



# Evolving Horizons: The South African Pharmaceutical Journal in 2024

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As we embark on a new year in the South African pharmacy landscape, the South African Pharmaceutical Journal (SAPJ) is poised to spearhead the discourse on the profession's evolution and transformation. In this editorial, I reflect on the forthcoming year, which promises to be an eventful one.

## Enhancing the SAPJ's content and impact

In 2024, the SAPJ will introduce a series of new features to enrich the content and expand its reach. Firstly, we will be publishing articles that explore the impact of unprofessional behaviour on patient safety, as exemplified by two cautionary tales. Secondly, we will delve into the identity of the pharmacist, a topic that is crucial for the profession's self-reflection and growth. Thirdly, we will feature articles on young and upcoming pharmacists, highlighting their contributions and perspectives.

## Diversifying the editorial board

To enhance the journal's exposure and diversity, we will be appointing an editorial board in 2024. This board will be comprised of professionals from various sectors of the pharmacy field, ensuring a multifaceted perspective that includes diversity in the content we publish.

## Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

To further enrich the learning experience for our readers, every review paper will now include three questions for CPD. These questions will be designed to stimulate critical thinking and encourage the application of knowledge to real-world scenarios.

## South Africa hosts the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

In a historic first for sub-Saharan Africa, the 82nd International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP) World Congress on Pharmacy and

Pharmaceutical Sciences will be hosted in Cape Town, South Africa, from 1–4 September 2024 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC). The Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA), the largest voluntary professional association for pharmacists and pharmacy support personnel in the country, is the congress partner for the 82nd International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP) World Congress on Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The theme for this event is *"Innovating for the future of healthcare."*

## Farewell to a pioneer

We will be missing Mr Ivan Kotze, who is retiring in March 2024. Mr Kotze has been the Executive Director of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) since 1994 and has represented the PSSA at the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) for the last 30 years. He has served as a Trustee of the PPS Holdings Trust and has been involved in various capacities within the pharmacy profession for many years.

His dedication to the profession and his unwavering commitment to the advancement of pharmacy in South Africa have left an indelible mark on the field. Mr Kotze's leadership has been instrumental in shaping the PSSA's role as a key stakeholder in the pharmacy profession, and his retirement will be a significant loss for the organisation and the broader community. We are grateful for his contributions to the profession of pharmacy and wish him a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement.

## Looking ahead with optimism

As we embark on this new year, I am filled with optimism and excitement for the future of pharmacy in South Africa. I look forward to a year of collaboration, innovation, and growth, and I invite you to join me on this journey. Together, we can shape the future of pharmacy and contribute to the betterment of healthcare in South Africa and beyond.