



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

SASBCP

President's Report 2012/13

This report covers activities and achievements of the Society and its members during the period of Oct 2012 to Sep 2013

Sep 2013

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1 Introduction & Context

This report intends to inform members of general business matters and activities of the Society during the period from October 2012 until September 2013. The South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP) has focused a great deal of its time to the hosting of the 17th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology in 2014. At the same time other objectives of the Society has not been neglected, making this a very busy and exciting time.

2 General Business Matters

In general the business of the Society is very well managed and attended to. Most important aspects thereof include what is discussed below.

2.1 Membership

The total membership number stands on 126. However, of these, only 65 have been paid-up by September 2013. Late invoicing may partially explain this and members are requested to pay 2013 dues as soon as possible.

The Society website has become increasingly outdated so that the membership application and management became obsolete. This has implications also for creating invoices. The Society office, secretary-general and treasurer handled applications, invoicing and payments manually in the year of reporting.

In the meantime, Mr Bennie Kahler-Venter kindly offered to redesign the whole website as a sponsorship to the Society. The website, database, membership and financial management, etc. will be totally redesigned on a new system, following a full analysis of current information and needs. Although a lot of progress has already been made, a substantial amount of work is still to be done and members will be updated on progress. We hope to have the system operational in 2014. Your understanding and patience is greatly appreciated

2.2 Change in the Society Office

Ms Linda Grimbeek resigned as office assistant of the Society end 2012 and the position was vacant for a few months. Prof Ronél Petra Kahler-Venter kindly accepted to take over this position earlier this year. All members would have received messages from her about Society matters since and would have experienced her most effective service to the Society. We are all grateful for her indispensable support.

2.3 Meetings of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met frequently during 2012/13, with most of these meetings pertaining to WCP2014. Other strategic matters were also discussed, including a strategy to further promote a Young Scientist group for the Society.

2.4 Extending Elections of Board Members to 2014

According to the constitution elections are held every three years during the Annual General Meeting to elect directors to serve on the Board. Re-election of any member is not limited, but also not guaranteed. However, even when re-elected, a director can only hold the same position in office (secretary-general, treasurer, vice-president, president) for a maximum of two terms (i.e. six years). The current term ends during the Society's annual congress in Sep/Oct 2013, when new elections are due. In particular, the treasurer and secretary-general now served two terms, so that they will necessarily change portfolio if re-elected. Any re-elections will require time to hand over responsibilities.

However, concern was raised with regards to the election of a new board of directors within 8 months of the World Congress (WCP2014), organised by the Society, taking place. Officers are also involved in the organising of the congress. It was recommended that these special circumstances may require that elections be postponed for one year, when the World Congress has been concluded.

Since this implies an interim amendment to the stipulation of the constitution (where a two-third majority approval at an AGM is required) it was decided that an emergency AGM take place via e mail (i.e. allowing voting via electronic ballot, as allowed by the constitution – see par A.8.2).

The following e-mail was sent to all members on the 7th February 2013:

“ Dear SASBCP Member

According to the constitution a director can only hold his/her position for two terms. The current term of the directors ends during the Society's annual congress which is in October 2013, when new elections are due. However, concern was raised with regards to the election of a new board of directors within 8 months of WCP2014 taking place. This is especially of importance for the position of Treasurer and Secretary, where continuity will be necessary and where time cannot be spent on handing over/training. Council requests that an emergency AGM take place via e mail (i.e. allowing voting via electronic ballot, as allowed by the constitution – see par A.8.2). We request members to vote whether they have any objection to postponement of the election until an AGM during WCP2014, implying that the council members remain in office for an extended term of about eight months. Members are requested to reply YES if in agreement or NO if in disagreement to this request. Replies should be sent via return e mail to office@sapharmacol.co.za

Regards
Prof Vanessa Steenkamp
Secretary-General SASBCP "

From a total of 30 respondents, three were not paid-up members and their votes were accordingly discarded. This implies that 27 members participated in the meeting by responding to the agenda point. According to the constitution the members present (participating) forms the quorum.

The proposal to extent elections until 2014 was unanimously supported by the quorum, i.e. 100% and exceeding a two-third majority. This implies that the Society is allowed to deviate from the constitution according to the mandate, and only once this time round.

The next elections will be held at the general assembly during WCP 2014 on the 14th of July 2014 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC).

2.5 Auditing of Finances

The finances of the Society were audited according to requirements of the Companies Act in 2012, including auditing of previous financial years. The book keeping is in order and the Society is financially healthy (see Treasurer's Report).

WCP2014 has now been registered as a separate Section21 Company, thereby separating financial matters from that of the Society. This is particularly important to avoid VAT registration of the Society.

3 Activities & Events

Much of the activities of the Society relates to the hosting of WCP2014 and the promotion of the 'Pharmacology for Africa' (PharfA) initiative. The Society strives to achieve all of its objectives for the benefit of all of its members, so that other activities have also been entertained, as discussed below.

3.1 WCP2014

As announced before, the SASBCP will host **IUPHAR's 17th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2014 – www.wcp2014.org)** from 13-18 July 2014 at the CTICC in Cape Town, South Africa. This meeting aims to be internationally relevant, being the best world congress ever (scientifically & technologically), and will provide a unique South African ambience. We aim to attract participation of a large delegation from across the African continent, and in this regard the 'Pharmacology for Africa' (**PharfA**) initiative plays a key role.

It is now <1 year in the run-up to WCP2014. The Local Organising Committees have also made significant progress in organising the meeting:

- The **Executive Congress Management Committee** (*Prof Douglas Oliver – president; Prof Tiaan Brink – secretary-General; Prof Gary Maartens – Chair Programme Committee; Ms Lilly Mokoena – capacity building person; Ms Carolyn Ackerman – Scatterlings as professional congress organiser*) attended meetings with the International Advisory Board (IAB) of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR) in Boston, USA (April 2013). At these meetings the officers were updated regarding progress with the WCP2014 programme, finances and other strategic matters. IUPHAR expressed their satisfaction.
- The **Finance Committee** (*Prof Bernd Rosenkrana (chair), Prof Robyn van Zyl, Mr Brian Flepisi*): The International Advisory Board of IUPHAR approved the updated operational budget of WCP2014 in Boston, USA.
- The **Programme Committee** (*Prof Gary Maartens and track co-chairs*): The Programme draft was formally been approved by the International Advisory Board of IUPHAR. A few recommendations were taken forward to enhance the scientific programme. In addition, more than 12 Satellite meeting has been registered with WCP 2014, as listed on the website.
- The **Marketing Committee** (*Prof Vanessa Steenkamp*) has been very active to prepare for marketing WCP2014 during the Experimental Biology meeting in Boston, April 2013. A stand was set up during this meeting and managed by Prof Douglas Oliver, Prof Tiaan Brink, Ms Lilly Mokoena, Ms Ayesha Ahmed and Ms Carolyn Ackerman. Interest was exceptional and there was significant interaction with several delegates, invited plenary speakers and dignitaries of societies and other groups. Ms Mokoena and Ms Ms Ayesha Ahmed met with Nobel laureate and WCP2014 opening speaker, Dr Robert Lefkowitz.
- The **Fund Raising Committee** (*Prof Greeff, with assistance of Proffs Oliver and Brink, Rosenkranz, Maartens*): Sponsorship with several groups, as indicated on our website, has been secured, and several negotiations are in the final stages. Recent confirmed sponsors include the British Pharmacology Society (BPS), American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Pharmacology (ASPET), and Janssen Pharmaceuticals. More are to be announced soon.
- The **Local Logistics Committee** commenced with their interactions with local government and other stakeholders. Their activities will increase within the next few months to ensure that the meeting has all the local support and glamour befitting a world congress of this stature.
Prof Marc Blockman (chair)

WCP2014 promises to be a well-supported, very successful world congress. South African pharmacologists and professionals need to spread the word, grasp opportunities and become active participants.

3.2 'Pharmacology for Africa' (PharfA) initiative

3.2.1 Background

Proffs Oliver & Brink are invited speakers at the XXXVIIIth Conference of the West African Society for Pharmacology to be held from 22-26 October 2013 in Lagos, Nigeria. They will also be attending as IUPHAR representatives to this meeting. Delegates will be invited to attend WCP2014 in July 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Background: The Pharmacology for Africa (PharfA) initiative has developed strategic training, structuring, and mobilizing plans for Pharmacology on the African continent. This strategy is focused on a long term sustainable development of Pharmacology that started in 2006 when the PharfA initiative was established as an initiative of the South Africa Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, at its inaugural meeting during the 15th World Congress of Pharmacology in Beijing, China. Since this event, several strategic and implementation planning meetings were held in, Quebec, Canada (2008), Cairo, Egypt (2009), Copenhagen, Denmark (2010), Kumasi, Ghana (2011) and Accra, Ghana (July 2012). The strategies and action plans developed during these meetings identified specific milestones that the initiative will work towards. These include, amongst others, the development of the Pharmacology for Africa website; an online pharmacologist expert database; training workshops in Integrative and Organ Systems Pharmacology and in Pharmacovigilance training workshops (starting in 2009 and planned until 2016 to ensure sustainability and legacy); hosting the Africa Congresses of Pharmacology in Accra, Ghana (2012) (www.iuphar-africa2012.org) and Central Africa (2016), and the hosting the 17th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology in Cape Town in 2014 (WCP2014 - www.wcp2014.org). To date workshops have successfully been held in 2009, Potchefstroom South Africa; 2010, Cairo, Egypt, 2010; Nairobi, Kenya, 2012; Accra Ghana and 2012, Abuja, Nigeria. The International Council for Science (ISCU) supported these training workshops generously. IUPHAR, the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, is in full support of the PharfA initiative, and PharfA reports annually to IUPHAR as an African Pharmacology vehicle for sustainable development on the continent. PharfA is also integral to the activities regarding WCP2014.

3.3 Regulatory workshop

Prof Bernd Rosenkranz as chair and Dr Ngokoana Khomo as vice-chair organised, under the auspices of South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP), the Medicines Control Council (MCC) and the Southern African Academy for Medicines Development, a regulatory workshop titled New Developments in Drug Regulation, held from 26-27 Sep 2013 at the Sanlam Auditorium, University of Pretoria, Gauteng, South Africa. This meeting was attended by almost 200 delegates from regulatory bodies, pharmaceutical industry and academia. In this bold step the Society took hands with key role players in pharmaceutical health, to address the current challenges in South Africa and the rest of the continent.

3.4 Member achievements

Several members contributed to national, regional and international initiatives and working groups at the levels of steering committees or executive committees. We are indeed proud that our members are visible and making a difference.

Several members registered in 2013 as specialists in Clinical Pharmacology with the HPCSA. To be noted include that Prof Osuch was the first registrant under the grandfather clause.

Ms Shirra Moch received the University of the Witwatersrand Faculty of Health Sciences Mentoring award for 2012.

3.5 Young Scientists

3.5.1 Young Scientist Awards

- The Young Scientist Award 2012 for the best podium presentation in Clinical Pharmacology was awarded to A Ahmed (Wits).
- The Young Scientist Award 2012 for the best podium presentation in Basic Pharmacology was awarded to Ms M Möller & Ms L Strauss (NWU) (shared).
- The Young Scientist Award 2012 for the best poster presentation was awarded to Ms AD van Eyk (Wits) & C Pillay (UP) (shared).

3.5.2 Best Publication Awards

- The Best Publication Award 2012 for Clinical Pharmacology was awarded to EH De Cloedt & Prof G Maartens (UCT) *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*, 2011 55:3195-3200.
- The Best Publication Award 2012 for Basic Pharmacology was awarded to Mr M du Plooy, Dr M Viljoen, Dr M Rheeders (NWU) *Biol Pharm Bull*, 2011; 34:66-70.

3.5.3 Capacity-building strategies

Background

Young Pharmacologists have been important to the South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP). It has therefore been central to its objectives to create an environment in which young scientists can develop their research careers.

The Young Scientist Competitions at our annual congress is one such an example of the Society's keen interest in their future, and its recognition that they represent the pharmacology leaders of tomorrow. The introduction of new Awards, as explained in §3.5.1 above, was done to promote this initiative.

Capacity building via WCP2014

Mr Brian Flepisi from SUN (Finance Committee), Dr Phumla Sinxadi from UCT (Programme Committee) and Ms Tsakani Rasakanya from UP (Marketing Committee) served on the WCP2014 committees as capacity building persons.

SASBCP Young Pharmacologist Group

The Young Pharmacologist group continued to promote their activities, particularly towards 2014. Travel awards have been made available to young scientists to attend the 3s Company meeting in Cape Town held from 4-6 October 2013. Senior researchers and Heads of Department are requested to encourage young scientists to participate.

3.6 Annual Congresses

The SASBCP annual congress 2012 (ACPFM2012) was held as a joint meeting with Dept Family Medicine (University of Pretoria) and Toxicology Society of South Africa (TOXSA), hosted by the Dept of Pharmacology at the University of Pretoria and organised by the group of Prof Oppel Greef (including Prof Vanessa Steenkamp, colleagues & students). The theme of the congress is "Medical Science – Current Clinical Perspectives". Two pre-congress workshops will be held, including the 7th Annual Pain Symposium on Saturday 29 Sep and the 2nd Symposium on Current treatment Perspectives, covering the 10 most important primary care challenges in South Africa.

SASBCP joined with the 3s Company Pharmacy Congress 2013 workshop, held from 4-6 Oct 2013 at the Lagoon Beach Hotel in Cape Town. This meeting is organised by the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the independent Community Pharmacy Association (APSSA) and the South African Association (ICPA) of Pharmacists in Industry (SAAPI). This will then also be the 47th annual meeting of the Society.

The following convenors for upcoming annual meetings of SASBCP:

- 2014: WCP2014, with AGM at world congress
- 2015: Wits
- 2016: KOVSIES (SASBCP 50th anniversary)

3.7 ICSU & NRF

The SASBCP has continued to foster its relationship with the National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF) and the International Council of Sciences, Regional Office for Africa (ICSU-ROA).

Proffs Kahler-Venter and Brink attended the annual meeting of the ICSU-SA Board to discuss strategic activities of all affiliated national learned societies. The NRF has a new strategy to constitute national committees representing International Council for Science (ICSU) bodies, including a committee for the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR). This is different from national societies and the national committee will be consulted to affect the DST's national policy for sciences. It is foreseen that the committee will collaborate closely with SASBCP, drive small initiatives as necessary, compile an annual report, advise the NRF on the way forward and that representative members will attend a meeting of all the national committees once a year. Any activities directly related to the committee will be funded by the NRF.

During the last ICSU National Committees meeting held 28 Feb to 01 March 2013, it was requested that national learned societies nominate members for their respective new national committees of ICSU SA. The NRF accordingly appointed scientists with sound geographical spread from around the country to serve on this committee, including also two young scientists. In addition, any member serving on the executive committee of the international union automatically serves ex officio.

It is my pleasure to announce that the following individuals are serving on the national committee for IUPHAR:

Chair

- Kahlher-Venter Ronél (Medunsa),

Normal Members

- Bodenstein Johannes (UKZN),
- Brink Christiaan (NWU),
- Cordier Werner (UP),
- Walubo Andrew (UFS),
- Lekhooa Makhotso (UFS),
- Sinxadi Phumla (UCT),
- Steenkamp Vanessa (UP),

Ex Officio

- Oliver Douglas (IUPHAR Executive Committee)

4 Conclusion

Years of strategic initiatives and international networking are paying off, and the Society is now achieving many of its objectives. The year 2012/13 has been very successful for the Society as a whole and many opportunities are now available to members. It has become important for members to take ownership of the many opportunities, and sometimes to be creative in finding ways to get involved and to be part of the bigger picture and the needed solutions.

This serves as an open invitation for members to make suggestions and to contribute as they see opportunities arise. The Society will support every endeavour that will promote the objectives of the Society to promote the sciences and the related activities of its members.

With kind regards



Prof Tiaan (CB) Brink

(President: SASBCP – 2011-2013)