



“Learn from yesterday, live for today” — Albert Einstein

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President, SAAHIP

The 2025/2026 SAAHIP term had been both demanding and rewarding. It required us to return to first principles, reaffirm our purpose, and realign our activities to the evolving needs of the profession. This process reinforced a clear message: the future of hospital pharmacy is relevant and promising but also depended on the strong foundations laid out by previous leaders. Our work has continuously been guided by SAAHIP's four foundational pillars i.e., collaboration, shared vision, commitment, and innovation. Well on our way into the 2nd quarter of 2026 and the new term 2026/2027, my hope is that there is renewed vigour and focus for the plans that we previously set out as SAAHIP.



I have been fortunate enough to be elected to my 2nd term of office as the President, during our National AGM which took place on 14 March 2026 and looking forward into 2026, SAAHIP has been invited to collaborate on two exciting National Pharmaceutical conferences i.e. South African Pharmaceutical Exhibition (SAPHEX) and South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC). These important collaborations will allow us to showcase hospital pharmacy and what the future of hospital pharmacy holds.

SAPHEX took place recently and the overall theme was 'Uniting Health Care Professionals'. The SAAHIP session was incredibly successful and provided a platform for our hospital pharmacists to showcase their success stories, followed by a robust panel discussion. I thank our 3 session speakers and session chair, Mr Kesentseng Jackson Mahlaba, for ensuring the chosen session theme was achieved i.e. 'Celebrating Success Stories in Hospital Pharmacy: Demonstrating Value, Innovation, and Impact.'

Across South Africa, hospital pharmacists have led innovations in clinical governance, antimicrobial stewardship, patient safety and service transformation. The SAAHIP session aimed to honour and showcase these successes from hospital pharmacists who have driven measurable improvements in patient outcomes, introduced novel

service models, and demonstrated leadership in interdisciplinary healthcare. The topics presented in the session were:

1. Building Stewardship Culture: Successes from Antimicrobial Stewardship Teams in Public Sector Hospital. *Lebogang Molepo, Pharmacist at Pietersburg Hospital*
2. Collaborative Clinical Pharmacy Models in Hospital Care. *Kim Nagoor, Pharmacist at Netcare Digital Clinical Pharmacy Unit*
3. Leading Change from Within: Pharmacists as Innovators in Resource-Constrained Hospital Settings. *Bandela Mgoqi, Pharmacy Manager at Kalafong Tertiary Hospital*

We were also afforded the opportunity to join the 80th birthday celebrations of our Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) at SAPHEX. In preparation for the congratulatory message from the SAAHIP sector, I embarked on some research of the longstanding relationship between PSSA and SAAHIP. In 1946 the different branches of the South African Pharmacist's association amalgamated and became the PSSA, and in 1957 SAAHIP, a sector of the PSSA was formed. My research and reading took me back to the oldest journal articles that I could obtain from the online South African Pharmacy Journal (SAPJ) portal (2006) and I was also handed a presentation and other archives (2007) from SAAHIP Past President, Dr Andy Gray.

Reading these past publications and information, I was transported on a pharmacy journey. I marvelled at past president's messages and words of encouragement. I chuckled when I read another past president's Forum write-up, where he mused that the hardest part of his Presidency is writing these Forum articles, which was totally relatable. The journey of pharmacy in South Africa was well documented, detailing our positions over the decades, the challenges experienced, and the solutions proposed. It was easy for me to see the evolution that has taken place. It gave me renewed hope, made me feel better equipped as a leader in the current times and highlighted that I am not alone as I am surrounded by these amazing leaders and the wealth of knowledge that they have.

The hospital pharmacy profession has evolved from dispensing to a more clinical approach. We have moved into the pharmaceutical care era, where pharmacists are able to influence medication prescribing, medication administration and overall medication outcomes of the

patient. We are now valued members of the multi-disciplinary team, involved with clinical decisions, able to provide sound drug interaction analysis and medication reconciliation whilst also providing comprehensive counselling for the patients along with efficient health education. We would never have reached these milestones in healthcare if we didn't evolve, improve or learn from the past.

I have often heard we stand on the shoulders of giants in the SAAHIP space and I personally, am incredibly grateful to all the leaders that have come before me. I have also been very intentional in preserving their work and using it as a guiding force or strong foundation for

my vision, term and the future of pharmacy. Older practises hold significant value. I encourage you to do similar in your practise. Like the above quote from Einstein, the past is there for us to learn from, if we dwell in it – then we will unfortunately not move forward. If we use it as a foundation and learning block, then we can improve and do better! Pharmacists are resourceful and resilient and have managed to move themselves out of the basements of hospitals, solely responsible for drug supply and procurement to being a valued and trusted clinical member of the healthcare team, advisor and patient care advocates. We truly have been able to learn from the past and seize the current day!

The South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists (SAAHIP) 38th Annual Conference and 70th Annual General Meeting

11-13 March 2027

Operation 3i^s Advancing Pharmaceutical Services *innovate, integrate, improve*

Conference Announcement

About the SAAHIP Conference

The South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists (SAAHIP) hosts an annual conference that brings together hospital and institutional pharmacy personnel to explore the latest advancements in hospital pharmacy practice. This event serves as a platform for hospital and institutional pharmacists and pharmacist assistants to exchange knowledge, share research findings, and discuss emerging trends in medication management, patient safety, and healthcare policy. SAAHIP continues to focus on continuous professional development. The 2027 conference will feature a variety of academic and practice-based podium and poster presentations, pearl presentations, workshops, keynote presentations, and networking opportunities, offering valuable insights into enhancing pharmacy services across South Africa.

Advancing Pharmaceutical Services: Innovate - Integrate - Improve

The Northern Gauteng Branch of SAAHIP is pleased to announce the 2027 conference, where we will explore the evolving role of hospital and institutional pharmacy within South Africa's changing health system landscape. As the country advances towards universal health coverage, new policy directions continue to shape the delivery of pharmaceutical services.

In this evolving policy and regulatory environment, it is imperative for hospital and institutional pharmacists to adapt and lead. This conference will provide a platform to examine how technological advancements, automation, and integrated healthcare systems can enhance patient care, optimise pharmacy practice, and strengthen pharmaceutical services in alignment with emerging national health priorities.

Invitation

We invite researchers, practitioners, and industry experts to [submit abstracts](#) that contribute to this critical discourse and help shape the future of hospital and institutional pharmacy in South Africa. Join us as we **Innovate - Integrate - Improve** pharmaceutical services for the betterment of healthcare.

- **When:** 11-13 March 2027
- **Venue:** Location to be confirmed at a later date
- **Theme:** OPERATION 3i^s - Advancing Pharmaceutical Services: Innovate - Integrate - Improve
- **Abstract Submission via:** <https://conference.saahip.org.za/submit-abstract> (<https://conference.saahip.org.za/submit-abstract>)