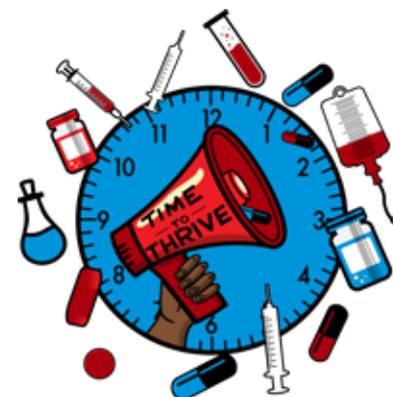


The South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists (SAHIP)

**37th Annual Conference and 66th Annual General Meeting (AGM)
2–5 March 2023**

“Time to Thrive”

Trials, tribulations & triumphs



Call for abstracts

In 2023, join the South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists Southern Gauteng branch in recognising the trials and tribulations endured while celebrating the triumphs of innovative strategies and evolution of our profession during this global crisis.

It is our time to thrive.

COVID-19, the global health crisis, has tested our health systems to its limits, even in the world's wealthiest and healthiest nations. This crisis has also made it clear that pharmacists and pharmacies are a crucial and integral part of health systems. Never have the trials and tribulations on the pharmacy profession been so great. During this time of uncertainty and emergency, our profession has demonstrated its expertise, strength, courage and dedication to care at the highest level.

Academics have worked tirelessly to safeguard the continuation of education of our students despite lockdowns to facilitate a workforce that is adequately equipped to meet the evolving needs of our patients. Community pharmacists have performed triage, vaccine administration, supported governments' pandemic initiatives, and ensured patients have continued access to their medicines, in spite of the risk of infection. Hospital pharmacists continue to face huge intakes of patients into their hospitals, with many of them moving beyond their specialties to provide critical care and dealing with ICU and hospital medicine shortages, setting up of field hospitals and vaccination centres, contributing towards the advancement of knowledge around COVID-19 treatment, monitoring drug outcomes and collaborating in the constant updating of treatment guidelines. Moreover, pharmacy students have been volunteering to reduce workforce shortages while pharmacists from all sectors continue to provide reliable information for preventing, detecting, and treating and managing coronavirus infections.

These are but a few examples from a plethora of triumphs which pharmacists have accomplished through their agility, innovativeness, intellect and resilience during the pandemic.

We invite and encourage abstract submissions from all practising hospital and institutional pharmacists, community service pharmacists, pharmacist interns and academics. We also challenge pharmacists to be at the forefront of adopting programmes in their work environments that bolster public health.

Categories for submission of abstracts

Submit your abstracts in the following categories:

Pharmacovigilance

- Adverse drug reaction reporting
- Monitoring of drug safety, quality and efficacy

Health system strengthening

- Developing and putting systems in place for sustainable care

Differentiated service delivery

- Implementing and providing care and services using task shifting, providing services in a different location, using a different cadre, e.g., PIMART, PCDT

Supply chain management

- The rationing of limited medicines and resources

Clinical pharmacy

- Treatment of ambulatory conditions

Acceleration of “virtual” practice and adopting of new and current technologies to advance patient care

The pharmacist's role during COVID-19

Facing and overcoming challenges such as medicine shortages, general supply shortages (face masks, sanitiser), unfair patient expectations, prescription surges as a result of patient stockpiling, PPE shortages, lack of time for clinical counselling, medical aid challenges, inadequate time for breaks, staff shortages, HR-related issues, discomfort in extension of care (e.g. with opioids) and lack of priority access to COVID-19 testing, to name a few.

- Policy, guidelines and SOP adaptation
- Use of technology
- Innovative ways to ensure access to medicines
- The vaccine roll-out and vaccine administration
- Contributions within a multidisciplinary team during the pandemic
- Prescription extensions, renewals and emergency supplies

The above is by no means an exclusive list. Other topics may be worthy of presentation.

Presentation categories

Using the following categories, determine the most appropriate format for your presentation:

- **Podium presentations:** A formal 10-minute oral presentation. A further five minutes will be allowed for discussion and to receive questions from the audience. A podium presentation is generally a structured research project with aims, methods, results and conclusions.
- **Scenario presentations:** A formal 10-minute oral presentation. A further five minutes will be allowed for discussion and to receive questions from the audience. A scenario could involve an in-depth study of a specific real-world event or a particular problem that was encountered and solved in a clinical or practice-related environment. Scenario presentations should illustrate a good understanding of why the event happened or why the problem occurred. Presentations should highlight the concerns that arise from a scenario (that requires further investigation) and how the problem can be solved.
- **Pearl presentations:** A short five-minute oral presentation. "Pearls" are a fun-filled way of presenting a serious topic, but with a different slant. Just as a pearl has an intrinsic value, these presentations should focus on something exceptional, precious and not well known generally. The presentation should convey a useful, punchy message that has not been widely published or taught. The ideas could be from any practice setting, e.g. clinical, administrative, pharmaceutical care or quality improvement. Although both a title and an abstract will need to be submitted for the selection process, only the title will be published in the conference programme. This is to preserve the essence of a pearl presentation. No discussion will take place. Questions will not be invited from the audience.

- **Poster presentations:** A visual display that facilitates discussion. A poster could be research, a case study or a real-life event as outlined in the scenario presentations above. Presenters can display their posters for three days and deliver a formal 2–3 minute talk to the full audience during the scheduled poster session. Discussion and questions from the audience will take place at the poster during the subsequent tea or lunch break.

Awards

The following awards will be presented:

- Best podium presentation by a practising hospital or institutional pharmacist
- Best poster presentation by practising hospital or institutional pharmacist
- Best scenario presentation by a practising hospital institutional pharmacist
- Best presentation by an academic pharmacist
- Best pearl presentation

Only paid-up SAAHIP members will qualify for awards. Award winners from the previous two conferences and members of the judging panel will not be eligible for an award.

Abstract submission

Visit the SAAHIP website for information on the format of abstracts and guidelines for authors: <http://www.saahip.org.za/>

The information is outlined in the Abstract Submission Guideline document.

Abstracts can be submitted electronically via the link: <https://forms.gle/sSbChghWbJG5dXzf8>

For more information, you can send an email to: liezl.fourie14@gmail.com

Important dates

Abstract submission deadline: 16 September 2022

Notification of acceptance or rejection from the Academic Committee: 21 October 2022