



## Presidential report – Annual general meeting 2021

**S Zeelie**

President, SAAHIP

I am pleased to present the annual report sharing the SA Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists' (SAAHIP) activities and achievements for 2020–2021.

### National Executive Committee (NEC)

Shawn Zeelie – National President	Kirtan Kasiram (KwaZulu-Natal Coastal)
Kaajal Chetty – Vice President	Pearl Lentsoane (Northern Gauteng)
Hannes Stegmann – Honorary Treasurer	Rhulani Maluleke (Limpopo)
Kristien Schutte – National Secretary	Armand Algra (North West)
Refiloe Mogale – Past President	Alice Lategan (Eastern Cape)
Tabassum Chicktay (Southern Gauteng)	Eulanda Tshividzo (co-opted)
Carrie de Beer (Western Cape)	Lourens van der Merwe (co-opted)
Akhona Fynn (KwaZulu-Natal Inland)	Thanushya Pillaye (co-opted)
Phindile Zulu (Mpumalanga)	Lorraine Osman (co-opted)

### COVID-19 pandemic

After our conference, national lockdown was announced. This changed the way we had to go about our business. Our daily activities changed, the way we operate had to be relooked and revisited. We changed our format in which we conducted our meetings. As healthcare professionals, we faced the daunting task of being in the frontline of fighting the fight against the pandemic. As with all battles, the pandemic left us with some casualties. We salute our brave fellow pharmacists who lost their lives in the fight against COVID-19. We wish to honor them for all their valiant efforts to keep our clients and their families safe. This period during the pandemic proved to us we are more resilient than what we give ourselves credit. We had to adapt to thrive and as pharmacists, we boldly took to the challenge.

### Membership

Our membership has increased incrementally for the past few years. The table below indicates the total membership i.e. the current number of paid members per branch as at November 2020.

Northern Gauteng – 238	Western Cape – 473
Southern Gauteng – 390	Limpopo – 150
Mpumalanga – 102	KZN Coastal – 354
North West – 114	Eastern Cape – 273
KZN Inland – 141	Northern Cape/Free State – 133
Non-residents – 2	

### SAAHIP activities

#### Conference 2020

One of the highlights in the SAAHIP calendar year is conference. SAAHIP NEC decided to postpone conference 2021 to 2022. This was after careful consideration and taking into account the current pandemic and also the safety of our members.

#### Focus areas

We have revised our focus areas to have a reference to our strategic plan and the new requirements stemming from the nine pillars of the Presidential Health Compact, NHI Bill and the new Developments for Pharmacy 2030. All at NEC have been assigned a focus area.

Below is a summary of the focus areas:

1. Policies and legislation – NEC (and Northern Gauteng after consultation with branch committee)
2. Membership and marketing – Eastern Cape
3. Relationships with employers and policy makers – PRESCO and Union liaison committee
4. Conference – Mpumalanga
5. Communication – North West
6. Compliance with Health System Standards – Limpopo
7. National Health Insurance – Western Cape
8. Human Resources for Health – President and Past President
9. Improved access to essential medicines – KZN Inland
10. Quality and Safety of Health Services – KZN Coastal
11. Governance and Leadership – Southern Gauteng and Free State/ Northern Cape

### **Pharmacy Month**

Due to the current pandemic, Pharmacy Month was postponed. This however didn't stop some of our branches to offer health promotion activities in their facilities.

### **Social responsibility**

One of our social responsibilities is Operation Smile. Each year during conference, we raise funds to assist this noble cause. This year was no different. During conference 2020, we managed to raise R45 035 which equals to eight smiles. The NEC decided we will top up the smiles to nine smiles. With this, I would like to take the opportunity to thank each of the branches for their generosity. This will make a difference in someone's life.

Operation Smile is not the only drive we as SAAHIP is doing. Branches also support other charities such as outreach programmes, collecting canned foods as well as supporting old age homes.

### **Acknowledgement and conclusion**

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to all members of the NEC, for all their valuable contributions as well as all their sacrifices and hard work. I know this past year has been a difficult year with the current pandemic proving it difficult to fulfill our tasks and making our work harder, but I value all your expertise and willingness to dive right in where you are needed. To all our members, thank you for all your valiant efforts, I do appreciate all that you do for the profession. Please stay safe and take care of yourself.

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## **SAAHIP WC honours Helen Hayes**

**R Coetzee**



For the first time, the Western Cape branch of SAAHIP decided to establish a Merit Award, and as a branch we would like to recognise certain individuals from time to time for their contribution, dedication and support in serving not only their fellow pharmacists but the profession as a whole. Our first recipient of the Merit Award goes to someone who, even though she works within the Department

of Health, has a far greater reach in her capacity to serve on various national bodies.

Helen Hayes is not only the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee chairperson, but serves as a member of several committees including the provincial Antimicrobial Stewardship committee, Heads of Pharmaceutical Services and the South African Pharmacy Council.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Helen worked tirelessly to manage medicine estimates as well as their procurement whilst providing legal input to keep COVID-19 hospitals above board. During this time she was also involved in medicine policies related to the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Helen participated in the design and workflow of Cape Town International Convention Centre Hospital of Hope and the Brakengate Hospital of Hope, and also offered the pharmacists working there continued support. On top of this, Helen is also involved in the monitoring and evaluation of pharmacy practice and standards, and the analysis of technology developments as they relate to pharmacy practice.

For this, and more, we would like to thank you for your contribution and continued support of the pharmacy profession as a whole.