





# Welcome Messages

South Africa is renowned for the Big Five animals. SASTM extends an invitation to all to attend the 7th Regional ISTM Conference in Nelson Mandela Bay, also known as Port Elizabeth. This event, also hosting the SASTM Biennial Congress, takes place in our iconic Friendly City. Here the Big Seven, which includes whale and shark spotting, may be added to the regular terrestrial Big Five sightings.

SASTM aims to similarly not only have the latest updates on the regular topics covered, but also gather experts shedding light on current concerns as well as cutting edge insights in the most pleasant of surroundings. The Boardwalk Convention Centre is part of a vast entertainment complex situated on the Indian Ocean beachfront with its miles of white sand. There is an average of 7-8 hours of sunshine daily in this 'Watersports Capital' of South Africa, and a vibrant nightlife exists. Many tourists attractions such as the Addo Elephant Park are situated close by.

Work and play in such delightful surroundings are very conducive to the ultimate aim of the conference; to meet colleagues who are currently merely names on listserves, to reconnect with old friends, and to foster a strong global travel medicine community. SASTM welcomes the opportunity to welcome you.

**Salim Parker, President, SASTM**



Dear Colleagues,

The ISTM is delighted to be once again collaborating with the SASTM in the production of the 7th Regional Conference of the ISTM. The first ISTM Regional Meeting was also held with the SASTM in 2004, and it is our pleasure to return to South Africa.

The program on *"Travel Health Africa: the Boiling Point?"* promises to be comprehensive and informative covering important topics such as infectious diseases and tropical medicine, updates on travel vaccines, malaria, travellers' diarrhoea, travelling with chronic diseases, and One Health.

The last time we were together in 2004, there were more than 600 delegates attending the conference, and we anticipate even more will be in attendance in 2016. The conference venue at Port Elizabeth is exceptionally well-suited for the conference, with accommodation options for every budget within a 10 minute walk. The Boardwalk Conference Center is located in Nelson Mandela Bay, an urban oasis against the amazing azure backdrop of the Indian Ocean.

I encourage you to join us in stunning Port Elizabeth for this joint conference between the ISTM and the SASTM.

Best Wishes,

**Annelies Wilder-Smith, ISTM President, 2015-2017**

Welcome to Travel Health Africa in Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa, September 2016! Just as Nelson Mandela changed the political and socio-cultural landscape of our Nation (and not to forget, of course, that Nelson Mandela Bay is a Proudly South African world-class tourist destination) this exciting Congress will provide you with the opportunity to not only review current paradigms but also explore the exciting dynamism in our growing discipline of Travel Medicine. The Congress theme 'Have we reached the boiling point?' talks to this dynamism. It provides scope for discussion of common controversies, novel challenges and solutions, and the way forward in Travel Medicine. With an estimated 80 million (of 600 million) international travellers travelling annually from developed to developing countries and the fact that globalisation facilitates the spread of infectious diseases and poses challenges for other, non-communicable, travel-related events, the main themes of the Congress include the global epidemiology and management of health risks to travellers, vaccinology, malaria prevention and pre-travel counseling. Experts from a wide variety of disciplines including epidemiology, infectious diseases, public health, tropical medicine, high-altitude physiology, travel-related obstetrics, psychology/psychiatry, bioethics, occupational medicine, military, migration medicine, medical tourism and environmental health will illustrate how the landscape of Travel Medicine is changing in the twenty-first century.

We look forward to welcoming you to this exciting Congress – *"Travel Health Africa - the Boiling Point?"*.

**Adriano G Duse, Chair: Scientific Program Committee**

