



PSSA Young Pharmacists' Group

Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa



An Overview of the Young Pharmacists' Group of the PSSA, 2015/2016

Report to the PSSA AGM

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Mission

The mission of YPG is to promote the goals of PSSA by encouraging the young members of the Society to participate in PSSA projects and activities. In so doing, YPG aims to develop individuals who can act as agents of positive change at local, national and international levels, both in the profession and in society.

Membership

YPG consists of individual PSSA members who are recent graduates (up to 5 years after graduation from their first pharmacy degree) or below the age of 35.

Communication

The following communication channels were used during the past year:

- **Facebook:** Several PSSA events were marketed via the PSSA YPG facebook page e.g. branch CPD evenings, conferences, symposiums, pharmacy week and FIP world pharmacists day. Interesting articles were 'shared' and reminders/announcements were sent out to the 361 members. Mariet Eksteen administrates the Facebook page.
- **YPG newsletter:** Seven newsletters were sent out in the past year. Gawie Malan (Cape Western branch) is the administrator for the newsletters.
- **SAPJ YPG page:** Each issue of the SAPJ contains an YPG page, which is approved and submitted by Mariet Eksteen.

- **PSSA website:** This is mainly used to upload the application form for the Professional Innovation Project. National office assists with these uploads.
- **YPG email:** The ypg@pharmail.co.za email address is used for all communication from members/young pharmacists to YPG, currently received by Mariet Eksteen. In addition, all submissions of the Professional Innovation Project are submitted to this email address. Lorraine Osman receives a copy of all emails.

Projects

With the approval of PSSA, YPG launched some new projects in the past year.

- **Professional Innovation Project:** The first project was presented and concluded successfully with 2 applications, for which the winning project received R15 000 for implementation of the project, of which SAAHIP sponsored R10 000 and the Cape Western branch R5 000. The second round concluded on March 31. This year, R15 000 was sponsored for the first prize by SAAHIP and Cape Western branch, and R6 000 for the runner-up by SAACP.
- **Leadership project:** Currently, the planning of a leadership project is in progress. Walter Mbatha administers this project on behalf of YPG in the Southern Gauteng branch with the support of the Southern Gauteng branch management.
- **Pharmacist-led activities towards tobacco-free communities:** The aim of this project is to convert the international report by FIP



The Young Pharmacists' Group at the SAACP symposium. Spot the intruder.

for a South African audience. The young pharmacists of the Cape Midlands Branch indicated their interest to conduct this project. However, they need some guidance and direction and the director's office was asked for assistance in this regard.

- **Codeine Care Project:** The aim of this project was to promote this initiative under young pharmacists. The young pharmacists of Limpopo branch indicated their willingness to conduct this project.

YPG representation

In the past year, YPG was represented at several occasions.

- **SAAPI/APSSA 2015:** A presentation on YPG's mission and where it fits into the PSSA was presented by Mariet Eksteen.

- **SAAHIP 2016:** A SAAHIP networking bingo activity was launched at conference this year for all the first timers. About 38 delegates attended the conference for the first time. In a lucky draw a delegate from the Cape Western branch won a Drug Wise book sponsored by the PSSA. Eulanda Tshivhidzo was appointed SAAHIP YPG representative and will attend SAAHIP meetings on behalf of YPG.
- **SAACP:** The community pharmacists' symposium took place in May 2016. YPG sponsored and hosted a 2-hour workshop on Emotional Intelligence.

YPG session submissions to conferences

YPG submitted session proposals for the SAPC's 2nd National Pharmacy Conference. No feedback was received by February 2016, so the session proposals were withdrawn.

Working groups

YPG will use members' input in the form of collaboration in working groups on projects. These working groups will have a specific task and may exist between a few months to a year. Each working group will have an aim and objective(s) to meet and a deadline date for completion. In doing this, we hope to encourage members to become active in their branch or sector.