



SASPEN news: December 2021

SASPEN is proud and honored to have been a part of the extraordinary healthcare endeavors over the last year. Together we have witnessed the resilience of the community and the innovation that comes from collaborations.

SASPEN's Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, 23 November at 17:30 on line. A formal invite was shared with all members.

The SASPEN constitution has been amended to extend the Council's term from 2 years to 3 years. This change will take effect at the next Council, which will serve from 2021–2024. In order to facilitate the election of the new Council, members were invited to nominate professionals in good standing for election to the Council. Information regarding voting has been communicated and the new council was announced at the November 2021 AGM.

SASPEN is happy to announce that the application process for the 2021 Research grants was met with enthusiasm. The aim of the research grants are to encourage further studies in the field of disease related malnutrition and to establish the role of enteral feeding in disease-related malnutrition. The research grants to the value of R120 000 can either be awarded in full to one applicant or can be divided between several applicants. Applicants must be fully paid-up members of SASPEN. For more information regarding the allocation of the grants, please visit our website at <https://www.saspens.com/research-grants>.

The ESPEN 2021 congress was held as a fully virtual event in September 2021. Members are reminded that the information sessions are available for a calendar year to maximize the learning opportunity from this event.

SASPEN had a busy year supporting the ongoing education to promote the practical implementation of nutrition related topics into everyday healthcare practices.

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 hosted a successful LLL event in October 2021 with two topics; Nutritional Support in Paediatric Patients and Nutrition in Neurological diseases. An LLL event was held on the 20th of November 2021 and featured Nutrition in Obesity.

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). The additional interest groups will include a Gastro Interest Group, an ERAS working group and an Enteral Nutrition working group. All the subgroups under SASPEN will appoint an advisory committee that will include at least three SASPEN members and at least one SASPEN Council member.

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 the 2020–2021 SASPEN Committee would like to express its gratitude to the healthcare community for the opportunity to support, promote, coordinate and encourage the development and application of clinical nutrition practices in South Africa.

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.