



## Presidential report – Annual general meeting 2020

Refiloe Mogale, President: SAAHIP

I am pleased to present the annual report sharing the SA Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists' (SAAHIP's) activities and achievements for 2019–2020.

### National Executive Committee

Refiloe Mogale – National President	Kirtan Kasiram (KwaZulu-Natal Coastal)
Shawn Zeelie – Vice President	Pearl Lentoane (Northern Gauteng)
Bhavrith Jaganath – Honorary Treasurer	Rhulani Maluleke (Limpopo)
Kristien Schutte – National Secretary	Armand Algra (North-West)
Joggie Hattingh – Past President	Alice Lategan (Eastern Cape)
Tabassum Chicktay (Southern Gauteng)	Eulanda Tshividzo (co-opted)
Carrie de Beer (Western Cape)	Lourens van der Merwe (co-opted)
Akhona Fynn (KwaZulu-Natal Inland)	Thanushya Pillaye (co-opted)
Phindile Zulu (Mpumalanga)	Lorraine Osman (co-opted)

We are grateful to past chairpersons: Aleta Wege (WC), Zwelakhe Siwele (MP), Mncengeli Sibanda (NG), Yvette Joubert (NW), Sibahle Zibula (KZNI) and Kaajal Chetty (KZNC) for their active leadership as virtuous stewards of SAAHIP.

### Membership

Our membership has increased incrementally for the past few years. The table below indicates the total membership i.e. the current number of paid members per branch as at November 2019.

Northern Gauteng – 243	Western Cape – 461
Southern Gauteng – 393	Limpopo – 138
Mpumalanga – 107	KZN Coastal – 336
North West – 98	Eastern Cape – 227
KZN Inland – 141	Northern Cape/Free State – 123
Non-residents – 2	

### SAAHIP's activities

#### Focus areas

We have revised our focus areas to have a reference to our strategic plan and the new requirements stemming from the 9 pillars of the Presidential Health Compact, NHI Bill and the new Developments for Pharmacy 2030. All at NEC have been assigned a focus area with the intention of determining and demonstrating the value or the value-added services that can be offered by hospital pharmacists. NEC members are required to assess the current status and implement interventions as a means of addressing challenges in each area. From there, they will determine if the desired change has been achieved as a result of the intervention.

Ideally what we want to achieve from the focus area projects is to ensure that all work that has been taken by or tasked to NEC produces quality outcomes which when translated into practice, its impact becomes visible and can be implemented at branch level and at our workplaces. The focus area reports will be presented to General Council at the annual general meeting. In future we would like to see branches partnering and collaborating with Schools of Pharmacy when it comes to these types of projects. This will ensure that the work that we produce is credible and that it can be utilised at policy level so that we can contribute to continuing growth within the sector and profession.

#### Medicine availability

There has been a huge outcry from our members regarding medicine shortages in their facilities and since ensuring improved access to essential medicines is one of our focus areas, we decided to investigate. We made enquiries on what are the causes of medicine shortages and we received various reasons from our members, but the common thread was that medicines shortages is a real and ongoing challenge.

In June 2019, Lorraine Osman attended a meeting of the forum to promote transparency and multi-stakeholder engagement regarding medicine availability. A lot of items were discussed ranging



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from supplier performance management, Section 21 products to pharmaceutical tenders. We were also impressed that the National Department of Health had started issuing a hot list of stockouts as a means of informing and updating stakeholders about the affected medicines and interventions implemented to address supply interruption. We hope these initiatives will be sustained and that SAAHIP is recognised as a worthy stakeholder as we have a lot to contribute in the forum. This will enable us to provide proper and constructive feedback to our members.

In November 2019, Lorraine Osman participated in a radio interview regarding the shortage of contraceptives which was conducted on Cape Talk during the health and wellness segment. We are grateful to Lorraine for standing in for the Association on both occasions.

### Work-based learning

The South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) organised a work-based learning workshop wherein we looked into the training provided for pharmacy students and pharmacist's assistants at facility level and the possible challenges experienced during the training in the workplace. It was found that training institutions implement work-based learning differently depending on their experiences with workplaces, location, public/private sector and availability of resources.

Various stakeholders participated in the workshop and as SAAHIP we also mentioned challenges we face in our facilities and offered quite substantial solutions. We hope that the SAPC will take them into consideration when they develop a guide on the implementation of work-based learning in pharmacy education and training.

### SAPHEX 2019

SAAHIP formed part of the combined stand organised by PSSA at the pharmacy show (SAPHEX) in October 2019. The Association was represented by representatives from both the Northern and Southern Gauteng branches. Feedback from our SAAHIP representatives is that the combined stand worked well as the different sectors could network. It appears that this format will continue in the future.

### Continuing professional development (CPD)

As pharmacists we face increased expectations to display current professional knowledge and skills. Thus, to meet those expectations, we need to maintain our professional competence. As an Association, we ensure that our members retain and continuously develop their professional knowledge, skills and competence. Branch committees organise many CPD activities and it is encouraging to see that even during these difficult financial times, branches still push to organise CPD activities. For this year, the branches have organised close to 35 CPD activities for the benefit of members. However, with all the time, effort and resources being put to organise these activities, the attendance by members has not been that impressive. We hope that with the implementation of the CPD regulations by the SAPC, members will take the responsibility for attending CPD activities at branch level.

### Membership drive

As it is the beginning of the year, we are once again hoping to partner with SAPC during the intern/tutor roadshows. Branch chairpersons use these slots to educate the interns and tutors on a single uniform topic. This year we are planning to present the mentorship programme to the pharmacist interns with the intention of using it as a framework to develop empowered and engaged members and grow the next pharmacy leaders in the profession and the Society as a whole.

Our website (saahip.org.za) is fully functional and we want our members to use it. We welcome suggestions on add-on features that are deemed necessary and user-friendly. We are also trying to increase traffic to the website by posting links to the uploaded documents and reports on social media. Most of the branches have opened or reactivated SAAHIP pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

### Pharmacy Month

Pharmacy Month was once again celebrated with success by our SAAHIP branches. Activities around Pharmacy Month 2019 revolved around creating an awareness on mental health via fun runs, fun walks, radio interviews, outreach to schools and visiting wards, donating goodies to wards and communities. The branches tried working/preparing their activities to celebrate Pharmacy Month with the theme of mental health. Some members struggled with the theme as they felt that it is beyond their competence.

The invitation has once again been extended to SAAHIP to be part of the Pharmacy Month 2020 working group to discuss the theme, message and materials. We had our first meeting at the beginning of October to prepare for Pharmacy Month 2020. Point of emphasis is that the messages should target the patient and the pharmacists being the vehicle. A range of themes were discussed, and the shortlisted ones were presented to the Heads of Pharmaceutical Services in November for recommendation. Once the theme has been approved and signed, it will be announced to all.

### Social responsibility

Mother Theresa once said "if you cannot feed a hundred people, then just feed one" and as SAAHIP we certainly have been doing that because even though we do not make a nationwide difference we try to make a difference that can be felt by someone next to us. For many years the Association has been supporting Operation Smile South Africa. Every year at our conference we collect smiles i.e. contributions to pay for a smile (cost to provide a surgery for a child with a cleft condition). Last year February, the SAAHIP WC branch, on behalf of all SAAHIP branches, handed over eight smiles to the organisation. Eight children will now have a reason to smile. By the same token, at last year's annual general meeting, the branches pledged an amount which is equivalent to nine smiles.

The spirit of giving does not end at conference. Branches also support other charities in their geographical areas during the year. The forms of support range from community outreach programmes, collecting canned food for orphanages, pet food for local animal shelters, giving out school shoes, winter sleeping wear, sanitary pads, supporting old

age homes and schools for children with special needs, etc. As SAAHIP, we appreciate our members for this generous gift and may they know and understand that by touching all these lives with their generosity, they have touched the future.

## Conferences

The Limpopo branch hosted their second annual branch conference themed “Change, adapt and thrive” on 13 September 2019. It was once again a success, just like the first one, with a great pool of quality speakers. The conference was officially opened by the Limpopo MEC of Health. We commend this kind of support and recognition to SAAHIP by the Department of Health in Limpopo. The vice-chairperson SG branch SAAHIP facilitated the workshop on Ideal Hospital. The branch is currently compiling a report on the conference which will be featured in the South African Pharmaceutical Journal. We cannot wait to see what the branch has in store for us at their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual conference.

As SAAHIP President, I was requested to participate on the panel discussion on NHI, more specifically on the role of hospital and institutional pharmacists in NHI. More importantly was to emphasise the PSSA's position statement on universal health coverage which is that we are supportive and committed to realising the goal of equitable

and universal health coverage for all citizens. As SAAHIP, we advocate for the professional, educational interests of our members and the profession, hence we reaffirm the position that both the public and private sectors add value and must contribute synergistically to the objective of the NHI bill which is to achieve universal access through NHI. At the same conference, I participated in the session on access to medicines and gave a talk on the hospital and institutional perspective regarding patient needs. These two topics connect to our focus areas.

Last but not least, we would like to congratulate the PSSA team that prepared and presented the bid to host the FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2022 in Cape Town and WON it. As SAAHIP, a sector of PSSA, we are more than proud of this great and once-in-a-lifetime feat. Hence, we will not have a conference in 2022 as we want to concentrate all resources to the FIP conference.

## Acknowledgements

My sincere appreciation for the support and immense contribution by all the National Executive Committee in their respective portfolios. It has been a privilege to be part of the leadership team that strove for relevance and innovation in our profession. Special thanks to the entire SAAHIP community for bringing forth their expertise and experience. You have played a major role behind the Association's success.