



Thank you, FIP 2024!

After seven and a half years of meticulous planning, envisioning, and groundwork, the 2024 FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences was triumphantly held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) in the first week of September. This historic event marked the first-ever hosting of the Congress in sub-Saharan Africa, and it proudly stood as the second largest Congress in FIP's history, drawing 3 365 participants from 97 nations. Notably, 55% of these participants hailed from South Africa, with an additional 10% representing the rest of the African continent.

The PSSA thanks the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) for their substantial contribution. Their funding enabled 900 South African pharmacists to participate in the Congress, a commendable initiative managed by the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC). We would like to specifically acknowledge the unwavering support and efforts of Mr Sikhumbuzo Gqabashe, Executive Manager for Skills Development Planning, and Ms Baakedi Motubatse, Executive Manager for Education and Training Quality Assurance at the HWSETA, and Mr Vincent Tlala, CEO, and Ms Mojo Mokoena, COO, of SAPC, without whom, the 900 pharmacists would not have been able to attend the Congress.

Attendance by the high-ranking officials

Several high-ranking officials attended plenary sessions of the Congress. Dr Sandile Buthelezi, Director-General for Health at the National Department of Health (NDOH) addressed the Congress participants during the Opening Ceremony on Sunday, 1 September, with a welcome remark. Dr Buthelezi said pharmacies are among the most easily accessible healthcare providers. In many cases, they are the public's first point of care, providing the needed services, promoting health and improving public awareness of health priorities. During this ceremony, the participants were entertained by the local choir, *Isibane se Africa (The Light of Africa)*, which performed several traditional songs during the ceremony while dancing in traditional attire and concluded with the National Anthem, which evoked the dynamics of our culture. Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health, was a speaker during the first plenary session on Monday, 2 September, whereby he addressed the transformation to equitable and quality healthcare. Minister Motsoaledi said that pharmacists play an essential role in the healthcare sector as they also foresee innovation in medicine, such as vaccines, which are critical in saving people's

lives, specifically during outbreaks and pandemics, as was the case during the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Motsoaledi mentioned five issues for pharmacists to consider during the Congress:

1. The need to address health inequities across the world
2. The urgency to strengthening health systems
3. The need to harness innovation and technology to transform our health systems
4. The need to invest in sustainable and equitable health financing
5. Healthcare as a public good and as part of social justice

Mrs Steve Letsike, Deputy Minister in the Presidency for Women, Children and People with Disabilities, attending as the Vice-President of the SAPC, delivered a closing remark during the closing session on Wednesday, 4 September 2024, encouraging participants to take hand in the realisation of universal health coverage globally.

Other high-ranking officials who attended and participated in the Congress were:

- Dr Nicholas Crisp, Deputy Director-General for National Health Insurance for Health, NDOH
- Mr Mogologolo David Phasha, President, SAPC
- Mr Vincent Tlala, Registrar and CEO, SAPC
- Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela, Chief Executive Officer of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA)
- Dr Katlego Mothudi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Board of Healthcare Funders in South Africa (BHF)



Dr Sandile Buthelezi



Dr Aaron Motsoaledi

- Dr Magome Masike, Registrar and Chief Executive Officer of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)
- Prof Ntombifkile Mtshali, Registrar and Chief Executive Officer of the South African Nursing Council (SANC)
- Dr Makhapa Makhafola, Chief Operations Officer of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

Awards

During the Congress, the following South African participants received awards from FIP:

- Dr Sham Moodley was awarded Fellowship of FIP
- Dr Stavros Nicolaou has been awarded the prestigious Industrial Pharmacy Section Medal for 2024



Steve Letsike



FIP President Mr Paul Sinclair AM, FIP CEO Dr Catherine Duggan, PSSA Executive Director Ms Refloe Mogale, Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, PSSA President Mr Tshifhiwa Rabali

- Ms Candidah Nephawe was awarded the FIP Young Scientist Award

PSSA legacy projects

Before the Congress, the PSSA adopted three legacy projects which will continue the success of the FIP 2024 Congress.

The first project, CTICC Cares, was launched on 18 July during the CTICC’s Mandela Day celebrations. This initiative collected pre-loved items from Congress participants and will be distributed



Dr Sham Moodley with Paul Sinclair



Isibane se Africa



Dr Stavros Nicolaou with Paul Sinclair



Candidah Nephawe with Paul Sinclair



CTICC care programme

to local communities during December. Participants were encouraged to bring books and/or stationary, soft toys, pieces of clothing, shoes, bathroom items and non-perishable food items.

The second project focuses on the implementation of the Basel Statements in Africa. The Basel Statements are a set of hospital pharmacy practice standards developed by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Hospital Pharmacy Section (HPS) to reflect the global pharmacy profession's preferred vision of practice in the hospital setting and serve as a resource for pharmacists, departments of pharmacy, and pharmacy organisations to ensure the collective group of hospital pharmacists are working toward a shared vision. The result of the Gap analysis and membership survey results presented during the Basel Statement Review workshop conducted in September 2023 in Brisbane indicated:

- National hospital associations need to recognise the Basel Statements to achieve global coherence.
- The lack of alignment of the statements with activities at the country level suggests the potential need for WHO region-



Dr Sham Moodley signing the Medicines to Africa initiative

specific statements and validates the need for the Brisbane Updates.

- Implementation guides are needed to help incorporate Basel Statements into practice.

Therefore, South Africa and the African Continent must develop a strategy to align the statements with our context. This will be done through a 4-6 year long legacy project and more information will be shared over time.

The third legacy project, Medicines to Africa, is an initiative that commenced in 2023 during the FIP Congress in Brisbane when the "Medicines to..." initiative signed an agreement with South Africa to initiate and drive it in the African region. During a dedicated signing ceremony, eight (8) countries signed their support to the initiative. These countries are South Africa, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, Egypt, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. In addition to the country representatives who signed, Ms Khadija Jamaloodien, Chief Director: Sector-wide Procurement at the NDOH, also pledged their support to the initiative. Gift of the Givers has been appointed as the charity that will facilitate the process during times of crisis.

Where to next?

At the closing session, PSSA was thanked as the Congress partner and host country and received a Dutch jar as memorabilia. At this session, it was also the privilege for PSSA to hand over the FIP flag to Ms Susie Ekstrand, CEO of Pharmadanmark and Mr Jesper Gulev Larsen, President of the Association of Danish Pharmacies, as they will be the Congress partners for the 83rd FIP World Congress, which will take place from 31 August to 3 September 2025 in Copenhagen.



Members from the PSSA together with the student volunteers from the University of the Western Cape, receiving the Dutch jar as a token of appreciation



The Dutch jar



Representatives from Denmark receive the FIP flag from PSSA President, Tshifhiwa Rabali

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E Mail: cross.bernard@gmail.com

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm distance learning programme 2024

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm distance learning programme continues to offer pharmacists useful, practical, up-to-date information that enables them to provide optimal pharmaceutical care to their patients.

Module 4, 2024 – Dyslipidaemia: An update for the pharmacist

Dyslipidaemia refers to abnormal levels of lipids (fats) in the blood, including cholesterol and triglycerides, and is a significant risk factor for cardiovascular disease (CVD). Dyslipidaemia, whether due to genetic or lifestyle factors, can lead to atherosclerosis and other cardiovascular complications and can increase the risk of having a heart attack or stroke.

Dyslipidaemia is an important target for intervention in the

prevention and treatment of CVD. The timely implementation of lifestyle changes, early diagnosis and effective management are essential if we are to reduce the burden of CVD in South Africa.

This module describes what the various lipid levels should be and how dyslipidaemia should be treated. The community pharmacist can play an important role in cholesterol screening. Finger-prick testing is appropriate for screening to determine where advice on lifestyle intervention is required or where patients require referral to the doctor.

For more information about this programme, contact Gill or Glynis at Insight Medicine Information on 011 706 6939 or email: cpdalphapharm@insightmed.co.za.

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm clinical education programme 2024 for pharmacy staff

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm pharmacy staff clinical education programme continues to offer front-shop assistants or pharmacists' assistants up-to-date information that enables them to provide optimal pharmaceutical care to their patients. All pharmacy staff need to be familiar with the use of unscheduled medicines and should be reminded of when it is necessary to refer the patient to the pharmacist.

Module 4, 2024 – Stopping smoking

The tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest public health threats facing humans, killing over 8 million people every year globally. Most smoking-related deaths are due to heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer.

Tobacco smoking is, without doubt, the primary risk factor for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). South Africa also has one of the highest burdens of tuberculosis (TB) and HIV, which are both risk factors for COPD and worsen the effects of smoking.

Tobacco smoking increases the risk of TB, cancer, pneumonia, heart disease and stroke.

The benefits of stopping smoking are almost immediate, with longer-term benefits including improved lung function and a reduced risk for lung cancer. Stopping smoking increases life expectancy by as much as a decade, is associated with clear health benefits and improves quality of life. However, many smokers have no desire to quit or have tried to quit before but failed.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently (2024) released its first-ever clinical treatment guideline for stopping tobacco smoking in adults.

This module discusses smoking, the benefits of stopping smoking, and the interventions recommended by the WHO and the South African smoking cessation guidelines. It also covers the medicines available in the pharmacy to help people stop smoking.

If you would like to participate in the PSSA/Alpha Pharm pharmacy staff clinical education programme, please contact Gill or Glynis for further information on 011 706 6939 or email: cpdalphapharm@insightmed.co.za.