



Forum

SA Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists

SAAHIP 68th Annual General Meeting and 37th Annual Conference 2025

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SAAHIP SG Branch Chair/Conference Convener

“Future Ready 5.0”

Empowering Hospital Pharmacists for Tomorrow's Healthcare Revolution

Introduction

The South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists (SAAHIP) hosted its 37th Annual Conference and 68th Annual General Meeting from 10–12 April 2025 at the breathtaking Champagne Sports Resort in the Drakensberg. Themed “*Future Ready 5.0 – Empowering Hospital Pharmacists for Tomorrow's Healthcare Revolution*”, the SAAHIP Southern Gauteng Branch was tasked to convene the event, which brought together nearly 200 attendees from across South Africa, representing public and private sector hospitals, universities, hospital groups, and pharmaceutical companies.

This diverse gathering of healthcare professionals, academics, and industry leaders fostered a dynamic environment of collaboration, critical thinking, and shared purpose as delegates explored the evolving role of hospital pharmacists in an era of rapid technological advancement and national health reform.

Theme Context

As the global healthcare environment rapidly transitions into the Fifth Industrial Revolution—a phase defined by the integration of artificial intelligence (AI), automation, and human-centred design—hospital pharmacists are called upon to lead change, enhance system resilience, and deliver compassionate care through technology-enabled solutions.



The conference addressed the need for adaptability, innovation, and collaboration as essential qualities for future-ready pharmacists in both public and private sectors, particularly in the context of South Africa's healthcare reform under the National Health Insurance (NHI).

Academic Programme Highlights

The academic programme was a key strength of the conference, offering over 40 sessions in the form of podium, poster, pearl, and scenario presentations. These sessions delivered evidence-based insights, showcased service delivery improvements, and encouraged professional dialogue around systemic healthcare challenges.

Themes Explored:

- Digital Health & Automation
- NHI Readiness & Policy



- Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Clinical Governance & Risk Mitigation
- Human-Centred Leadership

Presentation Formats:

- Podium
- Poster
- Pearl
- Scenario

Notable presentations included Pharmacist leadership in NHI, Antimicrobial stewardship, Resilience in reform, Tech-Driven Innovation, Patient-Centric Solutions, AI & Automation in Practice, Data-Enabled Care, Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Smart Supply Chains, Digital Health Integration, Empowered Pharmacists, Sustainable Healthcare Models, Visionary Leadership.

Academic Award Winners:

- The Life Healthcare Best Poster Presentation Award: Telicia Jobraj
- The Life Healthcare Best Podium Presentation Award: Vivian Chengalroyan
- The Adcock Ingram Best Pearl Presentation Award: Kristien Schutte
- The Mediclinic Best Scenario Presentation Award: Bandela Mgoqi
- Best Academic Presentation Overall Award: Prof Renier Coetzee

Keynote & Invited Guests

The programme featured inspiring contributions from key figures and organisations:

- Motivational Speaker – Anthea van den Bergh: Delivered a rousing address on empathy, courage and innovation in healthcare leadership
- Marketing Code Authority – Valerie Beaumont: Addressed ethical medicine promotion
- South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) – Audrey Chigome: Shared updates on medicine regulation and pharmacovigilance
- South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) – Vincent Tlala: Reinforced ethics, CPD, and professional growth
- Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) – Tshifhiwa Rabali: Advocated for pharmacists' strategic role in national healthcare

These engagements added valuable context and policy alignment to the academic and professional programme.

Additional Highlights:

Nicole Keuler, a lecturer at the University of the Western Cape, delivered a compelling presentation on pharmacogenomics, highlighting how personalised medicine can optimise therapeutic outcomes and reduce adverse drug reactions by tailoring treatment to an individual's genetic profile.

The Young Pharmacists' Group (YPG) Chair, Ntombizodwa Luwaca, made a strong impression with her energy and engagement

contributing fresh perspectives and reinforcing the importance of youth leadership in the future of hospital pharmacy.

Social Programme & Engagement

Evening events provided valuable opportunities for networking and celebration. From themed dinners to the elegant Gala Dinner, delegates enjoyed relaxed and vibrant settings to strengthen professional and personal connections.

- Evening 1 – Futuristic: Sponsored by Fresenius Kabi, this themed event set the tone for innovation and imagination as delegates embraced a vision of pharmacy in the years ahead.
- Evening 2 – Pathfinders: Sponsored by Equity Pharmaceuticals, this celebration honoured the pioneers of pharmacy and encouraged delegates to continue charting new frontiers.
- Gala Dinner – Around the World in 80 Days (City Life Edit): Sponsored by SAAHIP, the elegant gala offered a global journey through music, cuisine, and culture, bringing delegates together in style to close off the conference on a high note.

Other Awards & Recognition

Branch Awards

- Membership Award: Limpopo
- Spirit Award: Limpopo

Trade Awards:

- Best Appearance: Adcock Ingram
- Best Hospitality: Equity Pharmaceuticals
- Most Informative: Equity Pharmaceuticals
- Best Trade Overall (Delegate Vote): Adcock Ingram

Scavenger hunt winner – Western Cape

Trade bingo winner – Trinia Mafarafara

Most creative gala dinner table setting – Paris by Northern Gauteng



SAAHIP National Executive Committee(2025/2026)

Top: Left to right

Shawn Zeelle (Free-state/Northern Cape); Handsome Mashego (Mpumalanga); Kesentseng Mahlaba (Northern Gauteng); Vusi Dhlamini (KZN - Inland & newly elected Vice President); Joggie Hattingsh (Western Cape)

Bottom: Left to right

Ignatius Muller (North-West); Samukelisiwe Matibela (KZN- Coastal), Salome Mabule (Limpopo); Nomfundo Zwane (Mpumalanga & re-elected Treasurer); Nhlanhla Mafarafara (Limpopo & Immediate Past President); Seshnee Moodley (Eastern Cape & Newly elected President); Caroline De Beer (Western Cape & re-elected Secretary); Rashmi Gosai (Southern Gauteng); Robyn Wates (Eastern Cape)

Annual General Meeting

The 68th AGM addressed governance, advocacy, and member development. The newly elected Presidential Committee for 2025 is:

- President: Seshnee Moodley
- Vice-President: Vusi Dhlamini
- Secretary: Caroline De Beer
- Treasurer: Nomfundo Zwane
- Immediate Past President: Nhlanhla Mafarafara

Trade sponsorship

The conference would not be possible without the continued support of our trade partners: Adcock Ingram Critical Care for registration, Fresenius Kabi for the Thursday evening event, Equity Pharmaceuticals for the Friday evening event, Pharma Dynamics for room drops, teas, and shared sponsorship of lunches, Sanofi and Viartis for their contributions towards the lunches, Aurogen for sponsoring the breakfasts.

Exhibitors: Adcock Ingram, Bayer, AstraZeneca, Biovac, Equity Pharmaceuticals, Fresenius Kabi, National Bioproducts Institute, Novo

Nordisk, Novartis, Vital Life, Sanofi, Dr. Temp, SAHPRA, and the South African Pharmacy Council – thank you for your valued presence and support.

Conclusion

The SAAHIP 2025 Conference – Future Ready 5.0 – was not just an event, but a powerful reaffirmation of the value, voice, and vision of hospital pharmacists in shaping the future of healthcare in South Africa. Through inspiring academic presentations, dynamic industry collaboration, and meaningful policy dialogue, delegates left not only informed but transformed.

The conference affirmed that the hospital pharmacist of tomorrow is already emerging today—innovative, adaptable, compassionate, and committed to equitable healthcare. As we stand on the brink of systemic reform and technological evolution, it is clear: the future is not something to brace for—it is something we are ready to lead.

Together, we are not just prepared for the future—we are the force shaping it.

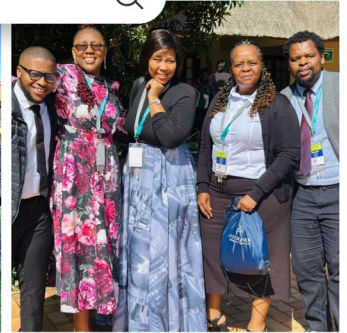
SAAHIP Delegations – Highlights in photos



Eastern Cape



KZN Coastal

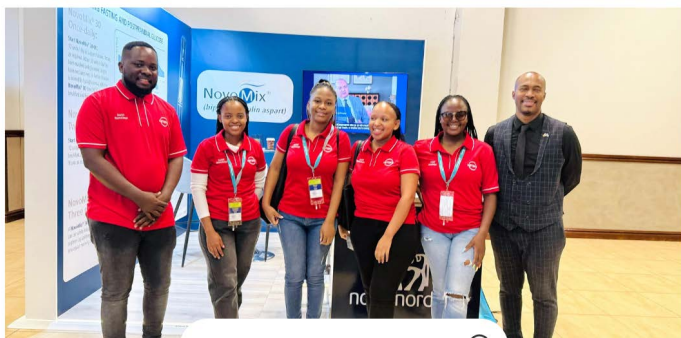




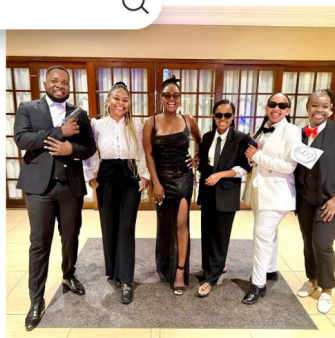
Northern Gauteng



Southern Gauteng



Mpumalanga



Conference Organizing Committee:
 Left to right: Tabassum Shaik, Thanushya Pillaye, Rashmi Gosai, Sheila Valla
 Absent: Jacquie Fox & Liezl Nightingale