



## SASPEN News: November 2014

As part of its growth and development programme, SASPEN is now a block member of the European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN), and has a seat on the ESPEN Board. Arina Prins, our President, attended a board meeting in Geneva prior to the ESPEN 2014 Congress in September. The collaboration with ESPEN brings considerable opportunities to block members, such as research grants, and access to the ESPEN journals and LLL courses.

SASPEN has also initiated activities on social media platforms, and members are invited to check out SASPEN's facebook page which contains interesting information, as well as to follow the latest developments on twitter and LinkedIn. An app for our members' mobile phones, free of charge, is now available and the intention is that it will enable members to remain informed about current and future developments and activities. For more information, visit our redesigned website at [www.saspen.com](http://www.saspen.com)

The world's first Dietitians Week (9-13 June 2014) was led by the British Dietetic Association, and provided a fantastic opportunity to promote the profession. SASPEN took part in this global effort and dietitians created a week full of activities and events that highlighted the value of dietitians and their work. The dates for 2015 are 8-12 June, so planning has started already. Let us make South Africa aware of what we can do.

SASPEN commenced its road show, "Back to Basics", in the Western Cape in June, followed by the Northern Cape, and both events were well attended. We received very good feedback, especially from dietitians working in rural areas, which underscores the

need for SASPEN's plans to continue with such events. Positive feedback during the road show was also received from Limpopo and Mpumalanga, where the event took place in October. A need was also identified for further education in nutrition support for paediatric patients, and SASPEN plans to address this in future.

SASPEN also co-organised and co-chaired the ESPEN 2014 Congress webcasts in South Africa, which were held in Cape Town on 11 and 12 September, in Johannesburg on 15 and 16 September, and in Durban on 20 and 21 September 2014. B Braun made these events possible as part of its international nutrition education drive. We hope it will become an annual event that will allow us to experience the best of ESPEN congresses at a fraction of the actual cost of attending the congress in Europe.

The arrangements to take part in the European Council's nutritionDay in November 2014 were hampered by a delay in the ethics approval. However, as soon as the approval is received, the project will be implemented in South Africa in 2015. It is hoped that by taking part in this initiative we will start to obtain a view of malnutrition in hospitals in the country.

The 2015 SASPEN Congress will run concurrently with the Critical Care Society of Southern Africa Congress 2015 in Sun City from 9-12 July 2015, so save the date! SASPEN is inviting international speakers to join us in the congress theme of "Adventures in Clinical Nutrition". Further developments will be announced as soon as they become available.

Here's wishing you a peaceful festive season.