



A Young Pharmacist Making waves: Thabang Owen Malatji

In the dynamic and yet small South African world of pharmacy, it is difficult to miss individuals who are remarkable. In 2023, Thabang Owen Malatji was nominated and successfully voted in as one of the members of the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC).



A pharmacist, leader, mentee, and a mentor, Thabang's journey is nothing short of an inspiration. He is a former President of the South African Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (SAPSF), former Secretary and Chairperson of the University of Limpopo Association for Pharmacy Students (ULAPS), former contact person of the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF), and a former Regional Working Group of IPSF-Afro. He is currently a dispensary manager at Dis-Chem Pharmacies and a councillor in the SAPC. We delve into his life so we can get to know him better.

Q: What is the one thing about you that people may not know?

A: I play piano during my spare time and I'm in love with the instrument.

Q: What was your reaction when you first heard that you were successfully elected to SAPC?

The first reaction was shock! I was, and still am, truly humbled to be elected as a member of Council. I do not take that trust lightly; hence I continue to tackle every responsibility with great commitment and dedication.

Q: What does it mean to you to become a young pharmacist in the SAPC? What significance do you think it has?

Age does not really matter; however, I do not undermine the inspiration it has on young pharmacists! It is more inspirational than significant, in a sense that young pharmacists can raise their hands and contribute to Council. Personally, I encourage them to form part in the next term!

Q: What important advice would you give to a young pharmacist (student/intern/CSP/post CSP) that is the most relevant to our profession in 2024?

Be involved in your profession! Be involved in professional organisations! Attend conferences and network with other professionals! Participate in students' organisations and programmes. There is no better teacher than experience, so be involved, learn, and grow!

Being the youngest pharmacist in the Council, Thabang Owen Malatji is exemplary to young pharmacists and is an inspiration for many to continue to have big dreams, work towards them and make an impact in the world of pharmacy.

Start your career: A South African young pharmacists' guide

Congratulations to the 2024 pharmacist interns and community service pharmacists for embarking on their journey as newly employed pharmacists. For many individuals a new environment or experience such as your first job can be terrifying.

For some, there is excitement that comes with the hope of financial freedom and self-gratification after all the hard work they have been putting in during their final year of studying and/or during their internship.

Here are some tips to consider during this short period:

1. Be a lifelong learner

The pharmacy field evolves constantly and requires you to always be updated on the latest technology, medication, and regulations. This will not only make your day-to-day duties easier but will also aid in your completion of your Continuous Professional Development (CPD)s. Attend seminars, workshops, and conferences to stay updated.

2. Develop strong relationships

Cultivate healthy relationships with your colleagues, patients, and other healthcare workers. As a pharmacist this is essential so you can provide your patients with high quality healthcare.

3. Remain committed to being ethical

The pharmacy profession is governed by numerous regulations. Take time to familiarise yourself with them and adhere to them.

4. Have the right attitude

The world of pharmacy is fast paced and can be competitive. It is crucial for you to always stand out from your peers and seniors. By showing initiative and resourcefulness, you position yourself as an asset to your organisation.

5. Look after your most valuable asset

You are your most valuable asset. The pharmacy profession can sometimes be demanding emotionally and mentally. Take breaks, spend time with your loved ones and maintain a healthy balance between professional and personal life.

6. Seek guidance

Your seniors are there for you; you are not alone. Reach out to them for any support you may require for areas you may be unfamiliar with. Never assume and never do anything you are unsure of. Always accept their feedback as an opportunity for growth and improvement. Professional networks such as the PSSA are also available for you to take advantage of.

The PSSA YPG hosts several webinars, programs, and social media campaigns throughout the year to equip young pharmacists with necessary information for the start of their careers. Check our social media pages for regular updates on how to participate in these.

Feel free to reach out to us at

Email: ypg@pssa.org.za

Facebook: Young Pharmacists' Group of PSSA

Instagram: @pssaypg

Young pharmacists – connected, engaged, empowered and inspired!