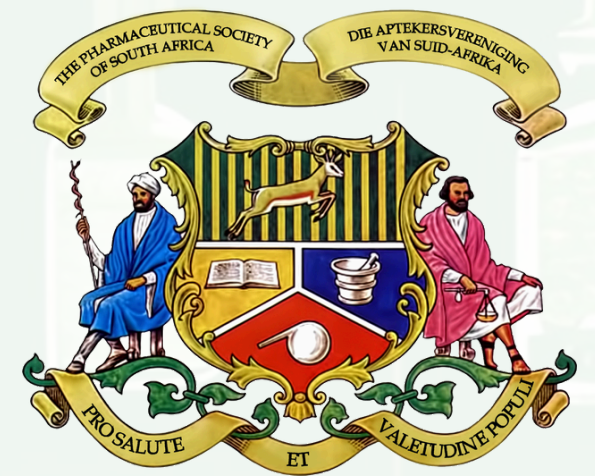




2025 PSSA Conference Programme

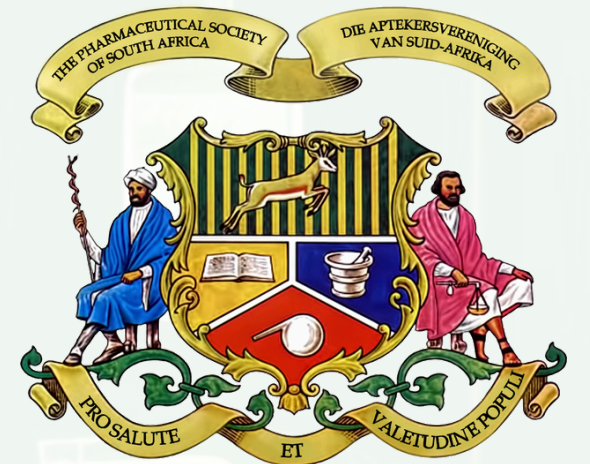


	Thursday 07 August 2025
08:00 – 11:00	SAACP AGM
10:00 - 12:00	Registration, arrival tea and coffee
12:00 - 13:00	<p>Evolving Health Systems: Advancing Integration for Sustainable, People-Centred Care The future of healthcare lies in seamless integration – across disciplines, sectors, and levels of care. As we gather under the theme “Evolve – Enhancing Healthcare Integration,” this plenary session invites reflection and forward-thinking dialogue on transforming health systems to be more coordinated, efficient, and responsive to the diverse needs of the population. Integrated healthcare is not merely a structural reform; it is a shift in mindset – one that values collaboration, continuity, and inclusivity. This session brings together leaders and changemakers to explore practical strategies and innovations that are shaping the evolution of healthcare in South Africa and beyond.</p> <p>Session Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To highlight high-level strategic perspective focused on how pharmacy is central to the evolution of the health system.2. To present PSSA activities, plans and achievements.3. To inspire collective action toward more equitable, efficient, and sustainable health services.
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	<p>AI and pharmacy: Advancing integration across practice Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the healthcare landscape, and pharmacy is no exception. From improving patient safety and streamlining regulatory processes to optimizing manufacturing and enhancing clinical decision-making, AI offers immense potential across all four pharmacy sectors: community and institutional practice, pharmaceutical industry, academia, and regulation. This forward-looking session explores how pharmacy professionals can embrace AI to drive efficiency, precision, and innovation—while navigating ethical, legal, and professional boundaries. Through expert insights and practical examples, the session aims to demystify AI and empower pharmacists to play an active role in its integration within their respective sectors.</p> <p>At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discuss the potential implications of these future technologies for pharmacy practice, including changes in dispensing models, clinical decision support, patient engagement, and professional development.2. Identify and analyze the key digital technologies currently impacting pharmacy practice, such as electronic health records (EHRs), pharmacy management systems, automated dispensing systems, and telehealth platforms.3. Evaluate the benefits and challenges associated with the implementation of these digital tools in various pharmacy settings.4. Understand how digitalisation is currently influencing patient interactions, medication safety, workflow efficiency, and the pharmacist's role in the healthcare team.5. Explore emerging digital innovations poised to transform pharmacy in the future, including artificial intelligence (AI).
15:30 - 16:00	Tea and Coffee Break
16:00 - 17:00	Session sponsored by Kenvue
18:00 for 18:30	Welcome cocktail function

	Friday 08 August 2025
08:00 – 08:45	Haleon Breakfast Symposium
09:00 - 11:00	<p>Community Pharmacy Refocused: Enhancing Practice through Chronic Disease Management, Patient Care, PCDT, and Navigating Key Ethical Issues</p> <p>Community pharmacies play a crucial role in healthcare by ensuring patients receive safe and effective medication therapy. Adhering to best practices in patient care, providing pharmaceutical care through effective chronic disease management, employing expanded scopes of practice such as PCDT, and demonstrating ethical and professional behaviour, can enhance health outcomes and achieve excellence in patient care. This topic is particularly important considering recent healthcare reforms and legislation that emphasise the role of pharmacists in primary health care. Moreover, the increasing prevalence of chronic diseases and the need for best practices necessitate a proactive approach to patient care, where community pharmacists are well-positioned to make a significant impact. Addressing unethical conduct is also vital to maintain the trust and integrity of the profession, ensuring patients receive the highest standards of care.</p> <p>At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understand the role of community pharmacists in managing chronic diseases and improving patient outcomes.2. Implement best practices for patient-centred care in a community pharmacy setting.3. Understand the role of the PCDT SIG within the SAACP.4. Recognise and address unethical conduct in community pharmacy practice.
11:00 - 11:30	Tea and Coffee Break
11:30 - 13:00	<p>Navigating pharmacy practice in an evolving landscape</p> <p>As the pharmacy profession continues to evolve, regulatory reform, public health demands and workforce dynamics continue driving the change. It is therefore important for pharmacists to stay agile and informed about the latest legislative developments focusing on professional accountability, scope of practice, and compliance expectations. Additionally, pharmacists need to be aware of the current emerging issues related to pharmaceutical compounding, including associated or perceived risks, legal parameters and patient safety considerations. With the pharmacy workforce evolving, the HRH strategy must be unpacked in response to the predominant pressing challenges.</p> <p>At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Learn about insights on the HRH strategy, including policy direction, workforce planning and the evolving role of pharmacists within the health system.2. Understand how compounding guidelines influence patient safety and professional liability and ensure safe and compliant compounding practices.
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	<p>Advancing access and impact: the evolving role of pharmacists in 2025</p> <p>With TB remaining a major public health challenge, pharmacists are positioned to drive patient-centred solutions across prevention and care. The pharmacists' critical role in responding to the management of TB through improved treatment access, adherence support, and community engagement needs to be explored and explained. As the burden of non-communicable diseases rises, integrating pharmacy-led interventions becomes essential. With diabetes and cancers being some of the leading causes of death in South Africa, an evaluation of innovative approaches in diabetes management, highlighting pharmacists' expanding role in screening, education, and long-term support within primary care, is much more important. Additionally, affordability, medicine shortages, and policy reform are pressing concerns. Thus, strategies to champion equitable access, mitigate disruptions, and shape responsive pharmaceutical policy need to be implemented. The pharmacist's evolving role from medicine dispenser to access enabler, chronic care supporter, and policy advocate must shine in order to contribute towards building a stronger, more inclusive health system in South Africa.</p> <p>At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Gain practical insight into the pharmacist's role in advancing TB care.2. Strengthen knowledge on managing diabetes through pharmacist-led interventions in prevention, adherence, and patient education.3. Explore strategies to improve access to oncological medicines, including affordability, shortage mitigation, and policy reform.4. Identify actionable steps to expand access to essential medicines in resource-constrained settings.
15:30 - 16:00	Tea and Coffee Break
16:00 - 17:00	Sponsored session by IQVIA



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	Saturday 09 August 2025
08:00 – 08:45	<p>Pandemic Preparedness: Strengthening the role of pharmacists in future health crises The COVID-19 pandemic revealed critical vulnerabilities in global and national health systems, underscoring the need for robust, interdisciplinary preparedness and response strategies. Pharmacists, as accessible and trusted healthcare providers, played a pivotal role in medicine supply, vaccination, patient education, and frontline support. As we look to the future, it is essential to consolidate the lessons learned and position pharmacists more strategically within public health emergency frameworks. This session will explore the evolving role of pharmacists in pandemic preparedness and response, drawing on global best practices, local experiences, and policy developments. It will also consider how pharmacy teams can proactively contribute to resilient healthcare systems and community-level interventions in times of crisis.</p> <p>By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify the key roles pharmacists played during the COVID-19 pandemic and other recent health emergencies,2. Identify and analyse systemic gaps in emergency preparedness that impact pharmacy services,3. Understand national and global policy frameworks guiding pharmacist involvement in health crises,4. Advocate for enhanced recognition and utilisation of pharmacists in disaster and emergency health planning,5. Gain insight into the strategic role of pharmacists in strengthening health systems for future pandemics, with a focus on equitable access to medicines and sustainable, continent-wide emergency preparedness.
09:00 - 11:00	<p>Walk in my heels We are paying tribute to the bold women in the pharmacy profession who have stepped off the beaten path and into leadership in pharmacy's lesser-known corners. The ladies will share real stories, professional insights, challenges, triumphs, and moments that shaped their journeys beyond traditional pharmacy. Whether just starting or seeking the next leap, this session invites you to walk beside them, learn, connect, and reimagine what is possible. Walk in my heels offers a platform for recognition, mentorship, and empowerment, encouraging the next generation of pharmacists to embrace bold, diverse career paths.</p> <p>At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recognise the contributions of women leaders in niche pharmacy roles.2. Explore emerging career pathways within the pharmacy profession.3. Identify key skills and strategies for leadership in non-traditional pharmacy areas.4. Reflect on barriers and opportunities for women in pharmacy.
11:00 - 11:30	Tea and Coffee Break
11:30 - 12:30	Sponsored session
12:30 - 13:00	Closing session
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 16:00	PSSA 80th AGM
19:00 Onwards	Gala dinner