

Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa

Sectors

South African Association of Community Pharmacists (SAACP)

SAACP together and under the guidance of the PSSA represent us not only at government level with important decisions and comments on new legislation but also our public appearance.

They guide us in training and offer continuous professional development activities tailored to our needs. Being an active member also offers the opportunity to be mentored by pharmacists with the same enthusiasm and passion for this profession.

Without being actively involved with our sector and the PSSA I would not have been where I am now, it opened doors for me and advanced my career.

Gawie Malan, Vice chair of PSSA and SAACP (CWP Branch)

SAACP is led by tenacious Mr Tshif Rabali who has great success in his leadership of this association and on his personal professional endeavours. SAACP encourages young pharmacists to be involved in community pharmacy.

Shared interest or a common cause for purposes of influencing government and statutory health council policy, including legislation impacting on the professional role of community pharmacists irrespective of where or by whom employed.

Free advice on and assistance with community pharmacy related matters. In summary, to promote the professional, educational, business and economic interests of the members of the Association, with specific emphasis on pharmacists active in the category of community pharmacy.

In pursuing the above-mentioned objective(s) SAACP has accepted a strategic approach to be actively involved in shaping the future of community pharmacists in South Africa. This approach is in particular of importance in a timeframe of radical transformation in healthcare delivery in South Africa, including the envisaged implementation of a National Health Insurance System.

SAACP therefore accepted a new Vision: "The South African Association of Community Pharmacists advocates for community pharmacists and supports its members to advance the profession and enhance patient outcomes".

SAACP offers an opening into areas of pharmacy that allows pharmacists to be directly linked with their community in terms of being their primary healthcare facility. It also offers training in the areas that I find myself interested in, to further develop my expertise.

Matlapeng Shabalala, SAACP member

South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists (SAAHIP)

SAAHIP represents and supports pharmacists from both the public and private sector to promote the integrity of the profession.

The SAAHIP sector is a vibrant group celebrating various health days and promoting health awareness campaigns. SAAHIP is passionate about young pharmacists and supports various intern projects.

SAAHIP is currently being led by Shawn Zeelie.

Once a year SAAHIP members have a conference where members share research and projects. Multiple awards are awarded at this conference which include academic presentations and socially orientated awards.

Being a member of SAAHIP you can enjoy the following benefits:

- CPD evenings
- SAAHIP newsletters
- Attend annual conference
- Great network opportunities at conference
- Bursaries
- Access to various resources and guidelines

SAAHIP sponsors the clinical skills competition at the SAPSF conference. The winners attend SAAHIP conference and receive 1 year membership.

Join your local SAAHIP branch and come and meet us at conference.

Nicole Keuler, SAAHIP Western Cape

Danielle Tshabalala, Vice chair Northern Cape

South African Association of Pharmacists in Industry (SAAPI)

The SAAPI core membership are pharmacists in pharmaceutical manufacturing, quality assurance, and regulatory affairs, who are involved in the supply of high-quality medicines and/or medical devices. However, like any other sector, it is not exclusive to pharmacists or individuals active in the scientific and technical areas of the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry. Leadership SAAPI's network includes different generations of industry leaders with vast experience and influence.

Currently under the leadership of its President, the amazing Gina Partridge, the Association's programs, training and leadership drive, ensure that its members, regardless of age and experience, receive true value from being a member.

There is a multitude of skills required in the various areas, who contribute to the safety and quality of products and services in industry. The requirements to guarantee the safety and quality of products and services are also constantly changing. SAAPI therefore provides up to-date support and advance training on the pharmaceutical manufacturing sciences and technologies to be able to implement appropriate solutions.

There are so many hats available for one to wear in industry. Most young people always want to know which post-graduate degree and qualification is required to get into industry. It's a question that's easily answered because:

- There are so many parts of industry one might find themselves initially
- When in industry, you may find yourself changing from area of practice to the next, in search of your niche
- The relevant guidelines are always changing
- The markets are always changing.

SAAPI therefore offers a window into areas I might not necessarily give direct input into, but find myself interested in. It also offers training in the areas that I find myself in, to further develop my expertise. Lastly, the network of personnel in SAAPI has influenced how I shaped my career path. It offers the opportunity to draw from the experience of those before me, but also draw from the upcoming pharmacists to understand their vision, and expectations for the future in industry.

Hilton T. Stevens

SAAPI Member/PPSA NEC Member

Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of South Africa (APSSA)

APSSA is a sector of PSSA that represents academia (pharmacy education) in South Africa. While the membership numbers are relatively small due to the majority of members being employed by the nine universities in South Africa that offer pharmacy undergraduate education, membership is not limited to academics. APSSA members can work in any sphere of pharmacy and as such, do not have to be pharmacists. Affiliate members, whose primary membership is another sector of PSSA are also welcomed.

The main criteria applied for APSSA membership is that members are either actively involved or have an interest in education; research and development; production, control or marketing of medicines; or in community or hospital practice of pharmacy, and thus contribute to the pharmaceutical sciences and technology and the professional practice of pharmacy. One of the challenges faced by APSSA is retention of members once postgraduate studies have been completed, as the graduate usually moves to another PSSA sector, depending on employment.

One of APSSA's aims is to have a representative from each pharmacy school on the APSSA National EXCO. The APSSA chairman holds a Vice President position on PSSA's National EXCO. The branch committees of PSSA also include a representative from APSSA. This representation ensures that the profession as a whole is informed and kept up to date on issues affecting pharmacy education in South Africa.

APSSA hold a National Conference every year, hosted by one of the universities as providers of pharmacy education. The conference provides an opportunity for postgraduate students to present research to a national audience. International experts are invited as guest speakers and several awards are conferred in recognition of excellence in this sector. Joint conferences are held every two or three years with other interest groups for example the South African Society of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology. The prestigious Young Scientist competition attracts postgraduate students from across South Africa, who present for the first time at a conference on research undertaken for their first postgraduate degree. Awards are presented to the Best Podium and Best Poster presentations, as well as the Best Publication and Best Teacher. APSSA members submit regularly to the South African Pharmaceutical Journal via the Cum Laude page and review or research articles. APSSA is also involved in awarding several Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (FPE) bursaries every year to deserving postgraduate students.

Jane McCartney, APSSA representative

Nicole Keuler, Affiliated APSSA member

Join your practice sector to become an active member

Young Pharmacists Group of PSSA