



## 75<sup>th</sup> AGM of the PSSA – a historic meeting

The 75<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the PSSA is an achievement that would have been celebrated at the PSSA Conference in Port Elizabeth had it not been for the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had a major global effect, with most countries around the globe being placed in some form of lockdown. In South Africa, the country has been in lockdown since 27 March 2020 and even though the country is slowly opening up and more and more activities are allowed, large gatherings still remain banned due to the risk of infection.

This year we all experienced a massive interruption to our lives, our work environment, and the way we conduct our meetings. The way we interact with each other has now changed and the traditional format of our annual conference and AGM also had to change. We are all going through a steep learning curve and this year's experience might change the way we operate in the future, even after COVID-19.

For the first time in its history, the AGM of the PSSA was not held in person, but rather virtually on an electronic platform.

### 75 YEARS AGO

A group of seven pharmacists met on 13 June 1885 in the public library at King William's Town to form the South African Pharmaceutical Association which set into motion a chain of events which resulted in the establishment of branch pharmaceutical societies in many parts of the country and their later amalgamation into a nationally-based pharmaceutical society in 1946 with over a thousand members, representing about 70% of the registered chemists in the country at the time.

In 1943 at the Bloemfontein Conference of the Associated Pharmaceutical Societies of South Africa (APS) a Mr John Christie tabled a historic motion calling for the creation of a national Pharmaceutical Society, the motion was carried with 18 votes to 4. A lot of the work was done by a committee chaired by Mr Aaron Kramer and the draft Constitution was completed in August 1944 and the APS conference which was held in East London in 1945 was extended and the Constitution was debated for one-and-a-half days and consensus could not be reached. A special general meeting of the APS was scheduled to be held in Johannesburg, and the Constitution was finally adopted, and the inauguration of the PSSA was set as 01 January 1946. Mr FJ Todd was elected as the first President of the PSSA.

The first Annual General Meeting of the PSSA was held from 18–21 March 1946 in Johannesburg.

"That this Conference of the APS shall accept the principle of the establishment of a South African Pharmaceutical Society, and shall appoint a Committee representing all constituent societies to be set up immediately:

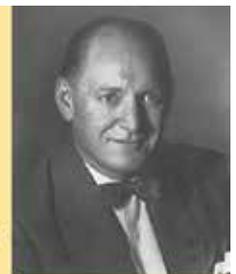
- (a) for the purpose of preparing the groundwork for the organisation of such a society;
- (b) to prepare the draft constitution of such a society.

This Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees, and to co-opt or empower sub-committees to co-opt additional members. The Sub-Committee shall be located in the respective centres in which constituent societies are situated, or other suitable places. This Committee shall collate the findings and opinions and wishes of all constituent societies, and report back to a Special General Meeting of the APS within six months."<sup>13</sup>

**THE MOTION THAT STARTED IT ALL**  
This motion was tabled in 1943 at the Bloemfontein Conference of the Associated Pharmaceutical Societies of South Africa (APS). The motion was carried 18 votes to 4

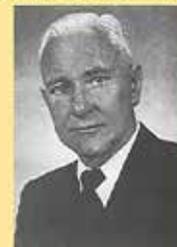
#### MR AARON KRAMER

The chairman of the committee appointed to give effect to the motion and the moving force behind the creation of the PSSA



#### MR FJ TODD

The first President of the PSSA – he was praised for inspiring the necessary confidence and co-operation among the various societies



**CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**  
The PSSA was congratulated for setting an example by uniting as a profession by the Prime Minister of South Africa

#### Congratulations

The Prime Minister of South Africa, Field-Marshal the Rt. Hon. J C Smuts, sent a telegram to the newly formed Society congratulating them for setting an example to other bodies "still divided on provincial lines". He ended his message: "May the future prosper your union."<sup>14</sup>

**THE 1<sup>ST</sup> PSSA AGM 18 – 21 MARCH 1946**  
The letter of welcome from Miss Constance Hoffs, Chairman of the Transvaal Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society, to delegates



DELEGATES TO THE FIRST PSSA AGM 1946



The first PSSA AGM

It is perhaps fitting that the 75<sup>th</sup> AGM signifies significant change, just as the very first AGM signified the unity of the profession in South Africa and although no face-to-face gathering in person could be convened, as envisaged in our Constitution, the virtual AGM presented new opportunities, although it came with its own challenges, such as loadshedding. To have a successful AGM, all participants were required to exercise discipline to deal with the formalities required of an AGM. This year, because the meeting was held as a virtual online meeting, every councillor had the opportunity to personally exercise their vote.

It is clear that the PSSA Constitution should be amended to accommodate modern voting processes and to provide a platform for councillors and members to raise issues for debate. This year, a virtual meeting will be held shortly in order to provide an opportunity for members to participate in such a debate so as to direct the activities of the Society to serve the current and future needs of its members.

The Executive Director, Ivan Kotzé, would like to thank the staff at National Office and the officers at Branch and Sectoral offices for their support and service provided during these challenging times.

"To our members, thank you for your loyal support, and to all of you who serve on our committees and Branch and Sectoral structures, your services to our profession are truly appreciated," says Kotzé.

During all AGMs, the President of the PSSA presents an Annual Report on behalf of the National Executive Committee (NEC). This report highlights some of the important activities of the past year. Many of the PSSA activities are ongoing, and members are informed of progress on a regular basis. In addition to regular communication with the PSSA NEC, members can access information by reading the electronic newsletters that are frequently sent to all members, as well as the South African Pharmaceutical Journal (SAPJ), the PSSA website and Facebook pages.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating effects should be considered when reading the reports from sectors and branches. The pandemic resulted in the PSSA National Office, branches and sectors not being able to continue their activities as they have in the past. It is therefore not surprising that some branches could not submit reports for this Annual Report and some sectors may have submitted shorter than usual reports. The PSSA has needed to postpone its planned conference to 2021 as one example and the customary August NEC meeting was not held. PSSA National Office staff are working from home, and their service to PSSA members has continued uninterrupted. The Annual Report, 2020, can be accessed on the PSSA website.

## Elections

At the AGM, a new PSSA Executive Committee for the 2020/2021 year was elected. Congratulations to all members that were

elected! The NEC has representatives from all 4 sectors and all branches, so if members want to find out more or get more involved, they are requested to contact their Exco representative.

### Presidential Committee

President	Joggie Hattingh
Deputy President	Refloë Mogale
Honorary Treasurer	Lynette Terblanche
Immediate Past President	Stéphan Möller

### Vice-Presidents

APSSA	Gareth Kilian
SAACP	Tshif Rabali
SAAHIP	Shawn Zeelie
SAAPI	Godfrey Keele

### Branch representatives

Border and Eastern Districts	Sim Pambuka
Cape Midlands	Cheryl Stanton
Cape Western Province	Jackie Maimin, Aadila Patel, Gawie Malan
Free State	Martlie Mocke-Richter
KwaZulu-Natal Coastal	Patrick O'Donoghue, Gregory Poole
KwaZulu-Natal Inland	Juané van der Merwe
Limpopo	Mohale Seepe
Mpumalanga	Gideon Vosloo
Northern Cape	TBA
North West	Nico Scheepers
Pretoria	Morné Adamson, Joe Ravele
Southern Gauteng	Tabassum Chicktay, James Meakings, Thanushya Pillay

## Fellowship

Fellowship of the Society is to recognise those members who have consistently served to promote the profession and have significantly furthered the aims/objectives of the PSSA during his/her membership in exceptional ways at Branch, Sector and/or National Level over a significant number of years.

This year, Fellowship of the PSSA was conferred on Christine Venter. Christine is a past President of SAACP and an active member of the Pretoria PSSA branch.

# The PSSA/Alpha Pharm distance learning programme 2020

*The PSSA/Alpha Pharm distance learning programme continues to offer pharmacists useful, practical, up-to-date information that enables them to provide optimal pharmaceutical care to their patients.*

## **Module 4/2020 – Tuberculosis and its management**

Many pharmacists have asked for a module on tuberculosis (TB), which is not surprising, since it is a major problem in the country and the pharmacist can – and should – be playing a valued and important role in this area. South Africa is one of the countries with the highest burden of TB in the world. This is exacerbated by the HIV/AIDS epidemic and wide-spread drug resistance in the country.

The annual incidence of TB in South Africa stands at 525 new cases per 100 000 population per year – one of the highest in the world. Of these in 2018 nearly 60% were HIV-infected. South Africa also had the second highest number of diagnosed multi-drug resistant-TB cases after India.

This module provides useful and up-to-date information on how TB is recognised and diagnosed and explains the latest treatment approaches being used to manage TB and drug-resistant TB. The knowledge gained by completing this module will enable you to be better informed to assist in the management of TB.

*For more information about this programme contact Gill or Glynis at Insight Medicine Information on 011 706 6939 or email: cpdalpharm@insightmed.co.za.*

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# The PSSA/Alpha Pharm clinical education programme 2020 for pharmacy staff

*The PSSA/Alpha Pharm pharmacy staff clinical education programme continues to offer front-shop assistants or pharmacist's assistants up-to-date information that enables them to provide optimal pharmaceutical care to their patients. All pharmacy staff need to be familiar with the use of unscheduled medicines and should be reminded of when it is necessary to refer the patient to the pharmacist.*

## **Module 4/2020 – Understanding tuberculosis**

TB is one of the top 10 causes of death and the leading cause of death as a result of an infectious disease. In South Africa in 2018, approximately 301 000 people fell ill with TB and 64 000 people died of TB. This of a disease that is both preventable and curable.

TB is currently treated using a standard treatment regimen administered for a period of at least six months. When treatment is not taken correctly, or there is an interruption in the supply of TB medicines, or the incorrect drug combinations are used, then

drug resistance to TB medication can arise. Drug-resistant TB complicates the treatment of TB as well as increasing the risk of mortality (dying) from TB.

The “END TB Strategy” is a strategy that has been adopted worldwide and aims to end the global TB epidemic by 2030. The most immediate goals of this strategy are to ensure a reduction in new TB cases and TB deaths. In order to achieve this, a multi-disciplinary approach to the management of TB is being taken. That means that every health professional has a role to play in the fight against TB.

Knowledge gained through this module will help you understand the TB epidemic and the role that you as a front-shop assistant can play towards eradication of the TB epidemic.

*If you would like to participate in the PSSA/Alpha Pharm pharmacy staff clinical education programme please contact Gill or Glynis for further information on 011 706 6939 or email: cpdalpharm@insightmed.co.za.*