

Lucas Radebe gives Netcare Rosebank Hospital's Sports and Orthopaedic Centre the 'thumbs up'

LUCAS RADEBE, guest speaker at the launch of the Netcare Rosebank Hospital's Sports and Orthopaedic Centre's digital operating and computer-assisted operating rooms on 27 March 2007, spoke with much enthusiasm about the difference the Centre had made to his soccer career over the years.

As one of the Centre's most ardent patrons, he attributes his highly successful professional soccer career to the expert care he had received there during his ten years with Kaiser Chiefs. Lucas' humorous account of his childhood years in Diepkloof, his mother's medical career aspirations for him, as well as his rather 'overcast and cold' tenure at Leeds, provided an added dash of 'warmth' to the evening's proceedings.

Dr Mark Ferguson, one of the Centre's founders, took guests on an equally entertaining journey down the Centre's very colourful memory lane. Since its inception in 1996, rugby players the likes of André Joubert, who was regarded as one of the best fullbacks during the 1995 Rugby World Cup, actors such as Leonardo DiCaprio, and even players from touring arch-rival teams, such as the New Zealand All Blacks, have received treatment at its facilities.

"Sports men and women always having to travel to the US for state-of-the-art orthopaedic care is no longer the case. They can now just come to Rosebank, and they'll also enjoy our country's wonderful sunshine," said Radebe.

Netcare prides itself on providing its patients with the most modern and sophisticated healthcare facilities in South Africa and therefore recognised the need to enhance its orthopaedic centre in terms of advocating the patient-centred care approach (as is being introduced in the USA). Specialist core competences being offered at its various hospitals form part of this focus, resulting in the establishment of various Centres of Excellence within the Group.

The Netcare Rosebank Hospital's Sports and Orthopaedic Centre is just such a centre of excellence. Patient care, facilitated by means of a co-ordinated healthcare team, state-of-the-art facilities, as well as co-operation and information sharing between patient and doctor, being of primary concern. "It is for this reason that we decided to install a digital operating room, as well as equip a second room with the computer assisted surgery system", says Dr Glen Vardi, orthopaedic surgeon at the Netcare Rosebank Hospital.

Netcare Rosebank Hospital's orthopaedic centre was established in 1996 by Dr Mark Ferguson, Dr Jon Patricios, Evan Speechly and Frank Dubowitz.

"We started to realise that the 'weekend warriors', or non-professional sportsmen and women in South Africa were very much in need of orthopaedic care and began to develop the centre into a full spectrum treatment facility from there," says Dr Ferguson.

"Our numerous overseas affiliations have, furthermore, ensured that the centre's treatment standards are kept high and comparable with similar facilities in the US and Europe. This will now be further facilitated by the implementation of our digital operating facilities."

Digital operating room facilities assist with arthroscopic, or keyhole, surgery and result in reduced operating time and quicker post-operative recovery. Surgeries performed in the Netcare Rosebank Hospital's digital operating room will make use of fiber optic lenses and digital video cameras, facilitated by the CONDOR Control System, during many orthopaedic procedures. It is also the first hospital in South Africa to utilise this control technology.

The operating room will, furthermore, house multi-media storage and transmission facilities which, if needed, can transmit high-resolution sound and video images between specialist practices and hospitals both locally and internationally.

The hospital's CAS-enabled operating room will provide patients with the most up-to-date knee and hip replacement surgical services. "The CAS system allows the surgeon to precisely align the artificial joint with the bone which, ultimately, results in improved alignment of prostheses, faster patient recovery periods and, hopefully, longer lasting results," says Dr Colin Barlin, orthopaedic surgeon at the Netcare Rosebank Hospital.

The centre is staffed by a specialist sports physician, dietician, podiatrist, physiotherapists and orthopaedic surgeons, all of whom specialise in joint reconstruction/replacement, hand, shoulder, foot and ankle surgery. The centre also houses a concussion clinic and rehabilitation facility.

"The Netcare Rosebank Hospital now offers patients state-of-the-art orthopaedic facilities as well as a comprehensive range of specialists and treatment options. The DOR will also make for an excellent training and information sharing platform, which bodes well for the medical fraternity in terms of improving surgical interventions and keeping abreast of medical advancements being made internationally," concludes Dr Ferguson.

"All of these facilities will, ultimately, translate into improved surgical outcomes for both patients and the doctors."



Left to right, Dr. Mark Ferguson, Lucas Radebe and Dr. Mark Ferguson, orthopaedic surgeon at the launch



Left to right, Dr. Colin Barlin, Dr. Glen Vardi and Chris Rood

