



The South African Pharmaceutical Students Federation

About SAPSF

The South African Pharmaceutical Students Federation (SAPSF) was founded in 1953 – an astounding 60 years ago – by two universities' student branches, namely that of Rhodes University and Potchefstroom University (now North-West University). SAPSF now represents more than 4 000 pharmacy students and recent graduates in nine South African Universities, all working towards a common goal as outlined by the aforementioned vision.

The South African Pharmaceutical Students Federation, hereafter referred to as the SAPSF, as a united student body, serves the interests of the pharmacy students and promotes the pharmacy profession by working towards a common goal of quality of health for all.

SAPSF is the leading national advocacy organisation of pharmacy students promoting improved public health through the provision of information, education, networking, and a range of publication and professional activities. SAPSF forms one of the many major, united national health science organisations across the world with the objective of strengthening the profession from the student medium that it serves.

Who are we?

A professional federation that represents ALL Pharmacy students studying in South Africa.

The South African Pharmaceutical Students Federation is the body that regulates and governs all the pharmacy student organisations that fall under it, namely:

- Potchefstroom Aptekerstudentevereniging (PASV)
- Port Elizabeth Pharmacy Students Association (PEPSA)
- Rhodes University Pharmacy Student Association (RUPSA)
- Sefako Makgatho University Association of Pharmacy Students (SMUAPS)
- Tshwane University of Technology Association of Pharmacy Students (TUTAPS)

- University of Limpopo Association of Pharmacy Students (ULAPS)
- University of KZN Association of Pharmacy Students (UKNAPS)
- University of the Western Cape Association of Pharmacy Students (UWCAPS)
- Witwatersrand Pharmaceutical Students Council (WPSC)

Meet the Team!

SAPSF PRESCO

Presidential Committee 2018/2019



The SAPSF PresCo – (l to r) Nelson Mabusela (General Secretary), Kaylen Hendricks (Editor), Nomaphelo Krakri (Student Exchange Officer), Thulani Motha (President), Katlego Kupa (Public Initiative Officer), Jennifer Tshilambwana (Media and Communications Officer), Mashao Madiba (Treasurer) and Innocent Mukkhuthu (Vice President)

Our Commitment

SAPSF aims to continue to draw interest from all pharmacy students and alumni, both nationally and internationally, and to ensure a healthy exchange of views and vision for the profession.

Uniting pharmacy students by providing a leadership base, addressing the student's issues and improving their status and recognition within the health care structure.

- Promoting health and improving health care
- Professional competence and the development of confidence through continuing education
- Provision of health care and community services

The Collective Vision

SAPSF, under the leadership of the 2018/19 Presidential Committee, aims to further enhance its involvement in community and outreach projects, as well as preserve the federation by focusing on the continuity of SAPSF. Through the solution-driven character of the team, driven by students, for the students; they aim to make SAPSF eminent to all the branches throughout the country as their role and responsibility is to serve all pharmacy students.

Upon realisation that correspondence with branches nationally can pose challenges, the collective committed to promoting public health campaigns in all the SAPSF branches for consistent health education. SAPSF will continue assisting graduates with internship placements, as resolved by the 64th South African Pharmaceutical Students' Federation Conference 2018, due to the scarcity of intern employment opportunities in the pharmaceutical environment.



The South African Pharmaceutical Students' Federation intends on establishing lifelong partnerships with relevant pharmacy bodies such as PSSA, YPG, SAAHIP, SAACP, SAAPI, ICPA, Academy and the SAPC, understanding the importance of student involvement in addressing larger issues and involvement of projects that will ultimately determine the future of the pharmacy profession. The role of SAPSF is constantly changing, and here's what the collective had to say:

"The future of pharmacy is deteriorating; it has become rare to find a pharmacist doing ward rounds in order to solve drug therapy problems and bring about appropriate personalised patient care plans. Dispensing machines and robots are being introduced, and this threatens the profession. I aspire to study M.Pharm Clinical, after completing my B.Pharm studies. At a later stage, I hope to study Regulatory affairs due to my interests in clinical trials." –Katlego Kupa, Public Initiative Officer 2018/19

"I see pharmacists becoming an even more integral part of health professionals; becoming more involved and proactive in the health outcomes of the patient, and not just dishing out drugs. I see pharmacists moving into specialised roles and stretching the hand print of pharmacy even further. I also see them taking more influential decisions when it comes to the future of health care in South Africa." –Thulani Motha, President 2018/19

"I hope to see a more united profession, not only nationally, but globally too. I believe through involvement of pharmacy students and professionals in the relevant structures –such as SAPSF, PSSA, etc. –this can be achieved. A major part of my duties is to administer the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) Student Exchange Programme (SEP) in South Africa. SEP is an opportunity for IPSF members to explore the world; learn how pharmacy is practised in other countries; appreciate the cultural differences and learn about the similarities, while having fun. SAPSF is proud to announce that we will be offering SEP in all our 9 branches across the country!" –Nomaphelo Krakri, Student Exchange Officer 2018/19



"I believe that pharmacy is a broad profession with a niche for everyone. Individually, we have a role to play in ensuring that we attend to the collective responsibilities that we are posed with. Ours is not to take up the role of the 'shopkeeper', but to establish the future of the 'shop' and constantly reflect on the value that the 'shop' adds to the lives of our people. As pharmacy students, and more especially as leaders in the health sector, it is important to induct students (at a primary level) with an outlook that is favourable to upholding the honour and dignity of the profession." –Kaylen Hendricks, Editor 2018/19

IPSF 64th World Congress in Mendoza, Argentina

The South African Pharmaceutical Students' Federation has made tremendous progress by re-establishing itself into the international spectrum. This was evident through its participation in the annual, sought-after International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation 64th World Congress, held in Mendoza, Argentina. SAPSF was well



represented, having both SAPSF Presco 2018/19 President, Thulani Motha, and SAPSF Presco 2017/18 Student Exchange Officer, Nomathemba Shivite, in attendance to deliver the mandate of all South African pharmacy students.

SAPSF has ensured that pharmacy students are presented with platforms aimed at the improvement of public health through the provision of information, education, and networking opportunities as well as a range of publications and professional activities.

Through the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation, hereafter called IPSF, a leading international advocacy organisation for pharmacy and pharmaceutical science students, SAPSF has gained recognition in its respective region, the African Regional Office (AfRO), and has unlocked several opportunities for pharmacy students of South Africa to participate not only nationally, but globally.

What lies ahead?

Following the trip to Mendoza, Argentina, here's what the 2018/19 SAPSF President, Thulani Motha had to say about participating in the IPSF World Congress:



"Travelling to another continent and country, to meet with pharmacy students from different countries was an eye opener. I have learned that the foundation of pharmacy in every country is similar, if not, the same. The minor differences lie in where the profession is now, and where it is moving towards. This, I picked up from the structure of the B.Pharm courses itself, across different borders; there were distinct differences in how they are offered, the duration they are offered for, and what opportunities are

presented to you (or merely made accessible) by the profession after graduation.



I have learned the importance of establishing friendships, not just 'friends', but 'friends within the profession'. From my experience it is clear that the future of pharmacy is in the hands of young people. The winds of change are here and we have to ride them so that we can navigate to the right destination, where the profession will remain to serve the patient, and not anything nor anyone else."

The experience is a fulfilling exchange of knowledge, customs and enlightenment to understand that pharmacy is a universal language. It inculcates respect for human dignity; cultural diversity and individualism; a team spirit that encourages individual initiative; and delivery of quality-driven outcomes.

NOT FORGETTING!

The 3rd National Pharmaceutical Conference of the South African Pharmacy Council will be held in 2019, and the definite participation of pharmacy students, represented through the South African Pharmaceutical Students' Federation, will further deepen the contribution of pharmacy students towards their future.



SAPSF understands the necessity for the battle of ideas in intellectual platforms, to bring forth both innovative concepts and constructive solutions to the health sector. The spirit is high as we await the prestigious event, under the theme:

PLUGGED-IN, ENGAGED, BECOMING A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

IPSF AfRO 2020

COMING SOON TO SOUTH AFRICA! The South African Pharmaceutical Students' Federation has successfully attained the bid to host the IPSF AfRO in 2020. The opportunity will come with an enthusiastic target audience composed of young pharmacists, students, academia and alumni from across the board.

The prospect of hosting the IPSF African Pharmaceutical Symposium will parachute South Africa into the global spectrum, by gearing towards improved public health by advancing pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical science; responding to global challenges in health, health education, and workforce strategy; and serving as the global, collective voice of students and recent graduates in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences. The intellectual capacity of aspiring pharmacists and agents of change should be harnessed to shape the future of the profession, and continuously challenge pending global health issues advancing innervating health care.

The chickens are coming out to roost in South Africa! The future of the South African Pharmaceutical Students' Federation, and the future of pharmacists, through the looking glass, is undoubtedly a positive one and should be anticipated.

