

Qhubeka! Moving forward with SASMA

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CYCLING IS A MEDICINE TOO!

Featured on the cover of this month's *BJSM*, Team MTN Qhubeka combines experienced and emerging continental riders from Germany, Spain, Lithuania and Italy, with home-grown African talent from South Africa, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Ruanda. Arguably, there is no other cycling team that better represents genetic diversity.

Uniquely, this elite cycling team also has a large community focus. It works closely with the Qhubeka foundation (<http://www.qhubeka.org>) which donates bicycles to communities who are environmentally conscious under the mantra 'Mobilising kids with bikes' a sort of rural Exercise is Medicine initiative!

Team MTN Qhubeka is far from being another African handout story. While still having to earn its stripes to compete in the Grand Tours, success in several of Europe's Spring Classic races has set the cat among the peloton's pigeons. Songezo Jim, an orphan from the townships of Cape Town, became the first black African to participate in the longest 1-day Classic on the racing calendar, the Milan Sanremo,¹ a race won by team captain Gerald Ciolek. Ciolek also had a podium finish in stage 2 of the 7-day Tirreno Adriatico across Italy and won the 3-day Tour of West Flanders. Ethiopian rider Tsgabo Grmay won a stage in the Tour de Taiwan and finished second in the individual general classification.

The team's ambitious goals are firmly underwritten by sports science and propelled by coaching from one of the world's leading exponents of power-based workouts, South African Dr Carol Austin, carefully quantifying training loads with recovery.

Whispers among the peloton suggest that an invitation to the 2014 Giro D'Italia is in the mail. The Qhubeka story is being told from Eurosport to Sky, explaining why @TeamMTNQhubeka has even more Twitter followers (35.9 K) than @ProfTimNoakes (16.1 K)!

SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTS MEDICINE ASSOCIATION CONGRESS 2013... MORE DIVERSITY

The South African Sports Medicine Association (SASMA) has a focus not dissimilar to Team MTN Qhubeka-moving forward in SEM, growing our pool of African clinicians while collaborating internationally.

SASMA congresses have always attracted excellent international contingents. This year's biennial meeting takes us to the Wild Coast in the home of the Zulu people, Kwazulu-Natal. The scenic Wild Coast Sun will host Peter Brukner (Australia) of Olympic, Liverpool and Aussie Cricket fame, MSK rehab guru Ann Cools (Belgium) who will be well supported by the home-grown Helen Milson currently working with English Premier League football, 'Dr EIM' Bob Sallis will provide impetus to the Exercise is Medicine initiative in South Africa (could Qhubeka community initiatives serve as another model?), the engaging and gregarious sports physician Michael Turner (UK) will no doubt entertain, Ron Maughan will head the nutrition stream while the *BJSM*'s very own Babette Pluim (the Netherlands) will contribute with her broad knowledge of clinical and publishing SEM.

Delegates are drawn from a wide range of disciplines including family medicine practitioners, sports physicians, orthopaedic surgeons, radiologists, dieticians, chiropractors, sports scientists, podiatrists, physiotherapists and biokineticists, among other disciplines.

The congress will provide a strong scientific programme covering a diverse array of sports medicine topics, an intensive series of plenary sessions, keynote addresses, panel discussions, presentation of original research, practical workshops, breakfast seminars, a trade exhibition, extraordinary entertainment and an excellent social programme. The venue is a world class conferencing complex situated on a remote and wild section of the South African eastern seaboard, home to the Zulu and Pondo people and close to some of South Africa's finest game parks. The nature of the venue and the programme allows for extensive networking between delegates in a relaxed and comfortable environment.

More information at <http://www.sasma.org.za>.

JUNE'S EDITION OF *BJSM*... DIVERSITY IN PRINT

This South African-guided edition of *BJSM* promotes SASMA's ambition of being 'World class in Africa' by highlighting important South African and international research under the theme of 'Genetics and Performance'.

TUCKER TITILLATES, COLLINS CONSOLIDATES AND PITSILADIS PARAPHRASES

A highlight is a follow-up article led by Ross Tucker (pp) to last year's article on factors contributing to performance in exercise.² Looking particularly at East African distance

runners and sprinters of West African origin, the authors crystallise the key aspects of the debate of practice sufficiency or innate ability?

Tucker and coworkers made several references to the work of another genomics 'guru', Yannis Pitsiladis.^{3,4} In this issue (pp), Pitsiladis provides an excellent synopsis of the status quo of genetics research highlighting how different genomic research approaches (particularly the candidate gene approach vs genome-wide association studies⁵) can influence the ability to detect smaller gene effects. Malcolm Collins' group publishes another piece of original research contributing to the growing body of evidence linking specific single nucleotide polymorphisms to Achilles Tendinopathy (pp). As always, Professor Martin Schwelnus' accompanying editorial adds a relevant clinical perspective, while Tom Best looks at the role of stem cells in angiogenesis and muscle healing (pp).

'Editors' license' allows us to broaden the focus slightly (while maintaining an 'African' theme) to encompass African football screening (pp) and cardiac adaptation in African adolescent athletes (pp). Heart rate variability, travel fatigue and social media add further variety.

DIVERSITY AND PERFORMANCE: SASMA 2013

The Qhubeka philosophy encompasses both excellence and philanthropy drawing on international and local talent. Like SASMA, it is an African entity that strives for global standards of excellence. Our close association with *BJSM* (accessible to members via a link on our website <http://www.sasma.org.za>) and our own *South African Journal of Sports Medicine* (<http://www.sajsm.org.za>) helps facilitate this. Enjoy this edition of *BJSM* and add to the genetic diversity of our Congress by joining us in October on the Wild Coast of South Africa.

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