

**Michael J Hawes, MD, FACS invited to teach
South African surgeons oculofacial techniques**

Dr. Hawes was one of three ASOPRS past Presidents (others were Dr. Bill Nunery of Indianapolis and Dr. Chris Fleming of Memphis) to be invited to teach oculofacial surgery to surgeons in South Africa. In September 2008 he spent time in Johannesburg at St. John's Hospital, part of the Chris Hani Baragwaneth Hospital, the largest hospital in the world. The hospital is in Soweto, South Africa - just outside Johannesburg in one of the best-known poor areas of the city. Dr. Hawes examined and operated on local patients there and at two other areas of the country, including at the Pretoria Eye Institute in Pretoria. He worked closely with well-known South African ophthalmic plastic surgeons including Dr. Grant McLaren, Dr. Phil Peirce, and Dr. Petrus Gous.



Dr. Hawes was one of three featured guest lecturers at the South African Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (SASOPS). Dr. Hawes presented lectures on Eyelid Reconstruction, Canalicular Lacerations, Psychological Issues Related to Oculoplastic Surgery, and Pearls of Orbital Decompression. The meeting was held in Cape Town, South Africa September 12-13, 2008, and was attended by 46 surgeons from South Africa.



Dear Mike, Chris and Bill

As incoming president of The South African Society of Oculoplastic Surgeons I would like to once again convey the thanks of myself, the SASOPS committee and all our SASOPS members for the wonderful contribution you guys made to improving and elevating our skills and knowledge in Oculoplastic surgery in South Africa at the recent SASOPS Congress in Cape Town, and also at the surgical workshops during the week preceding the meeting when each of you visited various surgical units around the country and participated in clinical case discussions and surgical procedures. The ultimate beneficiaries of your visits are our many patients in South Africa in need of specialised care, and I thank you on behalf of them as well! I think the format of this week has been hugely successful!

You and your gracious wives were wonderful ambassadors of ASOPRS, you gave unselfishly of your time, knowledge and skill, and extended hands of friendship to your South African colleagues. For this we salute you, and assure you of our heartfelt gratitude. Please also convey our sentiments to your Foundation. We appreciate your commitment and involvement, your example and your friendship! We look forward to a long partnership in Oculoplastics! Consider yourselves honorary South Africans, and always welcome!

Many, many thanks!

Regards

Yours in friendship

Petrus

Dr Petrus Gous

President: South African Society
of Oculoplastic Surgeons

