

To all members of the IASSID HEALTH SIRG
From Professor Mike Kerr (Chair)

RE: SIRG Contribution to the IASSID Conference 2008, CAPE TOWN, South Africa. (August 2008)

Dear All

I just wanted to drop you all a note to reflect on what seems to be the state of play relating to contributions to the IASSID conference. As most of you are aware these meetings, held every 4 years, represent one of the key showcases for the SIRG. As such they offer an opportunity to stake our scientific position, meet colleagues and to recruit further generations of researchers.

It may seem like an awful long time away but now is the time to begin to plan our contribution.

In summary the scientific committee would be very pleased if we could establish a strong, coordinated, stream of 3 or 4 presentations which I imagine will last approx 1 hour. These will be streamed to ensure they do not overlap. We have been advised that the room is somewhat more limited than in Montpellier so we might as well plan ahead, and consider carefully the options for posters, which will be more than in the past.

I think it would be a very good idea if we could begin to get outlines for such seminars/ presentations. To avoid delay I think we should get things started with the following:

1. SIRG members begin to outline possible seminars and titles with presenters, who we know will be there.
2. Send drafts of these to me at by the end of September and I will collate a potential list and re circulate
3. We will, with the help of the SIRG membership fine tune these before final submission.

In addition we understand that any other free standing papers on Health issues will be directed towards our SIRG for consideration and inclusion in the programme

At the AGM in Prato it was suggested that at least one of the streams be around the medical/carer or consumer interface so that the Health SIRG presentations might be of interest to other groups attending the conference and some committee members have already volunteered to help with this.

The time to start is now so let's make the most of this opportunity to build a great program for Cape Town.

Further details on timings will be posted on the IASSID website in July or August.