



SAACP 69th Annual General Meeting 9 June 2019

Jan du Toit, Executive Director



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The 69th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the South African Association of Community Pharmacists (SAACP) was held at the PSSA Lynnwood Conference Centre, Pretoria on Sunday 9 June 2019. The meeting was well attended and the following office bearers were elected for the ensuing year, namely:

President:	Tshifhiwa Rabali
Vice-President:	Joe Ravele
Honorary Treasurer:	Nadine Simmonds
Immediate Past President:	Christine Venter

In terms of a previous decision of the General Council, the position of Honorary Secretary will remain vacant for the time being.

In his report on behalf of the SAACP NEC, the President highlighted the following:

Meetings

Four national executive committee (NEC) meetings, including the AGM, were held during the period under review, as well as three presidential committee meetings. The meetings concerned were well-attended and took place in good spirit. Many issues impacting on community pharmacy practice were discussed.

SAACP membership

In terms of the Constitution of the PSSA, members of the PSSA may voluntarily select to belong to a Sector of the PSSA. The table below shows the number of PSSA members who, for the period 2015 – 2019 (five-year period), have chosen to belong to the Community Pharmacy Sector of the PSSA.

Paid up PSSA members who have selected membership of the Community Pharmacy Sector of the PSSA	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (as on 29/5/19)
Grand Total	2647	2520	2362	2588	2542

The number of PSSA members who have voluntarily selected membership of the community pharmacy sector of the PSSA, has remained fairly stagnant for the years under consideration, with a small decrease in 2019 (in comparison with 2018).

Tshif Rabali urged all SAACP members and branches to promote the role of the community pharmacist and the benefits of belonging to the Community Pharmacy Sector of the PSSA

Role/relevance of SAACP

The incoming NEC (2019/20) must seriously consider how it, as the SAACP leadership, wishes to continue with SAACP as an association – it cannot be “business as usual”. Certain changes are urgently required to ensure the future existence of SAACP as a body representing the community pharmacy sector of the PSSA. Furthermore, there is too much overlap/duplication between the activities of the PSSA, SAACP and ICPA, as far as community pharmacy is concerned. Roles must be clearly defined and clarified to prevent confusion amongst members regarding which body/association is supposed to be doing what for the members.

Marketing of SAACP

Marketing is performed on a daily basis by responding to and assisting with multiple enquiries from members (also non-members) on matters relating to, amongst others:

- PCDT (mostly assistance required regarding applications submitted, obtaining PCNs, and services which may be provided)
- Licensing of pharmacies
- Approval of pharmacies and tutors for training
- Pharmacy Council inspections and how to address shortcomings
- Complaints lodged against members with Pharmacy Council
- Legal matters/interpretations relating to both the Pharmacy Act and Medicines Act
- Articles in the SAPJ on community pharmacy practice issues

The attendance and membership of international conferences/bodies is another very successful manner in which SAACP has been recognised over the years. Some examples are:

- Membership and attendance of Pharmintercom annually
- Attendance of FIP annually
- Membership of the World Pharmacy Council Ltd (WPC)

SAACP also participated in The Pharmacy Show held at Gallagher Estate in November 2018.

Primary Care Drug Therapy (PCDT)

The issuing of section 22A(15) permits to pharmacists who have completed a PCDT qualification is still a very cumbersome and slow process. In an effort to assist in this process a survey was conducted (with the assistance of Dr Mariet Eksteen of the PSSA Head Office) to determine shortcomings and identify possible solutions. A report of the outcome(s) of the survey is available on request.

International Conferences/Meetings/Liaison/Visits

Representation on the EXCO of the Community Pharmacy Section of FIP

The President was elected to the EXCO of the CPS of FIP at the FIP Congress in Glasgow in 2018. This election provides an opportunity to not only market SAACP as an Association but also to contribute to community pharmacy affairs internationally.

Pharmintercom, September 2018

Pharmintercom consists of the Presidents/Chairmen of Board of Directors and Executive Directors/Chief Executive Officers of the Community Pharmacy Associations of the seven English speaking countries namely Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom. The 2018 Pharmintercom meeting was hosted by the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPA) and held in Banff, Alberta, Canada from 26 – 30 August 2018. The meeting was attended by the Executive Director and the President on behalf of SAACP.

The value of sharing information and projects is of immense value to everybody attending. There were several new members present, as well as younger members with good vision who are also influential in pharmacy politics in their respective countries.

International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

The 78th International Congress of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) was held in Glasgow, Scotland from 2 – 6 September 2018. The event was attended by the Executive Director and the President on behalf of SAACP, with approximately another 20 delegates from South Africa, representing various pharmacy related organisations in South Africa.

World Pharmacy Council Ltd (WPC)

The establishment of a World Pharmacy Council (WPC) was finalised during 2017, with SAACP having founder membership status. This process has been driven by the Pharmacy Guild in Australia.

During an international teleconference held on 25 May 2017, the Constitution and By-laws of the WPC were approved/accepted.

The Executive Director of SAACP is a Member of the Board of WPC and also the representative of the African Region on the WPC Board. Board meetings of WPC will be held during Pharmintercom meetings to save on costs.

However, the incoming NEC of SAACP must have an in-depth discussion on what the benefit(s) of membership of WPC would be for SAACP and its members, particularly in a NHI financing system.

Attendance of APP Conference, Australia

The President was invited to attend the WPC Board meeting and APP Conference held at the Gold Coast in Australia from 7 – 10 March 2019. The need for exposure to pharmacy internationally could not be over-emphasized and the experience gained could be put to good use in our planning regarding the role/relevance of SAACP in South Africa. He also had the privilege of being part of an international discussion group workshop on “new horizons in pain management” offered as part of the Conference.

Hosting of Pharmintercom, 2019

SAACP (South Africa) will have the honour of hosting the Pharmintercom meeting from 18 – 22 August 2019 at the Shepherd’s Tree Game Lodge, North West Province. Arrangements for the meeting are going well and most of the overseas delegates have already registered.

Visit to BHF re PCDT “locum permits”

The President and the Executive Director met with BHF representatives to discuss “locum permits” and the issuing of PCNs to PCDT pharmacists of a locum permit, i.e. not linked to a specific pharmacy.

Visit to POLMED

The President and Executive Director met with representatives of POLMED to convey and discuss concerns of pharmacists with service delivery due to the contractual agreement between Polmed and Scriptpharm.

4th National Symposium for community pharmacists

The annual SAACP Symposium is one of the most important mechanisms which SAACP has to convey and share information on various matters (nationally and internationally) with members. It was thus very unfortunate that the 4th National Symposium had to be cancelled due to a lack of funding. Hopefully Branches of both PSSA and SAACP will make a more concerted effort in the future to ensure the continuation of this important event annually.

In conclusion, many challenges are awaiting SAACP as an Association. It was emphasized that SAACP must reach out to young pharmacists and facilitate their involvement in activities of the Association. The funding of SAACP National was also a very contentious issue which must be addressed to ensure the future relevance of the Association and its membership.

The AGM ended at 11:50 with a word of thanks to the Chair.