The SASPEN PM Ward Round Club hosted many successful events over the course of the year. The programme kicked off in February with a presentation by Gina Fourie on the nutritional management of patients’ pre- and post-bariatric surgery. This is a very challenging patient group and we certainly learned a lot. In March the event focused on the management of patients with coeliac and non-coeliac gluten sensitivity with an excellent presentation by Heather Harmsen. For the April meeting the focus shifted back to the management of the intensive care patients with a presentation by Prof Ivan Joubert and Anna-Lena du Toit. The patient presented in this meeting developed intestinal failure related to lupus and presented many challenges in terms of nutritional support and electrolyte balance. The club enjoyed a very practical and informative session on the management of oncology patients presented by Berna Harmse in May. We just realise again what a difference nutritional support can make in the quality of life and outcome of this vulnerable patient group. Not forgetting about the small things, we looked at the management of short bowel syndrome in the paediatric population for the June meeting. Bernadette Saayman did an excellent presentation that touched on the theory and all the important points that need to be considered in these complex cases. She ended off the presentation on a practical note with two case studies. If you would like to join the SASPEN PM Ward Round please visit our website.

SASPEN is once again joining CCSSA for the Critical Care congress in 2019 in Cape Town from 28 August – 1 September. As part of the pre-congress workshops SASPEN is planning two Life Long Learning (LLL) events as well as three two-hour workshops on the 28th and 29th of August. An exciting scientific programme will be running from the 30th of August to the 1st of September 2019. We are excited about the excellent local faculty that will be sharing their knowledge and experience as well as the international faculty, Prof Olav Rooyackers from Sweden and Mrs Emma Ridley, a dietitian from Australia who will be joining us.

The Arina Prins award for best local and international research publications will be announced at the gala dinner of the congress event. The new SASPEN council will also be announced at the congress.

SASPEN is excited to announce the first ever Life Long Learning programme weekend to be presented in South Africa in collaboration with Fresenius Kabi. The LLL programme is an initiative by ESPEN which is aimed at providing continuous medical nutrition education to healthcare professionals. This will take place in Johannesburg from 27–29 September 2019. A total of eight LLL modules will be presented on the weekend by local and international trainers. Topics will include adult as well as paediatric modules.

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.

NSSA is proud to announce the NSSA invited speaker for the ICD2020 conference – Prof Edith Feskins. Professor Feskins is the Chair for Global Nutrition in the Division of Human Nutrition and Health at Wageningen University, the Netherlands. She obtained her PhD Epidemiology from the University of Leiden and is a registered nutritionist with the Netherlands Register of Nutrition Scientists and board member of both the Dutch and international Epidemiological societies. She serves as coordinator and manager of numerous national and international research projects, advisory boards and journal reviewer predominantly focusing on aspects related to cardiovascular disease, in particular on life course, diabetes mellitus and dietary intake. She has supervised more than 50 PhD projects in her career and published almost 400 scientific papers.