



## Welcoming the new YPG steering committee and future plans

The Young Pharmacists' Group (YPG) of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) held its Business Meeting (BM) on 04 June 2024. This highlighted the success of the introduction of the portfolio subcommittees in 2023-2024 and saw the election of the 2024-2025 Steering Committee (SC).

Notable developments included the proposal of motions to expand the committee with additional positions in the future. These potential new roles include a Secretary, Liaison Coordinator, and Chair-elect, which will be further developed by the incoming SC should the motion be ratified at the PSSA AGM. Our goal with these motions is to promote our early career pharmacists, facilitate opportunities for involvement in leadership whilst fostering the future growth of our young pharmacist community.

### Introducing the incoming YPG steering committee

We are excited to introduce the newly elected members of the YPG Steering Committee who will lead us through the upcoming year:

- **Ntombizodwa Luwaca, Chairperson** Ntombi is an early-career pharmacist known for her commitment to delivering exceptional pharmaceutical care. With a keen attention to detail and a dedication to continuous learning, Ntombi applies her knowledge with precision. She is passionate about making a difference in the community and advocates for positive changes to enhance patient experiences.
- **Kevin Baloyi, Project Coordinator** A recent graduate from the University of Witwatersrand, Kevin Baloyi completed his internship at Mecklenburg Hospital in 2023 and is currently fulfilling his community service. He is a dedicated mental health advocate with a strong track record of leadership within student organizations. Kevin brings a fresh perspective and energetic drive to his new role.
- **Alexander West, Public Relations Officer** is a skilled pharmacist with diverse experience in clinical trials, community pharmacy, academia, primary healthcare, and hospital pharmacy. He earned his Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm) from Nelson Mandela University and holds a PIMART qualification from the South African HIV Clinicians Society. Currently, he serves as a Research Pharmacist at the UCT Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine.

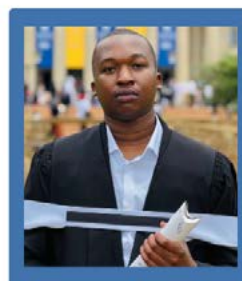
### Steering Committee 2024/25



**Alexander West**  
Public Relations Officer



**Ntombizodwa Luwaca**  
Chair



**Kevin Baloyi**  
Project Coordinator

# YPG 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting – Key Takeaways

## Chairperson position

The position of Chair for the 2024/25 Steering Committee was initially vacant. Byron Chukwu proposed, supported by Brent Sin Hidge, a motion to allow the outgoing chair, Ntombizodwa Luwaca, to continue in her role, which was passed with 14 votes in favour. The suggestion to mentor an individual to take over the chair position in the future also supported this decision.

## Proposed and passed motions

**Motion 1:** Ms Luwaca's continuing as Chair with the new Steering Committee passed with 14 votes in favour.

**Motion 2:** To introduce a Liaisons Officer and a Secretary position to support the Chair. This motion was also passed with 14 votes in favour and required changes to the operational guidelines, which the PSSA NEC must ratify.

**Motion 3:** To release the call for nominations for the two additional Steering Committee members after the NEC ratifies motion 2. This motion was passed with 14 votes in favour.

The full minutes of the Annual Business Meeting are available via this link: [https://www.pssa.org.za/cms-system/documents/download/PSSAYPG\\_7thBM\\_Minutes2024.pdf](https://www.pssa.org.za/cms-system/documents/download/PSSAYPG_7thBM_Minutes2024.pdf)

Keep an eye on our newsletter for future SC and subcommittee openings and opportunities to get involved!

## Upcoming events and survey

Our YPG events, while eagerly anticipated, have sometimes faced postponements due to low RSVP turnout. To better serve our community, we will be conducting a survey to assess young pharmacists' perceptions regarding in-person events. Your feedback will be crucial in organising events that truly spark interest and engagement among our early-career pharmacists.

## Stay connected and get involved

We encourage all members and prospective members to stay connected with YPG and PSSA through our social media channels. Follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram to stay updated on the latest news, events, and opportunities.

- **Follow Us:** Stay updated with YPG and PSSA activities by following us on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram.
- **Participate in the Survey:** Keep an eye out for the upcoming survey in our newsletter and on social media. Your input is invaluable!
- **Join YPG:** If you are not yet a part of the YPG but wish to join or get more involved, contact us via email or through our social media pages.
- **Communication Preferences:** How do you want to hear from the YPG? Let us know your preferred communication channels and methods by participating in our survey and sharing your thoughts.

Together, let's continue to build a vibrant, supportive community of young pharmacists dedicated to professional growth and positive change in the pharmaceutical field.

Website	Facebook	Instagram	LinkedIn
<a href="http://www.pssa.org.za/young-pharmacists-group">www.pssa.org.za/young-pharmacists-group</a>	Young Pharmacists' Group of PSSA	@pssaypg	Young Pharmacists' Group of the PSSA.
			

Feel free to reach out to us at

Email: [ypg@pssa.org.za](mailto:ypg@pssa.org.za)

Facebook: Young Pharmacists' Group of PSSA

Instagram: @pssaypg

*Young pharmacists – connected, engaged, empowered and inspired!*