



Local experts participating in FIP Policy Statement committees during 2024 and 2025

Every year at the FIP Council meeting, the Council agrees to a list of FIP policy statements that will be prepared for adoption at the upcoming meeting. These policy statements can either be revisions of older existing policies or the development of new policies.

The policy statements reflect the FIP's stance on various professional, ethical, social, and other issues important for human health and relevant to pharmacists worldwide. Member organisations may then use a statement for advocacy purposes or to advance the profession, backed up with the recommendations agreed by 158 pharmacists' organisations at a global level.

A FIP policy statement is usually 3-6 pages long and provides recommendations to different stakeholders. In your role as a member of the policy committee, you will be invited to provide input based on your expertise, your experience in a given practice setting, and your knowledge of the needs and priorities related to this topic in your country and region.

FIP Member Organisations, as well as members from the FIP Bureau, Board of Pharmacy Practice (BPP), Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences (BPS), FIP Educational Initiative (FIPeD) and Regional Pharmaceutical Forums, are invited to submit nominations of experts in the respective fields to serve on these global policy statement committees. Such nominees should be fluent in English (as all the work will be conducted in English), knowledgeable in the field and available.

PSSA, a proud member organisation of FIP, adheres to this call for nominations annually by proposing colleagues with experience and insight into the respective fields. The consultation is done via teleconferences (usually 1-2 times per month for a maximum of 2 hours) and email correspondence between February and July, and a final draft should be ready for review by the FIP Bureau prior to approval by the FIP Council.

During 2024, FIP requested nominations for experts to serve on four Policy Committees. All of the below documents were accepted and approved during the FIP Council meeting in Cape Town in September 2024.

- Revision FIP Statement of Policy on the Role of the pharmacist in promoting a tobacco free future, adopted in 2003 – **Jackie Maimin**. The revised statement titled FIP Statement of Policy on the role of the pharmacist in establishing a future free from tobacco and nicotine dependence can be viewed at:

<https://www.fip.org/file/6049>

- New FIP Statement of Policy on Improved access to safe and quality essential medicines and medical devices: The role of pharmacists – **Sham Moodley**. Access the document at: <https://www.fip.org/file/6036>
- New FIP Statement of Policy on Interprofessional Collaboration – **Deanne Johnston**. Access the document at: <https://www.fip.org/file/6041>
- FIP Nanjing Statements: Shaping pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences education to 2030 – **Yahya Choonara**. Access the guidance document at: <https://www.fip.org/file/6104>

PSSA would like to thank these colleagues for their time and expertise that was dedicated to these international projects and to ensure that the (South) African perspective is mentioned and incorporated in these global publications.

At the FIP Council meeting in Cape Town, it was decided to develop, revise or replace policy statements in 2025 on the following subjects (exact titles to be determined). Following the nomination process, the following South African colleagues will serve on these committees:

- Artificial Intelligence (new) – **Paul Voigt** (Immediate Past Chairman of South African Association for Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists (SAAHIP) Western Cape branch)
- Pharmacy: Gateway to Care (2017) – **Mariet Eksteen** (appointed as co-chair of the committee; PSSA Professional Development and Support) and **Sham Moodley** (PSSA National Executive Committee member, nominated through FIP Community Pharmacy Section [CPS])
- Pharmaceutical Care (1998) – **Johan Moolman** (Chair of the South African Association for Community Pharmacists (SAACP) Primary Care Drug Therapy (PCDT) Interest Group)
- The role of pharmacists in non-communicable diseases (2019) – **Anri Hornsveld** (PSSA Professional Liaison)

In addition to these policy committees, **Nhlanhla Mafarafara** (President of SAAHIP) was appointed to serve on the FIP Hospital Pharmacy Section (HPS) Global Advisory Group. This initiative aims to develop minimum standards for optimal medicine use in hospital pharmacies and strives to be co-endorsed by both the FIP and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Several colleagues also serve on various FIP structures. **Sham Moodley** serves a four-year term on the FIP Community Pharmacy Section (CPS) Executive Committee (Exco). **Seshnee Moodley** (SAAHIP Vice-President) is serving on the Communications and Digital Committee of the FIP HPS. **Tammy Chetty** is the treasurer of the FIP Industrial Pharmacy Section (IPS), while **Avanthi Govender Bester** and **Yahya Choonara** serve as Exco associates. Yahya further serves as a committee member representing the African Region on the FIP Academic Institutional Members (AIM). **Mariet Eksteen** is the Global Lead for FIP Development Goal 7: Advancing Integrated Services in the FIP Hub. **Andy Gray** is one

of the Directors of the FIP Foundation for Education and Research.

Three young pharmacists are involved in the FIP Early Career Pharmaceutical Group (ECPG). **Luyanda Khumalo** is the Mentorship Coordinator, **Nomaphelo Krakri** is part of the publications team, and **Ntombizodwa Luwaca** (PSSA YPG Chair) is one of the graphic designers.

Congratulations to the successful candidates elected or appointed to committees. Thank you for your time and energy in representing the country on this international platform. PSSA is looking forward to seeing your contributions.

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm distance learning programme 2025

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 1, 2025 – Anxiety disorders – an update

Occasional fear and anxiety are part of everyday life.

Fear is an emotional, physical, and behavioural response to an immediate and obvious threat, such as losing control of your vehicle or on seeing an intruder in your home.

Anxiety is a normal reaction to stress. It is an unpleasant emotional state of nervousness and uneasiness and its causes are less clear. Mild anxiety can be beneficial as it can alert us to danger or help us prepare for an event. Although anxiety can at times be severe, the symptoms are usually short-lived and do not necessarily affect day-to-day functioning. Anxiety that becomes excessive, causes irrational thinking or behaviour, and impairs a person's

functioning is considered an anxiety disorder. The symptoms can have a negative effect on work or school performance and personal relationships. Anxiety disorders are more common than any other type of mental health disorder, with about one-third of people meeting the criteria for an anxiety disorder at some point in their lifetime.

Unfortunately, many people with anxiety disorders who might benefit from treatment are not identified or treated. Since patients who have anxiety disorders are often seen in primary care, healthcare providers (including pharmacists) need to be aware of these conditions, how they are recognised and how they can be treated.

This module discusses the more frequently occurring anxiety disorders, including social anxiety disorder, panic disorder and generalised anxiety disorder.

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 2025 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 1, 2025 – Anxiety disorders

Anxiety disorders are the most common type of mental health disorder and affect nearly one-third of adults at some point in their lives and one in three to five children and adolescents at some point during their childhood. More women are affected by anxiety disorders than men.

Anxiety disorders differ from feelings of occasional fear or anxiety that are part of everyday life.

Anxiety that becomes excessive, causes irrational thinking or behaviour, and impairs a person's functioning is considered an anxiety disorder.

Anxiety disorders interfere with daily activities and can impair a person's family, social, academic or working life.

People with excessive anxiety should be told to speak to their doctor because most anxiety disorders can be effectively treated.

The module for Front Shop Staff discusses the common anxiety disorders and how they are treated. It is important for members of staff in the pharmacy to know which products may be recommended and when caution is advised.

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: cpdalpharm@insightmed.co.za.

INDUSTRY PHARMACIST AVAILABLE

INDUSTRY PHARMACIST (semi retired) with 49 years of management and practical experience in all departments of manufacturing and packing of tablets, liquids, sterile, soft gels, medicinal cannabis, warehousing and distribution.

Available for contract, RP, consulting, locum positions in the Gauteng area.

Contact: Bernard Cross 0832882476

E Mail: cross.bernard@gmail.com