

**Dear friends and colleagues**

I was truly humbled and honoured by my election as vice president in 2017. During my term in the office of the president, I will aim to build on the exemplary work of my predecessors, in particular Keertan Dheda. My personal goal is to develop new relationships and strengthen existing ties within the greater African community. As I stated in the first edition of the *AJTCCM*, ‘Africa is a place of dichotomy. Our continent is crippled by the “colliding epidemics” of tuberculosis, HIV and smoking-related diseases, but it is also a place of exceptional beauty and great abundance, with a communal

spirit and a considerable amount of hope. The unique challenges of our resource-limited environment require unique and innovative solutions. Africa must, and can, provide solutions to our own health crises.’

We are in the midst of tumultuous times, but with all these challenges come great opportunities, and we must make the most of them. We must join with our colleagues on the continent, and rise to prominence as a centre of great African excellence. As the incoming president of SATS, I thank you for the trust you have placed in me to do this.

**Professor Coenraad Koegelenberg**  
President: South African Thoracic Society



**Council members: July 2019 - July 2021**

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Prof. K Dheda	Editor-in-Chief: <i>African Journal of Thoracic and Critical Care Medicine</i>
Prof. C Koegelenberg	Deputy Editor: <i>African Journal of Thoracic and Critical Care Medicine</i>
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