It is an honour and a pleasure to report on the activities of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences since the PSSA AGM in 2015.

**Today’s research for tomorrow’s solutions**

The Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (APSSA) successfully co-hosted a joint conference with the South African Association of Pharmacists in Industry (SAAPI) from 17 – 19 September 2015 at the CedarWoods Conference Centre in Woodmead, Sandton. This was the first time the two organisations had come together to host a joint conference. It was a well attended conference. The theme for the joint conference was “Today’s research for tomorrow’s solutions”.

**Keynote speakers at the event included:** Prof Stuart Walker from the Centre for Innovation in Regulatory Science (CIRS) United Kingdom who presented a talk on “A structured approach to the Benefit Risk Assessment of Medicines: The key to improving Decision-Making in Drug Development and the Regulatory Review”; Prof Per Arvidsson, Executive Director Science for Life Laboratory Drug Discovery & Development Platform, & Division of Translational Medicine and Chemical Biology, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden who presented a talk on “Academic Drug Discovery Centra – Cultural Bridges Over The Valley of Death?” and Prof Dhanjay Jhurry, Head, ANDI Centre of Excellence for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research (CBBR), University of Mauritius presented a talk on “Can polymeric nano-assemblies make a difference in drug delivery applications?”. The 37th Academy AGM was held during conference 2015. It was resolved that the Academy be more involved in joint conferences as it is getting progressively more costly to host conferences as single entities.

The “Fees must fall” campaign affected academia in varying degrees at the institutions offering the BPharm-programme. The Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences acknowledges and appreciates the support from the PSSA National Executive Committee.

**Awards and financial support**

The Academy acknowledges excellence in research by the prizes presented at the annual conference. The Academy is grateful to Boehringer Ingelheim for continued support of the ‘Young Scientist’ and ‘Best Publication’ awards. The ‘Young Scientist’ award is competed for in two categories, namely ‘Pharmaceutical Sciences’ and ‘Pharmaceutical Practice’. Johnson and Johnson fund the ‘Pharmacy Teacher of the Year’ award. We sincerely appreciate the contributions of Boehringer Ingelheim and Johnson and Johnson.

To nurture excellence in the undergraduate Teaching-Learning programmes the Academy continues to award, at each Institution presenting the BPharm, an enscribed Academy medallion and a certificate to the top academic student in each year of the B.PPharm degree. The names of the winners will be enscribed on the Academy Award Board at each Institution.

As a further contribution to encouraging and supporting research in the pharmaceutical sciences the Academy has once again sponsored two FPE postgraduate bursaries to the value of R10 000 each.

**Cum Laude**

The Academy continues to use the Cum Laude page in the Journal to promote Pharmaceutical Sciences and articles on a variety of topics have been published during the year. We would like to thank Nitsa Manolis for her assistance in the administration of the Cum Laude page.

**Web page**

The Academy website has been redesigned and re-launched and is located at http://www.academy-pssa.org/.

**Newsletter**

The electronic newsletter continues to be a useful communication link with members. The Academy is grateful to the PSSA for facilitating the electronic newsletter.

**Membership and industry liaison**

Liaison initiatives with the pharmaceutical industry are continuing and SAAPI and Academy are invited to attend each others Executive Committee meetings in order to strengthen the ties between the two sectors. Membership matters continue to be monitored.

**Administrative matters**

The Academy executive committee members would like to voice their appreciation to PSSA and especially to Nitsa Manolis for continued assistance with administrative matters.