



## From the President's Desk

Mid-April already!! There has been so much going on – I just want to highlight a few.

The FP's in private have finalized their position statement and are actively engaging with various medical aids around the issues of recognition, remuneration, access to specialist investigations and specialist formularies. The response from the medical aids has been really positive – they WANT to engage with Family Physicians – they REALLY like what we do and can see the benefit to patients and the potential cost savings from coordinated care, multimorbidity care, extended consultations, hospital at home etc. provided by FP's. If you are a FP in private this is an initiative that you really want to join. Get in touch with Dr Sheena Matthews or Lucille for more details. [admin@saafp.org]

Advocacy –we have continued to promote the role of the Family Physician at District hospitals and at CHCs with multiple meetings with provincial and national officials. Responses from DOH officials have generally been very positive with a recognition of the positive role that FP can play in service delivery, clinical governance and teaching. We have added our voice to those calling for appropriate funding for PHC services and have highlighted the negative impact on service delivery of the current budget cuts. In addition, as a cost cutting measure, some DOH officials have suggested that community service should be stopped. We have strongly motivated for this not to happen and have added our voice to those highlighting the negative impact that abolishing community service posts would have, particularly at rural district hospitals and, for the moment, that decision seems to be on hold.

SAAFPA conference is only three months away!! The organizing committee have put together an exciting program with appeal to those in the private, public and academic sectors. We would really love to see you there AND to hear your presentations. Abstract submissions close at the end of May so... get yourselves organized and submit your abstract ASAP! See you in Cape Town in September 2024

We continue to hold monthly webinars on a range of topics of interest to generalists. This year we have covered topics such as allergic rhinitis, shoulder dislocation, gender affirming care and have a variety of interesting topics lined up. It is an easy way to get CPD points so join us on the last Thursday of the month from 6- 7 pm. Talking about CPD points – the HPCSA have been sending out non-compliance notices to health care professionals who are behind on their CPD points. The SAAFPA provides free access to members an array of CPD activities –if you need points check out our CPD online activities.

recommend doing their training modules (contact Lucille for more details). However, this needs to be supplemented by hands on training. We have a pre-conference workshop on PoCUS on Friday 6th September 2024 – please register if you are interested. We are also looking for FP who can be PoCUS champions – who develop their own skills and help others to develop their skills. If you would like to run a hands-on PoCUS workshop in your area with 10 – 20 participants, PLEASE get in touch with Lucille – we have excellent relationships with GUSI and South Africa Society for Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (SASUOG) and would love to see these PoCUS workshops happening around the country.

Social media revamp – a group of registrars have taken the initiative to get our social media platform up and running. They have been posting interesting material (did you do the questionnaire on skin manifestations of TB?) on our Instagram page. So, get on board – open / create an Instagram page (for us “older” FP this may be a new skill set!!)- see what is being posted, like, repost, suggest interesting content. We do want this to be a dynamic, interactive, interesting platform.

Together we are stronger. We need your support; we need your active involvement – these are not activities only a few can be involved in – imagine what we could achieve if WE ALL made a contribution to the success of the SAAFP!

Lucille recently circulated an online survey to all members. PLEASE complete this and send it back – it will only take you a few minutes to complete. We really want to hear your feedback and to provide a meaningful service to our members. YOUR VOICE MATTERS TO US

Membership renewal. The Academy cannot function without your financial support, and we need+- 400 full members to meet our financial commitments. Renewal of membership happens at the beginning of April each year and Lucille has sent around renewal forms. PLEASE complete these and send them back to her ASAP. Last year we introduced a monthly debit order / annual debit order option. The monthly option is only R 170 / month x 10 months which is not much more than 3 cups of coffee! It would really help our cash flow if you could consider a monthly debit order – forms are attached to this newsletter and Lucille can provide additional information to those who want it.

Thanks, for all your support.

Andrew Ross  
President, SAAFP

[MEMBERSHIP SURVEY](#)

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## Annual Practitioners Congress

The **26th annual congress** taking place between **6th - 8th of September 2024** at **The Protea Breakwater Lodge, in Cape Town**. Networking opportunity, updating your CPD points, meeting the sponsors and time to socialize at the gala dinner. Visit the conference website to view our speakers, submit your abstracts.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

## South African Family Practice Journal

We are pleased to welcome our newest editorial board members to the SAFP journal community. At our last editorial board meeting in November 2023, we agreed to expand the editorial board by including representatives from the public, private sector and registrars.

### The newest members are:

**Private sector:** Dr Gareth Fray and Dr Darcelle Schouw

**Registrar representatives:** Dr Simon Marcus, Dr Mmaphefo M. Maluleka and Dr Dikonketjo Moeti

**Public:** Dr James Porter

[CONTINUE READING](#)

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## Launch of the SAAFP Research Committee

The SAAFP has recently launched an exciting new national initiative, a national Research Committee with representatives from all ten South African academic family medicine departments. This committee evolved from the PhD special interest group, and its strategic role in growing the scholarly activities of SAAFP is fully endorsed by the SAAFP Exco and the Education and Training Committee. The details of the committee's terms of reference are being refined, but essentially, the core activities of the committee will include the following:

- Promote the development of practice-based research networks with the goal of establishing a South African Family Physician Research Network.
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  - Coordinate and enable collaborative research at a national level aligned with the vision and mission of the SAAFP.
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## Wonca World Congress - 2027

Cape Town has been selected to host the World Congress for Family Doctors, this will be in November 2027, we expect 3000 delegates at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. More information to follow in due course.

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An initiative that promises to support newly qualified family physicians in their first five years after graduation. With a strong mentorship program, supporting our newly qualified family physicians, webinars, actively part of the family practice journal and a WhatsApp group sharing information, this group has grown over the past year.

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## PoCUS

The Academy PoCUS Special Interest Group is running an exciting in-person PoCUS pre-conference workshop on 06/09/2024 at the Protea Breakwater Lodge. Don't miss out! Places are limited.

In addition, a three-tier online PoCUS training course is also available, facilitated by the Global Ultrasound Institute.

Transforming healthcare through point of care Ultrasound. A specialised online training course, available to members and non-members of academy. Watch this space for more information, great things await us in 2024.

[PRE-CONFERENCE POCUS WORKSHOP](#)[POCUS ONLINE TRAINING REGISTRATION](#)

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## Accreditation of Clinical Trainers

The academy would like to recognize competent and effective clinical trainers. To encourage family physicians to develop expertise and recognize those that are doing well. Visit the academy website for more information.

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## Annual membership fees 2024

Debit orders are the preferred means of payment, complete the form, submit together with proof of banking details and we will do the rest. Note the changes in the membership fees for 2024/2025 you cannot settle your fees over 10 months at R170.00 per month [only via debit order for a once off debit order of R1650.00. Registrars will no longer receive free membership from the academy, a small fee of

membership fee.

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