

SAPA NEWS

SAPA has entered a new quarter, and we are in the midst of surviving the scourge of bronchiolitis (this year seemingly delayed, most likely owing to the very warm weather) intertwined and compounded by the dreaded flu!

While many of our patients are ill, some quite severely so, we as their doctors, are also bearing the brunt and facing challenges of doctoring while trying to keep up with vitamins and fluids to stave off the germs ourselves. We are hopeful that the RSV vaccine will be approved and made available to pregnant women and children in the future. There has been a dramatic change evidenced in countries where the vaccine has been rolled out!

While reading and preparing for the new quarter we came across the following quote:

“A child’s health is the nation’s wealth.” – Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. Dr Kalam, was a renowned Indian scientist and former president, who very often expressed the significance of prioritising child health. We thought this would be a lovely sentiment to share with regards to the austerity measures that are being placed into action. We, as paediatricians, share this sentiment and remain committed to the health of our children and therefore, the wealth of our nation is in our hands. As SAPA, we will continue to #Striveforthrivingkids and help build our nation.

As part of our mission, SAPA aims to be the voice of all paediatricians and affiliates of child health. In so doing, we have published our position statement regarding the importance of breastfeeding while supporting the education of paediatricians on the appropriate use of breastmilk substitutes. Please visit our website for the full position statement where this is highlighted. Please note that this will also guide all healthcare providers on the guidelines on interacting with medical representatives from various infant formula companies and connect interested parties with the Infant Feeding Association.

Our united voice also hopes that our members supported the election in the last week of May. By using our vital vote and

participating in our country’s democracy, we are stating that we want positive change to impact all. It is essential that we stand together to fight for the rights of our children in South Africa. Please keep an eye on our social media and look out for calls to assist as SAPA will actively stand up for the rights of our children for adequate healthcare coverage, particularly with regards to austerity measures and the NHI.

SAPA has built a wonderful relationship with the registrars, and we are very excited to continue our support of the various registrar activities. We have welcomed 2 new registrar representatives to our dedicated exco team. Registrars are welcome to connect with us if they have any questions or concerns.

SAPA is urging all paediatricians and affiliates to join us in forming a united voice to support children in South Africa. Please remember to become a member and to pay your annual registration fee.

SAPA will continue to support the education of our members by means of various webinars and educational activities that will be advertised on the SAPA website, emails and our social media.

Please consider offering some of your time to join the various subcommittees where you can lend a hand and make a difference.

SAPA has collaborated with the PCSSA to host and support a paediatric cardiology workshop in July 2024. This workshop will be hosted over two days. Day 1 is a virtual session tackling important cardiac topics relevant to the general paediatrician. Day 2 is a hands-on session at multiple sites across the country where basic echocardiography skills will be taught to all our attendees. Attendance on day 1 is free to all paid up SAPA members.

Please join this wonderful workshop to further knowledge on a very important topic. Our social media platforms and emails are coming soon!

**Winter greetings**

**SAPA Exco**

