

Celebrating Pharmacy 50

SAAHIP KZN Coastal marks their 50th AGM

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The first Annual General Meeting of the Natal branch of the South African Association of Institutional Pharmacists (SAAIP) was held on 23 September 1971 at the Royal Hotel, Durban. This is the precursor of the current KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Coastal branch of the South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists (SAAHIP). Fourteen years later, in 1985, Susan Buekes wrote an article in The Forum entitled 'A LOOK INTO THE PAST'. It was an article celebrating 100 years of organised pharmacy in South Africa and reflected on the origins and progression of SAAHIP. In the closing paragraph, Ms Buekes wrote, "There is no doubt that during the past fourteen years, Natal has played a leading role in the development of hospital pharmacy."

Thirty-five years later, I am proud to say that we are still an 'influential and respected body within the pharmaceutical profession'. So much has changed since then, and so much has remained the same.

2020 was a much-anticipated year as it marked the KZN Coastal branch's 50th AGM. A landmark event to pay tribute to the rich history of the branch was planned. Sadly, the year made history for other reasons. It was a year dominated by COVID-19, which meant no SAAHIP-style celebration. Tis' the unexpectedness of life and pandemics!

Despite this, the branch successfully held its first-ever virtual AGM on 19 November 2020 via an online platform. A bittersweet address by

the chairman, Kirtan Kasiram, paid tribute to the fallen heroes and highlighted the committee's many accomplishments, despite the turbulence of the year.

It would seem a great injustice, though, to not commemorate this anniversary with a special tribute to our pharmacists. With this in mind, SAAHIP KZN Coastal would like to pay homage to 50 hospital/institutional pharmacists who have helped sustain or improve the pharmacy profession, and who have inspired others. We therefore extend an invitation to SAAHIP members to nominate a current or past SAAHIP KZN Coastal member who has stood out for their exceptional contribution to the branch, the branch committee and the profession.

Please email a photo of your nominee, their full name and surname, PSSA number, email address and/or mobile number, and a summary of their activities to saahipkznc@yahoo.com by no later than 30 September 2021. If selected, this icon will be honoured as one of **SAAHIP KZNC's Pharmacy 50** and will be featured in the branch's anniversary brochure.

We look forward to marking our 50th AGM by celebrating each other and our remarkable history.