

Reflecting on the 2024 SAAPI Conference held 5–7 June 2024

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Conference committee chair 2023/2024

With the theme ENGAGE & EMPOWER, this year's SAAPI conference aimed to do just that. With speakers from both SAHPRA and industry (local and international), the conference allowed for a whirlwind of experiences, learnings, and connections.

At this year's conference, we celebrated SAAPI's 30th year of existence. We took a walk down memory lane with Miranda Viljoen who presented us with SAAPI's journey from 1994 to date. We also had colleagues from the first SAAPI executive committee of 1994 join us for a spectacular cocktail function. The presence and words of wisdom from the first SAAPI committee provided a sense of hope and inspiration for our young SAAPI members and current executive committee.

One of the most striking aspects of this year's conference was the variety of topics covered. From harmonization of medicines across the African continent, feedback on various updates from our regulator, SAHPRA, to the status of complementary medicines and medical devices inspections, and the maintenance of quality systems among many other exciting topics. We were also provided with insights into the veterinary space and new regulatory systems for various types of submissions. Topics on pricing, the role of supply chain in our industry and pharmaceutical licensing were also covered.

We were thrilled to have DHL as our platinum sponsor and Playbook as our gold sponsor. We were also excited to have Aspen, Strategnos, Vector Logistics, Adcock Ingram and Franklin Covey join us as additional sponsors. A big thank you to all our sponsors for contributing toward the success of this conference.

Beyond the content itself, the conference was filled with diverse perspectives. Delegates had the opportunity to engage and network with fellow attendees and to exchange ideas and build lasting connections. These interactions have not only expanded professional networks but have also fostered a sense of community and collaboration.

Navigating through a variety of sessions, each attendee was confronted with new ideas and perspectives that sparked introspection and growth. Whether it was stepping out of comfort zones to attend sessions outside one's expertise or embracing differing viewpoints, the experience was a testament to the transformative power of continuous learning. The lessons learned here will undoubtedly resonate long after the conference, shaping future decisions and actions in profound ways.

As attendees return to their respective roles and organisations, they carry with them not just new knowledge but also a renewed sense of purpose and possibility. Let us carry forward the lessons learned and connections forged as we continue to push boundaries and unlock new opportunities for growth and innovation.



Members of the SAAPI EXCO 2023/24

From left to right: Yolanda Peens, Christine Ledimo, Gina Partridge, Leanne Blumenthal, Tammy Gopal, Alison Blackhurst, Byron Chukwu, Lynette Terblanche, Yuthika Prahlahd, Minoka Maharaj, Millicent Zondi, Thavashini Pather



Leanne Blumenthal, Byron Chukwu, Gina Partridge – participating in the SAAPI Social Media Competition



Veterinary Panel Discussion:

From left to right: Gina Partridge, Dr Cobus Raath, Margaret Churchill, Lydia Motlogelwa (SAHPRA), Dr Alice Sigobodhla (SAHPRA), Millicent Zondi