



President's Message

Dear friends and colleagues

The world as we knew it has come to an end. When last I wrote to you, COVID-19 had just arrived in the country. Since then, everything has changed in the way we live, the way we work, and the way we communicate.

At that stage, I expressed my faith in you, my colleagues and friends. Although our nightmare had just begun, I knew that you would arise as heroes in healthcare.

This is exactly what has happened. I have read your stories and felt your pain. There are no adequate words to express my appreciation of how you have not only continued to offer your own unique contribution to healthcare, but you have also emerged as the heroes we know you are. I know that pharmacists in all sectors have continued working, sometimes under the most difficult and scary circumstances. Most pharmacists are exhausted, physically and emotionally, but you carry on.

As I take your leave as President of the PSSA, it is with sadness and with joy.

With sadness, because I have appreciated being included in your professional journey. There are always regrets – there is so much to do, but we are all limited by conflicting demands that are made on us.

With joy, because I thank you for allowing me to be part of your pharmacy family. Your passion is contagious.

I am convinced that it is because we have all taken to heart the oath that we, as pharmacists and members of the PSSA, have taken. We take our responsibilities seriously, as a matter of conscience and conviction.

I take your leave with a reminder of our pledge to our patients and profession.

In acknowledgement of the ultimate destiny of mankind,

And in the presence of my teachers, my peers, my family

And all other witnesses assembled here today,

I, as pharmacist, solemnly pledge

To devote myself to the well-being of humanity and to the relief of suffering,

which I now regard as my calling in life,

To obey and maintain the ethical standards of pharmacy,

To continuously renew, augment, and improve my knowledge and expertise, in order to fulfil the obligations of a pharmacist,

To uphold the profession of pharmacy as the custodian of medicine,

and regard medicine as the instrument entrusted to me to protect

and improve the quality of life,

Not to divulge improperly any personal or confidential matter, directly or indirectly, confided to me by my patients or clients,

even after their death.

That my primary goal will be the fulfilment of the demands of my profession, and that neither personal gain nor quest for glory

will take precedence in the execution of my duty,

To co-operate with other health care workers, if need be,

to achieve my professional objective and the desired therapeutic outcome,

That I have taken this oath voluntarily, in full realisation of the confidence and the responsibilities placed upon me.

I now go forth to discharge my duties to the best of my ability, and true to the dictates of my conscience.

Well done, my magnificent colleagues. You have done us proud, and will continue to do so. Carry on, knowing that even when the days are darkest, and it feels as though no-one recognises your worth, you are the reason that the pharmacy profession can hold its head high.

Stéphan Möller

President: PSSA