This year, the PSSA held its AGM at the same venue that was used by SAACP for its AGM and symposium. (See Pharmaceutical Practitioner for a report on this.)

The AGM went smoothly, with the Presidential Committee remaining unchanged.

President: Sarel Malan
Deputy President: Stéphan Möller
Vice President, APSSA: Sandra van Dyk
Vice President, SAACP: Christine Venter
Vice President, SAAHIP: Joggie Hattingh
Vice President, SAAPI: Yolanda Peens
Honorary Treasurer: Michèle Coleman
Immediate Past President: Johann Kruger

The remaining National Executive Committee members will be finalised shortly.

Comment from the Executive Director, Ivan Kotzé

An Annual Report provides information on the health and growth of an organisation. The 2016 report focuses on only some of the activities of the PSSA. Extracts will be published in next month’s SAPJ. It must however be recognised that all the activities of every sector and every branch of the Society jointly contribute to the overall success of our organisation.

Last year’s report reflected a very positive position with regard to membership growth. In 2015, we reported on membership growth of 73% when compared to the 2010 membership numbers. This year our membership numbers have again increased. On 29 April 2016, the PSSA had 7913 members, a year on year increase of 8.1%. This is the highest number of members we have ever had. (29 April 2016 Membership report).

If we have to define a “healthy association”, one of the measurements would be the involvement of the younger generation. This topic is raised at most Board meetings of organisations where membership is a voluntary decision and a concerted effort goes into recruiting members from the younger generation. I am proud to report that the PSSA in fact is a “healthy association” as 57% of our members are in the age category of 40 years or younger.

A further analysis of our demographics reflects that almost 63% of our members are female. An accurate report on the race demographics is not possible as a number of members have not reflected their race. It is however safe to say that the number for members of colour, defined as Black African, Indian and Coloured, lies between 36% and 47% depending on how the non-disclosure number is used in the calculation. According to the SAPC register 44% of pharmacists registered are of colour. The number for the PSSA is however steadily increasing every year.

It is a pleasure to report that the construction of the new head office for the PSSA has commenced, with the contractor moving in on 30th March 2016. The contract specifies the delivery of the completed project should be not later than the middle of...
November 2016. Moving into the new property will result in the substantial saving of monthly rent expenditure.

Members of the PSSA who have any questions on the PSSA activities are free to contact the office as our function is to serve our members in the pharmacy profession.

It did not host a separate or full conference because the SA Pharmacy Council is holding a conference this year. Both delegates and sponsors are challenged financially, and it would be unfair to expect them to invest time and money into another conference.

As it has become evident that a full PSSA conference might not be possible every year, this collaboration with sectors as well as the very successful regional conferences held in 2015 are part of a new model of conferencing being explored. This does not detract from the value and importance of full participation of branches and sectors at the AGM as it is also a forum for honouring fellow pharmacists who have made special contributions to the profession and society.

Together we can look back at a year of interesting developments, a year in which new relationships were established and old ones strengthened, always towards promoting pharmacy as an integral part of the healthcare team. In many instances it might have been the same issues coming to the fore again, but we are confident that through different and multifaceted approaches, we are slowly moving forward in ensuring the sustainability of pharmacy in South Africa. The mission of the PSSA is to support and promote the profession of pharmacy in improving medication use and advancing patient care for all the people of our country – clearly, this is only possible with four strong and viable sectors, and with both a healthy public and private sector to complement each other.

The PSSA’s fervent wish is that its members may be inspired to make a difference not only in pharmacy, but also in our country, through the way we practice pharmacy.

**Fellowship of the PSSA**

The 71st Annual General Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa conferred Fellowship of the Society on Douglas William Oliver, in recognition of his services and the attainment of the objects of the Society.

Douglas Oliver has been a member of the PSSA since 2004. He has served as chair and vice-chair of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences in South Africa and has been an executive committee member of SA-API since 2010.

He has worked as a pharmacist in more than 50 pharmacies in South Africa and Namibia. He specialised in his chosen career path through obtaining two doctoral degrees, one in Pharmacology and one in Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry in the fields of in vivo cerebral perfusion pharmacology and in drug discovery, respectively. He was Professor and Head of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Pretoria, Head of Pharmacology at North-West University, Research Director of Drug Research and Development and Director of Pharmacy at North-West University. He has trained more than 30 doctoral and masters degree students in pharmacology and pharmaceutical and medicinal chemistry. He is author of some 120 publications in USA, Europe, South Africa and Japan and presenter of more than 250 national and international presentations in 25 countries.

Doug has held the position of executive committee member of the Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR), chair of the Pharmacology for Africa Initiative, president of the South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (2001-2007), and president of the World Congress of Pharmacology (2014).

He has won the South African Academy for Science and Arts: FARMOVS prize for Pharmacology and Drug Development for outstanding contributions and achievements in the field of Pharmacology and Drug Development. He serves on several international scientific advisory boards. He is certified API auditor of the European Council. He served as a Member of the Medicine Control Council and the SA Pharmacy Council for several years.

Prof Oliver continues to devote his time to industry, to SA-API and to the profession of pharmacy.

He fully deserves the honour of becoming a Fellow of the PSSA.

**William Paterson Award**

The William Paterson Award is the highest honour which can be conferred on a PSSA member. Its recipients are few and far between. This year, the PSSA was happy to confer the award on Ray Pogir.

Few people in this country can lay claim to having had a passion for the profession of pharmacy lasting over sixty years, but Raymond Pogir is such a person.

Ray began his career as a pharmacist in 1955. From 1956 to 1979 he owned a number of retail pharmacies in Durban and in 1980 he relocated to Johannesburg when he had a career change to wholesale pharmacy.
Ray held the position of Deputy Managing Director of TPS Mutual Trust, which later became Medikredit, until the business was sold in 1998. In 2009 he was appointed curator of the SA National Pharmacy Museum, at 52 Glenhove Road, Melrose Estate, Johannesburg.

Ray’s involvement in the PSSA began in the Natal Coastal branch, where he served on the committee from 1962 to 1979. He was chairman of the branch in 1965 and is an Honorary Life Member of the branch.

When Ray moved to Johannesburg he joined the Southern Gauteng Branch of the PSSA and has served on the local committee since 1980 to the present. He has also been awarded Honorary Life Membership of the branch committee. He served as branch chairman from 1981 to 1984 and is also an Honorary Life Member of this Branch. In addition Ray has been Chairman of Pharmaceutical Management Services (Pty) Ltd. since 1996 to the present time.

Raymond served on the national executive committee of the PSSA for 17 years, from 1967 to 1984, and was the chairman of PSSA Contracts (Pty) Ltd, the company responsible for concluding contracts between Medical Schemes, the PSSA and community pharmacies for prescription processing and payment.

In 1969 Ray headed the PSSA campaign against Drug Abuse and was an appointed member of the South African Government Committee of Inquiry into Drug Abuse in South Africa by the Minister of Social Services.

During the period 1973-1974 Ray served as the national president of the PSSA. He was appointed as the chairman of the negotiating committee of the PSSA to give input into the Pharmacy Act during 1973 and 1974. This was the first Act dealing solely with pharmacy in South Africa.

Raymond’s service to the PSSA has been recognised and he is both an Honorary Life Member and a Fellow of the PSSA.

Ray also served as a member of the South African Pharmacy Council from 1988-2002 where he held positions such as treasurer and vice-president. He was chairman of the Committee of Preliminary Enquiry for ten years, as well as chairman of the Committee of Informal Inquiry for five years as well as a member of the Practice Committee.

Ray is currently the curator of the S. A. National Pharmacy Museum and in recent years has published some 35 articles on the artifacts in the Museum in The Golden Mortar.

Raymond Pogir has dedicated a lifetime to the profession of Pharmacy as well as to the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa and has been responsible for some truly major changes and contributions along the way.

The Southern Gauteng branch of the PSSA, in nominating him for the Society’s highest accolade, expressed pride in having had him as a member for over 36 years. They thanked him for the contributions that he has made to the Branch, to the Society and the profession over many, many years.
The PSSA/Alpha Pharm clinical education programme 2016

Recognising that consumers frequently encounter front-shop assistants or pharmacist’s assistants before they speak to the pharmacist, the PSSA and Alpha Pharm have launched a clinical education programme for pharmacy staff. All pharmacy staff need to be familiar with the use of unscheduled medicines and should be reminded of when it is necessary to refer the patient to the pharmacist.

Module 3/2016 – Understanding Dyspepsia

Dyspepsia is a common complaint presenting in the pharmacy. Functional dyspepsia is the medical term for a condition that causes pain or discomfort that is felt in the upper abdomen, near the ribs. It is sometimes also called ‘indigestion’, but this term is old and also misleading because the condition does not involve a problem with the digestion of food.

There are many possible causes of dyspepsia. About 25 to 30% of people with symptoms of dyspepsia have another underlying medical problem responsible for the symptoms, such as reflux disease or an ulcer. Most people, however, do not have an underlying medical problem causing symptoms of dyspepsia.

While uncomplicated GORD is not a life-threatening disorder, complicated GORD is associated with erosive oesophagitis, haemorrhage, ulcerative oesophagitis and oesophageal strictures. GORD is also a well-established risk factor for Barrett’s oesophagus and oesophageal adenocarcinoma.

Given the negative impact of GORD on health-related quality of life and the increased risk for complications such as Barrett’s oesophagus, it is important to:

- Address the various factors that contribute to the development of GORD
- Ensure that patients diagnosed with GORD obtain adequate symptomatic relief
- Heal oesophagitis, if present
- Prevent complications from developing

This Module discusses gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, its pathophysiology, risk factors and management.

For more information about this programme contact Gill or Glynis at Insight Medicine Information on 011 706 6939 or email cpdalalphapharm@insightmed.co.za.

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm Distance Learning Programme 2016

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm Distance Learning Programme continues to offer pharmacists useful, practical, up-to-date information that enables them to provide optimal pharmaceutical care to their patients.

Module 3/2016 – GORD (Acid Reflux)

Gastro-oesophageal reflux, also known as acid reflux, occurs when the stomach contents reflux or back-up into the oesophagus and/or mouth. Reflux is a normal process that occurs in healthy infants, children and adults. Most episodes are brief and do not cause bothersome symptoms or complications. However, people with gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD/GERD) experience bothersome symptoms as a result of the reflux. Symptoms can include heartburn, regurgitation, non-cardiac chest pain, vomiting, and difficulty or pain with swallowing. Gastro-oesophageal reflux, therefore, becomes a disease when it either causes damage to the oesophagus or causes symptoms that reduce quality of life.

Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease is notable for its prevalence, variety of clinical presentations, and under-recognised morbidity.

While uncomplicated GORD is not a life-threatening disorder, complicated GORD is associated with erosive oesophagitis, haemorrhage, ulcerative oesophagitis and oesophageal strictures. GORD is also a well-established risk factor for Barrett’s oesophagus and oesophageal adenocarcinoma.

Given the negative impact of GORD on health-related quality of life and the increased risk for complications such as Barrett’s oesophagus, it is important to:

- Address the various factors that contribute to the development of GORD
- Ensure that patients diagnosed with GORD obtain adequate symptomatic relief
- Heal oesophagitis, if present
- Prevent complications from developing

This Module discusses gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, its pathophysiology, risk factors and management.

For more information about this programme contact Gill or Glynis at Insight Medicine Information on 011 706 6939 or email cpdalalphapharm@insightmed.co.za.
Welcoming new members

The Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) welcomes the following pharmacists who joined the Society in April and May 2016. We trust that you will be welcomed into your branches and sectors, and that you will find great value in your membership.


Yardley Amie Wilbers, Maryke Wilkinson, Shahzaadee Yakoob, Sondra Debra Marietjie van Wyk, Marnus Vermeulen, Sduduzo Precious Wagener, Jean-Harrieth Siwele, Vita Spies, Hilton Tommy Stevens, Annemie van Heerden, Piet van Wyk, Anilane de Villiers, Margaretha Magdeline Binase, Alyssa Cara Bode, Farah Bosman, Anru Botha, Anandi Kojo Benyah, Brynthia Faith Bergens, Robin Emanuel Billett, Sibulele Bantwini, Kayln Beach, Michelle Adowa Bediako, Rochelle Bekker, Francis We are also delighted to welcome the following student members: