Growing old disgracefully

Who would have thought that Prof van Dyk was an admirer of The Killers? And no, I didn’t recognise the quotation – I asked my friend Prof Google, of course. If you don’t know what I’m talking about, make sure that you read Sandra’s Chalk Talk this month. She takes her own advice seriously, I know.

The kind of advice she gives reminds me so much of a book my daughter gave to my mother when she (my mom not my daughter) turned 80. Now if only I could remember where I put it – I can tell you the name but not the author! It was Growing old disgracefully.

The bottom line of the advice from both Sandra and the book – you’ll be so much happier if you don’t take everything, including yourself, too seriously. And I know from personal experience if you enjoy your work so much that it’s more like your hobby, you’ll definitely have more fun along the way. You’ll also feel so much better about your career choice.

A rose by any other name?

Our community pharmacy sector has come full circle. Many years ago, SAACP existed as the South African Association of Community Pharmacists. It was the only sector of pharmacy not represented by the PSSA – the Academy, SAAHIP and SAAPI were already part of the PSSA family. Then the PSSA went through an intensive unification process, and SAACP was welcomed as a sector. Its name was changed to the Community Pharmacy Sector of the PSSA. Now, it has reverted to the name it had before, to reflect the fact that is an association that represents the sector. And there ends your history lesson for the day.

New presidents

Both the PSSA and SAACP elected new presidents at their AGMs. Please support them and their executive committees. It does involve a fair amount of personal sacrifice, especially of family time. It’s done because they care about the profession and they’re prepared to work towards improving it. I know that from the secretariat side, we’ll do all we can to minimise their stress.

But I won’t write their columns for them! Well, not unless I really need to, but don’t tell them that – they need to communicate directly with you themselves.

I have no doubt that both Sarel Malan and Christine Venter will bring new energy to their positions, but I couldn’t resist sharing this photograph of you. What does it say about the new President of SAACP? Young and energetic? Not scared to use alternative modes of transport? Prepared to make a noise? And Sarel heaves a sigh of relief because I haven’t been able to find anything other than sedate photographs of him!

New fellows

I also need to personally congratulate the two new Fellows of the PSSA. It really isn’t easy to become one. It takes years of dedication to the profession and the PSSA, and even then there is no guarantee that you will be made a Fellow. So well done to Gideon Vosloo and Pat Smith. I’m so glad that your endeavours have been recognised.

Now strangely enough, I received a letter to the editor from Gideon, so I thought I’d publish it here.

Lorraine,
I have just read your editorial about sexism. The way I see it is that you women don’t trust or believe us men. When we say we will do something it will be done. No need to remind us every 6 months!

Now that was a piece of my mind!

Gideon

And you will see the lovely photographs of Gideon and Pat in PSSA Perspectives, but I need to share something with you. After I had put PSSA Perspectives together, I received the following letter from Gideon, with the attached photo. (Pat can heave a sigh of relief at this point – he’s let off the hook!)

Lorraine,
Please discard the previous photo I sent you. Please use this photo as I look much younger on this one and then maybe I will be allowed to join the YPG for the under 35’s.

Thank you
Gideon Vosloo
MGPS, MMPS, MPS & FPS

The resemblance is striking, and I think the YPG would benefit from admitting Gideon as a member!

Last word about photographs

Everyone teases Dave Sieff about having film in his (digital) camera, but I don’t think they realise that I rely on him so much. Thank you, Dave, for always being willing to capture the moment so that I can share it with our friends.

Lorraine Osman