

Letter to the Editor



Dear Lorraine

I received my online copy of the latest South African Pharmaceutical Journal towards the end of last week. When I opened the link and scrolled through the index, I came across the obituary column and clicked to open the page.

I was shocked to learn that two stalwarts of pharmacy had passed on to that great dispensary in the sky. Gus Ferguson, a wonderful personality, had passed away in December 2020, but there was no mention of the month during which Boet van der Merwe, a most efficient and well-liked past Executive Director of the PSSA, did the same. What disturbed me the most is that the obituary for Boet was co-authored by Ray Pogir, another stalwart who sadly also left this mortal coil in April this year, at the age of 90, after a lifetime serving our profession so well. I learnt of that loss during a conversation with Dave Sieff, two weeks after the sad event.

My memories of these three remarkable members of our profession are many and varied; they were an inspiration to me throughout my lengthy career as a pharmacist.

This is not the first time that I have learnt, either by chance or by reading obituaries in the SAPJ, or a list of obituaries included in the agenda of an AGM, that a colleague is no longer with us. In most

cases, the death had occurred many months, or even a year earlier. Surely we, as members of PSSA or SAAHIP, can do better than this? Is it not possible for the PSSA to send out a special newsletter to members notifying them of the passing of a member who has devoted years of service to his professional organisation? A black-bordered one perhaps?

It would be a respectful gesture, and one of appreciation, from the PSSA to acknowledge the passing of a member that has served the profession loyally during their career. I am sure all pharmacists would appreciate learning timeously of the death of a colleague they remember, fondly or otherwise.

Of course, it would still be a fine gesture, a deserving one, for an obituary to be published in the SAPJ.

What are your thoughts on this matter?

Regards

Susan Buekes

*What do other readers think about this? Your comments are welcome.
Ed.*



THE PPS HEALTH PROFESSIONS INDEMNITY FOR PSSA MEMBERS JUST BECAME EVEN BETTER.

We are excited to announce a change to the professional indemnity product offering negotiated for PSSA members. The PSSA together with their long standing business partner, PPS, have made important enhancements to the product designed to provide greater value to members of the Society. As from 1 July 2021, the PSSA Professional Indemnity product will be directly underwritten by PPS Health Professions Indemnity, a division of PPS Short-Term Insurance Company Limited.

Cover for Pharmacist Assistants and Technicians as well as Wound Care Nurses is only available through group pharmacy policies unless the individual in question qualifies for PPS Group membership.

The strategic objective of PPS Health Professions Indemnity is to provide comprehensive quality indemnity protection, delivered through excellent service, at a fair premium to ensure long-term sustainability.

We would like to thank the PSSA for their continued support over the years and look forward to building this relationship

