



# ***FIRST DELEGATE ANNOUNCEMENT***

**27<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL  
CONGRESS OF THE  
SOUTH AFRICAN  
ARTHROPLASTY  
SOCIETY**



**Wednesday 06 – Friday 08 May 2026 • CCCC, Cape Town**

# INVITATION AND CALL FOR PAPERS



## Message from the Congress Chairman

**We are excited to host the next South African Arthroplasty Society conference at Century City, Cape Town on the 6th-8th May, 2026.**

**Our conference theme is: “Controversies in Arthroplasty”**

*I know it is often a challenge for our Surgeons to get to the International meetings so we intend to make our Congress up to date and informative, keeping our Arthroplasty at the cutting edge of World Orthopaedics.*

Our Arthroplasty conference is the highlight of the Orthopaedic calendar, and a great opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues from around the country.

We have already secured many of the World Leaders in Arthroplasty in our International faculty, and we look forward to exploring and debating the controversies that exist in Arthroplasty in our exciting programme.

We are privileged to have Master Storyteller, **Michael Charton** as our Guest Speaker. He is sure to keep us spellbound with an inspiring perspective on South African history.

Amongst our Arthroplasty Speakers, we have **Prof. Javad Parvizi, Mr. Stephen Jones, Prof. Johan Bellemans, Dr. Stephen Howell, Mr. William Jackson** and many more modern day legends of Arthroplasty, to ensure our congress is a highlight in the world Arthroplasty calendar.

We will introduce all our Speakers to you over the coming months.

Our topic Controversies in Arthroplasty is sure to spark open and lively debate.

Challenging perspectives and thoughtful discussion are what drives progress and next years conference promises plenty of both.

I encourage you all to get cracking with your Arthroplasty research and get your Abstracts ready.

We will be opening abstract submissions from November 2025.

This is going to be a congress to remember, so please join us and add us to your 2026 calendar today.

See you in Cape Town, in May 2026.

**Robert Barrow**  
**President**

*South African Arthroplasty Society*



## CONGRESS FORMAT

|           |            |                                                    |
|-----------|------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 6 May 2026 | Full day congress and networking function (onsite) |
| Thursday  | 7 May 2026 | Full day congress and free evening                 |
| Friday    | 8 May 2026 | Full day congress and closing                      |

## VENUE

*The congress venue will be the Century City Conference Centre (CCCC)*

**Contact person:** Tasneem Davids

**Telephone:** 021 204 8000

**Email:** [tasneem.d@ccconferencecentre.co.za](mailto:tasneem.d@ccconferencecentre.co.za)

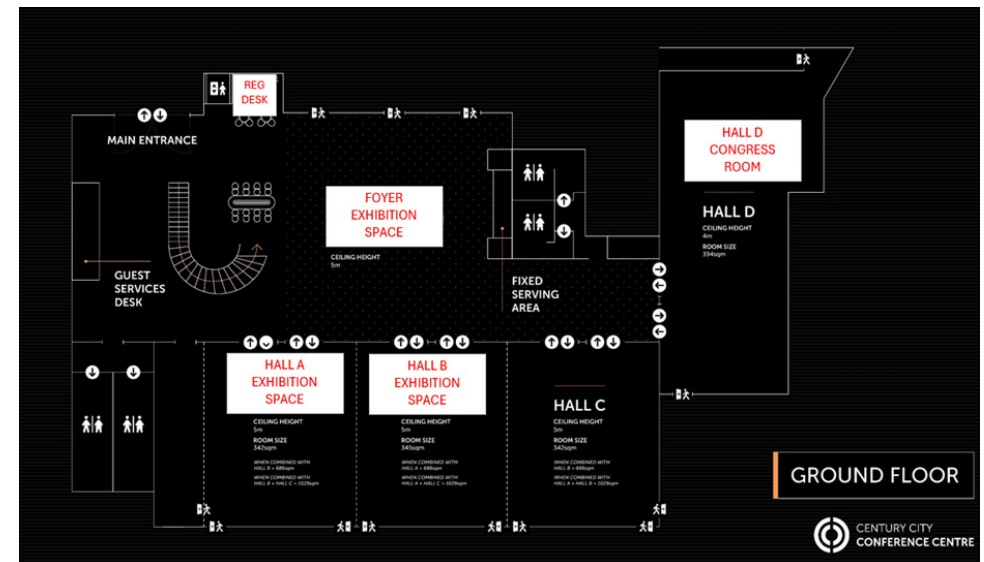
**Address :** No 4 Energy Lane, Century City, Cape Town

**Website:** [www.ccconferencecentre.co.za](http://www.ccconferencecentre.co.za)

### Venue Layout

SAAS has booked the full ground floor of Century City Conference Centre.

- Registration will be in the alcove adjacent to the main entrance of CCCC
- The exhibition area will be in the foyer and Halls A & B
- Congress sessions will take place in Hall D



# INVITED INTERNATIONAL FACULTY



*Prof Javad Parvizi*

Dr. Javad Parvizi, a world-renowned orthopedic surgeon, researcher, and educator with a career spanning over 25 years. As Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Acibadem University in Istanbul, Dr. Parvizi brings his expertise in hip joint preservation, periprosthetic joint infection, and venous thromboembolism to his new role. His extensive experience includes a track record of over 10,000 surgical procedures, with a notable expertise in performing over 1,000 hip joint preservation surgeries. Dr. Parvizi has earned worldwide recognition for his pioneering work in the management of periprosthetic joint infection and venous thromboembolism.

Prior to joining Acibadem University, he served as the Director and Vice Chair of Research at the Rothman Institute. During his illustrious career, he has authored over 1,000 peer-reviewed scientific articles (with an H-index of 143 and a world ranking of 1302), penned 18 textbooks, and garnered over 100 awards from prestigious medical organizations worldwide. Dr. Parvizi has a stellar track record of securing research funding from prominent institutions, including the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, Orthopedic Research and Education Foundation, Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation, and the Arthritis Foundation.



## INVITED INTERNATIONAL FACULTY



### *Dr Karina Bohlen*

Dr. Karina E. Bohlen, MBA is a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon specialising in primary and revision knee arthroplasty.

She graduated in medicine from the University of Hamburg in 2003, completed her MD thesis in 2008 and obtained board certification in orthopaedics and trauma surgery in 2010. She further advanced her training through a Clinical

Fellowship in **Knee and Hip Arthroplasty (primary/revision/computer navigation)** at the Golden Jubilee National Hospital in Glasgow.

From 2011 to 2022 Dr. Bohlen worked as Consultant in the Centre for Arthroplasty at the Schön Klinik Hamburg Eilbek. Since 2022 she has been **Senior Consultant and Deputy Head of the Department of General Orthopaedics and Arthroplasty**, where she also leads the **Certified Arthroplasty Centre of Excellence (EndoCert, maximum care level)**. She performs several hundred procedures annually, covering the entire spectrum of knee arthroplasty, from unicompartmental and total replacements to complex aseptic and septic revisions.

Since 2022, Dr. Bohlen has also become a leading expert in robotic-assisted knee surgery. Using the Cori robotic system. Her practice is defined by precision, patient-specific implant positioning, and optimised long-term clinical outcomes.

In addition to her clinical expertise, Dr. Bohlen has extensive experience in the **design and implementation of Enhanced Recovery programmes in arthroplasty**, which have contributed to optimising perioperative pathways, reducing complications and improving patient outcomes. She also holds an **MBA in Healthcare Management** (University of Hamburg, 2015), providing strong expertise in medical leadership, process optimisation, and organisational development alongside her clinical work.

As of **1 January 2026**, she will take up the role of **Head of Orthopaedics, Trauma and Sports Medicine and Director of the Certified Arthroplasty Centre of Excellence (maximum care level)** at the **Elbeklinikum Buxtehude**.



### *Prof Linda Suleiman*

Linda I. Suleiman, MD is an associate professor in the department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Medical Education at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

She specializes in hip and knee replacement and reconstruction and serves as Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion.

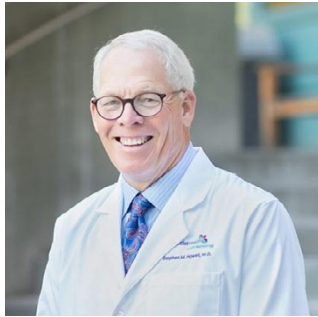
She earned her undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree in Physiology and Neurobiology from the University of Maryland. Dr. Suleiman graduated from Howard University College of Medicine and went on to complete her orthopaedic surgery residency at Northwestern University where she was the first Black woman to graduate from the program.

During her time there, she developed her interest for advocacy both through leadership, research and diversity and inclusion in graduate medical education. She was recognized and awarded the Marco Ellis Legacy Award for Diversity Initiatives and the Brian Hartigan, MD Memorial Award for Excellence in teaching and patient care.

After completing her joint replacement fellowship at Rush she returned to Northwestern and went on to complete a two year Health Policy Fellowship with the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS). Her research interests are in disparities in access and outcomes in hip and knee replacement.

She currently is in the presidential line for the Ruth Jackson Orthopaedic Society and will be the first woman of color. .

## INVITED INTERNATIONAL FACULTY



### *Dr Stephen Howell*

Dr. Howell is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon practicing in Sacramento and Lodi. He joined Adventist Health Lodi Memorial with more than three decades of experience as a clinician, researcher, and innovator in total knee replacement (TKR), anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction, and meniscal surgery.

For the last 24 years Dr. Howell studied the biomechanics of the knee at the University of California, Davis as an Adjunct Professor of Biomedical Engineering in collaboration with Distinguished Professor Maury Hull, PhD. These investigations led to the publication of more than 140 scientific articles that advanced the understanding and treatment of patients with degenerative arthritis of the knee, and tears of the anterior cruciate ligament and menisci. Truly a leader in his field, Dr. Howell is known for his professional manner and care for his patients.

He completed his medical degree at Northwestern University and then completed his orthopedic residency at Thomas Jefferson University.

He is a retired military professional who served our country during such critical times as Operation Desert Storm. Dr. Howell has been married 36 years to Lydia Pleotis Howell, M.D. who is the chairperson of the Department of Pathology at UC Davis. They have two daughters, Stephanie who works at LinkedIn and Stacey who is a third-year resident in internal medicine at UC Davis.

When not seeing patients or operating, Dr. Howell likes to fly-fish and play a bit of golf. He stays active by walking, swimming, and cycling.

Dr. Howell has trained physicians on five continents and worked together with industry experts to offer the exciting approach to total knee replacement (TKR) called kinematic alignment. This alignment method for TKR is an innovative technique he developed in 2005 to improve placement of the orthopedic implants that form the new knee, resulting in more consistency and reliability in patient outcomes.



### *Prof Sebastien Lustig*

Sébastien Lustig is a hip and knee reconstructive surgeon and Professor of Orthopaedics Surgery at Lyon North University Hospitals in Lyon, France.

He is Chair of the Orthopaedic Department, Director of the Orthopaedic program at Lyon University and has published over 400 peer reviewed articles.

He is executive board member of ISAKOS, second president elect of EKS (European Knee Society) and president of the French hip and Knee Society (FHKS).



### *Prof Stefano Bini*

Dr. Bini is a professor of clinical orthopedics at UCSF with an interest in advancing total knee replacement, robotics, outcomes measurements, and hip tendon repairs. His interest in Digital Health led to the founding of the UCSF Digital Orthopaedics Conference San Francisco (DOCSF) and his serving as CTO for the department. Dr. Bini has delivered over 300 lectures, published over

70 research articles and received over 2 dozen awards. He serves as a reviewer or editor for academic journals. Prior to UCSF, Dr. Bini worked at Kaiser Permanente where he held several leadership positions.

## INVITED INTERNATIONAL FACULTY



### *Mr Stephen Jones*

Stephen was appointed in 2005 as a Specialist Adult Hip Surgeon in Cardiff & Vale University Health Board. Since that time his practice has exclusively involved hip surgery, and he is recognized as a high-volume Primary & Revision Arthroplasty Surgeon.

He is Past-President of the British Hip Society and served on the executive for almost a

decade. He is a member of the International Hip Society. His leadership roles span both education and research and have included the National MSK Research Lead for Healthcare Wales. Personally, Stephen has been co-applicant on over £4.5M in grant funding that covers both clinical outcome and basic science studies.

He has a master's degree in Orthopaedic Engineering and is actively involved implant design of both primary hip and revision replacement implants. This has been from first concept through to successful market launch and subsequent clinical surveillance studies.



### *Mr William Jackson*

William Jackson is an experienced Specialist knee surgeon in Oxford.

He was appointed as a consultant at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in 2008. The NOC is one of 4 dedicated specialist orthopaedic units in the UK.

He undertook Fellowship training at the North Sydney Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Centre in Australia followed by a 2nd fellowship in Oxford.

He has published widely on a wide range of issues surrounding knee problems and treatment. He trains knee surgeons and has fellows that come and work with him from around the world.

He has an interest in improving outcomes after knee arthroplasty, including use of partial knee arthroplasty and Kinematic Alignment. Half his practice involves younger patients and he has a wide experience in dealing with sports injuries, including multi-ligament injuries.

Website: [www.oxfordkneegroup.com](http://www.oxfordkneegroup.com)



## INVITED INTERNATIONAL FACULTY



### *Prof Lee Jeys*

Prof Lee Jeys MB ChB, MSc (Orth. Eng), DSc, FRCS (T&O), Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham, UK

Prof Lee Jeys is an Orthopaedic surgeon specialising in Orthopaedic Oncology and complex lower limb arthroplasty including periprosthetic joint infection from Birmingham, UK.

He is clinical lead of the Oncology unit at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, honorary Professor of Life and Health Sciences at Aston University and president elect of the British Orthopaedic Oncology Society.

He went to medical school at Liverpool University, completed his training in Yorkshire before undertaking an Arthroplasty fellowship at Wrightington Hospital, Oncology fellowship at the ROH and a BOA travelling fellowship, visiting several units in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Australia and Europe.

He obtained a MSc in Orthopaedic Engineering and a DSc with his thesis 'Improving Patient Outcomes by Innovation and Collaboration in Orthopaedic Oncology & Complex Arthroplasty'. He has been a former Chair of National Cancer Research Institute Sarcoma Clinical Studies Group and board member of European Society of Musculoskeletal Oncology. He lectures internationally on both Oncology and Arthroplasty, a visiting Professor in many units and has on average published a paper per month since being appointed as a consultant.

He lives on a farm in rural Worcestershire with his partner and young daughter, whilst his 3 grown up children study Law, Engineering and Philosophy at university. Once a decent high jumper, water polo player and marathon runner, he now mainly contemplates his growing navel but can be stirred into sporting action occasionally.



### *Mr Herv Vidakovic*

MBChB, PgDipSurgAnat (Dist), FRACS (Orth), MFSTEd, FRCS (T&O)

Mr Vidakovic is currently an Orthopaedic Consultant, Revision arthroplasty/Lower limb reconstruction at the NHS Golden Jubilee National Hospital, Glasgow, United Kingdom.

I am a New Zealand trained orthopaedic surgeon, and a fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. I am principally employed as a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Golden Jubilee University National Hospital in Clydebank. My subspecialist expertise is in hip, knee and shoulder pathology, with a particular interest in complex reconstruction and revision arthroplasty, periprosthetic fracture care, and the management of pathology in the young adult patient group. At present my annual operative volume includes approximately 400 joint replacements, including over 40 revision arthroplasty cases.

Thus far in my career I have worked in range of healthcare settings across New Zealand and the United Kingdom. This has afforded me the opportunity to develop a broad and diverse skillset, allowing me to maintain a uniquely broad scope of practice within an arthroplasty focused department.

I have a passion for innovation in orthopaedic practice. I am a keen adopter and developer of novel surgical techniques which improve patient outcomes through tissue preservation, cost effectiveness, and operative efficiency. I am a dedicated educator with a strong track record in surgical education, having been formally recognised for my ongoing contributions, and holding multiple positions of responsibility. I am heavily involved in the teaching of trainees within the West of Scotland region, notably their preparation for the final fellowship exams.

## INVITED INTERNATIONAL FACULTY



### *Prof Johan Bellemans*

Professor Johan Bellemans, MD, PhD, Dr. Med., is former head of the Orthopaedic and Traumatology Department at the Catholic University Hospitals Leuven, and current Consultant Surgeon at the Vesalius Hospital Tongeren Belgium, and medical director of GRIT Sports Clinic and ArthroClinic Leuven.

His practice focusses on primary as well as complex knee surgery, including knee arthroplasty and sports orthopaedics. He holds a Lecturing Chair at Hasselt University Belgium.

His academic career started in 1997 with the public defence of his PhD thesis “Osseointegration in porous coated knee arthroplasty”. At the age of 33, he became the youngest professor in surgery that was ever nominated at the Catholic University Leuven. Several of the recent insights on knee pathology are attributed to him and his group.

His work on the influence of “posterior condylar offset” induced a breakthrough in understanding the frequent problem of limited flexion after knee arthroplasty.

His further work on kinematics of the natural and replaced knee was the basis for many of the contemporary knee arthroplasty designs.

His work on patella alta made doctors understand why this condition causes anterior knee pain, and his discovery in 2013 of the anterolateral ligament of the knee was international headline news all over the world.

His most recent contribution is on limb alignment and knee osteoarthritis, and more specifically the understanding of constitutional alignment and knee phenotypes, as expressed in the CPAK-classification.

Prof. Bellemans is also past-president of the European Knee Society and founding member.

Prof. Bellemans was also the Medical Director of the Belgian Olympic Team for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, and has served also as Medical Director for the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo, the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, the 2012 Olympic Games in London, as well as for the Winter Olympic Games in Pyeong-Chang 2018 and Beijing 2022.

Prof. Bellemans is married to his wife Lieve since 1989, and together they have 3 children, Koen, Inge and Tom, all in their late twenties.

# CALL FOR PAPERS



*Papers can be submitted online (you will see the abstract guidelines online)*

[>>http://www.exbo.co.za/abstracts/index.php?conf=SAAS2026](http://www.exbo.co.za/abstracts/index.php?conf=SAAS2026)

**New:** Upload of ethics approval is not mandatory for research papers, but Submitters must confirm that their research received ethical approval.

## CATEGORIES

Please specify abstract submission categories:

1. KNEE ARTHROPLASTY
2. HIP ARTHROPLASTY
3. GENERAL ARTHROPLASTY

- Talk will be 7 minutes and 3 minutes Q&A (total 10 minutes)
- Important note: Please state the Presenting author as author
- NO posters
- Presenters will be notified of acceptance/rejection of the abstract via e-mail. Presenters of papers must be registered for the Congress. Failure to do so will result in their paper being removed from the programme.
- If you have difficulty, mail the administrator on [caro@exbo.co.za](mailto:caro@exbo.co.za)

## CALLING ALL REGISTRARS, FELLOWS & TRAINEES

FREE REGISTRATION FOR THE SAAS CONGRESS on acceptance of your abstract submission

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **1 November 2025** - Abstract Submissions OPEN
- **28 February 2026** - Abstract Submissions CLOSE

## SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

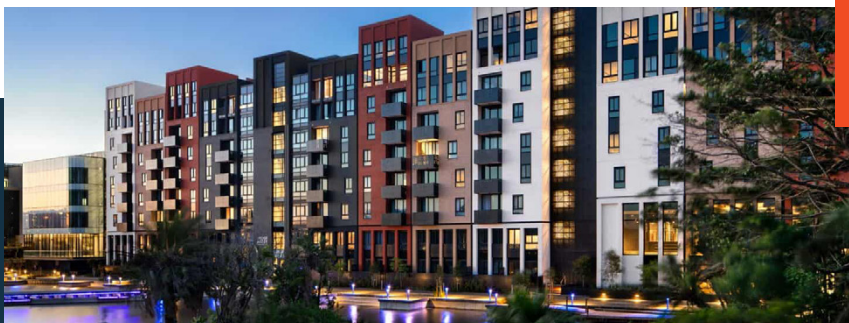
### Wednesday 6 May 2026

The networking cocktail event will be held on site at the Century City Conference Centre at the end of the scientific programme

The cost to attend will be R200.00 per person

# ACCOMMODATION

*Century City Urban Square and Bridgewater Hotels*



[Booking link >>](#)

**Contact person:** Reservations

**Email address:** [reservations@cchotels.co.za](mailto:reservations@cchotels.co.za)

**Address:** 3 Energy Ln, Century City, Cape Town, 7446

**Contact number:** 021 204 8000

**Website:** [www.cchotels.co.za](http://www.cchotels.co.za)

**RATES Urban Square Hotel:**

Single Superior Room – R3025 / Double Superior Room – R3275

**RATES Bridgewater Hotel:**

Single Superior Piazza Facing Room – R2700 / Double Superior Room – R3000

B&B, includes Vat and excludes tourism levy

**Release dates:**

4 March 2026 = 50% release of rooms

4 April 2026 = balance of rooms released



# CONGRESS ORGANISERS



**Robert Barrow**  
SAAS President



**Lipalo Mokete**  
2024 SAAS President



**Jurek Pietrzak**  
SAAS Secretary



**Leana Fourie**  
Secretary and Membership  
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# GENERAL TRANSPORT



## Car Hire

We have arranged special rates on car hire from First Car Rental for our visitors, please click on the link below to book your vehicle

[Click here to book your vehicle](#)

## Airlines



[www.flysafair.co.za](http://www.flysafair.co.za)



[www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com)



<https://www.flyairlink.com/en/>



[www.lift.co.za](http://www.lift.co.za)



[www.flycemair.co.za](http://www.flycemair.co.za)

# CAPE TOWN HIGHLIGHTS

## SAAS PRE AND POST TOURS

### African Eagle Tours will have a desk at the Congress

Please use the link below to get the Congress rates

All delegates need to book and pre pay via the below link as all bookings will immediately be recorded in the system and will automatically receive a 5% discount on the price displayed.

[www.daytours.co.za/en/conferences/saas-2026-congress](http://www.daytours.co.za/en/conferences/saas-2026-congress)

## SOME OPTIONS OF THINGS TO DO IN CAPE TOWN

Winelands – Franschhoek,  
Stellenbosch & Paarl, Constantia

Red bus Sightseeing Tours and City  
tours

V&A Waterfront

Robben Island

Aquila Safari Game Reserve

Cape Point & the penguins at

Table Mountain

Boulders Beach

