

SASA's Nutrition Research Grants Program (2005-2010)

The SASA Nutrition Research Grants program aims to advance the knowledge of the relationships between nutrition and health especially the impact of sugar on health. It is especially important to generate knowledge that is relevant to the South African environment.

Once every 2 years a call is made from SASA to the scientific community for grant applications for the Research grants programme. Applications that meet with the panels stringent requirements are allocated a grant. The panel is independent and no pressure or influence is exerted by SASA on how the grants should be allocated as long as the project falls within the following priority areas:

- The role of diet and physical activity in obesity;
- Current practices in normal diets, especially for children
- Current practices in diets of vulnerable groups including adolescents;
- Diabetes Mellitus;

- Physical work, exercise or sport in relation to diet;
- Diabetes and obesity with reference to adolescents;
- Nutrition transition;
- Micronutrients;
- Causes and Prevention of Dental Caries

A final report on the project is required two years after the approval of the grant.

The Nutrition Research grant panel members consist of renowned and accomplished entrepreneurs and academic experts in their respective fields. Possessing a wealth of experience these professionals are committed to training and mentoring the next generation of leaders. The profile of the panel is wide and varied and each member brings in a fresh perspective to the platform.

For further enquiries: please contact Ms Dudu Mthuli at Dudzile.Mthuli@sasa.org.za.

Announcement: international graduate course on the production and use of food composition data in nutrition

Food composition is a fundamental information resource for nutrition science. It is however, not limited to the field of nutrition science and the public health domain. The food industry, trade, export, legislation and consumers all need and/or use data on food composition. Within a developing country perspective, it is directly linked to food security, development and evaluation of dietary guidelines, fortification programs and feeding schemes (such as the South African school feeding program), and the development of guidelines for agricultural practices such as vitamin A rich vegetable gardens and bio-fortification.

A two-week training course on the production and use of food composition data in nutrition will be held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 15-26 November 2010. The course is offered by the University of Pretoria (UP), the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), the Graduate School VLAG, and the Division of Human Nutrition of Wageningen University (WU), in cooperation with the Medical Research Council (MRC), the United Nations University (UNU), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), and the European Food Information Resource Network (EuroFIR).

The aim of the course is to demonstrate how to produce, manage and use good quality food composition data in a standardized way, using harmonized procedures, so that the requirements of the multiple users of food composition data can be met. The course is intended for those involved in nutritional database programmes as analysts and/or compilers as well as in food legislation, and will be of value to those teaching nutrition and nutritional aspects of food chemistry. The course will also be useful for users of nutritional databases who wish to have a better understanding of how databases are prepared and their constraints/limitations.

Application forms are available at <http://www.vlaggraduateschool.nl/eduvlco.html>



NUTRITION SAFARI 2005

(Incorporated under Section 21)



NUTRITION SAFARI GRANTS

NUTRITION SAFARI (Section 21 Company) was established in 2001 to organise the 18th International Congress of Nutrition. It represents all the organisations that are members of the South African Adhering body to the International Union of Nutritional Sciences, namely the NSSA, MRC, ADSA, SASPEN, and functions in association with the Nutrition Directorate of the South African Department of Health.

After the congress a decision was taken to establish the Nutrition Safari Grant that will be awarded to undergraduate dietetics and nutrition students during the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year of their studies. All the universities in South Africa where HPCSA accredited courses

in Dietetics and/or Nutrition is offered were invited to nominate deserving students during November 2009. The annual amount of the Nutrition Safari Grant is R20000.00 per student. The grant will be awarded to a 2nd year student for up to three years provided she/he passes every year of the course.

We are very pleased to announce the first 9 recipients of the Nutrition Safari Grants. We wish them luck with the completion of their studies.

The Nutrition Safari Grant Committee
April 2010



Ms Petri Botha
Dietetics - North-West University



Ms D Smith
Dietetics - University of Cape Town



Ms Janke van Wyk
Dietetics - University of the Free State



Ms Nophiwe Job
Nutrition - University of KwaZulu Natal



Ms Marilene Roods
Dietetics - University of KwaZulu Natal



Ms R Sithole
Dietetics - University of Limpopo, Medunsa Campus



Mr Nataniel van Wyk
Dietetics - University of Stellenbosch



Mr CT Kwindu
Dietetics - University of Venda



Ms Shakeeda Mugjenkar
Dietetics - University of the Western Cape