

SAPA NEWS

SAJCH NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2024

Spring greetings from the SAPA Exco. As the end of the year starts drawing closer, and life starts to get even busier as the schools and students start to prepare for the exams before a well-deserved break, we would like to reflect on some of the highlights over the last few months and promote some of our planned events for the rest of the year.

SAPA was privileged to have been able to send a representative to attend the UNAPSA – Union of National African Paediatric Societies and Associations – conference in Botswana (6 - 9 August 2024). SAPA colours shone brightly as we met and networked with fellow paediatricians from the African continent to strengthen and build old and new relationships. We are extremely proud to form a part of this collaboration who hosted an exciting and successful conference with a wide range of excellent academic topics. Look out for future conferences and be sure to attend if you can.

South Africa will be the proud host to the 20th Congress of the International Paediatric Nephrology Association (19 - 23 February 2025) at the International Convention Centre, Cape Town. Prof. Mignon McCulloch is part of the organising team and campaigned strongly for South Africa to host this event. IPNA is a global, nonprofit charitable organisation that believes that all children deserve to be healthy, and receive optimal treatment and care for kidney disease regardless of their socioeconomic status or political choice. The organisation has played a critical role in providing funding for subspecialist training in Africa to allow more children to access kidney care. Kidney enthusiasts and other who may be interested, be sure to book your seat early. There are special rates available for South Africa!

Frederick Douglass a prominent figure in American history emphasised the importance of paediatric care when he said: ***'It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.'*** This is such a critical statement and we should all consider this when working with children and adolescents. We should focus our energy in preventative care, early intervention and education of caregivers, educators and other people who work with children, to achieve the goal of strong healthy children.

A special thank you and congratulations is due to our education portfolio members in the successful implementation of a Paediatric Cardiology Workshop that was held online followed with a practical training session. It would not have been possible without the valuable input from our sister organisation - Paediatric Cardiology Society of

South Africa (PCSSA) - who joined forces with the SAPA team to launch this initiative. The online workshop had 200 candidates join the fun and learning. There were 105 candidate who attended at nine different facilities throughout South Africa 21 July 2024. The aim was to teach paediatric trainees and paediatricians basic cardiac echocardiography. The delegates shared wonderful feedback and had a great time practicing these new skills. We plan to have another workshop like early in 2025. We thank PCSSA and our attendees for a wonderful collaboration and a very successful workshop.

In September, we focus on children with rare diseases and the diagnostic dilemmas that we often face. In collaboration with the North-West University Metabolomics lab and the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS) to discuss options and approaches to patients with rare conditions, we information about the Nngwe Project will be shared as well as how as a clinician, one can get involved to help end the diagnostic odyssey of rare undiagnosed patients. More information and to pledge your support can be found [here](#). Look out for more details on our social media during the month of September.

For those of us who are struggling to obtain ethics points – watch out for an ethics workshop that is planned for the end of the year!

A SAPA team dedicated to registrar and young paediatrician wellbeing, have been working hard on a research workshop. There will be upcoming news on social media for future workshops. These may be valuable resources for young paediatricians to use in their daily lives, or in preparation for their final examinations. We are here to help you make the stress a little easier to manage!

As always – Gqeberha is on the move and the SAPA 2025 congress looks to be amazing. There is a brilliant line up of speakers who will discuss a wide range of topics relevant to modern paediatric care in South Africa. Save the date 5 - 7 September 2025 at the Boardwalk Hotel & Convention Centre. We hope to see as many as possible of you there.

University Challenge: Are you a Quiz Whizz? Make sure you join us for our yearly University Challenge where we will play one knock out round between 9 different Universities, together with their bright registrar teams, they will fight it out for the trophy! We will soon share details for this event in November.

SAPA Greetings

