



Southern Gauteng celebrates excellence, and bids farewell to stalwarts

William Paterson award

The purpose of the William Paterson award is to demonstrate recognition to those rare and outstanding members of the PSSA who have shown outstanding focus on the attainment of objectives for the PSSA, and through exceptional and consistent involvement in the Society's activities, involvement in associated professional, business and educational or other relevant health care organizations have contributed significantly to the Society's and the profession's development to the benefit of all members of the profession and that of the consumers of health care.

This description fits David Boyce perfectly. At a dinner held at the Southern Gauteng Branch office in September 2018, Geraldine Bartlett very eloquently enumerated David's extensive achievements. He is best known for his involvement in MediKredit, and his active involvement in the Southern Gauteng branch. The Awards committee of the PSSA decided that, in recognition of his achievements and in celebration of his involvement in the

profession, the William Paterson award should be bestowed on David, who will always be remembered for his visionary, extraordinary and lasting contributions to pharmacy. Ivan Kotzé, executive director of the Pharmaceutical Society, on behalf of the PSSA National Executive Committee, presented David with the award.

The end of an era – bidding our stalwarts farewell

Doug Gordon has for many years been a commanding presence at 52 Glenhove Road. Gary Köhn, a past President of the PSSA and member of the PSSA Southern Gauteng Branch, highlighted some of Doug's contributions to the development of, for example MediKredit, and the general development of the Southern Gauteng Branch of the PSSA. Fools were not suffered gladly, but charm could ease the most difficult situations. Doug's energies will, no doubt, now be channelled into all those activities retirees suddenly have time for. He certainly will be missed.

Neville Lyne's contributions to pharmacy are many and varied. He brought to the PSSA national office his experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Over the years, he organised conferences for the Society, introduced the Professional Indemnity plan for pharmacists, and arranged various public relations programmes, chairing the highly successful Pharmacy Professional Awareness Campaign. Since he left the national office, he has worked at the Southern Gauteng branch and until recently was involved in arranging CPD sessions and in the production of The Golden Mortar, on whose Editorial Board he has given valuable service for many years.

The PSSA wishes them both a happy and healthy retirement.



Neville Lyne, Doug Gordon, David Boyce and Southern Gauteng chair, Lynette Terblanche

Introducing Pharmabridge®

The Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) is a proud member organisation of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). Through this membership, all PSSA members get the membership benefit of access to international best practice guidelines.

FIP, established in 1912, is the largest international organisation representing more than 4 million pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists worldwide. The FIP Foundation for Education and Research was established to promote the educational and research ventures of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists, and expand the pharmacist's role into charitable projects towards global health. One such project that is supported by FIP and the Foundation is Pharmabridge®.

About Pharmabridge®

This voluntary initiative aims to strengthen pharmacy services and pharmacy education in low-income and emerging countries through fostering communication and exchanging information, resources and experiences between pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists and pharmacy educators from all corners of the globe, leading to better pharmacy services, improved patient care and enhanced community health.

The idea is to provide an avenue where pharmacists practising in pharmacies, pharmaceutical sciences, pharmaceutical industry or pharmacy education can both inform and learn from global colleagues. This initiative then provides a bridge between those in need of training or practice resources and those individuals who can provide them with books, journals, electronic resources and global training opportunities. Pharmacists with information and experiences to share also have the opportunity to visit areas in need in order to provide lectures, workshops and training seminars. An important focus of interest is clinical pharmacy, pharmacy practice and the development of drug information services.

PSSA members who will benefit the most from this programme are those who are already established on a career path with some years of experience in the specific field and sector of pharmacy. The ideal age group that benefits from Pharmabridge® exchanges is between 30 and 50 years.

How to get involved

Interested individuals can register online at <https://www.fipfoundation.org/pharmabridge-registration-and-participants> by completing the questionnaire form and submitting information on the participation area, description of need or potential offer, twinning arrangements and other similar programmes they are involved in.

Once the form is received by the coordinator, Dr Agathe Wehrli, she will match profiles and submit needs to offering parties who will select who they want to link up with and initiate contact. Another way to access international exposure opportunities is to visit the Pharmabridge® website (www.pharmabridge.org), search the list of registered participants who have given consent for their details to be listed and initiate contact with potential collaborators directly without going the questionnaire route.

In the case of exchange programmes, the duration is normally four weeks and the programme is primarily self-funded. Requests for financial support can be submitted to FIP through Pharmabridge® for consideration and host institutions (university, industry, pharmacy) also assist with:

- Recommendation on low cost, long-term accommodation within walking distance or short ride from the host site and nearby practices;
- Providing needed documentation and invitation letter for visa applications;
- Arranging an academic programme for duration of visit; and
- Providing a social network for engagement.

Become a host institution

If any PSSA member is interested in offering a learning experience in an academic environment, community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy or industry, volunteer to become a host institution and collaborate with Pharmabridge®.

For more information visit the Pharmabridge® website or email the coordinator at wehrlia@bluewin.ch.

Do you know what the PSSA actually does?

Unravelling the work done by the PSSA

The PSSA has become aware of the fact that many of its members are unaware of much of the work done in the offices of the PSSA. We thought it might be useful to highlight some of the important activities that are carried out in the interests of its members. At the end of this article, we have inserted the benefits of PSSA membership in a table, to remind you of what we do and the services that are directly available to you.

How PSSA national, branches and sectors communicate with members

The PSSA, its branches and sectors use a number of different media to make sure that members are told of current information, news and challenges, and what the PSSA is doing about them.

- **Publications** – In particular, our two main publications, the SA Pharmaceutical Journal and the SA Pharmacist's assistants, are published at regular intervals and carry news, information and educational articles on topics that are useful to members. The limitation that they have is that they are only produced six and four times a year respectively, and news doesn't wait for their publication dates!
- **Website** – That's fine, because we also have other communication media for the times in between the journals. The PSSA website, www.pssa.org.za, is a formal information source that is available 24 hours a day.
- **Newsletter** – When something happens that members need to know immediately, our newsletters are extremely useful because you will have the news delivered straight to your inbox.
- **Facebook** – Nowadays, of course, social media is not only a fun part of our lives, it is also a way of spreading news. The Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa facebook page, and those of the sectors and branches, is a wonderful immediate way to communicate with members, and to allow members to engage in conversation about the topics posted. It encourages a sense of community among pharmacists, who need not be facing their individual challenges alone.
- **Phone and email** – Naturally, the PSSA national, branch and sectoral offices are only a phone call or email away when members have issues for which they need speedy information, advice and support.

Services that are offered directly to members

- **Interaction with others in similar practice settings** – PSSA

meetings, symposia and conferences, whether national, sectoral or at branch level, make it possible for members to meet their colleagues and to share their knowledge, experience and frustrations. Hopefully discussing their frustrations leads to understanding of how to manage them!

- **Human resource issues** – Many members make use of our labour law advice service. They are offered a free telephonic consultation with a labour lawyer, who can give a referral to suitable legal representation if necessary.
- **Professional indemnity insurance and short term insurance** – It's become apparent that healthcare professionals are vulnerable to litigation when patients believe that the professional has made mistakes that have affected them adversely. The PSSA has teamed up with the Professional Provident Society to offer both professional indemnity insurance and short-term insurance that is both cost effective and appropriate to different practice settings. This helps our members because by law they are required to have appropriate professional indemnity insurance, and in every day life short term insurance to protect our assets has become important.
- **Continuing profession development** – We're all aware of the importance of staying up-to-date in our practice. The PSSA, its sectors and branches offer CPD evenings, symposia and conferences at which members are informed of current practice and trends. Obviously, it isn't always convenient for members to attend these events. Fortunately, they can participate in the PSSA webinars, or catch up with them online at a convenient time. In partnership with AlphaPharm and Insight Medicine Information, useful distance learning modules are offered at reasonable prices to PSSA members.
- **Promotion of the profession** – PSSA members are aware of the value their healthcare services bring to the public, but it's always important to make sure that people know about them. In collaboration with the National Department of Health and the South African Pharmacy Council, the PSSA is happy to participate in the preparation of material for Pharmacy Month, which forms part of the national health calendar. In addition, PSSA members can celebrate the annual World Pharmacists Day, which is an initiative of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).
- **Books and reference material** – apart from the legal requirement that pharmacies are required by law to have certain reference material available, the PSSA is able to offer

many of these books to its members at preferential rates. We also have a joint venture with LexisNexis. Our publication, the Pharmacy Law Compendium, is offered to PSSA members at a 10% discount.

- **The Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education** – this a bursary system that is administered by the PSSA. Those members who are in a position to contribute financially to the Foundation are urged to make a difference to its important work. The Foundation allocates bursaries to deserving undergraduate and postgraduate pharmacy students annually. As always, the need exceeds the availability of funds. So if you are able to contribute, it would be deeply appreciated.
- **Post-nominal initials** – Members and Fellows of the PSSA can include the post-nominal letters MPS or FPS, respectively, after their names, to indicate their membership of the society.

Specialty for students

Some years ago, the PSSA agreed that pharmacy students would not pay a membership fee. They were to be encouraged to participate in PSSA activities at branch level. It was not possible to send them printed copies of the SAPJ because of the cost implications.

From 2019, two important changes will take place.

- **Electronic SAPJ** – when current issues of the SAPJ become available online, pharmacy students and academic interns will be sent the hyperlink to the issue.
- **Newsletters** – the office has received more and more requests from students for practice information. One way in which we will assist them is to include them in the mailing list so that they receive the newsletters. We believe that this is a way to introduce them to the realities facing the profession.

Behind the scenes activity

Some of the PSSA's work happens quietly behind the scenes. While members may not be aware of it, we believe that it is critical for this work to take place.

- **Interaction with important decision-makers** – it's important for decision makers, such as the National Department of

Health and the statutory health councils, to be aware of the effect that their decisions have on the pharmacy profession. It's also important for them to know that the pharmacy profession is eager to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. As healthcare professionals, our contribution to healthcare is unique and significant, and decision makers need to be reminded of this. It's seldom possible for individuals to bring this to the attention of these bodies, but the PSSA is committed to doing so on behalf of our members.

- **Interaction with international associations** – we are fortunate that the PSSA is a member of both the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association. This gives us access to best international practices, which we are able to share with our members. We are officially represented at meetings of these bodies, and we regularly participate in their activities, including contribution of information about South African practice. Both bodies are involved with the World Health Organisation, which aims to direct international health within the United Nations' system and to lead partners in global health responses.
- **Monitoring of legislation** – there are many laws that apply to influence pharmacy, such as the Pharmacy Act, Medicine and Related Substances Act, the National Health Act and others. There are also laws that directly influence the practice of pharmacy, such as the Medical Schemes Act, and draft legislation that will have a direct impact on our members, such as the National Insurance Bill. The PSSA scrutinises both published and draft legislation, and comments on aspects that will affect both members and the public. Periodically, members are asked for their opinions, and the PSSA appreciates it when people share their own experience and thoughts with the national office, as it provides insight into the realities experienced in public.

Make the most of your membership

We hope that we have reminded you of what the PSSA does for you. We urge you to participate actively in your branch or sector, or even at national level. The meetings are there for you to express your opinion, the CPD is there for you to polish your knowledge and skills, and all the activities mentioned here and in the table are intended to be for your benefit. Use them! Become an active member of our Society and reap the professional benefits!



Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS 2019

	Categories of Membership						
	Ordinary Members		Associate Members			International Associate Members	
	Pharmacist*	Intern & Academic intern	Pharmacy Student	Pharmacy Technician & Technical Assistant	Pharmacist's Assistant		
National promotion of the irreplaceable role of the pharmacist as part of the healthcare team to other health professionals and the public through initiatives such as Pharmacy Month and World Pharmacists Day.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Negotiation on behalf of members with government (National Department of Health, Heads of Pharmaceutical Services and the Minister of Health) and other health related professions and councils (SAPC, BHF, SAHPRA, WHO and FIP).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Interaction and benchmarking with colleagues in the same Sector of the profession (academia, community, hospital and institutional, industry) or same geographical area (branch) and also exposure to other sectors of the profession through joint events.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Advice and support which is only a phone call or email away from various experienced full-time staff of the Society.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Reliable information and relevant news communicated through: South African Pharmaceutical Journal and South African Pharmacist's Assistant Journal** PSSA website Electronic newsletters Social Media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Professional legal services including assistance with human resource related issues through free telephonic labour law advice and referral to suitable legal representation.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Books and reference publications available at preferential rates to members. PSSA Pharmacy Law Compendium, published by LexisNexis, is available to PSSA members at 10% discount.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reviewing and addressing healthcare legislation such as Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, Pharmacy Act, National Health Insurance, Medical Schemes Act, Dispensing fee, etc.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
International best practice guidelines made available through membership of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Professional Indemnity Insurance cost-effective and comprehensively through partnership with PPS Short Term Insurance to suit a diversity of practice settings and levels of cover.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bursaries through the Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education to deserving undergraduate and post graduate pharmacy students (<i>academic interns and pharmacy students only</i>) depending the availability of bursaries.		Academic interns only	✓				
Continuing Professional Development through CPD evenings, online webinars, symposiums, workshops and conferences. The PSSA/Alpha Pharm distance learning programme, which covers five relevant diseases per year, is available at a reduced rate.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Attend any meeting of Society, Branch or Sectoral Division, or by invitation any Executive Meeting of the Branch or Sectoral Division Committee.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Take part in any discussion on any matter at any general or special meeting of the Branch or Sectoral Division.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Proud association with the PSSA and entitlement to include MPS (Member of Pharmaceutical Society) or FPS (Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society) after your name.	✓	✓					
Vote on any motion put to a General or Special meeting of the Branch or Sectoral Division of which he/she is a member.	✓	✓					
Nominate and vote for members of the Branch and Sectoral committee of which he/she is a member.	✓	✓					
Be nominated for and appointed to any office or committee of the Society.	✓	✓					
Selected by his/her Branch or Sectoral Division to attend and vote at meetings of the General Council.	✓	✓					

*Including Community Service Pharmacist **in printed format for pharmacists, community service pharmacists, interns, pharmacist's assistants, pharmacy technicians and international associate members. Through a link to online version for academic interns and pharmacy students

Changes to the schedules

Some minor but significant changes were made in the schedules to the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 101 of 1965.

Ibuprofen

Preparations intended for application to the skin, which contain 5% m/m or less of ibuprofen, and packed in a maximum quantity of 50 grams, can now be sold as a schedule 0. Larger pack sizes are now schedule 1.

Avaquone and proguanil

The scheduling status of co-formulated preparations containing both avaquone and proguanil is now officially schedule 2, if they are intended and labelled for the chemoprophylaxis of malaria in those weighing 11 kg or more.

Tetanus toxoid

This was previously listed in schedule 4. It has now been changed to the more logical schedule 2.



PHARMACIST'S ASSISTANT TRAINING COURSE - ADMISSIONS 2019

Applications are invited for the current qualification Basic Level (SAQA Qualification ID 62249) until 30 June 2019 and Post Basic Level (SAQA Qualification ID 72050) until 30 June 2020.

The current qualification ends on 30 June 2022. It is imperative that you enroll immediately in order to complete your Basic Level training course within the **minimum** prescribed period of 12 months in order to be able to enroll for the Post Basic Level course within the South African Pharmacy Council's prescribed enrollment period for the current Qualification.

Course Provider

Pharmacy Training and Development Project within the School of Pharmacy, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU), was established in 1991 and has, for the past 28 years been a trusted provider of quality training.

For details on the above courses, please contact Marlene Fourie or Lianie van Niekerk at (012) 521 4997 or marlene.fourie@smu.ac.za / lianievanniekerk@smu.ac.za