



### SASPEN news: March 2022

SASPEN is honored to have been part of the innovative healthcare endeavors that is transforming healthcare and education into a new era. Together we have witnessed the resilience of the community and the innovation that comes from collaboration and an attitude of excellence.

It is with great excitement that SASPEN announces the yearly congress hosted by the Critical Care Society of Southern Africa (CCSSA) and SASPEN. In 2020 and 2021 the congress was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year we are looking forward to hosting a face-to-face congress from 13–16 October 2022 at the Sandon Convention Centre in Johannesburg. Information regarding registration and congress detail will be available on our website soon.

The ESPEN 2022 Clinical Nutritional and Metabolism Congress will be held in Vienna, Austria, 3–6 September 2022. The event may be attended in-person or as an online option. Members are reminded that the information sessions are available for a calendar year to maximise the learning opportunity from this event. Early-bird registrations opens soon. Abstract submission closes on 11 April 2022.

SASPEN is happy to announce that the application process for the 2021 Research Grants was met with enthusiasm. The aim of the research grant is to encourage further studies in the field of disease related malnutrition and to establish the role on enteral feeding in disease-related malnutrition. The research grants are sponsored and allocated by the Enteral Nutrition Association in South Africa (ENASA). We are looking forward to the increased knowledge and insight into nutritional management that local research will contribute to the field of nutrition. SASPEN would like to thank ENASA for supporting the Society in reaching our research objectives.

SASPEN is committed to supporting 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. 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).

The SASPEN constitution has been amended to extend the council term from two years to three years. This change took effect with the elected Council that was announced at the November's 2021 Annual General Meeting. The new Council will serve from 2021–2024.

The newly appointed SASPEN Council is in the process of relooking at the Constitution to ensure alignment between the Constitution and Societal practices. The amendments will be circulated to all SASPEN members for input.

SASPEN will be moving to new secretariat company, Royal House. It is currently in a transition phase that will be completed at the end of March 2022. As from 1 April 2022, all Society related administration will be conducted by Royal House. The Council is confident that this will enhance the members experience and look forward to working with Royal House in future. We ask members to be patient while we complete the transition.

Lastly the 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 are excited about all the innovation in healthcare and nutrition that is unfolding, and we feel privileged to partake on this exciting journey.

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 at [www.saspn.com](http://www.saspn.com).