



# PSSA Young Pharmacists' Group

Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa



## Annual Report: Young Pharmacists' Group of the PSSA May 2016 to July 2017

Mariet Eksteen

The Young Pharmacists' Group has had an extremely successful year.  
We are proud to share with you some of the highlights.

### YPG representation on national and regional committees

At a national level, YPG was represented on the PSSA executive committee (exco) by Mariet Eksteen, on SAAHIP exco by Eulanda Tshivhidzo, and on SAACP exco by Gawie Malan. Six of the PSSA branches included YPG representatives – Cape Midlands (Razia Gaida), Southern Gauteng (Walter Mbatha), Cape Western Province (Gawie Malan), Pretoria (Matlapheng Shabalala, Famola Ngobeni and Thulani Motha), Limpopo (Rhulani Maluleka) and Free State (Lindie Liebenberg). Mariet Eksteen also attended SAAHIP Conference 2017 on behalf of the YPG.

### YPG programme at the PSSA conference

For the first time, YPG has decided to host a one day programme at the PSSA 2017 conference, which will be focussed on the young (and not-so-young) professionals. The programme includes:

- Professional Innovation and Development – the 2016 winner and runner-up of the YPG Professional Innovation Project will present their projects. In addition, the PPS Foundation will present a one hour workshop on financial wellbeing.
- At the YPG Business Meeting, the progress since 2014 will be reviewed and the first official steering committee will be elected.

- An Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) session will focus on the role and contribution of the pharmacist in AMS from different perspectives.
- An YPG evening at The Brazen Head, Fourways, will give young pharmacists the opportunity to network and have lots of fun during the Irish themed programme of food, drinks, music and karaoke.

### Projects

- Professional Innovation Project: This project was presented for the third time in 2017. Two applications were received. The winning project was announced during the PSSA AGM on Thursday 6 July 2017. Gawie Malan administered the 2017 call for applications, and will hand over to the newly elected Project Coordinator who will manage the project from July 2017.
- Pharmacist-led activities towards tobacco-free communities: After consulting with the FIP report published on 2015, YPG began collaborating with *HealthCraft* who have an established smoking cessation programme. World Anti-tobacco Day on 31 May provided an opportunity for pharmacists to advise consumers on the benefits and management of smoking cessation.
- Intern pre-registration workshops and CSP information: YPG developed guidelines to host an YPG pre-registration workshop at branch level. The guidelines were presented at the PSSA exco meeting, and were

circulated to all YPG and branch representatives. The aim is to assist interns in preparation for their pre-registration examination and to market the PSSA to potential members.

- **Intern CPD workshop:** The Pretoria branch YPG piloted a new project to assist interns with the CPD submissions. This initiative will assist the PSSA branches to guide, mentor, support and inspire young professionals. It is also an opportunity to serve the members and market the Society. YPG involved several young pharmacists from all branches to assist in the organisation of intern pre-registration workshops in all branches. These young pharmacists work closely with National and their branch chair according to guidelines developed by YPG.
- **Leadership project:** This project was taken on by the young pharmacists of the Southern Gauteng branch and is still in its development phase.
- **Codeine Care Project:** The Limpopo branch adopted this project, which they are currently developing.

## Communication

The YPG made use of a number of different communications media.

- **YPG Newsletter:** Six newsletters were sent out since May 2016. Gawie Malan (Cape Western Province) was the

administrator, and will hand over to the newly elected Public Relations in July 2017.

- **YPG page in SAPJ:** Each issue of the SAPJ contains a YPG page. Information such as the call for projects, position descriptions for steering committee portfolios and call for applications for the professional innovation project were included. Mariet Eksteen prepared the submissions but this responsibility will also be handed to the Public Relations Officer.
- **PSSA Website:** YPG has a link on the PSSA page where communication, application forms and other information is uploaded. Mariet Eksteen and Nitsa Manolis will assist YPG with this. The new Public Relations Officer will provide updated information to National.
- **YPG email:** All general communication to YPG comes through the [ypg@pharmail.co.za](mailto:ypg@pharmail.co.za) email address. Currently this is linked to Mariet Eksteen, but as soon as the new steering committee is elected, it will be linked to their email addresses. Mariet will continue to receive a copy of the emails, as she will be the PSSA staff member responsible for contact with the YPG.
- **Facebook:** YPG communicated and marketed several events, information and activities to members through the PSSA YPG Facebook page. YPG also promoted events and activities from other branches and sectors and distribute information from other organisations such as FIP, FIP YPG, IPSF, WHO and ICPA on its page.