

PSSA Conference 2022 Academic Programme

Thursday 1 September

08h00 – 11h00 SAACP AGM (Councillors, observers welcome)

10h00 – 11h00 Registration, arrival tea and coffee

11h00 – 13h00 **PSSA – at your service for 75 years (and counting)**

In 2020 PSSA hosted its 75th Annual General Meeting and in 2021 celebrated 75 years since its inauguration in 1946. Both years were absorbed in the COVID-19 pandemic and did not allow for a proper opportunity to celebrate this milestone. PSSA remains the largest voluntary professional association for pharmacy professionals in the country with more than 11 000 members (and growing) stretching from all spheres of the profession, including pharmacy support personnel and pharmacy students.

Maya Angelou quoted “You can’t really know where you are going until you know where you have been”. This session provides an opportunity to reflect on the fruitful history of the PSSA, report on the status of the Society and anticipate preparations for the future of pharmacy.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Reflect on the PSSA’s performance since the previous AGM
- Appreciate the history of the PSSA and where we came from
- Anticipate the future of pharmacy and PSSA in South Africa, and how to prepare timeously

13h00 – 14h00 Lunch

14h00 – 15h30 PSSA AGM (Councillors, observers welcome)

15h30 – 16h00 Tea and coffee break

16h00 – 17h30 PSSA AGM continues (Councillors, observers welcome)

18h30 for 19h00 Welcome function

Friday 2 September

08h00 – 08h30 Registration, arrival tea and coffee

08h30 – 10h30 **Legally challenged – where to from here?**

On a daily basis, the profession is challenged with legislation and legal implications of several practice and workforce related issues. Universal Health Coverage (UHC) remains an aspiration for many countries around the world, with the achievement date set at 2030 coming closer. After many discussions, publications and appearances before the Portfolio Committee, it is not apparent that South Africa is making progress with regards to National Health

Insurance (NHI), as critical legislative changes hindering progress has not been made yet. Compulsory community service was introduced and legislated in 1999. Over the past 22 years, the need of the country and the preference of pharmacists to work in the public sector has changed to such an extent, it raises the question whether the current legislation is still applicable to the 2022 healthcare scene. The South African Pharmacy Council enforces new minimum standards and other legislation through the publication of Board Notices. A current update of latest developments is needed to avoid disciplinary actions for non-compliance. Several daily activities by pharmacists confronts the POPI Act and whether the required or habitual activities are allowed in the context of the legislative scope of practice. Would the need for a profession-wide code of conduct assist the profession in managing these legislative requirements?

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Have more insight in legislative barriers around the implementation of NHI and how it could be resolved
- Have more insight in the changed reality around pharmaceutical community service and how this could be resolved in future
- Learn about the latest legal updates enforced by the South African Pharmacy Council
- Understand the need for industry Code of Conduct relating to Protection of Personal Information

10h30 – 11h00 Tea and coffee break

11h00 – 12h30 **Pharmacists' role in evidence-based medicine**

Now more than ever we as healthcare workers are urged to practice rational medicine use to ensure safe and effective medicine use. Pharmacists can promote rational medicine use by following an evidence-based medicine approach to treatment. Evidence based medicine is patient centered and integrates clinical expertise and the best research evidence into the decision-making process.

Pharmacists, the custodians of medicines, can assist the medical team to achieve patient health outcomes and promote patient safety by practicing evidence-based medicine principles.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Understand the importance of evidence-based medicine in daily practice
- Explain and apply evidence-based medicine principles in daily practice
- Understand the role of the pharmacist in evidence medicine

12h30 – 13h30 Lunch

13h30 – 15h00 **Pharmacy digitalisation and the future of pharmacy**

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the digitalisation process globally, now even developing countries experience digital transformation. With the click of a button, we can connect with anyone across the globe creating the

opportunity to collaborate with various healthcare professionals across the globe and even our patients. Digitalisation has also transformed the educational landscape.

This session aims to equip pharmacists not only to handle the inevitable move of pharmacy to a more digital platform but also to introduce novel pharmacists to electronic health record systems and prescribing programs currently being used. We will look not only at the advantages but also the disadvantages and setbacks that occurred in the implementation of such systems in a private hospital setting.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Understand how digitalisation can improve patient care
- Learn how a pharmacist can use digital technology to improve daily practice

15h00 – 15h30 Tea and coffee break

15h30 – 17h00 **Surviving the pandemic**

After living through the past 30 months, so many things changed although so many stayed the same. We learned to do old things in new ways. Some worked harder than ever while others were unfortunately affected through reduced incomes. Vaccination by pharmacists to curb vaccine-preventable diseases is everyday knowledge although frontline healthcare workers had never before had so many questions to answer on this public health intervention. Although initially not believed, pharmacy was ready for large scale vaccinations and delivered on our promise. It is also a reality that during this pandemic, almost everyone had to manage their own mental health and where needed, survived the challenges it presented.

This session will reflect on major game changers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how we survived it.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Relate to the challenges that the healthcare profession had to explain theoretical principles of vaccination, infectious diseases and public health management
- Understand the impact of a pandemic on mental health and the different ways it presents
- Celebrate the readiness of a profession to support a pandemic

19h00 onwards YPG evening (ticket needed)
Fellows' dinner (by invitation only)
Free evening

Saturday 3 September

08h00 – 08h30 Registration, arrival tea and coffee

08h30 – 10h30 **Registration of medicines in South Africa – industry and SAHPRA**

There have been numerous guidelines produced by SAHPRA relating to medicine registration in South Africa. Those guidelines often need inputs from industry stakeholders. It is therefore very important to have a discussion which will benefit all attendees in terms of their current and future role regarding various aspects of medicine registration e.g. vaccines/biological medicines/biosimilars, Section 21 medicine registration, cannabis and complimentary medicines, medical devices, pharmacovigilance, etc.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Understand the role of SAHPRA and industry stakeholders e.g. ITG
- Have current knowledge of medicine registration in South Africa
- Understand current challenges and impediments to medicine registration

10h30 – 11h00 Tea and coffee break

11h00 – 12h30 **Pharmacy roles extended – the new faces of pharmacy**

Often the public (and pharmacy workforce) restricts a pharmacy professional to performing only “pick, lick and stick” actions all day, every day. This is despite the Practice Regulations listing the acts pertaining to the profession of a pharmacist (regulation 3) and the scope of practice of a pharmacist (regulation 4). There is also a diversity of services which may be provided in the various categories of pharmacies (regulations 16 to 19).

PSSA commenced with a webinar series titled BPharm and beyond which focussed on and highlighted the diversity of the BPharm degree. The BPharm degree is so versatile and flexible, and this allows for the development of numerous niche areas and unique applications of knowledge and skills.

In addition to the webinar series, this session will focus on some new faces of the pharmacy profession by learning from members performing exciting and different roles with their pharmacy degrees.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Be familiar with the different Section 22A(15) permits approved by SAPC and status of specialities
- Learn about the new specialist field in nuclear pharmacy
- Understand the need for pharmacovigilance officers

12h30 – 13h30 Lunch

13h30 – 15h00 **Mentorship in the Pharmacy Profession**

Mentoring may be defined as the “naturally formed, one-on-one, mutual, committed, nonsexual relationship between a junior and senior person

designed to promote personal and professional development beyond any particular curricular or institutional goals.”

Mentoring is a well-established and respected practice which is employed to guide and support persons who are typically new in a specific field. However, structured mentorship in the pharmacy profession is reported to be underappreciated. This is of particular importance in the South African setting, where a lack of literature is apparent in this regard.

With the launch of the PSSA’s first Mentorship Programme in February 2022, the need to explore, discuss and learn about mentoring in the profession is evident.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Understand the importance of mentorship in the pharmacy profession and PSSA
- Explore the roles and responsibilities of mentors/mentees
- Understand the need to develop leadership in the pharmacy profession

15h00 – 15h30 Tea and coffee break

19h00 onwards Gala dinner