



# Young Pharmacists' Group of the PSSA Annual Report for 2021

**August 2020 to April 2021**

Byron Chukwu, YPG Chairperson

## Committee meetings

We held one face-to-face meeting in December 2020. The Committee was inducted into office at a meeting in which Dr Mariet Eksteen introduced the committee to the PSSA Constitution and Regulations, YPG Operating Guidelines and YPG Portfolio descriptions – Chair, Project Coordinator (PC), Public Relations Officer (PRO).

1. Monthly Steering Committee (SC) meetings were held, usually in the first week of every month, via Google meet, which posed its own challenges but the meetings were productive. SC members were constantly in contact via emails as well. Since December 2020, meetings have been attended only by the Chair and PRO.
2. Meetings with the YPG representatives were held every second month. They have assisted in YPG related activities throughout this term.

## Activities

The following activities took place during the term:

1. YPG chair was co-opted on the PSSA National Executive Committee (NEC) and the PRO was nominated as branch representative to the NEC.
2. YPG representatives were identified in each branch to ensure more participation and collaboration amongst young pharmacists.
3. YPG was represented at first-year orientation at SMU.
4. The YPG SC participation in several health awareness days was shared on various social media platforms. A huge part of this success was due to the assistance of the YPG representatives.
5. During this term, the PSSA Mentorship programme (pilot phase, Southern Gauteng and Cape Western Province branches) was finally rolled out. Currently, six mentees are paired with six mentors. Success in this phase is vital in order to be able to roll out to the rest of the branches.
6. A needs analysis survey was sent to members in late 2020. Results of this analysis highlighted knowledge gaps that members had. The SC addressed these via newsletter and webinars.

### YPG representation

1. Nicole Keuler (PRO) is currently working with the University of the Western Cape, with the support of the SAPC, on an immunisation and injection technique short course.
2. Currently, three young pharmacists form part of the PSSA NEC – Byron Chukwu, Hilton Stevens and Nicole Keuler.
3. The SC hosted various webinars throughout the term, initiated and prepared by YPG members.
4. The chairperson of the YPG SC currently serves on the SAAHIP NEC.
5. Thulani Motha and Byron Chukwu have been co-opted onto the SAAPI Digital Health subcommittee.

### Public Relations Officer

1. The YPG SC ensured frequent communication to members and stakeholders as well as planned and executed media campaigns for projects.
2. Social media platforms were set up and managed for ease of communication. The YPG SC decided to change the Facebook group to a page for easier access and coordination.
3. Support was given to the Chairman and Projects Coordinator in their roles, with input as far as communication is concerned.
4. Important health days/campaigns were shared on social media and activities ignited around those days, actively supported by the YPG representatives. Special advertisements, designed by PRO and YPG representatives, were shared on the YPG Facebook page. These health days aimed to create awareness and challenge all the PSSA members to participate in these campaigns. A PSSA YPG Health Awareness Calendar was also designed to promote this initiative in the future.
5. Content was written, prepared and created for publication in the South African Pharmaceutical Journal throughout the term.
6. The YPG SC PRO developed a social media guideline which is in the final phase of consultation prior to implementation.

### Project Coordinator *(functions were performed by Chair and Public Relations Officer)*

1. PSSA YPG SC kept track of the progress of the current winner of the innovation progress, Dr Radzia Gaida. The new call was sent out and closed on 15 April 2021.
2. A webinar was held by previous winners to help encourage people who might be interested in doing a project but do not know where to start. This was coordinated and hosted by the PRO and Chair.
3. Because there was no project submitted in 2020, more time was given to the current winner due to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. The winner of the 2021 PIP will be announced at the Business Meeting in May.

### Recommendations for next SC

1. Improve YPG activity and communication via newsletters and webinars.
2. Continue improving YPG visibility at branches and sectors.
3. Engagement of the PSSA NEC to assist/guide on matters that YPG members are struggling with.
4. Continue to create awareness on various health days.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the 4<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa's Young Pharmacists' Group to be held at 19h00 on 12 May 2021 via Microsoft Teams.