



SASPEN NEWS: August 2022

The ESPEN 2022 Clinical Nutritional and Metabolism Congress was held in Vienna, Austria in September 2022. Members that attended online are reminded that the information sessions are available for a calendar year to maximize the learning opportunity from this event. We are looking forward to all the exiting feedback from the Congress.

SASPEN partnered with Medtalkz in July 2022 in hosting a mini-symposium that covered topics around the ERAS concept and GIT related problems in the ICU. The event was CPD-accredited and may still be accessed via the MedTalkz website (www.medtalkz.com).

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 (in person) congress from the 13–16 October 2022 at Sandon Convention Centre in Johannesburg. Registration and congress detail is available on our website www.saspen.com. Further information on individual workshops and session highlights are available on the congress website.

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).

Dietitians' week was celebrated on 20–24 June 2022 in collaboration with ENASA, ADSA, The Hospital Interest Group and the BDA. Dietitians' week formed a platform to create awareness around the different aspects of malnutrition. The winners of the recipe competition as well as the photo challenge was announced on the various social media platforms and the exiting prizes awarded accordingly.

SASPEN is proud to have been instigative in the creation of a Global Leadership Initiative on

Malnutrition (GLIM) criteria visual tool that was launched during dietitians' week. The infographic is available on www.saspen.com. We would like to encourage our members to access this simplified visual aid to implement (or improve) the screening of patients at risk for malnutrition in the institutions were they advocate for patient care and nutritional management.

A new diagnostic platform for hospital dietitians aimed at improving patient nutrition and recovery outcomes has been developed jointly by The Hospital Dietitians Interest Group (HDIG) and the Enteral Nutrition Association of South Africa (ENASA). Adele Marais, a hospital dietitian specialising in the treatment of cancer of the gastrointestinal tract at the Donald Gordon Medical Centre in Johannesburg, co-developed the Medical Nutrition Therapy Tool (MNTT) under the auspices of HDIG and ENASA. Currently there are no centralised, standardised and consistent means of monitoring patient nutrition within South African hospitals. Dietitians therefore have difficulty motivating doctors to institute extended nutrition and for funders to pay for this therapy post-discharge. The situation is not unique to South Africa as there is generally a lack of global acceptance for diagnostic testing in clinical practice. Because of its interactive, PDF-based design that operates on a tablet, hospital dietitians can easily map the patient nutrition journey from admission to discharge. For more information on how the MNTT tool works and how it can be obtained please email info@hdig.co.za or info@ena-sa.org.za.

As we enter the final quarter of 2022, the SASPEN committee would like to thank all our members for their support, dedication and commitment to science based nutritional care and innovation. We are looking forward to the exciting new initiatives and expansion of existing platforms that encourage the development and application of clinical nutrition practices in South Africa and beyond.

We would like to hear about your initiatives and plans. Please 'like' us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, Instagram and join us on LinkedIn to stay informed about events and opportunities. You can visit our webpage on www.saspen.com.