

# Message

## Message from the Incoming NACA President

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In the last year, we saw several publications highlighting the burden of disease attributable to air pollution globally and in South Africa. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also published their sixth assessment report, confirming that global mean temperatures will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius in all the shared socioeconomic pathways. In the face of these challenges, the need for a platform that can foster an environment of innovation that can drive local solutions is paramount. This is exactly what the National Association for Clean Air has been aiming to do for over 50 years.

The world is slowly recovering from COVID-19, and in 2022, restrictions limited the number of face-to-face interactions in the community. We have, however, expanded our virtual footprint by enhancing the Schools Outreach program on the NACA website, a 50-minute documentary on how we address air quality through science is continuing to draw views (<https://youtu.be/tlghFFn22Nc>), and several virtual seminars.

The annual conference was held in Kempton Park, Gauteng, between 5 and 7 October 2022. A joint multi-stakeholder workshop in collaboration with DFFE and a technical session chaired by the GCRF Mine Dust and Health Network was part of the program on 5 October. The conference hosted two keynote presentations, one from Prof Peter Adams from Carnegie Mellon University in the USA on “Reduced-complexity air quality models: tools for nimble policy assessment”, and another from Mr Ian Sampson from Shepstone & Wylie with the title “The time is now to find each other to control pollution” and another from Dr Mantagu Murray of the NOVA institute with the title “Air quality and quality of life”. The conference also saw 18 peer-reviewed papers, an Eskom workshop titled “Taking Eskom JET forward - Eskom repowering and repurposing project”, a poster session, and a 3-minute talk session. The complete proceedings are available on the NACA website. The post-conference questionnaire showed 48% representation from academia, 39% representation from industry, 10% from government, and 3% from the broader society. The feedback showed that the community thought the conference was engaging and applicable (77% agreed), was happy with the balance between academic and applied topics (77% agreed), and that the exhibitions were interesting and engaging (90%). The scientific conference committee chaired by Dr Anzel de Lange will aim to host another successful conference again in 2023.

The Clean Air Journal remains the most valuable resource of the NACA community. It continues to provide a free, open access,



option for researchers to publish their work. The focus has expanded to include the whole of Africa. NACA will continue to work towards supporting the independent editorial board and the CAJ to expand their influence in 2023.

The NACA council calls on government, academia, industry and society to continue to work together towards a healthy and sustainable future in 2023.

**Roelof Burger**  
**Incoming NACA President**