

SAPA NEWS

**A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AT THE INTERNATIONAL PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION CONGRESS MEXICO CITY, MAY 2025 – BY DESPINA (SAPA CHAIRPERSON 2023–2025)**

**A CITY FULL OF COLOUR, CULTURE, AND CONNECTION**

From 8–11 May 2025, I had the privilege of representing SAPA at the International Paediatric Association (IPA) Congress in the vibrant, historic Mexico City. It was an extraordinary experience — both professionally and personally.

The Congress brought together passionate paediatric professionals from across the globe, united in our mission to improve the health and wellbeing of children everywhere.

**PROFESSIONAL ENRICHMENT AT ITS BEST**

The IPA Congress delivered a dynamic programme of lectures, panels, and workshops — spanning child mental health, equity in healthcare, and digital innovation in paediatrics.

Networking with colleagues worldwide was a true highlight: exchanging stories, ideas, and visions for collaborative paediatric care on a global scale.

A special moment was attending the Early Newborn Care workshop, followed by a joyful Gala Dinner with colleagues — including our own Professor Haroon Saloojee — where laughter and friendship crossed every border.

**EMBRACING THE HEART OF MEXICO CITY**

Outside of the formal programme, Mexico City revealed its own treasures: colourful neighbourhoods, exquisite cuisine, striking architecture, and warm, generous people.

Sharing laughter and adventure with colleagues from Zambia, Kenya, and Malawi made the experience even more memorable.

**RETURNING HOME INSPIRED**

I left Mexico City with a renewed sense of purpose and deep gratitude. The insights gained, the relationships formed, and the memories made will continue to guide my work in meaningful ways.

We now look forward to the next IPA Congress in Rwanda, 2027. To the organisers, delegates, and to Mexico City — gracias for your unforgettable hospitality!

**SAPA NEWS & UPDATES**

**New Website & Glue Up App**

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new website and user app. Visit: [www.paediatrics.org.za](http://www.paediatrics.org.za) for the latest updates and statements. Download the Glue Up App to log in, register, and manage your SAPA membership.

**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

- Earn CPD points by attending our monthly webinars
- Access exclusive resources on the member platform



- Enjoy discounted conference rates
- Attend free SAPA-hosted workshops
- Network with SAPA members on our community platform
- Share your voice on issues affecting child health
- Connect with colleagues to discuss patients and complex cases

**POSITION STATEMENTS**

- **Breastfeeding:** SAPA remains committed to promoting, supporting, and protecting breastfeeding. While artificial feeding is sometimes necessary, commercial influences and inappropriate marketing of formula must never undermine breastfeeding.
- **Vaccinations:** Vaccination remains the cornerstone of disease prevention. Recent reports of certain populations being denied access are deeply concerning. Read SAPA's official position statement on our website.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

We are excited to welcome you to **SAPA2025 in Gqeberha, 5–7 September 2025**. Look out for feedback in the next SAJCH and meet our incoming Exco.

With spring in the air, we wish good luck to those preparing for final exams and encourage everyone to enjoy the last four months of 2025.

**Warm greetings,  
The SAPA Exco**