



The Practical Edge in Anaesthesia: SASA Acacia Hands-On CPD Day

20 June 2026

The SASA Acacia Branch held its annual **CPD Day** on Saturday, 20 June 2026, at The Capital Menlyn Maine in Pretoria, drawing 185 attendees across the doctors' and nurses' programmes. Of these, 98 were doctors and 87 were nurses, reflecting strong engagement from the full perioperative team and a healthy appetite for practical, skills-based learning. This year's theme, *The Practical Edge in Anaesthesia*, set the tone for the day.

The doctors' programme was specifically designed around small-group workshops to maximise learning and interaction. The workshop topics were chosen with two priorities in mind: techniques with clear day-to-day clinical value and high-yield content for trainees preparing for examinations. Delegates rotated through two sessions, selecting from cardiac output monitoring, processed EEG and its practical applications in everyday anaesthetic practice, awake intubation, and a combined station on ultrasound-guided sphenopalatine block and gastric ultrasound for the assessment of gastric volume.

The teaching faculty was drawn largely from local practitioners, with workshops led by Corbin Lottering, Michael Chacko, Mmapali Mokapela, Unathi Mzinyathi and Nozipho Jiyane (awake intubation); André Retief, Hendrick Maakamedi and Dawid van der Merwe (ultrasound); Daniel Shmukler (processed EEG); and Charlé Steyl and Fatimah Lambat (cardiac output monitoring). The Acacia Committee thanks Daniel and Fatimah for joining us from the Gauteng Branch. The workshops were supported by the following companies: Respiratory Care Africa (cardiac output, ultrasound and awake intubation), Tecmed, Medtronic and Fresenius Kabi (processed EEG). We thank these trade partners for their support. Without them, the stations would not have been such a success.

Alongside the workshops, the doctors' programme included engaging presentations on ethics in anaesthesia by Dr Karl Botman, personalised anaesthesia by Dr Fatima Hoosen, and an introduction to pharmacogenomics testing by Dr Karmishtha Maharaj. These forward-looking topics complemented the practical focus of the day.

The nurses' programme ran in parallel and addressed the practical realities of theatre nursing. Dr Kerissa Moodley presented on the prevention and management of drug errors, complemented by Dr Ursula Schoeler's presentation on the recognition and management of anaphylaxis and Dr Justin Marais's talk on anaesthetic preparation for malignant



hyperthermia-susceptible patients. Dr Hugo Minnaar presented a practical session on cell saver setup and preparation, which was well received by delegates. Sr Stephina Kutama gave an insightful presentation on approaching the impaired practitioner. Dr Botman also presented his talk on ethics in anaesthetic practice to the nursing delegates, where it was very well received.

The CPD Day would not have been possible without the generous support of our trade partners. Twenty-three exhibitors took part on the day, and delegates made the most of the opportunity to visit the many exhibition stands. To reward engagement, six delegates who visited the majority of the exhibits were selected in a lucky draw, receiving scrubs vouchers and Nespresso travel mugs. Additional prizes, including scrubs vouchers and artisan shortbread, were also awarded to delegates at random throughout the day.

The Acacia Committee would also like to thank Nevi and her team at Velocity Vision for helping to organise the event.

We look forward to next year's **CPD Day**.

Contributed by Dr Charle Steyl