



SASPEN news: September 2021

SASPEN has rolled out our new look and logo and we are excited about this season of innovation. We have been inspired by the resilience of the healthcare community and we are looking forward to finishing 2021 strong in the presence of a rapidly evolving (and globally expanding) extraordinary healthcare environment.

The SASPEN constitution has been amended to extend the Council term from two years to three years. This change will take effect with the next Council, which will serve from 2021–2024. In order to facilitate the election of the new Council, you are invited to nominate up to seven professionals in good standing for election to the Council. Only SASPEN members can nominate professionals for election to the Council. Nominations can be submitted via the following link: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4923356>. The date and time of the AGM will be communicated to members soon.

World Breastfeeding Week was celebrated in the month of August with the theme of “Protect Breastfeeding is a Shared Responsibility”. SASPEN supports the role that breastfeeding and expressed breastmilk play in paediatric clinical nutrition. We advocate the importance of breastmilk as a first choice, even in the context of enteral route feeding and the preferred choice of nutrition, when weaning off from parenteral nutrition in infants. In addition, SASPEN’s role and responsibility to support, protect and promote breastfeeding is to strive to align its practices and recommendations within the guidelines of the R991 Regulation Relating to Foodstuff for Infants and Young Children.

The ESPEN 2021 congress will be fully virtual and is taking place on 9–14 September 2021. Information regarding registration is available on the ESPEN website (www.espen.org or www.espencongress.com).

The SASPEN PM Ward Round Club has been successfully converted into a national online platform through Zoom, with CPD accreditation. For more information regarding topics and membership,

keep an eye out on our social media platforms or our website at www.saspens.com. If you are interested in presenting a case at one of these events, please contact Anna-Lena du Toit (Anna-Lena.duToit@westerncape.gov.za).

SASPEN collaborated with MedTalkz and hosted a very successful webinar titled “The shocking truth and other pressing issues” on nutrition support in patients in shock or receiving inotropic or vasopressor support. A recording of the event can be accessed through the MedTalkz website (www.medtalkz.com). We are looking forward to hosting more events in collaboration with MedTalkz in the future.

SASPEN is planning another LLL event. More information will be communicated with members soon via our social media platforms and email.

In line with SASPEN’s objective to promote, coordinate and encourage the development and application of clinical nutrition practices in South Africa, we are planning to launch additional interest groups. This will focus on providing a platform to discuss, present and provide guidance related to specific conditions or interests of the members. These interest groups will follow the platform of the established South African Neonatal and Pediatric Nutrition care working group (SANNPN). If you are interested in joining or contributing to this evolving platform of evidence-based information and nutritional mentoring, please visit the SASPEN website or email saspenservices@vdw.co.za for more information.

Lastly, SASPEN would like to express our gratitude to every healthcare worker that has been relentlessly caring for patients with hope and resilience. We are proud to be part of the healthcare community that is based on compassion and principles of science.

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.saspens.com.