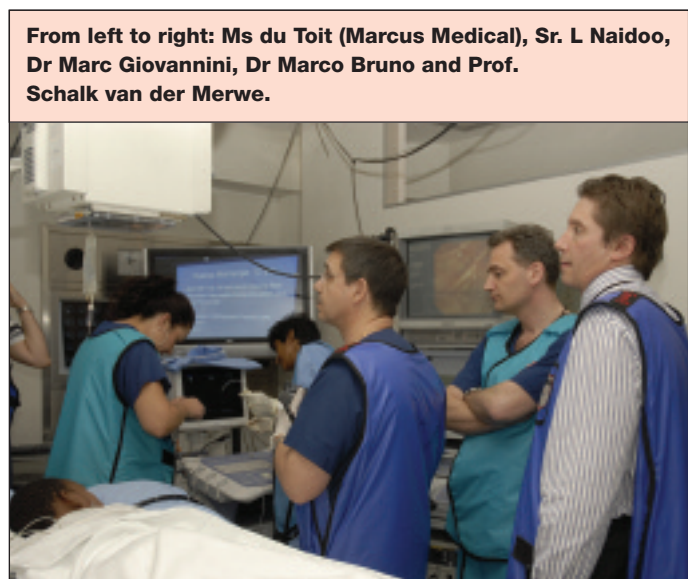


# Highlights of the Inaugural SAGES Endoscopy Congress March '08

The meeting got under way on Thursday 27th of March with the Small-group Discussions. The EUS talks were led by Marc Giovannini and Marco Bruno, the SMD group by Pradeep Bhandari and Georg Kahler, the Advanced ERCP group by Alessandro Repici, the Abdominal US course by Joerg Reigenberger and the team from Toshiba, and on Sat morning, Chris Mulder led the discussion on Double Balloon Enteroscopy. One of our guests (E. Mostafa), had unfortunately cancelled his participation the night before the meeting. The feed-back I got from the overseas faculty was that they liked this format of informal interaction with a small group of delegates and there was ample opportunity for question and answer time for the participants. I trust that the talks met the expectations of the delegates, and that the goal of bringing the latest developments in these areas was met.

For the next two and a half days, we enjoyed the live endoscopy demonstrations from 4 procedure rooms, while the audience sat in the comfort of the auditorium. Patient recruitment was done by myself and Schalk van der Merwe, and cases were referred by colleagues in Johannesburg and Pretoria and surrounding areas, including the Pretoria Academic Hospital. In total 30 live cases were demonstrated to the audience, with full 2-way audio and visual communication, enabling all questions to be shared in both directions.

Room 1 was the screening room, in which ERCP, Esophageal stenting, and EUS was performed. The delegates witnessed the expertise of Marco Bruno and Marc Giovannini, who were excellent teachers in this field. EUS staging, FNA and stenting of Esophageal and Pancreatic tumors was performed. Endoscopic management of Chronic Pancreatitis,



**From left to right: Ms du Toit (Marcus Medical), Sr. L Naidoo, Dr Marc Giovannini, Dr Marco Bruno and Prof. Schalk van der Merwe.**

including the removal of pancreatic stones in a 12 year old child was seen. Pancreatic cyst drainage by means of ERCP and EUS was performed.

Room 2 was a general upper and lower GI endoscopy suite, in which various cases of polyp removal were demonstrated, and Barretts chromoendoscopy performed.

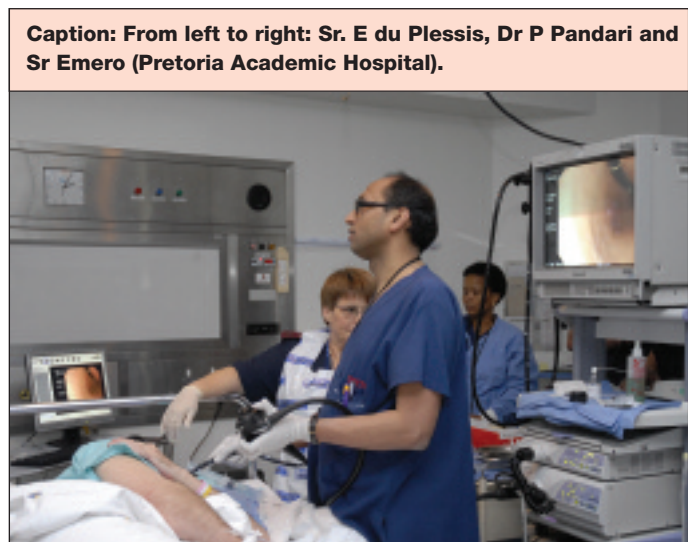
Room 3 housed an EUS facility in which many cases of diagnosis and therapeutic procedures were performed, including Esophageal Ca staging , Sub-mucosal tumor classification, characterization of cystic tumors of the pancreas,



**Dr. Chris Ziady**



**Prof Schalk van der Merwe**



**Caption: From left to right: Sr. E du Plessis, Dr P Pandari and Sr Emero (Pretoria Academic Hospital).**

palliative Coeliac plexus neurolysis, and FNA of tumors.

Room 4 brought cases of Double Balloon enteroscopy to the audience, as well as the expertise of Chris Mulder in therapy of Zenker Diverticulae, in which he has experience of more than 700 cases. The DBE cases were performed by Dr Neo Seabi from Johannesburg General Hospital under Chris Mulder's guidance. She was one of the many South African delegates to have benefited from the Dutch collaboration and received her DBE training under Chris Mulder in Amsterdam.

In addition, on Saturday morning, we witnessed Prof Martin Smith and Prof Sandie Thomson performing a Pancreatico-Duodenectomy on a patient with an IPMN tumor which had been characterized by EUS the previous day, as well as a complex case of Bile Duct injury, on whom PTC stenting was demonstrated by Pieter Fourie from the Interventional Radiologic theatre.

The outstanding aspects of the meeting were undoubtedly the expertise of the faculty, in every respect. We saw the ERBE Flush system in operation for the first time in SA, used by Georg Kahler to apply sub-mucosal injections to safely and

effectively raise sessile polyps in the bowel to facilitate resection or snare removal. Each and every case was a learning experience for us in the audience. The outstanding audio-visual service provided by DJ was a notable feature of the meeting, without which we would not have had the ability to effectively communicate the cases demonstrated.

I'm sure that all who attended the Congress benefited immensely. It was a particularly challenging event to organize, but Schalk and I are willing to do it again if called on by SAGES.

A final word of thanks to the supportive industry and Unitas hospital. Without the trade we could not have hosted this or any other similar event. Thank you all for not only financially assisting the Congress, but also for all the hours of work, discussions, suggestions, help in planning and encouragement, to make a success of the occasion.

**Chris Ziady**

SAGES President