



Saying farewell to Mariet Eksteen

I just wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for all the hard work, dedication, and contributions you've made to professional development at PSSA. Your passion and commitment have truly made a difference, and you will be greatly missed! Wishing you all the best in your new role at FIP—I'm sure you'll continue to make a meaningful impact. Congratulations, and best of luck on this exciting new chapter!

Lailaa Cajee, PSSA Southern Gauteng Branch

I have known Dr Mariet for a few years now, as a colleague. What a privilege! A dedicated colleague to her work, very discreet with her words and opinion, and sticks to what she believes in. In my interactions with her, I found her to be ethical and with high moral standards. She would not take shortcuts just to meet the needs of the other person. Highly disciplined and organised. At the sector level, she was helpful, informative and resourceful. The sector will surely miss her guidance, contributions and debates. We will surely miss you. We wish you every success in your new role at FIP. May you take with you all the energy that you invested at the SAACP. May this be the beginning of open opportunities for our country. May the South African flag be lifted higher and higher. Go out there and make us proud. We will always value your contributions towards our sector and me on a personal level. It is a fact that you are not lost to the sector as you took your role seriously. In Taki Kyriacos' words, it is farewell but not goodbye.

On behalf of the SAACP and its NEC – Johannes Ravele

Dear Mariet

The YPG has stood on your shoulders since inception in 2024. Not only has it been your baby, but it has also progressed from an infant to a toddler, an adolescent and now a young adult. We hope that this young adult has given you a sense of parental satisfaction. "Thank you" can never capture the gratitude that we feel you deserve from us. However, those are our two words of appreciation for the sacrifices you have made to ensure that we thrive as an interest group of the PSSA. We wish you all the very best with your next endeavour. May it shower you with blessings, good health and ultimately, joy everlasting. In your own words, "If you love your job, you never have to work a day in your life!" May your next chapter provide a satisfying adventure that never feels like work.

With love, PSSA YPG

Dear Mariet

Although our paths crossed for a relatively short time you have left an indelible impression on me personally. Your dedication, your attention to detail and your ability to succinctly summarise situations made your voice one to be heard. We are thrilled for your progress in this industry, and we are so grateful for the huge contribution you have made to us here in South Africa. It is with a heavy heart we bid you farewell. Hope you have an exciting journey with FIP in our wonderful profession. We will definitely follow you on your many social platforms as well. All the very best to you Mariet. Lots of love Regards

Dipti Desai (Mount Edgecombe Pharmacy)

You've been such a valuable part of our team. Your contributions will certainly be missed. I have no doubt that you'll continue to do amazing things in this new chapter of your career. I hope that you find success, growth, and happiness in everything you do.

Take care

Dr KK Naidoo – PSSA Director: KZN Coastal

Through her enthusiasm for the profession, sharp intellect and experience both as an academic and involvement with FIP from a young age, Mariet brought a new dynamic to the work of the Society. During her tenure as a professional officer of the Society we saw great strides made in many areas, particularly in the development of webinars, the establishment of the YPG, mentoring and coaching. Her term on the SAPC helped forge a good relationship between the Society and the SAPC, providing better insight into the work of the Council and helping to resolve a number of problems. Mariet's work ethic, professionalism and determination will be sorely missed but will surely stand her in good stead as she embarks on her new venture with FIP. We wish her well and trust, that as a Fellow of the PSSA, she will continue to share her knowledge, experience, and advice for the benefit of her colleagues.

Regards

Gary Black

Dr Mariet Eksteen – It is with great pride and joy that we bid you farewell as you embark on this international journey at FIP. While there will always be that bit of sadness not having your involvement in the daily life of Pharmacy South Africa, we

celebrate your success knowing that one of our own has made it onto this massive international stage. I had the distinct pleasure of working with you on several projects and subcommittees, locally, nationally and internationally and watched you grow into each of these roles and **perform at an exceptionally high standard**. The highlights for me will be our time at FIP Conferences over the many years, FIP Cape Town 2024, the Codeine Care Initiative and the very important Independent Pharmacy Emergency Fund (IPEF) in 2021. I am confident that you will take with you this **experience, dedication, loyalty, and leadership qualities** that you have shown in your role as a student leader all the way to leading the profession on many critical issues over the years. Your commitment in **bringing the profession together** on the most difficult issues **without fear for self** is certainly one of your standout qualities that we will miss. FIP can certainly look forward to having **an exceptional staffer and a leader of note**. Wishing you every success in your new career. Enjoy the journey, the international travel and your newfound international family. Know that **we will be watching and applauding your success** and that you will always have a home in Pharmacy South Africa.

Kind regards

Dr Sham Moodley

Dear Mariet, on behalf of the PSSA CWP Branch, I would like to thank you for your determination, vision, and passion. You have been a link to our members, assisting where you can, and to the best of your ability. May you continue to grow as you reach your dreams. You are an inspiration to so many, a true reflection that one can attain great heights. Thank you for your service to our pharmacists and support personnel. We are proud of you and your achievements. Go forth and shine!

Kaajal Chetty - Director: PSSA CWP Branch

Our dearest Mariet, it is with a heavy heart that we collectively say goodbye to you as you head off on your new venture. Your

contribution to the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa has been an indelible one, where you have been a wealth of pharmaceutical knowledge and advice to us all. As the sector that represents the Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists, we humbly thank you for all the effort, advice and mentorship you have provided. Your passion for our profession knows no limits and for this we are deeply grateful. You have had a positive influence on many young pharmacists whilst inspiring us all with your diligent work ethic and dedication to pharmacy. We wish you infinite blessings and prosperity in your future career.

Farewell dear colleague!

Nhlanhla Mafarafara on behalf of SAAHIP NEC

Dear Mariet. As you embark on this new chapter, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment. Your contributions have left an indelible mark, and your impact on those around you will be felt for years to come. We remember with much appreciation your assistance with, and contribution to the relief efforts for the pharmacies that were impacted by the unfortunate riots in KwaZulu-Natal. Your selfless and tireless efforts ensured that most of the pharmacies were restored to serve their communities. Your warmth, wisdom, and professionalism have made a lasting difference, and while we are sad to see you go, we are also excited for the opportunities that await you. May this next journey bring you success, joy, and fulfilment. Thank you for everything, Mariet. You will be truly missed but never forgotten! Wishing you all the best in your future endeavours. We are extremely proud of one of our own making a difference to the profession on a global stage. Our loss is FIPs gain. Allow me to end off with a quote from the famous Persian poet, Rumi. He says: "Do not be satisfied with the stories that come before you. Unfold your own myth." Congratulations once again on this achievement and new adventure.

Mehboob Ali Cassim on behalf of the ICPA Board of Directors