



SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF CAMPUS

HEALTH SERVICES

Non-Profit Organization
(Reg. no. 301-743 NPO)

Office of the Editor-In-Chief (E-I-C)

Annual Report of the Editor-In-Chief, Mr Tshidiso Ntshabele

FOR PRESENTATION AT THE 2025 SAACHS AGM

(For the period JANUARY till DECEMBER 2024)

1. Background

For the benefit of our new colleagues, the office of the Editor-In-Chief commenced its mandate in January 2023, post elections that were held at the 44th Annual General Meeting of the South African Association of Campus Health Services, at a Conference hosted at the Western Cape. The meeting also saw the election of the New National Executive Committee, as per Section 16 of the Constitution of SAACHS. The current NEC's term of office runs until January 2026. The Committee, as guided by Section 15 of the Constitution, comprises of the following office bearers:

- Chairperson- Ms Molimi Geya
- Deputy Chairperson – Dr Matsontso Mathebula
- Secretary- Ms Mahlodi Maphakela
- Deputy Secretary- Mr Mxolelwa Mtetwa (relieved of his duties – pending the Institutional processes)
- Treasurer- Dr Anna Sefolasha
- Editor in Chief- Mr Tshidiso Ntshabele

2. Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report for the South African Association of Campus Health Services (SAACHS) for the period January to December 2025. As the Editor-in-Chief, I have had the privilege of overseeing the development, improvement and dissemination of our association's communications. This ensures that the collective efforts of our members are not only recognized but also celebrated throughout the academic year. This report provides a summary of the key initiatives, activities, and accomplishments within the space of campus health services. It also focuses on the milestones we achieved, challenges that we overcame, and the areas for future growth.

3. General

For this reporting period, there has been a marked improvement in communication amongst SAACHS structures and members, particularly on various Whatsapp groups of National, Regional and institutional structures. There is less interactive communication on our Facebook page. The office of the EIC is working on creating a LinkedIn account for the association.

4. SAACHS Website

The SAACHS website (saachs.org.za) is active, live and interactive. Our website page visitors are now able to access content such as articles, news, SAACHS history, conference registration & information, and contacts numbers of the NEC, relevant stakeholders and institutions.

5. Key Initiatives and Accomplishments

5.1 Collaboration and Advocacy Throughout the year, SAACHS remained at the forefront of advocating for improved health services on South African campuses. This was witnessed through health promotion campaigns, activations and support initiatives. We continued to work closely with other institutions and stakeholders such as the DoH and Higher Health, in addressing pressing concerns such as mental health, sexual and reproductive health, etc., within the higher education sphere. These campaigns utilized a mix of digital platforms, campus events, and printed materials to engage students and

staff. In addition, the partnerships with student organizations continued to ensure that we addressed the health concerns that matter most to our students.

The SAACHS NEC took the lead and facilitated a national dialogue with all SAACHS members, post the publication of the Essential Services Committee (ESC) Section 71 Notice of Investigations published in the government gazette on the 28th of June 2024, by the CCMA. The Investigation was in terms of Section 71 of the Labour Relations Act, 66 of 1995, on whether primary healthcare provided at tertiary institution should be designated as essential services. The parties that made submissions at the hearings were:

- a) The Higher Education South Africa (HESA)
- b) The South African Association of Campus Health Services (SAACHS)
- c) North-West university
- d) University of Free State
- e) Stellenbosch University:

Other universities and interested parties attended as observers.

In concluding the investigations and based on the submissions made, the CCMA panel designated primary healthcare provided in tertiary institutions as an essential service.

NB. Reminder from the Editor's Office: For Member Institutions to negotiate and conclude minimum service agreements with their HR and the labour unions representing staff, by 28 February 2025.

5.2 Appointment of Prof Hester Klopper - SAACHS also published an article on our website, celebrating and sending congratulations on the achievement by Prof Hester Klopper, on her appointment as the 15th Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of the Free State (UFS). Prof Klopper is a Nurse by profession, who began her higher career journey in 1985 with a General Nursing Science and Midwifery qualification.

5.3 Membership to the HealthAI Community of Practice (CoP) – SAACHS has recently been accepted as a member of the **HealthAI CoP**. HealthAI is a global

agency for responsible AI in health. At the CoP, we will focus on AI governance in health, to promote an equitable and coherent development of regulatory capacity worldwide. Our contribution to the CoP includes sharing insights into regulatory updates, responsible AI practices, case studies, etc.

SAACHS Members shall be updated on the progress once working groups (which will be active for 6-12 months) have been established by HealthAI.

6. Challenges and Opportunities

One of the most significant obstacles that is continually being faced by our Members is insufficient funding and limited resource allocation for campus health services. Despite the increasing demand for healthcare services, many Campus Health Clinics struggled to secure adequate resources to meet the needs of their students. As the association, SAACHS will continue to advocate for more sustainable funding models and resource allocation by the Institutions and other stakeholders, to ensure that campus health services remain impactful and accessible.

Prepared by Mr Tshidiso Ntshabele (SAACHS Editor-In-Chief)

tshidiso.ntshabele1@wits.ac.za

January 2024

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