



SAAHIP Presidential Annual Report 2024/2025

Nhlanhla G Mafarafara

President, SAAHIP

Introduction

I am pleased to present the President's report to our members for the 2024/2025 term of office. For the pharmacy profession, this period was one that we will remember for many years. It has presented so many opportunities, moments to snapshot and achieve, and engagements that will somewhat buy the future. The year 2024 began with an outcry from hundreds of young pharmacists facing unemployment and closed the same way to usher 2025. The unemployment of pharmacists is a real challenge and requires long-term thinking, collaboration to find fitting solutions, and a realistic mindset. South Africa's economy, on the one hand, is struggling to grow to the level that is sufficient for all citizens' needs, and on the other, public health challenges are looming, requiring more pharmacists on the ground to meet the high patient volumes. Taking from some of the discussions from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Congress that took place on 1–4 September 2024 in Cape Town, the new roles that pharmacists can play means the country needs more pharmacists to meet the demand.

We are all proud that the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) successfully hosted what was reported as the second-biggest FIP congress in numbers. Many pharmacists and, especially, members of the associations took part in different activities during FIP. And now, as we present this report, we are preparing for SAAHIP's annual conference in April. A meeting that many hospital pharmacists always look forward to attending. This year's theme "Future Ready 5.0," is conceptualised to bring hospital pharmacists around the table to discuss what they did and will do to make the future of pharmacy desirable and achievable. It is a conference that we believe will document, among many things,

some of the emerging opportunities as well as strategies to leverage them.

As you read through the report, I will update members on the new branch executive committee members, membership growth, branch activities, international collaborations, FIP highlights, and some other exciting opportunities for the future.



Nhlanhla G Mafarafara

National Executive Committee

The National Executive Committee remained intact. Table I below introduces to you the current executive committee. The presidential term of office comes to an end on 12 April 2025, during the 68th Annual General Meeting. We welcome the new branch chairpersons who were elected during the October/November 2024 season of Branch AGMs. The new branch chairpersons are Samke Mathibela (KZNC), Handsome Mashego (Mpumalanga), and Geziena Kruger-Swanepoel (NC/FS). We also want to appreciate the work done by the previous branch chairpersons, Thandeka Njapha (KZNC), Ndumiso Mdluli (Mpumalanga), and Rumbidzai Murahwa (NC/FS). Their work forms part of the pillars on which the continued work of the branch stands.

Over the year, we were joined by Joggie Hattingh, Thanushya Pillaye, Lorraine Osman and Lourens van der Merwe who gave us valuable support, not only in this term but also in the two years running. The committee received administrative support from the PSSA's office through Anri Hornsveld, especially at the secretarial desk.

Table I: National Executive Committee

National Executive Committee			
President	Nhlanhla G. Mafarafara	Coopted Members	Thanushya Pillaye
Vice President	Dr Seshnee Moodley		Joggie Hattingh
National Secretary	Caroline De Beer		Lorraine Osman
Honorary Treasurer	Nomfundo Zwane		Lourens van der Merwe
Past President	Shawn Zeelie	Office Support	Anri Hornsveld
Branch Chairpersons			
Eastern Cape	Robyn Wates	Northern Cape/Free State	Geziena Kruger-Swanepoel
KZN Coastal	Samke Mathibela	Northern Gauteng	Kesentseng Mahlaba
KZN Inland	Vusi Dlamini	Northwest	Ignatius Muller
Limpopo	Salome Makofane	Southern Gauteng	Rashmi Gosai
Mpumalanga	Handsome Mashego	Western Cape	Brent Sin Hidge



Figure 1: Members of the National Executive Committee at FIP World Congress in Cape Town. Back row (from left) Thandeka Njapha, Seshnee Moodley, Thanushya Pillay, Rashmi Gosai, Nhlanhla Mafarafara, Vusi Dlamini, Ignatius Muller & Caroline De Beer. Front row (from left) Shawn Zeelie, Kesentseng Mahlaba, Robyn Wates, Brent Sin Hidge & Joggie Hattingh

Membership

SAAHIP membership has consistently grown from 2021 to date. Western Cape, KZN Coastal, and Southern Gauteng remain our top three biggest branches with membership exceeding 500. KZN Inland, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga reported the highest growth over the five reporting periods. KZN Inland and Limpopo doubled their membership by 53.62% and 51.3% respectively since 2021. Limpopo and Northern Gauteng achieved double-digit growth between March 2024 and January 2025.^a Table II and Figure 2 show the membership changes from March 2021 to date in both numbers and graphical form.

Notably, four branches recorded an exodus of members with Eastern Cape recording the highest membership reduction over the same year. While there is a slight decline in the membership number, the overall

change is positive due to the work done by the branches to engage members and host CPDs, membership drives, and participation in conferences.

Branch Activities

Continuous Professional Development

Our branches have been taking the lead in representing the ideals of SAAHIP almost across the board. However, there have been functionality challenges in Northern Cape/Free State. North West and Limpopo also needed intervention in working through their focus areas. The Vice President, Dr Seshnee Moodley, was tasked with the responsibility of supporting the branches that were struggling to maintain visibility and build capacity. Notably, there is some good action in the Northern Cape/Free State branch, and plans are in place under the new chairperson to help the branch reach full functionality.

All the branches have had several CPDs, recruitment drives, professional engagement with other stakeholders as well as consistent social media presence. I want to draw your attention to some of the activities that happened within the reporting period.

- Collaboration with YPG during the sector CPD for Young Pharmacists as part of their ongoing mentorship programme. SAAHIP was represented by the Western Cape branch Chairperson, Brent Sin Hidge. He presented about SAAHIP and hospital pharmacy together with the branch's former chairperson, Paul Voigt.
- Branch visibility campaigns have been ongoing. Each month the Membership, Marketing, and Branding FA team took notice of the health calendar events and put a spotlight on key messages that were shared through social media. The branch also ran campaigns and marketing/promotional material on social media throughout all the branches. Their work ensures that there is consistent messaging, branch visibility, targeted engagement, marketing of CPD events, AGMs, and branch conferences, and scrutinised social

Table II: SAAHIP membership report

Branch	AGM 2021	AGM 2022	AGM 2023	AGM 2024	Jan-25	% Growth (March 2024 to January 2025)	% Growth (March 2021 to September 2024)
Northern Gauteng	238	260	254	282	320	11,9%	25,63%
Southern Gauteng	390	373	440	458	501	8,6%	22,16%
Mpumalanga	102	124	149	160	169	5,3%	39,64%
North West	114	136	158	178	175	-1,7%	34,86%
Free State/Northern Cape	133	136	149	169	187	9,6%	28,88%
Eastern Cape	273	293	324	415	379	-9,5%	27,97%
Western Cape	473	517	577	585	612	4,4%	22,71%
KZN Coastal	354	421	422	529	523	-1,1%	32,31%
KZN Inland	141	236	336	323	304	-6,3%	53,62%
Limpopo	150	171	183	266	308	13,6%	51,30%
Non-resident	3	3	3	3	2	3,2%	31,95%
Total	2 368	2 667	3 141	3 368	3 480	3,5%	33,73%

^a The total membership is reported as 27 January 2025. The numbers may change per branch or the entire sector between February and March 2025 as some members migrate between branches and sectors, i.e. such as changes that occur when Community Service Pharmacists get permanent employment in other provinces or sectors outside their current registered sector or province.

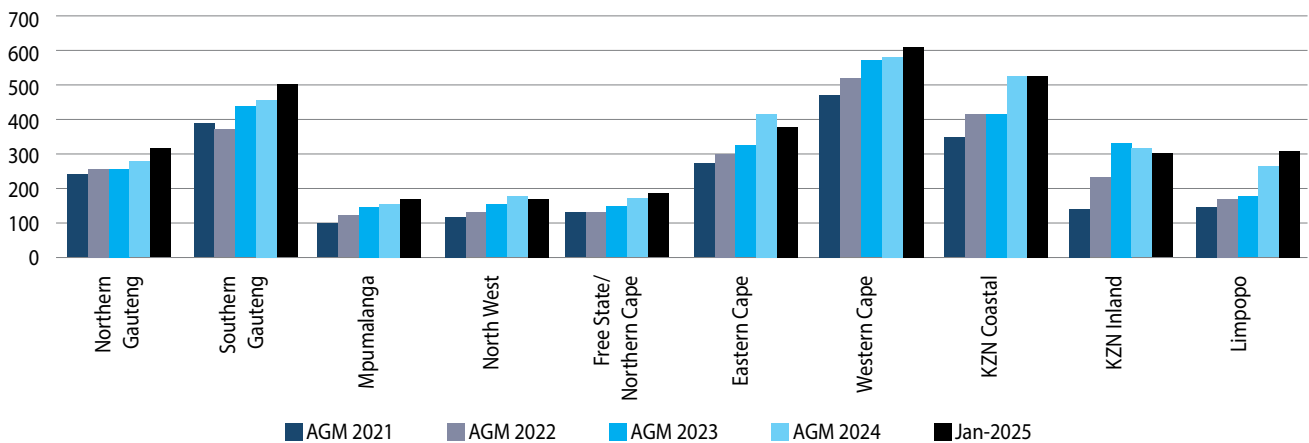


Figure 2: SAAHIP Membership changes from March 2021 to January 2025 showing status reported during the AGMs

media posts. Branches are urged to utilise the team to ensure that their messaging is always consistent with SAAHIP ideals. All the posts are guided by the Social Media policy that was developed in 2023/24. Similarly, the PSSA also concluded a more consolidated social media engagement policy and posting guidelines to ensure that the media presence of the Society and sectors takes place within a structured and guided manner.

- Other CPDs hosted on virtual platforms and attended by pharmacists from all provinces are listed in Table III. The CPDs featured in this report are not exhaustive of what transpired in the branches. However, the topics included are those that were shared nationally. These CPD sessions have played a critical role in increasing visibility and engagement platforms for members.

Focus Areas

There was very little progress concerning focus areas. The Eastern Cape, Southern Gauteng, KZN Coastal and KZN Inland have, however, worked hard this year. The Eastern Cape is responsible for Membership, Media, and Branding, and has kept all branches busy with social media engagement. We believe that this, combined with branch CPDs helped increase the membership. The KZN branches have lifted the banner of SAAHIP. The CPDs by both branches are in alignment with their focus areas, for example, KZN Coastal hosted a CPD on quality in healthcare, in line with their focus area: Ensuring quality of healthcare and KZN Inland which is responsible for “ensuring access to medicines” hosted a CPD on Supply Chain.

The actual output of the Focus Areas is not as anticipated, while they are still very relevant, there may be a need to change the method of delivery. This may include the consideration of establishing expert advisory teams to look at the focus areas and other emerging priority pharmaceutical services areas.

FIP 2024

One of the highlights of 2024 was attending and participating in the FIP 2024 World Congress. The theme was Innovating for the future of healthcare. SAAHIP was well represented in different

Table III: CPD topics hosted and presented by SAAHIP branches in 2024/25	
Topic	Branch
Virtual CPD Sessions	
Winning the fight against malaria	KZN Coastal
Current Malaria Treatment Protocols	Mpumalanga
Pharmacovigilance	Mpumalanga
Rifampicin Resistant TB regimens	Mpumalanga
CSP preparatory workshop	Mpumalanga
Pharmacist Intern CPD Series (6 virtual sessions)	Mpumalanga
Career Positioning webinar (CV, Job interviews skills and LinkedIn profile optimisation)	Mpumalanga
Specialising in Pharmacy in South Africa: Exploring the pros, cons and career impact	Limpopo
Pharmaceutical Supply Chain in the private sector	KZN Inland
Quality in healthcare, (part 1): quality, health standards and accreditation	KZN Coastal
NHI Debate	Western Cape
Physical Sessions	
Let’s talk about vaccines	North West
Let’s talk about vaccines	Limpopo
Antimicrobial Stewardship and Implementation of Basel Statements	Mpumalanga
Pharmacist specialist and training	Eastern Cape
“Food for thought” – Diet and medicines, exploring dietary modifications in response to pharmacological treatment	Eastern Cape
Advanced wound care	Eastern Cape
Promoting Mental Health Awareness and Destigmatising Mental Health	Southern Gauteng
CPD collaborations	
Topic	Collaboration/hosting partner
Exploring the difference between public and private sector hospitals and how to adequately prepare yourself for practice in either	YPG
The future pharmacist: navigating leadership development	SAPSF
Limpopo 3 rd Annual Wound Care Conference	Limpopo Department of Health
Preparing for Internship	UL / Limpopo Department of Health

sessions. For this report, the NEC wants to acknowledge the individual members of SAAHIP who in their capacity as pharmacists, shared their work during Congress. Their work solidifies the contribution of practising pharmacists to evidence-based pharmacy practice fitting international standards.

We want to acknowledge the pharmacists and members of the association who presented during the FIP congress such as podium presentations from Kristien Schutte, former SAAHIP National Secretary (who was also nominated for best oral presenter) for her presentation "Improvement in Pharmacist initiated antimicrobial stewardship interventions following the implementation of a customised digital solution"; Dr Mcengeli Sibanda – "An integrated immunization program for the elderly in South Africa: expert and stakeholders views"; Brent Sin Hidge – "Pharmacy in South Africa, opening session"; Prof Renier Coetzee – "Pharmacy in South Africa, opening session" and "Antimicrobial Resistance: Pharmaceuticals and the Environment" On 3 September, the SAAHIP President presented on the "use of the Basel Statements in South Africa" during the Basel Statements in Africa Session and shared the session with FIP-HPS Vice President for Africa, Mujahid Valji.

Other pharmacists who were the finalists for the Hospital Pharmacy Section Best Poster Presentation Award 2024 are:

- Maletjie Griesel, poster title: A South African model for reducing Specialized high-cost medication rejections: Clinical Pharmacist led interventions.
- Mpho Mogale Sylvester, poster title: Demand planning and forecasting to improve medicine availability in Limpopo Province, South Africa-operational research.
- Martine Vorster, poster title: Integrating self-reported adherence with clinical data in patients receiving antiretroviral therapy in a public sector hospital in North West Province, South Africa.

From the SAAHIP members who participated in the FIP presentations, there was a total of 49 different inputs made by individual members which included 22 poster presentations and 6 oral presentations in the hospital section as well as other presentations in plenary or sessions.

On 1 September, many of our members participated in the Basel Statements updates to develop an application and educational framework for the procurement statements. The workshop was attended by over 230 pharmacists from all over the world, many of whom were practising in South Africa. The outcomes of the workshop will be released by FIP in due course.

Pharmacy Month 2024

September is Pharmacy Month in South Africa. This year's theme was: Let's talk about vaccines. Pharmacists from all over the country partnered and collaborated with different stakeholders to promote the importance of vaccines and vaccination. They also engaged in other charitable activities, health promotion activities as well as CPDs. SAAHIP Northern Gauteng with the PSSA went on a vaccination campaign that promoted not only vaccines and vaccination but showed the diverse skills and expanded the role pharmacists play in administering vaccines. The branch in partnership with Sefako



Figure 3: SAAHIP Cape Western Province: Brent Sin Hidge during the Morning Espresso Show on SABC 3

Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU), SMU Association of Pharmacy Students, and TUT Association of Pharmacy Students visited various communities to vaccinate children and offer other primary healthcare services. The campaign was a resounding success. A total of 800 community members received different services such as health screening, family planning, cancer screening, and HIV testing. They administered 400 influenza vaccines, and 160 children received missed scheduled vaccines, deworming agents, and vitamin A supplements. Western Cape branch chairperson Brent Sin Hidge represented SAAHIP at SABC 3's Morning Espresso show, where he talked about pharmacists' key role in healthcare, especially vaccination. He used the Rubik's cube to explain herd immunity in an effortless, practical way.

Conference 2025

Among the many exciting things happening at SAAHIP, is the Annual Conference. The conference will take place with the 68th Annual General Meeting (AGM) from 10–12 April 2025. The theme is **FUTURE READY 5.0: Empowering Hospital pharmacists for tomorrow's healthcare revolution**. This conference aims at looking into what the future of South African Hospital Pharmacy practice looks like.

- Precision medicine and personalised therapies
- Digital health solutions
- Data analytics and predictive modelling
- Telepharmacy and remote patient monitoring
- Pharmacy automation and robotics
- Advanced drug delivery systems
- Ethical and regulatory considerations
- National Health Insurance readiness
- Patient-centred care

What we can guarantee is it's going to be spectacular, mind-stretching, and unforgettable. The conference report will be published with highlights.

Social Responsibility

As of June 2024, branches have donated R44 000.00 towards Operation Smile. This money was handed over to Operation Smile. The donation

covers 8 smiles. We appreciate the voluntary contribution of our members towards making a difference over the years.

Conclusion

Together, we can make SAAHIP stand out. More so, to make hospital pharmacists shine. There is still more work to be done in getting hospital pharmacists to both do and be recognised for the work and value they add to healthcare. It is for this reason that we have taken it upon ourselves to drive the Basel Statement in South Africa as a tool that hospital pharmacists can use to engage with administrators to build a conducive environment for pharmacists. We plan to do Basel Statements workshops in different provinces in 2025, one has already been done in the Mpumalanga Province, and another one is planned for Limpopo Province on 20 June 2025.

We are working on building new collaborations with various stakeholders to help us deliver quality service to our members and contribute to hospital pharmacy in South Africa, including UNICEF in pharmaceutical public health, Universities on Research, EM-Guidance on clinical reference and CPDs for hospital pharmacists on their platform. We also want to build strong relationships with other pharmacy organisations to help strengthen our objectives as well as non-pharmacy organisations to achieve our goal in the MDT practice.

We had four pillars that drove this work, namely:

- Shared vision: to realise a better future, all pharmacists must see the profession as one and put resources, efforts, and commitment toward a common goal.
- Collaboration and partnership: we believe that a three-strand rope is not easily broken.
- Commitment: now more than ever, we need to jointly commit to excellence, continuous learning, renewal, innovation, and documenting and publishing the work that ordinary pharmacists do in their hospitals.
- Embracing innovation: the sector, like any other, is faced with the positive challenge of searching, developing, accepting, and adapting to innovative ways of delivering pharmacy with speed, precision, and quality. We are to embrace automation and robotics, artificial intelligence and machine learning, and develop technologies for flawless data analytics and clinical decision support systems.

I want to thank the National Executive Committee for the continued support and confidence they had in me. The profession trusted me to lead the sector in the last two and half years, and for that, I will forever be indebted to serving our pharmacists, both locally and across the world.