

SAPA NEWS

SAJCH NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2025

As the year draws to a close, we extend our sincere gratitude to our loyal SAPA members for your continued dedication and commitment to the paediatric community.

The hashtag #StrivingForThrivingKids has truly become a recognisable and unifying banner for paediatricians and all our multidisciplinary colleagues across the country.

A BUSY END TO 2025

The final quarter has been a particularly active period for SAPA. Our bi-annual congress, hosted in Gqeberha this September, was a standout event. Thanks to a generous sponsorship from Sanofi, we were able to broaden access and welcome significantly more registrars than usual. We remain grateful to the Heads of Units who facilitated their attendance, and we trust the registrars found the academic programme enriching and inspiring.

Please diarise the 2027 congress as soon as the dates are confirmed - early indications from the WITS organising team suggest that another outstanding event is on the horizon.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

During the congress, we bid farewell to our outgoing Exco members. We extend our heartfelt thanks for their many years of unwavering service to the Association. Their legacy sets a high standard for the incoming Exco, who will be steering SAPA through the 2025 – 2027 term:

Lindo Radebe – Chairperson

Mark Atkins – Secretary

Claire Procter – Treasurer

Despina Demopoulos – Ex-officio

Zinhle Vilakazi

Boitumelo Pitso

Samah El-Borai

Zoleka Mbhele

Nosisa Sipambo – WITS Congress Organiser

This team brings fresh energy and ambitious plans for the road ahead.

UNITY GROUP DEVELOPMENTS

On the eve of the congress, our Unity members held a productive meeting highlighting human resources as a key priority. We recognise the pressing need for structured knowledge transfer from our senior colleagues, many of whom have devoted decades to paediatric care. Supporting this transition - while advocating for improved working conditions for all paediatricians - will be central to our efforts. More information on this ongoing project will be shared in due course.

EDUCATION AND WORKSHOPS

Our Education Team has once again excelled, offering a wide range of high-quality webinars throughout the year. These will continue in 2026 - please mark 17:00 – 18:30 on the last Wednesday of every month in your calendars.

We also held a very successful national round of paediatric cardiology workshops on 23 November 2025, hosted across 11 sites. We extend our sincere thanks to the Paediatric Cardiology Society of South Africa for their commitment to excellence and for partnering with SAPA as co-organisers.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

To both new and longstanding members, please continue to monitor the Glue Up platform for updates, announcements, and event information. It remains essential to keep your membership details - particularly paid status - current to ensure uninterrupted access to all SAPA member benefits.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

To those taking a well-earned break during the festive season, we wish you rest, rejuvenation and joyful time with loved ones. To the colleagues who will be covering clinics and hospitals over this period - thank you for your steadfast service. We hold you in our thoughts and appreciate your commitment.

Rest well, stay safe, and we look forward to reconnecting with you in 2026. SAPA Executive Committee