



## APSSA annual conference 6 – 9 July 2017

In 2017 the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (APSSA) held their annual conference together with the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa at the Indaba Hotel in Midrand.

In addition to academic presentations, two workshops were held. The first dealt with an important aspect of pharmacy education – experiential learning in pharmacy schools, which is mandatory in terms of the BPharm qualification. During the session, which was facilitated by Vassie Naidoo on behalf of the SA Pharmacy Council, representatives of six universities shared their experiences in incorporating hands-on learning into traditionally academic programmes.



Vassie Naidoo

The second workshop further challenged the traditional academic approach. Nadine Butler and Renier Coetzee, as representatives of the Baby Boomer and Millennial generations respectively, explained the challenges of understanding and teaching the Millennial generation, born between 1975 and 1995. They gave some useful tips:

- Educate yourself about the concept of generational differences
- Recognise the environmental and cultural forces that affect the millennial learner
- Millennials need guidance and focus in their learning
- Understand how potential intergenerational tension may impact learning
- Identify your teaching or life philosophy
- Identify the limits of multi-tasking
- Emphasise opportunities for additional help and support
- Recognise that millennials value (and expect) aesthetically appealing educational presentations
- Learn how to utilise current eLearning technologies

- Encourage modern forms of curiosity and exploration

During the gala dinner, the Best Publication and Teacher of the Year awards were presented.

### Best Publication awards

The Academy thanks Boehringer Ingelheim for its sponsorship of these awards. Ilse Cukrowski was present to hand them over on behalf of Boehringer Ingelheim.



Would you take instruction from these aliens seen at the conference?

Best Publication in Pharmaceutical Chemistry: Alvaro Viljoen – Tshwane University of Technology (co-authors: Chen W, Nkosi TAN, Combrink S, Cartwright-Jones C); Rapid analysis of the skin irritant p-phenylenediamine (PPD) in henna products using atmospheric solids analysis probe mass spectrometry published in the Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis.



Alvaro Viljoen, winner of the Best Publication in Pharmaceutics award



Ilze Vermaak accepting the Best Publication award from Ilse Cukrowski on behalf of Alvaro Viljoen

Best Publication in Pharmaceutics: Thirumala Govender – University of KwaZulu-Natal Westville campus (co-authors: Sonawane SJ, Kalhapure RS, Rambharose S, Mocktar C, Vepuri SB, Soliman M); Ultra-small lipid-dendrimer hybrid nanoparticles



Thiru Govender, winner of the Best Publication in Pharmaceutics award



Brian Harvey, winner of the Best Publication in Pharmacology award



Johanita Burger, winner of the Best Publication in Pharmacy Practice award

as a promising strategy for antibiotic delivery: In vitro and in silico studies published in the International Journal of Pharmaceutics.

Best Publication in Pharmacology: Brian Harvey – North West University Potchefstroom campus (co-authors: Uys M, Shahid M, Sallinen J, Dreyer W, Cockeran M); The  $\alpha_{2c}$ -adrenoceptor antagonist, ORM-10921, has antipsychotic-like effects in social isolation reared rats and

bolsters the response to haloperidol published in the Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology & Biological Psychiatry journal.

Best Publication in Pharmacy Practice: Johanita Burger – North West University Potchefstroom campus (co-authors: Fraser I, Lubbe M, Dranitsaris G, Sonderup M, Stander T); Cost-Effectiveness Modelling of Sofosbuvir-Containing Regimens for Chronic Genotype 5 Hepatitis C Virus Infection in South Africa published in the PharmacoEconomics journal.

### Johnson & Johnson Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award

Thank you to Johnson & Johnson for their continued sponsorship of this award.

The winner for 2017 was Renier Coetzee from the University of the Western Cape.



Gareth Kilian presenting Renier Coetzee with the J&J Distinguished Teacher award