



SASPEN News

SASPEN joined the British Dietetic Association (BDA) again this year for Dietitian's week from 12–16 June 2017. It was a great pleasure to have ADSA and The Hospital Dietitians interest group join us for the event this year. The theme of the week was "Evidence and Expertise" and was aimed at highlighting the importance of an evidence-based approach to nutrition. SASPEN also focused on creating awareness around disease related malnutrition during the campaign. SASPEN would like to thank ENASA for their help and support in distributing resource packs to dietitians. Please check out our Facebook page for photos of the week and events held over the country in support of dietetics.

SASPEN has been invited to and accepted to support the Malnutrition Awareness Week of ASPEN (American Society for Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition) from 18–22 September 2017.

The purpose of this week is to raise awareness amongst healthcare professionals to consider assessing and intervening earlier, and for the public to realise that they need to ask about their nutrition status and advocate for optimal nutrition care as much as possible. Resources are available on the following website www.nutritioncare.org. SASPEN members will also be able to join the scheduled events free of charge and the link will be made available closer to the time. Please visit the website for excellent information.

SASPEN will be joining the Critical Care Society of Southern Africa (CCSSA) again this year for the biennial congress in Sun City. The congress will take place from 19–22 October 2017. The overall theme for the congress is "Precision Medicine" and SASPEN will be joining with a programme focused on management of specific patient groups in the intensive care unit, with the theme "Hitting the bullseye with nutrition in ICU". SASPEN is looking forward to sharing in the knowledge of our international speakers, Prof Remy Meier and Prof Mette Berger, as well as that of the local faculty. The provisional scientific programme is available on the congress website. Registration for the congress closes on 5 October 2017.

SASPEN together with the Industry and the international faculty is also excited to facilitate the Life Long Learning (LLL) programme at this congress as a pre-congress workshop on 19 October 2017. Two LLL courses will be presented at this year's congress, Nutrition

support in gastro-intestinal diseases as well as ICU Nutrition: Treatment and Problem Solving. You can visit the congress webpage at www.criticalcare.org.za/CSSA17 for more information as well as to register.

The SASPEN biennial meeting will be held at the congress. SASPEN members are reminded that it is an election year for the new SASPEN Council, which will be announced at this meeting. The election process will be done electronically. Members are urged to nominate SASPEN members who are willing to serve on the Council. More information regarding the nomination process will be communicated on the social media platforms.

SASPEN is excited to announce that four South African colleagues have been accepted to participate in the Teacher LLL. This will take place at the yearly European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN) congress to be held in The Hague in September 2017. If they successfully complete the course, we will have four LLL trainers in the country who will be able to conduct LLL courses. This will be a great step for the profession and the advancement of nutrition knowledge in the country.

nutritionDay is a worldwide initiative from ESPEN to fight malnutrition in institutions, including intensive care units, hospital wards and nursing homes. We have written about this initiative in previous SASPEN newsletters and would like to keep it on the nutrition agenda. nutritionDay will take place on 9 November 2017. The biggest stumbling block in this process remains obtaining ethics approval for centres to participate. We therefore urge centres willing to participate to urgently make contact with a SASPEN representative to start the ethics process. SASPEN will guide the process once institutions are identified. SASPEN and ENASA will be involved in this process throughout and are willing to guide willing institutions and potentially provide assistance in the form of human resources and stationary for data collection. To learn more about nutritionDay please visit www.nutritionday.org.

We would like to hear about your initiatives and plans. Please like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and join us on LinkedIn to stay informed about events and opportunities. You can visit our webpage on www.saspen.com or download our SASPEN application on your smart devices.