



**South African Society
for Basic and Clinical
Pharmacology**

SASBCP

President's Report 2010/11

This report covers activities and achievements of the Society and its members during the period of Oct 2010 to Sep 2011.

22 Aug 2011

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This report discusses and reflects on various issues related to the management, activities and key events of the South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP) for the year 2010/11. It continues from where the previous President's Report 2009/10 by Prof Wim du Plooy concluded.

1 Society Management & Membership

The Society has undergone a number of important changes in its management, including changes to the membership of the Board of Directors, and proposed amendments to its Constitution.

1.1 Tribute to Prof du Plooy, former President

As announced to all members earlier this year, Prof Wim du Plooy resigned as President and member of the Board on the 24th of March 2011. In line with the Constitution, Prof Tiaan (CB) Brink has since been elected by the Board as new President of the Society (2011 to 2013). The next general elections of the Board will be held during the Annual General Meeting in 2013.



Background: Members will recall that, due to health considerations, Prof du Plooy originally temporarily delegated his responsibilities to the former vice-president, Prof Tiaan Brink, on the 28th of January 2011. Then, following a tragic car accident (a further setback to his health status) and careful consideration, Prof du Plooy submitted his official resignation as President by the end of March. It has, however, been with great relief that we all received the good news of his remarkable recovery since. Although his full recovery is an on-going process, Prof du Plooy has offered his continued assistance and services to the Society.

Contributions: Prof du Plooy has served the Society for many years as Secretary (1997-2011), Vice-President (2001-2007) and President (2007-2011). He had co-steered several key initiatives of the Society, including the successful bid to host the 17th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2014) in South Africa. Prof du Plooy promoted the Society's activities for support by the NRF and ICSU, and most recently assisted to refine our constitution. During his presidency he played a key role to enhance the Society's national and international recognition and to create new networking opportunities for its members.

I wish to use this opportunity to sincerely thank Prof du Plooy on behalf of all Society members for his excellent and dedicated service. We are also grateful about your recovery and look forward to your continued support in many years to come.

1.2 Changes in the Board of Directors

As a consequence of Prof Wim du Plooy's resignation, one of the seven positions on the Board of Directors (see the SASBCP Constitution) became vacant. Prof Andrew Walubo was elected as interim Director to the Board, and registered accordingly at the Companies

and Intellectual Property Commission. He has been specifically tasked to further promote and steer the 'Pharmacology for Africa' (PharfA) initiative of the Society, which he has already been doing outstandingly.

According to the Constitution, the formal election of a new director needs to follow such an interim appointment at the earliest Annual General Meeting, in this case being held on the 26th of September 2011.

1.3 Revisiting the Constitution

The Society's activities have increased lately and will intensify during the next few years towards 2014. As a Section 21 Company it has to be able to respond effectively to new challenges. The Board realised that amendments to the Constitution were necessary to streamline its operation and accordingly Prof Wim du Plooy assisted the Board with advice thereto. The proposed amended Constitution will accordingly be presented to the Members at the AGM for acceptance.

1.4 EXCO meetings

The Board of directors has meted in February, May and August 2011 to discuss important developments in Society activities. The minutes of these meetings are posted in the member section (requires login) of the Society website (www.sapharmacol.co.za).

1.5 Membership

The membership of the Society is in the excess of 200 names on the database, but only with roughly 60 paid-up members this year (figures 23 Aug 2011). Being a Section 21 Company, the Act determines that only paid-up members may be enjoy membership privileges (including voting rights) and therefore everyone with membership fees 2011 in arrear are called upon to please settle his without further delay. Please contact the Society Office (office@sapharmacol.co.za) if you experience any difficulty.

Statistics of the Society membership and ICPPS2011 delegates suggest that we maintain excellent gender equity and have made very strong strides towards racial equity. We also have a fair representation from both basic and clinical pharmacology, although we may want to attract more pharmacologists in clinical areas. In addition, our meetings are well attended by young and established scientists. The Society is investing in our on-going capacity & leadership building programme for young scientists, serving on our Executive and WCP2014 Organising Committees.

2 Activities & Events

The SASBCP is experiencing exciting times with intensifying activities as we draw closer to the 17th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2014) to be held from 13-18 July 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa.

2.1 Member Achievements

The Society has many active members who contribute at national and international forums, thereby enhancing the Society's visibility and recognition. It is impossible to report on the contributions of all members and to mention a few below is by no means an indication that the numerous other contributions are ignored. Members are invited to forward a summary of their contributions & achievements to the Society Office (office@sapharmacol.co.za), which we will sincerely appreciate. We have become aware of the following new developments:

- Prof Oliver was recently elected onto the Basic and Clinical Research Committee as well as the Public Health/ Health Systems Committee at the National Health research summit and National Health Innovation Forum.
- Profs Rosenkranz, Maartens and Walubo have been re-elected, and Prof Barnes newly elected on the board of the College of Clinical Pharmacology.
- Prof Walubo has been elected onto NRF-rating evaluation panel for Health & Pharmaceutical Sciences. He has also been active on several international forums.
- Prof Steenkamp has been elected to Executive Committee of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry.
- Several of our members have been re-rated or newly rated by the NRF, which is an honour and acknowledgement of excellence for any research scientist.

The international visibility of the Society is strengthened by the following on-going participation in management structures of our international parent organisation, the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR):

- Prof Oliver as member of the Executive Committee
- Prof Brink as internal auditor, chair of the Education Section and African representative on the IOSP committee

2.2 Young Scientist Awards

The Society fosters and promotes both basic and clinical pharmacology, and builds bridges between these interdependent sub-disciplines. This is also in line with international trends, with the International Union that took the lead in 2006. Since the promotion of pharmacological sciences amongst young scientists is a key objective of the Society, the Board realised that this will be best served by offering two separate Young Scientist Competitions in Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, respectively. These two competitions were implemented from 2011, replacing the single competition held in the past. We believe that this step will take the objectives of the Society forward and will offer even better opportunities to our young scientists.

2.3 Annual Congresses

The previous annual meeting of the Society, held as the South African Congress for Pharmacology and Toxicology (SACPT2010) in Cape Town, was hosted by Prof Bernd

Rosenkranz his team from the University of Stellenbosch. This meeting was well organised (and attended), of high scientific standard and created the perfect platform for the essential discussions, networking and collaboration. Furthermore, as indicated in the Treasurer's Report 2011, the meeting turned out to be also a financial success with a healthy surplus that can be utilised to achieve the objectives of the Society, to the benefit of all members. I wish to congratulate Prof Bernd Rosenkranz and his team and also express our sincere gratitude for their excellent hospitality and for the many hours of dedicated time and effort.

The current annual conference, ICPPS2011, is held as a joint meeting between the SASBCP and the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the PSSA (and joined by the Southern African Neurosciences Society), and was organised and hosted by Prof Suleman and her team at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. They have been able to put together an excellent programme, on which the next Report will reflect. The hosts for the meetings in 2012 and 2013 will be decided on at the AGM2011, whereas the Society's annual meeting in 2014 will be held as part of WCP2014.

2.4 WCP2014 Committees & PCO

The key Congress Organising Committees for WCP2014 has been established, with the current membership as follows (to be expanded):

- Executive Congress Management Committee (ECMC): Prof Douglas Oliver (president), Prof Tiaan Brink (secretary-general)
- Finance Committee: (Prof Bernd Rosenkranz (chair), Prof Robyn van Zyl, Mr Brian Flepisi (capacity building)
- Programme Committee: Prof Gary Maartens (chair), Prof Karen Barnes, Prof Brin Harvey, Prof Andrew Walubo, Mr Andy Gray, Dr Phumla Sinxadi (capacity building)
- Fund Raising Committee: Prof Opper Greeff (chair), Dr George Muntingh
- Marketing Committee: Prof Vanessa Steenkamp (chair)
- Local Organising Committee: (Prof Mark Blockman (chair), Prof Pierre Mugabu

Prof Andrew Walubo is co-ordinating the compilation of a book on Pharmacology history in SA/Africa, to be prepared for WCP2014.

Furthermore, following wide invitations, paper evaluations, interviews and final follow-up investigations, the Extended Executive Congress Management Committee (i.e. the ECMC plus chairs of all the other committees) will appointed a Professional Congress Organiser for WCP2014 prior to the AGM. We will be working closely with this company to ensure a congress of international standard.

Prof Douglas Oliver has been able to secure a platinum sponsorship by the North-West University for WCP2014. Contact has been established with several other potential sponsors and exhibitors, to be followed up by the Fund Raising Committee. A comprehensive WCP2014 Sponsor & Exhibitor Prospectus has also been developed.

All members are invited to consider the various possibilities to engage with and make themselves available to serve on these committees. WCP2014 presents us with many challenges and opportunities and participation in these committees will enable members to fully benefit from these.

2.5 WCP2014 report to IUPHAR

Profs Oliver, Brink and Maartens will be attending a meeting of the Executive Committee meeting of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR) and its International Advisory Board for WCP2014 on 24 October 2011 in Paris, France. During this meeting we will discuss the progress made with the establishment of WCP2014 Congress Organising Committees, the draft programme layout & development strategies, the conference budget and other matters.

2.6 5th All Africa Congress for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology 2012

Profs Oliver and Brink promoted WCP2014 and the 'Pharmacology for Africa' (PharfA) initiative to delegates of the XXXVIth annual conference of the Western African Society for Pharmacology (WASP) from 12-16 July 2011 in Kumasi, Ghana. Delegates were informed about the various opportunities for participation at WCP2014 in South Africa and for continental and international participation. It was also decided to hold the next continental meeting in Pharmacology in 2012, following several years of inactivity. Dr Alex Doodoo from Ghana is the convenor for the meeting.

After consultation with the presidents of WASP, Egypt, Kenya and South Africa (currently the only active Societies on the continent), it was decided to host the '**5th All Africa Congress on Basic and Clinical Pharmacology**' in **July 2012 in Accra, Ghana**. This beautiful coastal city is the capital of Ghana, has many international connecting flights and appropriate facilities to host the meeting. The programme outline will be announced soon and the SASBCP will seek funding to sponsor young and established members from South Africa to attend. Members are called upon to support this meeting and thereby to contribute to networking and capacity building locally and on the continent.

2.7 ICSU & NRF

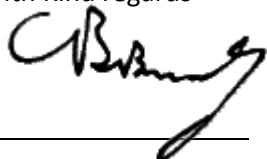
The Society has maintained its strong collaboration with ICSU-Africa and the National Research Foundation (NRF). Prof Vanessa Steenkamp attended the 2nd ICSU Regional Consultative Forum, 19 July to 20 July 2011 in Pretoria, and gained insight into opportunities that the Society needs to take up.

3 Conclusion

The Society is currently performing exceptionally well to serve the objectives of the Society and the professional needs of its members. We have very clear specific objectives for the next three years and beyond and will make every effort to expand our horizons. Besides the intensification of key activities, the environment in which we operate has changed dramatically. For example, the College of Clinical Pharmacology has contributed greatly to optimise the recognition of the value of pharmacology in addressing the needs of citizens.

Lately the South African Society of Clinical Pharmacy (SASOCP) has been established, which also strongly relies on clinical pharmacology as a sub-discipline. Via international participation on international forums, the WCP2014 and PharfA, the Society has been able to enhance its visibility, networking capacity and sphere of influence. SASBCP members need to (and are indeed invited to) actively engage with such interest groups (seize opportunities), thereby continuing to contribute to the fostering of pharmacological sciences in the country, continent and globally.

With Kind regards



Prof Tiaan (CB) Brink
(President: SASBCP)

