



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

SASBCP

President's Report 2013/14

This report covers activities and achievements of the Society and its members during the period of Oct 2013 to Jul 2014

Jul 2014

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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 2013 until July 2014 (General Assembly during 17th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology in Cape Town, South Africa). Understandably, the South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP) has focused most 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 year.

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 145. However, of these, only 41 have been paid-up by 7 July 2014, plus 11 in process (52 total). Unforeseen problems with the database and hence late invoicing may partially explain this and members are requested to pay 2014 dues as soon as possible.

Mr Bennie Kahler-Venter kindly redesigned the whole Society website as a sponsorship to the Society. The Society wishes to express its sincere gratitude to him for generously offering his services, time and effort. The website, database, membership and financial management, etc. was launched late June 2014. Your understanding and patience during the time of the redesign and website migration were greatly appreciated.

2.2 Society Office

Prof Ronél Petra Kahler-Venter continued to serve the Society as Office Assistant. We are all grateful for her indispensable support and the excellence with which she has served.

2.3 Meetings of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met frequently during 2013/14, with most of these meetings pertaining to WCP2014. Other strategic matters, including the Pharmacology for Africa (PharfA) initiative and young scientist engagement were also discussed.

2.4 Nominations & Elections of Board Members 2014-2017

In line with the Society Constitution, nominations needed to be called for election on the Board of Directors. A nomination committee was appointed, which was led by Prof Andrew Walubo (chair), Prof Gary Maartens and Ms. Shirra Moch. The nomination

committee is also facilitating the elections 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 2013, including auditing of previous financial years. The book keeping is in order and the Society is financially healthy (see Treasurer's Report).

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 hosts **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, to speak of scientific and technological excellence, and to provide a unique South African ambiance. We aimed and worked very hard to attract participation of a large delegation from across the African continent, and in this regard the 'Pharmacology for Africa' (**PharfA**) initiative has played a key role.

The Local Organising Committees have made significant contributions to organise the meeting:

- The **Executive Congress Management Committee** (*Prof Douglas Oliver – president; Prof Tiaan Brink – secretary-General; Prof Gary Maartens – Chair Programme Committee; Ms Carolyn Ackerman – Scatterlings as professional congress organiser*).
- The **Finance Committee** (*Prof Bernd Rosenkrana (chair), Prof Robyn van Zyl, Mr Brian Flepisi*).
- The **Programme Committee** (*Prof Gary Maartens and track co-chairs*).
- The **Marketing Committee** (*Prof Vanessa Steenkamp*)
- The **Fund Raising Committee** (*Prof Oppel Greeff, with assistance of Proffs Oliver, Muntingh, Rosenkranz, Maartens*).
- The **Local Logistics Committee** (*Prof Marc Blockman (chair), Mr Werner Cordier for young scientist matters*)

The Society is sincerely grateful for the hours devoted selflessly in service of the Society, who hosts WCP2014.

3.2 'Pharmacology for Africa' (PharfA) initiative

3.2.1 Background

Proffs Oliver & Brink were invited speakers at the XXXVIIIth Conference of the West African Society for Pharmacology (WASP), held from 22-26 October 2013 in Lagos, Nigeria. They were attending as IUPHAR representatives to this meeting.

The meeting was strategically important to strengthen our ties with West-Africa. It was clear that WASP had been working hard to promote WCP2014 and to assist delegates to attend. Proffs Oliver & Brink were able to advise on several questions of WASP members to support their attendance. There had been a great appreciation for attempts to secure grants for members to attend WCP2014 in Cape Town.

3.3 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.

3.4 Young Scientists

3.4.1 Young Scientist Awards

- The Young Scientist Award 2013 for the best podium presentation in Clinical Pharmacology was awarded to Ms Veronica Paddy (Tuks).
- The Young Scientist Award 2013 for the best podium presentation in Basic Pharmacology was awarded to Mr Renier Kruger (NWU).
- The Young Scientist Award 2013 for the best poster presentation in Clinical Pharmacology was awarded to Mr Naudé Slabbert (NWU).
- The Young Scientist Award 2013 for the best poster presentation in Basic Pharmacology was awarded to Ms Fanya Boulou (UL, Medunsa).

3.4.2 Best Publication Awards

- The Best Publication Award 2013 for Clinical Pharmacology was awarded to M Viljoen (NWU) *European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, 2012; 68(4):339-347.
- The Best Publication Award 2013 for Basic Pharmacology was awarded to BH Harvey (NWU) *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology*, 2012; 258(3):403-409.1.

3.4.3 Early Educator Award

- The Educator Award 2013 in Pharmacology was awarded to Ms S Moch.

3.4.4 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 §3.4.1 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. The group is chaired by Mr Werner Cordier, who's continued input is truly commendable. Senior researchers and Heads of Department are requested to encourage young scientists to participate.

3.5 Annual Congresses

The SASBCP annual meeting 2013 joined with 3's Company Pharmacy Conference 2013, held at the Lagoon Beach Hotel, Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa, 04 – 06 October 2013. This meeting was 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 has been the 47th annual meeting of the Society.

For 2014 SASBCP holds its annual congress as a World Congress (WCP2014) and its business meeting during WCP2014.

The following convenors for upcoming annual meetings of SASBCP:

- 2015: Wits
- 2016: KOVSIES (SASBCP 50th anniversary)
- 2017 onwards – to be announced

3.6 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). The national committee for IUPHAR has then following composition:

Chair

- Kahlher-Venter Ronél (Medunsa),

Normal Members

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

Ex Officio

- Oliver Douglas (IUPHAR Executive Committee)

Proffs Kahler-Venter and Brink attended the annual meeting of the ICSU-SA Board to discuss strategic activities of all affiliated national learned societies.

4 Conclusion

Years of strategic initiatives and international networking are paying off, and the Society has been reaching further towards achieving its objectives. The year 2013/14 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. As a Society we realise that WCP2014 is a stepping stone to the next level of achieving our objectives.

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)