



Editorial

Celebrating progress, facing challenges together

The pharmacy profession stands at a crossroads – one that is both exciting and challenging. We are seeing rapid changes in technology, workforce dynamics, and public expectations, all of which are reshaping the way we serve our patients and communities. This year has already brought both milestones and moments of reflection for our profession, and it's a privilege to share some of these with you as we look ahead together.

First, I am delighted to announce that the *South African Pharmaceutical Journal (SAPJ)* is now officially indexed on Scopus. This is a significant achievement, not only for the journal but for all South African pharmacy researchers, practitioners, and students. Being part of the Scopus International Index means our work is now more visible and accessible globally, opening doors for collaboration and ensuring that the voice of South African pharmacy is heard on the world stage.

Our editorial board has also grown in strength and diversity, reflecting the many disciplines and perspectives that make up our profession. I am honoured to introduce the SAPJ Editorial Team1:

- **Prof. Natalie Schellack** (Editor-in-Chief), University of Pretoria – Clinical pharmacy, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, infectious diseases, antimicrobial stewardship, One Health
- **Dr Andrew Gray** (Associate Editor), University of KwaZulu-Natal – Pharmaceutical policy, rational medicine use, pharmacoepidemiology
- **Prof. Joe Viljoen** (Section Editor), North-West University – Pharmaceutical chemistry, drug delivery systems, nanotechnology
- **Ms Christel Hanson** (Section Editor), Tshwane University of Technology – Pharmacy practice, pharmaceutical care, pharmacovigilance
- **Prof. Ilze Vermaak** (Section Editor), Tshwane University of Technology – Phytochemistry, natural products, medicinal plants
- **Prof. Jane McCartney** (Section Editor), University of the Western Cape – Clinical pharmacy, pharmacotherapy, pharmacy education
- **Prof. Patrick Demana** (Section Editor), Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University – Pharmaceutics, drug delivery, nanomedicine
- **Prof. Varsha Bangalee** (Section Editor), University of the Witwatersrand – Pharmacoeconomics, health economics, pharmaceutical policy
- **Prof. Roderick B Walker** (Section Editor), Rhodes University – Pharmaceutical technology, drug formulation, quality control
- **Prof. Moliehi Matlala** (Section Editor), Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University – Public health, health systems, pharmaceutical services
- **Prof. Renier Coetsee** (Section Editor), University of the Western Cape – Clinical pharmacy, pharmacotherapy, evidence-based medicine

- **Prof. Neelaveni Padayachee** (Section Editor), University of the Witwatersrand – Pharmacy practice, pharmaceutical care, patient counselling
- **Dr Carmen Myrna Leonard** (Section Editor), Tshwane University of Technology – Mentorship, pharmacology, toxicology and drug safety
- **Prof. Yahya Choonara** (Section Editor), University of the Witwatersrand – Drug delivery systems, biomaterials, pharmaceutical technology

For more about our editorial board, please visit: SAPJ Editorial Team.

This year, we also celebrate the election of Dr Seshnee Moodley as the new SAAHIP President for 2025/2026. Seshnee is a passionate clinical pharmacist, healthcare change agent, and a true example of “future ready 5.0.” Her commitment to leading with excellence, compassion, and vision is exactly what our profession needs at this time of transformation. Congratulations, Seshnee – now, that's the real flex! Your humility, energy, and drive to unite and uplift hospital and institutional pharmacists across South Africa is truly inspiring.

The evolving pharmacy landscape is not without its challenges. Recent media investigations have exposed illegal dispensing and the sale of scheduled medicines without prescriptions, including to underage schoolchildren. These incidents have understandably shaken public trust, but it is important to remember that the overwhelming majority of pharmacists uphold the highest standards of care and ethics. As the PSSA and SAPC have reiterated, we all share the responsibility of restoring and maintaining the public's faith in what we do.

At the same time, the profession is embracing innovation and collaboration. The upcoming SAAHIP Conference, themed “*Operation 3is: Advancing Pharmaceutical Services: Innovate, Integrate, Improve,*” is a call for abstracts that encourages us to share best practices, research, and creative solutions for the future of hospital and institutional pharmacy. This conference will explore everything from access to medicines and digital health solutions to sustainable resource management and legislative readiness, providing a platform for knowledge exchange and professional growth.

Finally, we pause to remember the sad loss of Michéle Coleman, a remarkable pharmacist, mentor, and friend. Michéle's legacy of leadership, kindness, and service will continue to inspire us to lead with compassion and integrity in all that we do.

As we stand at this crossroads, let's move forward together; ready to innovate, ready to lead, and always ready to put patients first.

Warm wishes

Natalie