

# SAAHIP Award of Honour 2021

## Prof. Ros Dowse Hughes

Prof. Roslind Dowse is well known in pharmacy circles. She is currently an Emeritus Associate Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes University.

She completed her B Pharm degree at Rhodes University in 1975, followed by a PhD in Pharmacokinetics in 1984. She then joined the Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes University in 1985 as a lecturer in Pharmaceutics and Pharmacy Practice. Her research focus changed from Pharmaceutics to Pharmacy Practice aspects, in particular health literacy, health education and health communication in limited literacy populations. During her career, she has published many articles in peer-reviewed journals. Ros was appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Communication in Healthcare* in 2011.

Ros has been a loyal PSSA member for many years. She is an Honorary Life Member of Academy and an affiliated member of SAAHIP. She has served on the Academy executive committee, and has presented her research at the Academy and SAAHIP conferences, for which she has received many awards.

Nationally, Ros Dowse has been involved with projects of the National Department of Health and, at the time, the Medicines Control Council. She served on the Drug Information Committee of the Essential Drug Programme, and the Patient Information Leaflet Task Team of the MCC.

Internationally, she is an individual member of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), where she served on the Consumer Medicines Information international working group.

Ros is our Pictogram Queen – she became an innovator in pharmacy practice research in South Africa. Her research included designing and evaluating health-related visuals or pictograms to act as a communication tool to address communication barriers such as language and literacy, and to research their role when included in written medicine information and when used by health professionals.



Patient-centred care became her passion when Ros herself became a patient. “As a consequence of my 20 years plus history of oral cancer and my experiences with the healthcare system and healthcare professionals, I have integrated my various life roles as patient, health professional and researcher to act as a patient advocate to the health professions”, she says.

Ros, you’ve taught us that we, as pharmacists, must be vigilant and empathetic when dealing with patients. You’ve shown us that “Take two tablets three times a day” is not patient counselling, that leaving it solely to other healthcare professionals to interact with patients is unprofessional, and we must always remember that the patient deserves personal and focussed attention from the pharmacist.

Ros Dowse, we salute you!