



Forum

SA Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists

The South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists (SAAHIP) 37th Annual Conference and 68th Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held on the 10–13 April 2025 presents

“Future Ready 5.0”

Empowering Hospital Pharmacists for Tomorrow's Healthcare Revolution

Call for Abstracts

The South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists Southern Gauteng branch is excited to announce a call for abstracts for our upcoming conference focused on exploring the intersection of hospital and institutional pharmacy and the fifth industrial revolution during the implementation of the NHI bill in South Africa. As the healthcare landscape evolves rapidly, propelled by advancements in technology and innovation, it is crucial to understand how these changes will shape the future of pharmacy practice within not only the hospital pharmacy setting, but within the broader pharmacy landscape. This conference aims to explore the dynamic landscape of healthcare in the midst of the fifth industrial revolution and equip hospital pharmacists with the knowledge and tools necessary to thrive in this transformative era.

Background

We are currently in the 4th Industrial Revolution where advances in technology affect the way we work, play, and think. But how are these innovations in technology affecting the field of hospital pharmacy and are we keeping up with it or is it merely passing us by? What is the future of pharmacy in the age of technology and innovation? This is an opportunity for us as pharmacists to display our efforts within our workplace in keeping up with technology and innovation.

The Fifth industrial revolution will be upon us soon. It is often referred to as the “Cognitive Age” and is a transformational point in history. We need to redefine our human existence. This is the era where we harmonise machine intelligence and human interaction for the improvement of humanity. Let us display the human interactions that pharmacists provide as we harmonise with technology. “5.0” in our theme topic directly refers to the Fifth industrial revolution.

National Health Insurance

On the 15th May 2024, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed the National Health Insurance Bill into law. What does this mean for hospital pharmacy? The transformation of the healthcare system through



the utilisation of AI and big data must incorporate concepts of sustainability, human-centeredness, multi-disciplinary collaboration, patient-centeredness and “resilience”. At this pivotal stage, hospital pharmacy must lay the foundation to cement their essential roles. This conference will provide a platform to discuss the implications of the impending national health insurance for pharmacy practice in South Africa and to envision the role of hospital pharmacists in this reformed healthcare system.

Being a pharmacist in this new age means being adaptable. As AI takes over specific tasks, there is a growing need for intrinsically human skills, emotional intelligence, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration will be more crucial than ever. Together, they create a synergy that optimizes healthcare outcomes while upholding the human touch in pharmaceutical care. Ensuring that AI's deployment is beneficial and ethical is a collective responsibility. From developers to policymakers, educators to end-users, we all play a role in shaping the trajectory of AI's impact on healthcare.

Hospital pharmacists, as integral members of the healthcare team, play a crucial role in navigating this revolution and ensuring optimal patient care amidst rapid changes.

We invite and encourage abstract submissions from all practising hospital and institutional pharmacists, community service pharmacists, pharmacist interns and academics. We also invite researchers, clinicians, pharmacists, educators, and other healthcare professionals to contribute their insights and expertise to this important discussion on the future of hospital pharmacy in the era of the fifth industrial revolution. Together, let us explore innovative solutions and best practices to ensure optimal patient care and pharmacy practice excellence.

Categories for submission of abstracts

Precision Medicine and Personalized Therapies: How will the integration of genomics, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence

impact the development and administration of personalised treatments in hospital pharmacy?

Digital Health Solutions: Explore the role of digital health technologies, such as telepharmacy, mobile applications, and electronic health records, in optimizing medication management, patient monitoring, healthcare delivery in hospitals and handling of medicine shortages.

Pharmacy Automation and Robotics: Investigate the implementation of automation, robotics, and smart systems in pharmacy operations, including medication dispensing, inventory management, and compounding, and their potential to enhance efficiency and patient safety.

Advanced Drug Delivery Systems: Discuss emerging drug delivery technologies, such as nanomedicine, implantable devices, and targeted drug delivery systems, and their implications for hospital pharmacy practice in terms of drug formulation, administration, and patient care.

Ethical and Regulatory Considerations: Examine the ethical, legal, and regulatory challenges associated with the adoption of fifth industrial revolution technologies in hospital pharmacy, including data privacy, security, and compliance with industry standards and guidelines.

NHI Readiness: Current and future strategies to navigate National Health Insurance in a South African context.

Data Analytics and Predictive Modeling: Discuss how data analytics and predictive modeling can enhance medication management and patient outcomes.

Telepharmacy and Remote Patient Monitoring: Delve into the opportunities and challenges of telepharmacy and remote patient monitoring in the era of virtual healthcare.

Patient-Centered Care: Highlight strategies for delivering patient-centered care in an increasingly complex healthcare landscape.

The above is by no means an exclusive list. Other topics may be worthy of presentation.

Presentation categories

Using the following categories, determine the most appropriate format for your presentation:

- **Podium presentations:** A formal 10-minute oral presentation. A further five minutes will be allowed for discussion and to receive questions from the audience. A podium presentation is generally a structured research project with aims, methods, results and conclusions.
- **Scenario presentations:** A formal 10-minute oral presentation. A further five minutes will be allowed for discussion and to receive questions from the audience. A scenario could involve an in-depth study of a specific real-world event or a particular problem that was encountered and solved in a clinical or practice-related environment. Scenario presentations should illustrate a good understanding of

why the event happened or why the problem occurred. Presentations should highlight the concerns that arise from a scenario (that requires further investigation) and how the problem can be solved.

• **Pearl Presentations:** A short five-minute oral presentation. "Pearls" are a fun-filled way of presenting a serious topic, but with a different slant. Just as a pearl has an intrinsic value, these presentations should focus on something exceptional, precious and not well known generally. The presentation should convey a useful, punchy message that has not been widely published or taught. The ideas could be from any practice setting, e.g. clinical, administrative, pharmaceutical care or quality improvement. Although both a title and an abstract will need to be submitted for the selection process, only the title will be published in the conference programme. This is to preserve the essence of a pearl presentation. No discussion will take place. Questions will not be invited from the audience.

• **Poster Presentations:** A visual display that facilitates discussion. A poster could be research, a case study or a real-life event as outlined in the scenario presentations above. Presenters can display their posters for three days and deliver a formal 2-3 minute talk to the full audience during the scheduled poster session. Discussion and questions from the audience will take place at the poster during the subsequent tea or lunch break.

Awards

The following awards will be presented:

- Best podium presentation by a practising hospital or institutional pharmacist
- Best poster presentation by practising hospital or institutional pharmacist
- Best scenario presentation by a practising hospital institutional pharmacist
- Best presentation by an academic pharmacist
- Best pearl presentation

Only paid-up SAAHIP members will qualify for awards. Award winners from the previous two conferences and members of the judging panel will not be eligible for an award.

Abstract submission guidelines

Abstracts that do not comply with the following criteria will not be considered for acceptance:

All abstracts will be reviewed by an abstract committee. The accepted abstracts will be assigned to appropriate poster-, oral-, or scenario sessions. A notification will be emailed to every corresponding author. Authors who then wish to present their abstract at the conference must send back the signed acceptance document and pay the registration fee. No honorarium, travel-, or accommodation expenses will be provided or covered for presenters.

Layout for ALL abstract submissions:

Abstract must be saved as a MS word document (**Not PDF**)

Font: Arial, regular font, size 10

Spacing: Leave a blank line between the main sections of the abstract, otherwise use single line spacing. **Do not** indent the start of a paragraph. Use full justification for text alignment.

Title: Use bold font and centre the title, the title should be brief and clearly indicate the topic of the presentation. Capitalise the first letter of each word as appropriate. Try to avoid the use of "a", "an", or "the" as the first word of the title.

Authors and Affiliations: Use normal font and centre the text. Type the authors surname first, followed by the initials. Underline the presenting author. **Do not** include titles or degrees. Only include the place of employment or institutional affiliation.

Body of Abstract: The abstract **should not exceed 350 words** (word count excludes title, authors, affiliations, spaces, title notes). Avoid using tables, graphs or graphics in the abstract

Abstracts for poster - and podium presentations should be structured in the following format

Background:

Methods:

Results:

Conclusion:

Abstracts for scenario presentations should be structured in the following format:

Setting / Background:

Purpose of the project / Objectives / Description of case/event:

Approach used:

Results / Outcome of case/event:

Lessons learnt / Key learning points:

Abstracts can be submitted electronically by following the link: <https://forms.gle/nezqAe6g9CvyEAXV7>

For more information, you can send an email to: liezl.fourie14@gmail.com

Important dates

Abstract submission deadline: 30th September 2024

Notification of acceptance or rejection from the Academic Committee: 15th November 2024