

Where there is a will, there is a way... virtually!

Kaajal Chetty

Vice President, SAAHIP

March 2020 was the last opportunity that SAAHIP's councillors had to interact with one another face-to-face. I, for one, was so grateful to have safely met my SAAHIP family and honoured to have left the 63rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) as the newly elected Vice President. Since then, it has been a year like no other, a year where "surviving" was the accomplishment. A year filled with fear, frustration and uncertainty.

One thing we did know for sure was that it was imperative to **safely** hold the 64th AGM in 2021. It was decided that a large gathering of councillors for the conference would be too risky. Having just recovered from the second wave of COVID-19, we were sure that no councillor's safety should be compromised. *We stay away today, so we can meet tomorrow.*

With pyjama-clad home meetings now the norm, it was the logical choice to hold the 64th SAAHIP AGM on a virtual/online platform. We would follow in the footsteps of the Pharmaceutical Society's AGM in 2020.

And so, rolled in the digital platform... Or should I say logged in.

On 13 March 2021, SAAHIP held its first-ever online AGM. It was a very technical and interesting sequence of events, with random background noises and on-the-spot troubleshooting. With a core group of PRESCO

physically present at the Lynnwood Conference Centre, we worked through the agenda and successfully completed the almost 3-hour meeting.

SAAHIP is especially grateful to Anri Hornsveld, the PSSA Professional Liaison who acted as our technical advisor and IT specialist.

We may have missed the academic and social aspects of a conference, but we can be proud of our successful, first-of-its-kind, online AGM.

It was my honour to be re-elected as Vice President, alongside Shawn Zeelie as our President. Congratulations to Hannes Stegmann as re-elected Honorary Treasurer and to Nhlanhla Mafarafara as our newly elected Secretary. Refiloe Mogale remains as our Immediate Past President. I envisage that, together, we can successfully lead SAAHIP and the profession.

We certainly marched forward into 2021 from the 2020 conference. Remember 'Left, Right, Left, Right'? This pandemic has proven that we are indeed the soldiers in this battle for survival. AGM 2021 is proof of our resilience. Whatever obstacles (spike-protein viruses) life may throw at us, we will find a way to journey on... with masks on and socially distancing, of course!



Shawn Zeelie (President); Kaajal Chetty (Vice President)



Nhlanhla Mafarafara (Secretary); Hannes Stegmann (Honorary Treasurer); Refiloe Mogale (Past President)