CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists (SAAHIP) 33rd Annual Conference and 62nd AGM 2019

Arrangements are well underway for the 2019 South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists (SAAHIP) Conference, which will take place from 7 – 9 March 2019. The conference will be hosted by the Northern Cape and Free State branch and will again be held at the spectacular Champagne Sports Resort in the Drakensberg.

The theme for the 2019 SAAHIP Conference is “50 Shades Brighter”. In order to know where you are going, you first need to know where you are coming from and have a firm idea of what you wish to achieve going forward. We are fortunate to be in a profession which continually propels you forward. During our 2018 Conference we had time to reflect on our current practice and to learn from each other. We learned that there are always new avenues of pharmacy to explore and that we each practise pharmacy in a different way with some similarities. We learned that there are more than fifty shades of pharmacy in our diverse profession. Moving forward, we have an idea of where we are going, what we are capable of doing and what our current and potential roles are in the healthcare system. We are slowly seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and it is “50 Shades Brighter”. There are so many opportunities. We just need to seize them.

The SAAHIP Conference provides an excellent platform for pharmacists to share knowledge and practical experience with their peers and to present their research findings. We invite and encourage abstract submissions from all practising hospital and institutional pharmacists, community service pharmacists, pharmacist interns and academics. We particularly welcome abstract submissions in the scenario presentation category sharing clinical or practice-related initiatives by practising pharmacists working in hospital and institutional settings. You do not have to be registered for an advanced degree to carry out research or to present your findings at this conference!

Categories for submission of abstracts

In focusing on the theme “50 Shades Brighter” at the 2019 SAAHIP Conference, we are particularly looking for innovative projects changing the way in which pharmacy is practiced which work towards ultimately improving the way in which we manage our patients by using our knowledge as experts in pharmacotherapy. Gone are the dark shades of pharmacy when we were seen as pill counters. We are moving into an era where we have bright and vibrant shades of pharmacy which are evident for all of the professions and patients around us to see. We invite and encourage you all to come and share with other pharmacists the difference you have made in improving patient care, your accomplishments in quality improvement projects, initiatives during Pharmacy Week and research and new innovations to serve patients and the pharmacy profession at large.

Submit your abstracts in the following categories:

- Availability of quality medicines and supplies: Budget/inventory control; selection, procurement and distribution; medicine supply management; drug utilisation reviews; cost analysis
- Patient safety and security: Reporting of adverse drug events; rational medicine use; adherence; communication and information on the safe use of medicines; patient education; the safe disposal of medicines; clinical programmes for disease management; quality of life evaluations
- Infection prevention and control: Antibiotic stewardship; availability and use of quality equipment; waste management
- Quality patient service: Waiting times; patient load; patients on chronic medicines; community engagement; effective use of human resources
- Human resources: Staff development; staff values and attitudes; training for support personnel
- Strategic management and legal policies: Implementation of new strategies in pharmaceutical services; methods employed to implement legal requirements; projects to improve Good Pharmacy Practice (GPP) compliance or to advance the agenda of the Basel Statements of the Future of Hospital Pharmacy; strategies for change management

The above is by no means an exhaustive list. Other topics may well be worthy of presentation.

Presentation categories

Determine the most appropriate format for your presentation in one of the following categories:

- Podium presentations: A formal 10-minute oral presentation. A further five minutes will be allowed for discussion and to receive questions from the audience. A podium presentation is generally about a structured research project with aims, methods, results and conclusions.
Forum

- **Scenario presentations**: A formal 10-minute oral presentation. A further five minutes will be allowed for discussion and to receive questions from the audience. A scenario could involve an in-depth study of a specific real-world event or a particular problem that was encountered and solved in a clinical or practice-related environment. Scenario presentations should illustrate a good understanding of why the event happened or why the problem occurred. Presentations should highlight the concerns that arise from a scenario (that requires further investigation) and how the problem can be solved.

- **Pearl presentations**: A short five-minute oral presentation. “Pearls” are a fun-filled way of presenting a serious topic, but with a different slant. Just as a pearl has an intrinsic value, these presentations should focus on something that is exceptional, precious and not well known generally. The presentation should convey a useful, punchy message that has not been widely published or taught. The ideas could be from any practice setting, e.g. clinical, administrative, pharmaceutical care or quality improvement. Although both a title and an abstract will need to be submitted for the selection process, only the title will be published in the conference programme, so as to preserve the essence of a pearl presentation. No discussion will take place. Questions will not be invited from the audience.

- **Poster presentations**: A visual display that facilitates discussion. A poster could be research, a case study or a real-life event as outlined in the scenario presentations above. Presenters can display their posters for three days and deliver a formal three-minute talk to the full audience during the scheduled poster session. Discussion and questions from the audience will take place at the poster during the subsequent tea or lunch break.

**Awards**

The following awards will be made:

- Best podium presentation by a practising hospital or institutional pharmacist
- Best poster presentation by a practising hospital or institutional pharmacist
- Best scenario presentation by a practising hospital institutional pharmacist
- Best presentation by an academic pharmacist
- Best pearl presentation

Only paid-up SAAHIP members will qualify for awards. Award winners from the previous two conferences and members of the judging panel will not be eligible for an award.

**Abstract submission**

Please visit the SAAHIP website for information on the format of abstracts and guidelines for authors:

http://www.saahip.org.za/

Submit abstracts or contact the organisers for further information at the following address: saahip.conference@gmail.com

**Important dates**

Abstract submission deadline: 14 September 2018
Notification of acceptance or rejection from the Academic Committee: 12 October 2018