

Chairperson's report

2024

Introduction

The annual conference is hosted by the Free State region which includes the Sol Plaatjie University, Central University of Technology, and the Free State University. We must be reminded that the purpose of our existence is for the Campus Health and Wellness Centres to come together once a year to share ideas on the best practices, research, collaboration, and networking opportunities. This is to improve standards of care for the university community.

2025 Conference attendance: 120 delegates have registered to attend with 113 attending. This is lower than the two previous conferences and some of the challenges are related to resource allocation as budgets become tighter. The challenge is for university senior management to appreciate the need to involve more than the nursing staff in attending the conference as a contribution for patients to be managed holistically.

Therefore, we are challenged to innovate in ensuring that individuals in our fraternity are aware of SAACHS in order to benefit from membership. Food for thought: TVET colleges with campus clinics can be a consideration to increase the number of associates.

The 2024 Conference had 140 delegates in attendance, and this was held in Mpumalanga Province. The hosts were the Universities of Limpopo, Venda and Mpumalanga. It was a resounding success, and we are once more appreciative of the achievements thus far. To the Limpopo colleagues, well done.

2026 Conference hosting will be done by the Eastern Cape. The region will decide on how they wish to run the conference regarding the use of conference organizers. We have, as the NEC, supported the hosting region and will continue to do so.

Acknowledgments:

- SAACHS contribution and active participation for the designation of Campus Clinic to be essential services. Gratitude is extended to all who participated.
- Colleagues who have retired: Unizulu: Sr. Hlengiwe Zulu. Sr Soori from DUT has been asked to stay on and we are grateful to have her with us.
- Mr. Sphamandla Mafuleka from Unizulu has been co-opted to be the NEC member in the secretariat office following Mr. Mxolelwa's recusal from his role as the deputy secretary. He has duly accepted and will serve until the end of the current NEC cycle.

Regions:

Regions are all active and hold regular meetings as indicated in their respective reports. The NEC has been invited to some regional meetings and is available for support where required.

Activities

- Tax registration: various universities required a tax clearance which SAACHS did not have. The NEC is engaging the SARS Pretoria region to have this process finalized by the end of February 2025.
- Update on the NPO status: Registration successfully done in November 2023. As a requirement, financial reporting by a registered accountant should be done annually. We have a draft that should be finalized by the end of February 2025. This will be shared with the regions.
- Vendor registration with universities. This has become a reality and I would urge all managers to ensure that SAACHS is registered as a vendor in your institution.

In conclusion

The South African Nursing Council has implemented a pilot project to facilitate CPD points for health managers in 2024, ending in May 2025. They will provide feedback following this exercise before rolling it out to all nursing professionals. The challenge is for the next hosts to have CPD accreditation in the next conference. As always, the NEC is available to support the success of this project.

Compiled by: Molimi (Miemie) Geya

SAACHS Chairperson

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