



PIRA 2008 Congress

Network... Learn... Enjoy!

Invitation to PIRA 2008 Congress

It is our pleasure as organising committee to invite all delegates who have a strong interest in Pain Management and Regional Analgesia to the First **PIRA 2008 Congress**.

This will be held on the 22nd & 23rd November 2008, at the Indaba Hotel, Fourways, Gauteng.

You will network with – and hear from – clinicians who are experts on pain as they share their thought and findings on this critical topic of Pain Management.

Purpose and Objectives of the Congress

This is a first ever meeting of this kind in South Africa. Never before has a meeting been held on **INTERVENTIONS** for both acute and chronic pain. This field of interest is growing in South Africa and the time has come for those with an interest in acute and chronic pain management via interventions to get together with a view of setting and maintaining standards. This congress is the start of that.

This Congress benefits those just entering the field of chronic pain treatment, and those interested in updating their skills and knowledge of chronic pain management and new treatment possibilities and options. Modern chronic pain management in 2008 is so much more than rhizotomy or epidural steroids.

The management of acute pain is also receiving much needed attention especially as a cause of or reason for the development of chronic pain. Regional Analgesia plays an important role here and will be a major part of the congress as well.

There have been many exciting new developments in this science as well as patient care. New advances in image guidance technology, radio frequency, pharmacology, drugs that target different pain mechanisms and pain interventions have made the management of pain a science.

Furthermore, new promising approaches to management pain have evolved and will be discussed.

“Hands on “workshops to demonstrate, and give the delegate the opportunity to practice these techniques will be held – please see the provisional program.

Intended Audience: This multidisciplinary meeting is of interest to:

- Anesthesiologists
- Physicians
- Neurosurgeons
- Orthopedic surgeons
- Neurologists
- Psychologists
- General Practitioners
- Nurses
- Physiotherapists
- Pharmacists
- Students, trainees and young professionals
- Other health professionals

Our learning objectives are to:

1. Deliver a state-of-the-art overview of a wide range of topics in the area of pain, enhancing the skills of our delegates
2. Enable delegates to participate in formal and informal discussions with international experts on pain management, so that delegates can incorporate those views into their practices

This P I R A Congress will bring you the latest and most up-to-date information from the best sources. It will be an important milestone for practicing clinicians from all disciplines with an interest in furthering the understanding and care of patients with pain.

We have an overseas lecturer at the meeting - Dr Paul Borgdorff whose profile you can view on www.pira.co.ca

We have also arranged a social event for all to mingle and network. This will be on the Saturday evening after the day's lectures and workshops. There will be a cocktail hour with the trade at the stands and from there a supper. This will all be at the Indaba Hotel, so for all the out of town delegates, no need to travel

We therefore hope that through a new and exciting scientific program, new workshop format, your participation of sharing knowledge and skills, the first **PIRA 2008 Congress** will be one to remember.

We look forward to welcoming you at the Indaba hotel.

The Organising Committee

Preliminary Program: Is available on the new PIRA website (www.pira.co.za)

SOCIAL EVENTS:

Friday 21st November 2008

Out of town delegate supper at the Indaba

Saturday 22nd November 2008

Cocktails from 17hoo – 18hoo – at the stands in the Hall

Dinner at Indaba's Restaurant

GENERAL INFORMATION

Accommodation and Transfers:

Delegates are responsible for making their own hotel reservations directly with Indaba Hotel. Please quote the reference number PIRA to get the limited special tariff accommodation. The Indaba Hotel also provides a shuttle service to and from the O. R. Tambo Airport. Please enquire when making the hotel booking.

Accreditation:

The Congress will be registered for CPD points and the number will be allocated will be available once the program has been finalised. The CPD Accreditation Certificates or Attendance Certificates will be available at the registration desk on 23rd November, the Sunday afternoon.

Dress:

The dress code is informal (smart casual) even for the evening events and the speakers

Admission Badges;

Delegates are requested to display the Congress Badge at all times during the academic sessions, in the exhibition area and when attending the social events. This must also be worn by the accompanying persons for the social events.

Courtesy Request:

Delegates are requested to refrain from smoking in the conference rooms and public areas. Designated areas may only be used. Please ensure that cell phones are switched off at all times during the working sessions. Delegates are requested to respect the starting times for all sessions.

Accompanying Person's Program:

A formal program has been organised and a registration fee for accompanying person will be charged to cover cost of meals and the Saturday evening events.

Registration of delegates:

Secure on line registration and payment can be done. A registration form can also be emailed to please contact, congress@pira.co.za. Forms may also be printed, completed and faxed through to 086 684 9736 with proof of payment.

Registration Fees:

The registration fees include attendance of the scientific sessions – lectures AND ALL workshops, teas, lunches and the Trade exhibition as well as the Saturday evening Cocktail hour at the exhibition.

Responsibility:

The organisers do not accept responsibility for any changes to the scientific programme or cancellation of the social events.

Registration Desk:

There will be a registration desk and this will be manned at all times. Registration will open on the Saturday morning at 07h00 and be open until the closing on Sunday evening.

Payment Methods:

See the information on payment methods

Trade Exhibition:

An exhibition of pharmaceutical, surgical and equipment will be located in Companies will exhibit their newest innovations and will be available to answer any queries. All refreshments will be served in this area and we encourage delegates to interact with the exhibitors through out the weekend. Without their support PIRA will not continue to grow.

More Information:

For further information please email, congress@pira.co.za .