Day 3: Interactive Panel Discussions
11:00 – 12:30

Session 8B
Conference 2

11:00 – 11:45
Can We Justify Helicopter Emergency Medical Services in South Africa?

Moderator:
Steven Lunt (International SOS)
Panellists:
Robyn Holgate (ER24)
Benjamin Van Nugteren (University of Johannesburg)
Patrick Wallet (Careflight)

In a country like South Africa, where the term ‘resource-constrained’ is often used within the context of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), does it make sense to spend vast amounts of money on helicopter EMS? How much of an impact does HEMS really have on patient outcomes, who benefits and are HEMS operations sustainable? Shouldn’t we rather be investing the money for HEMS into other aspects of EMS? These are some of the key questions to be discussed and debated by the panellists, with opportunities for audience questions and interaction.

11:45 – 12:30
Advanced Life Support Paramedics: Useful Resource or Over-priced Luxury?

Moderator:
Andrew Makkink (University of Johannesburg)
Panellists:
Shaheem De Vries (Western Cape Department of Health)
Richard Mulder (Netcare 911)
Lesiba Malotana (Gauteng Department of Health)

Advanced Life Support (ALS) paramedics in most EMS systems assess and treat a small subset of high acuity cases. Does this limited deployment justify their expense, and does it really make optimal use of a resource that could be used more widely for the benefit of more patients? Can response times for high acuity cases be optimised with a small cohort of ALS paramedics covering large areas? Does the exposure (or lack of exposure) of ALS paramedics to high acuity cases influence retention? Does ALS level care even make a difference to the outcomes of most patients? These are some of the key questions to be discussed and debated by the panellists, with opportunities for audience questions and interaction.