



## APSSA annual conference 9 – 11 October 2019

The Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (APSSA) held their annual conference at the Kleinkaap Boutique Hotel in Centurion. The theme of the conference was 'Bridge the Gap: Towards convergence between the classroom, laboratory and practice.'



The APSSA Executive Committee

The academic programme was a full and exciting array of topics of interest to our members and included invited speakers such as Dr Stavros Nicolaou, Prof. Shabir Banoo, Prof. Beverley Summers and Prof. Natalie Schellack amongst many others as well as hosting two workshops, one on demystifying multiple-choice questions by Shirra Moch as well as a publication workshop by Anne-Marie Pordon from Elsevier.

This year's conference also hosted the 40<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Academy. We were honoured to have Prof. Rob Summers, a founding member of the Academy, deliver the opening address at the AGM.

During the gala dinner, the Young Scientist, Best Publication, Best Poster, Best Oral Presentation and Teacher of the Year awards were presented.

### **Aspen Pharmacare Young Scientist Winner – Laboratory Sciences**

Kara de la Harpe (Wits)

*An advanced 3D monofilament biosuture*



Jackie Tau (Aspen), Kara de la Harpe, Gareth Kilian (APSSA)

### **Aspen Pharmacare Young Scientist Runner-up – Laboratory Sciences**

Lara Freidus (Wits)

*Novel pH-triggered, fluorescent, mesoporous silica nanoparticles for potential theranostic applications in cancer intervention*



Jackie Tau, Lara Freidus, Gareth Kilian

**Aspen Pharmacare Young Scientist Winner – Practice**

Yasmine Khan (NMU)

*Proposed antimicrobial stewardship curriculum for the South African Bachelor of Pharmacy programme*



Gareth Kilian, Jackie Tau, Yasmin Khan



Admire Dube receiving his award from Gareth Kilian

**Distinguished Teacher of the Year**

The 2019 winner was Deanne Johnston from the University of the Witwatersrand.



Deanne Johnston, winner of the Distinguished Teacher award, with Gareth Kilian

**Publication Awards**

**Pharmaceutical Chemistry**

**Erika Kapp** (UWC) – Molecular modelling and simulation studies of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* multidrug efflux pump protein Rv1258c

**Pharmaceutics**

**Admire Dube** (UWC) – Functionalisation of PLGA nanoparticles with 1,3-β-glucan enhances the intracellular pharmacokinetics of rifampicin in macrophages

**Pharmacy Practice**

**Sandy van Vuuren** (Wits) – Opportunities to optimise colistin stewardship in hospitalised patients in South Africa: results of a multisite utilisation audit



Sandy van Vuuren, Pharmacy Practice publication winner, with Gareth Kilian

**Pharmacology**

**Brian Harvey** (NWU) – N-acetyl cysteine reverses bio-behavioural changes induced by prenatal inflammation, adolescent methamphetamine exposure and combined challenges

**Oral presentation**

Winner – Tumelo Kgoe (NWU)  
 Runner-up – Kevine Kanama (TUT)

**Poster award**

Winner – Phineas Moremi (UL)  
 Runner-up – Deanne Johnston (Wits)



Sanele Khoza (Aspen SED coordinator – Strategic Trade and Development) and Jackie Tau (Aspen Group Manager – Strategic Trade and Development) at the gala dinner