SAAHIP Mpumalanga’s pharmacist interns
HIV training and induction

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Bernard Baruch once said: “A speculator is a man who observes the future and acts before it occurs”. This is exactly what the Executive Committee of SAAHIP Mpumalanga decided to do in the year 2021.

The future of pharmacy lies in the hands of each and every pharmacist, however, new innovative ideas that will make the profession adapt and thrive in the age of the fourth industrial revolution lies in the young, fresh mind of interns who have not yet been exposed to, or demoralised by, the challenges of the “real world”.

SAAHIP Mpumalanga took on a project to mentor and assist all the interns in the public sector for the very first time in 2021. The Mpumalanga Department of Health was faced with the challenge of interns taking more than 12 months to complete their internship because they struggle with CPD entries as well as the intern exam. SAAHIP Mpumalanga decided to step in and assist. The organisation is currently hosting virtual CPD workshops every Thursday evening for the interns. These workshops are a great help as a lot of positive feedback is received from the interns. As part of the mentoring programme, the interns have been given access to call the SAAHIP EXCO to confirm their placements, ask about challenges in the workplace and just for moral support.

On 28 April 2021, SAAHIP Mpumalanga decided to host an HIV Training and Induction session for the interns. This was because the public sector treats a substantial number of HIV positive patients and we wanted to ensure that our interns were well clued up on the virus as well as the treatment guidelines which are currently being used in the country. This also gave us the opportunity to physically meet all the interns and get to know them on a more personal level. The event was graced by the presence of the Provincial Allocations Officer as well as the Acting Head of Pharmaceutical Services and as SAAHIP, we really felt honoured. This gathering helped the interns interact and form relationships with one another. It also helped SAAHIP grow, as more than 10 new membership forms of interns who would like to be a part of SAAHIP were received on this day and it is safe to assume that the future of pharmacy in Mpumalanga is in the hands of SAAHIP pharmacists.

A special thanks to Mylan for sponsoring the day with food and other goodies and the organisation would also like to thank the Mpumalanga Department of Health for its constant support of SAAHIP’s activities.