



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

**SASBCP**

## **President's Report 2014/15**

This report covers activities and achievements of the Society and its members during the period of Aug 2014 to Aug 2015

Aug 2015

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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 August 2014 until August 2015. Following the successful hosting of 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2014), time was devoted to finalisation of logistics, reporting and finances related to the congress, as well as a strategic meeting was held to discuss post world congress objectives and activities of the Society.

## 2 General Business Matters

In general the business of the Society is very well managed and attended to, and the new Executive Committee assumed their new roles and responsibilities with great success. A number of highlights are explained below.

### 2.1 Membership

The total number of paid-up members is 187 (number on 04 Aug 2015). Invoices have been sent earlier this year, followed by reminders, and members responded favourably. Thank you to all members who paid their membership fees in due time.

Mr Bennie Kahler-Venter kindly redesigned the whole Society website and is currently busy designing the Pharmacology for Africa website. The Society wishes to express its sincere gratitude to him for generously offering his services, time and effort. We hope to see an active, updated website towards 2016.

### 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 plus Management Advisory Panel held a **strategic think-tank meeting** in November 2014 to discuss the way forward. Following the hosting of WCP2014, the Society has to use its newly established networks, influence and the momentum to reach further than in the past. In particular it needs to:

1. Consolidate its identity and role in South Africa, in particular giving attention to:
  - 1.1. added value for members, identifying and addressing needs of members, and in particular of young pharmacologists, including the following:
    - 1.1.1. optimise the Society website & newsletter
    - 1.1.2. expand awards & recognition, and access funding opportunities

- 1.1.3. connect, involve and support young pharmacologists regarding awareness and career opportunities
- 1.1.4. membership letters/certificates
- 1.1.5. reduced congress registration fees
- 1.1.6. establish alumni connect & support
- 1.1.7. consider CPD opportunities
- 1.2. education of basic and clinical pharmacology, which provides the foundation for many different professionals and which should encourage partnerships and collaborative work
- 1.3. research infrastructure in South Africa, identifying expertise and gaps
- 1.4. provide a professional platform for clinical pharmacologists
- 1.5. enhance communication with departments of pharmacology in South Africa
- 1.6. consider closer collaboration with informally affiliated learned societies
- 1.7. strengthening partnership and relationship with the industry
2. Strengthen its continued role in Africa and internationally
  - 2.1. build on the strong links within the continent (PharfA)
  - 2.2. continue to be involved internationally (via IUPHAR)

## 2.4 Auditing of Finances

The finances of the Society were audited according to requirements of the Companies Act, including auditing of previous financial years. This is reflected also in the Treasurer's report, where a full description can be found. 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 wrapping up post WCP2014, promotion of the 'Pharmacology for Africa' (PharfA) initiative, strategic planning of the way forward, and initiating arrangements for the 2016 annual congress where the Society will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and hope to co-host the All Africa pharmacology meeting ACP2016. 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 reported on before, the SASBCP hosted **IUPHAR's 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2014 – [www.wcp2014.org](http://www.wcp2014.org))** from 13-18 July 2014 at the CTICC in Cape Town, South Africa. The meeting was an astounding success and the Society received many accolades to that effect. Furthermore it show-cased South African pharmacology, our competence and ability to host such an event, strengthened networks, provided opportunities to further support and firmly establish sustainability for the Pharmacology for Africa (PharfA) initiative and strengthened relationship and collaboration with the International Union.

The Society is sincerely grateful for several members who selflessly devoted many hours in service of the Society to host WCP2014. Even after conclusion of the meeting itself, time was spent to wrap up business matters, correspondence with delegates, reports to sponsors and stake holders, and many more. For hard work in the aftermath, I would like to give special recognition to Prof Bernd Rosenkranz who concluded finances (lots of work) and Prof Douglas Oliver who wrote endless reports and who had to oversee the total finalisation process. The meeting was also a financial success and, after financial conclusion and based on the auditor's report, an amount as indicated in the Treasurer's Report was deposited into the Society's account.

### 3.2 'Pharmacology for Africa' (PharfA) initiative

Prof Douglas Oliver, as chair of the PharfA executive committee, compiled a full report on PharfA activities to the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR) in Feb 2015. In this report he discussed the participation of Africa at WCP2014 (including 3 PharfA symposia, PharfA prestige lecture, PharfA General Assembly, PharfA exhibition, scientific capacity/capability development symposium), the IOSP workshop in Durban 2014 (organised by Dr Johannes Bodenstein of UKZN), as well as the need for a funding strategy and the way forward beyond 2014.

#### 3.2.1 6<sup>th</sup> IOSP

The 6<sup>th</sup> Integrative and Organ Systems Pharmacology (IOSP) training workshop for young investigators were hosted the University of KwaZulu Natal as a pre-congress satellite meeting of WCP2014. The meeting was attended by 40 post-graduate students from across Africa. Several specialists presented and gave practical demonstrations on topics including the importance of using of animals in research; animal research ethics; handling of research animals; pain and post-operative care, anaesthesia and surgical techniques; animal models in neurosciences and pharmacology, HIV, TB and medical biochemistry; safety and toxicological trials; and alternatives to animal models in research. Delegates was able to visit the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board, the only facility of its kind in the world. Information about unique studies performed at the BRU was provided and these include studies on the Ragged Tooth Shark, porcine buccal mucosa, a diabetes model, as well as using animal models in the training of clinicians, researchers and students.

#### 3.2.2 International Symposium on Medicines and Patient Safety, Rwanda

Prof Douglas Oliver and Prof Christiaan Brink attended and participated in the International Symposium on Medicines and Patient Safety, in Kigali, Rwanda, held from 5-6 November 2014. This meeting was organised by Donald Singer (British Pharmacological Society), Pierre Claver Kayumba (Vice-Dean, University of Rwanda) and Emmanuel (Head of Medicine, King Faisal Hospital, Kigali). The symposium addressed safe and effective use of medicines, pharmacovigilance, drug regulation and pharmacology education, and was attended by over 170 delegates and speakers from 6 countries (Rwanda, South Africa, Morocco, South Africa, UK and USA). This was followed by a videoconference on Prescribing Skills (Prof Simon Maxwell) and on Pharmacovigilance (Prof Rita Benabdalleh, WHO co-ordinating centre, Rabat, Morocco). Outcomes of the Symposium included plans

to launch the first Rwandan Pharmacology Society, publication of selected reviews and commentaries in the international journal Health Policy and Technology, and plans for a Second International Symposium on Medicines and Patient Safety later in 2015 (themes to include Improving Prescribing Skills and Rational Guidelines for Antibiotics).



Douglas Oliver, Christiaan Brink, Donald Singer with pharmacy students from the University of Rwanda.

### 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 Election on IUPHAR

The following members currently serves on committees of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR) 2014-2018:

- Mrs S Moch - Vice chairman of Education section
- Prof G Maartens - liaison person - Africa
- Prof Rosenkranz - representative for Africa - membership committee

### 3.5 Awards

Awards 2014 is listed in § 3.5.1 below, made possible by the much appreciated support of our sponsors.

It also needs to be noted that Prof Bernd Rosenkranz worked hard to ensure current and future sponsorship of scientific awards, including (*in alphabetical order*):

- Boehringer Ingelheim's sponsorship of Young Pharmacologist travel awards and Best Publications, re-allocable (2015-2017), R30,000 per annum.
- Novartis' sponsorship of the Educator Award (2015), R10,000 per annum
- Servier's sponsorship of Young Pharmacologists (2015), R18,000

### 3.5.1 Young Pharmacologist Awards

#### 3.5.1.1 WCP2014 IPSA Award Winners

##### **Clinical Pharmacology Award**

Muhammed Vally – Prescribing error in a paediatric ward at a teaching hospital in Johannesburg

##### **Basic Pharmacology Award**

Werner Cordier – An in vitro mechanistic evaluation of the hepatotoxic properties of *Solanuma culeastrum*.



#### 3.5.1.2 WCP2014 SASBCP SERVIER Award

##### **1st Prize Clinical Pharmacology Award**

Saiyuri Nair – The Impact of the Introduction of an Enantiomer of an Already Marketed Racemic Pharmaceutical Product on Drug Utilization and Market Share in the South African Pharmaceutical Market.

##### **1st Prize Basic Pharmacology Award**

Mone Mouton – The long-lasting effects of early-life administration of methamphetamine on depressive-like behaviour in stress-sensitive rats.

##### **2nd Prize Basic Pharmacology Award**

Zeenat Ismail – Novel imidazo[1,2-a] pyridines as potential anti-leukaemic agents

##### **2nd Prize Clinical Pharmacology Award**

Mwila Mulubwa – Bone density and renal function markers in tenofovir exposed and non-exposed black South African women.

### **3rd Prize Clinical Pharmacology Award**

Sadiyya Ahmed-Hassen – Building a Decision-Tree Analysis Model as a Tool for Cost Comparison of MRSA Management in CMJAH.

### **3rd Prize Basic Pharmacology Award**

Thulani Mahlangu – Clotrimazole and its interaction with synthetic  $\beta$ -haematin formation



#### **3.5.2 Best Publication Awards**

- Stand over to 2015 congress.

#### **3.5.3 Early Educator Award**

- Stand over to 2015 congress.

### **3.6 Capacity-building strategies**

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.

In addition, young pharmacologists are given the opportunity to serve on the Management Advisory Panel of the Society, thereby to be assigned certain responsibilities, getting involved in activities and to get a better understanding of the Society's management. The following individuals and portfolios have been assigned:

- Young Pharmacologists: Mr Cordier (until the 2015 SASBCP conference).
- Clinical Pharmacologists: Dr Declodt (assisted by Prof Rosenkranz)
- Pharmacology Education:- Mrs S Moch (Vice Chairman of Education section of IUPHAR)
- SASBCP Website: Mrs McCartney to collate information for SASBCP website and submit to webmaster for updating

- Newsletter: Mrs McCartney, assisted by Dr Van Eyk and Mr Flepisi (provide content from Young Pharmacologists)
- Africa: Prof Oliver as chair of PharfA will oversee this portfolio, assisted by Ms Lekhooa.

### 3.7 Annual Congresses

The SASBCP annual meeting 2014 joined with WCP2014, held at the CITCC, Cape Town, South Africa, 13 - 18 October 2014. This has been the 48<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society.

The following convenors for upcoming annual meetings of SASBCP:

- 2015: Wits
- 2016: SMU + KOVSIES (SASBCP 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary)
- 2017 onwards – to be announced

### 3.8 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 the following composition:

#### **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**

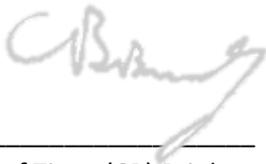
- Oliver Douglas (IUPHAR Executive Committee)

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

During the year 2014/15 the Society was wrapping up WCP2014 business and initiated strategic plans to take the Society forward towards 2020. The world congress, WCP2014, has indeed been a milestone in its history, and was made possible by dedication of many of its members, notable the leadership of Prof Douglas Oliver. It created excellent opportunities to show-case pharmacology in South Africa and to network with international colleagues and experts. The Society is now in an excellent position to take the next steps towards becoming a leading group on the African continent.

With kind regards



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Prof Tiaan (CB) Brink

*(President: SASBCP – 2011-2013)*