but soon proceeded to study Medicine at the University of Pretoria where he graduated in 1967.

He went on to orthopaedic training in Pretoria, and graduated there M.Med.Orth in 1975.

In 1978 he was honoured with selection as the South African ABC Travelling Fellow, visiting prominent orthopaedic centres in the United Kingdom and USA.

In 1979 he was appointed as Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, and served there with distinction until 2004

He served on the Executive Committee of the South African Orthopaedic Association from 1981 to 2000 and was elected President from 1997 to 1999.

He was active in the affairs of the College of Medicine and served with distinction as Examiner and Board member of the Orthopaedic College of South Africa. He was on the Editorial Board of the British volume of the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery.

Robert was awarded the South African Orthopaedic Association's highest honour, Honorary Life Membership.

His lifelong hobby was the making and driving of miniature steam trains.



**1999-2001: Gert J. Vlok,**  
MB,ChB(Stell) M.Med.(Orth)(Stell) FCOOrth (SA)  
Born in 1945.

*Further details of his career as Professor at Stellenbosch appear on p 48.*

After his schooling in Malmesbury he studied Medicine at the University of Stellenbosch where he graduated MB ChB. in in 1970,

Having completed his internship there, Gert did seven months of general practice and then single-mindedly pursued a career in orthopaedic surgery.

He trained as Registrar at the Karl Bremer Hospital, where he graduated M.Med in Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Stellenbosch in 1977 and was appointed Specialist Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Tygerberg Hospital.

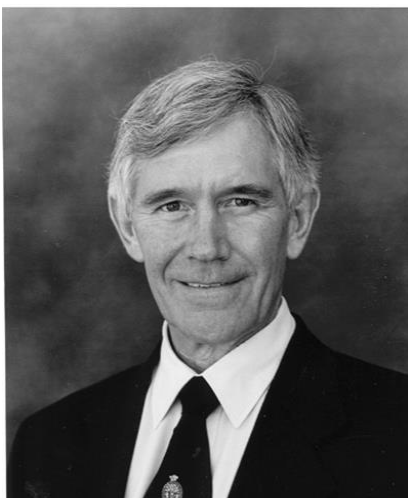
He was appointed to the Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1984, and at the time of writing he has occupied that post with distinction for 27 years.

In the SA Orthopaedic Association, he became Secretary and then Chairman of the Western Cape Branch in 1988. He was elected to the National Executive Committee in 1994, is Chairman of the Academic Standards and Awards Subcommittee and was elected President from 1999 to 2001.

He has been very active in the SA College of Orthopaedic Surgery, acting as Convener of the orthopaedic examinations and has been its President since 2002.

He was Founder Member and later President of the SA Spine Society.

A born teacher, he has run too many educational courses and seminars to enumerate here. His long and productive career has been one of achievement through diligence and tireless attention to detail, and the Orthopaedic Association has conferred on him its highest honour, Life Membership.



**2001 - 2003: Anton Schepers,**  
MB,BCh(Wits), FRCS(Edin),. FCS.(Orth)(SA)  
Born in 1945

After his schooling in Cape Town and Johannesburg, Anton Schepers studied Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg, where he qualified in 1967. He proceeded to surgical and orthopaedic training on the Wits registrar circuit, being admitted to the FCS.Orth(SA) in 1975.

He won a Fellowship in Paediatric Orthopaedics and Scoliosis Surgery in Boston in 1977.

Returning to Johannesburg he was appointed in succeeding years to consultant posts in the Johannesburg Hospital, the Baragwanath Hospital, the Transvaal Memorial Hospital for

Children and others. Developing a prodigious academic output with a special interest in paediatric orthopaedic surgery and arthroplasty, he has presented a constant flow of papers at South African and international congresses and has been author or co-author of numerous articles and abstracts in peer-reviewed journals. He won several prizes for poster exhibitions and presentation of papers at congresses. He has been invited as faculty member to instructional courses and chairman of scientific sessions in South Africa, the UK, America, Australia and New Zealand. He was Guest Editor of the South African Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery in 1995, 1996, 1999 and 2001. He presented the J.G Craig Memorial Lecture to the SA Paediatric Orthopaedic Society and in 2006 and delivered the prestigious F.P. Fouche lecture at the SAOA Annual congress. He was co-recipient of the American Otto Aufranc prize 2007 for a paper on ceramic hip prostheses. He has appeared regularly as examiner for higher degrees at the universities and at the College of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

In the Orthopaedic Association, Anton became Secretary of the Gauteng South Branch in 1989 and Chairman in 2001. He was President of the Arthroplasty Society from 2005 to 2009. He was elected to the National Executive Committee in 2003, serving as Honorary Treasurer and later Chairman of the Educational Standards Subcommittee. He was elected as President in 2003.

He became Secretary of the College of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1994 and was elected as its President in 2008. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, he was made Professor of Orthopaedics at Wits in 2004. The SA Orthopaedic Association honoured him with Life Membership in 2009, and the same honour was bestowed on him by the College of Orthopaedic Surgeons in 2010.

Outside orthopaedics, his favourite pursuits are hiking, road running and tennis.



**2003-2005: Lou vanWyk,**  
MB,ChB(Pret) MMed(Orth)(Pret)  
Born in 1951.

Lou van Wyk had his schooling in Potchefstroom before proceeding to the University of Pretoria where he qualified MB.ChB in 1976.

He then undertook orthopaedic training in the registrar circuit there and graduated M Med(Orth), in 1986.

He stayed on as a full-time consultant at the Kalafong Hospital in Pretoria

After this he proceeded to Gander, Newfoundland.

In 1998 he returned to engage in private practice in Pretoria while working as a part-time consultant at the Kalafong Hospital.

From 1994 to 2000 he worked as a part-time consultant at 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria, specializing in joint replacement surgery

He showed a flair for organization and served as Secretary of the Northern Gauteng Branch of the SAOA in 1998, becoming its Chairman in 1991.

He chaired the SAOA Congress Committee in 1991.

In 1992 he was elected to the Executive Committee of the SAOA and served with distinction as its President from 2003 to 2005.

He has since been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the SAOA Trust.

His main interests are hip and knee replacement surgery, with a limited interest in foot surgery,

He is a keen golfer and tennis player.



**2005-2007: Daniel Francois (Poen) Louw,**  
MBCh.B(Stell) M.Med(Orth)(UOFS)  
Born in 1943.

Poen Louw had his schooling in Cradock and went on to Medical School at the University of Stellenbosch, where he graduated in 1966.

After his intern year and a further year as medical officer in Uitenhage he became the first trainee on the orthopaedic registrar circuit in Bloemfontein and graduated M Med.Orth there in 1974.

After five years in private practice in Bloemfontein, he became Chief Specialist and Head of the Orthopaedic Department at No 3 Military Hospital, Bloemfontein where he remained until his retirement in 2008.

He was then appointed to the University of Bloemfontein Department of Orthopaedics as Senior Lecturer.

In his profession, he has remained a vigorous orthopaedic generalist, with a special interest in spinal surgery

During his career in Bloemfontein, he soon became involved with the Orthopaedic Association, serving it with zest and vigour for over three decades. He started as Secretary and later Chairman of the Free State and Northern Cape Branch, being involved with the organisation of various SAOA congresses. He was elected onto the Executive Committee of the SAOA in 1996 and soon wrote the revised edition of Jan van der Merwe's *Congress Instructional Manual* ("Pampoen Boek").

He was elected SAOA President in 2005 and while in office he wrote a *Guide to Ethical Orthopaedic Practice* which was adopted by EXCO for use as a guideline for members of the Association.

He went on to write a third publication, on *Radiation Safety for Orthopaedic Surgeons*, which was distributed to members in 2008.

He was awarded the SAOA Medal for outstanding service to the profession in 2011, and has been elected a Life Member of the SAOA



**2007-09: Dick Ronald van der Jagt,**  
MB,BCh (Wits), FCS(Orth)(SA)  
Born 1952

Dick van der Jagt graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1976, and then completed his specialist training at the Johannesburg Hospital circuit, being admitted to the FCS.Orth(SA) in 1993. He then completed a Fellowship in Lower Limb Arthroplasty Surgery at the Johannesburg Hospital and continued on the full-time staff in the Adult Reconstructive Unit at the Johannesburg Hospital until 1999. He then entered private practice in Johannesburg with an accent on lower limb arthroplasty surgery. He continued as part-time Consultant in the Arthroplasty Unit taking a particular interest in teaching registrars and conducting clinical research. He has read papers to each Annual Congress of the SAOA since 1995 and has many publications to his name. He has presented numerous scientific papers and posters at meetings in Europe and America. His academic honours include being awarded the Otto Aufranc Award by the American Hip Society in 2007. He became Secretary of the South African Arthroplasty Society and was its President from 1999 to 2001. He serves on the Executive of the South African Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis. He has been involved in Outreach activities throughout his professional career and with Prof. Klaas Maritz helped establish the East, Central and Southern African Orthopaedic Association in Lusaka in 2001.

In 1999 he was elected to the Executive of the SAOA, carrying the portfolio of Fees and Salaries. He was also active in the Outreach and Educational Standards Subcommittees. He established the SAOA website and developed the e-Bulletin as an effective communication tool within the SAOA. With Prof. Anton Schepers he initiated the SA



Orthopaedic Implant Register, following international trends in tracking the outcomes of orthopaedic implants.

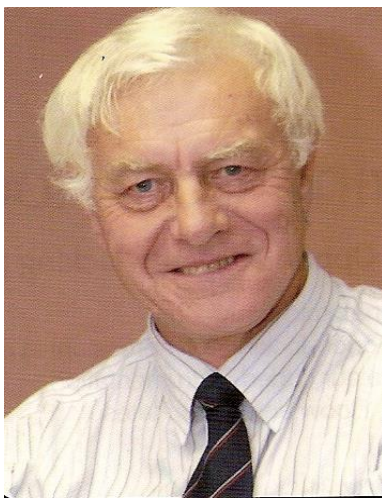
As President he formalized the SAOA's relationship with SAMED, the representative body of the Orthopaedic Trades Industry, establishing a structured Liaison Committee. He initiated the development of a formal qualification for trade representatives, to continue allowing them access to the theatre environment.

During his Presidency the Executive initiated two new awards to recognize outstanding contributions from members. The SAOA Medal was instituted to honour those who had made a special contribution to Orthopaedics in South Africa, and the SAOA Education Medal was established to honour outstanding educators.

He has been honoured with Life Membership by the SAOA  
Outside Orthopaedics, Dick is an avid photographer.

## **CHANGES TO THE PRESIDENTIAL TERM OF OFFICE**

For many years the Executive Committee debated the number of years that a president should hold office. Initially, two years was the obvious period because there were not many members for the Association to choose from. In 2009, the Executive decided that the membership of the SAOA was large enough to offer sufficient presidential talent for a change to be made to the one-year term of office adopted by our sister organizations. Other cogent reasons for the change included the large amount of presidential travel that was imposing an increasing drain on the time and income of the incumbent and could discourage top people from accepting the office. Accordingly, the Constitution was changed to appoint the President for one year only, with the option of a second year if he was willing and if he was elected. As a result, Dick van der Jagt was the last President of the SAOA to serve a two-year term of office.



**2009-2010: John Shipley,**  
MB,ChB(UCT) MMed(Orth)(UOFS)  
Born in 1947.

*An account of his career as Professor in Bloemfontein appears on p 54.*

John Shipley was the first President whose term of office ran for one year.

Born in England, he qualified in Medicine at the University of Cape Town, after which he worked at Groote Schuur Hospital and Mpilo Hospital, Bulawayo.

He proceeded to train in Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of the Orange Free State where he graduated M.Med.Orth. in 1981.

He worked as part-time Consultant at the University Hospital there while engaging in private practice until his appointment as Professor and Head of Department in 2004.

With a special interest in spine surgery, he is a Past President of the S.A.Spine Society.

He was elected to the Executive of the South African Orthopaedic Association in 1984 and became its Honorary Secretary in 1985.. He was Vice President in 2008, and was President from 2009 to 2010.



**2010-2011 Mthunzi Victor Ngcelwane,**  
MB,ChB(Natal) MSc Orth.(Lond).FCS(Orth)(SA)  
Born in 1957

*An account of his career as Professor in Pretoria appears on p 45.*

Professor Ngcelwane studied Medicine at the University of Natal and qualified in 1980.

He joined the orthopaedic registrar rotation in Durban, won the prestigious Smith and Nephew Travelling Fellowship while there, and earned the FCS.Orth(SA). in 1988.

He was appointed Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon to the King Edward VIII Hospital in Durban.

He proceeded to London, where he worked at the Institute of Orthopaedics and graduated MSc.Orth. in 1990.

He moved to Port Elizabeth where he engaged in private practice while heading the Department of Orthopaedics at Livingstone Hospital. He engaged in teaching, organized three academic symposia and chaired the Congress Committee for the 51<sup>st</sup> Congress of the SAOA in 2005.

He was elected onto the SAOA Executive Committee in 1999.

His appointment as Professor and Head of Department at the University of Pretoria in 2010 and his election as President of the SAOA in the same year were richly deserved.

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