

SAACHS PERSPECTIVE

The Newsletter of the South African Association of Campus Health Services

1ST issue: 2016



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Ed's Note



I am your Editor Mahlodi Maphakela. Thank you so much to each and every one of you for having confidence in me as the Editor of your Newsletter. Believe you me, I am ready for this task and its success.

Those who could not make it to the #Limpopo SAACHS 2016 Conference, "You greatly missed out, and most importantly you were missed," winks. We would like to appreciate those who have attended. The turnout was pleasant and we wish this could be a norm in all the provinces.

Drawing from the last volume - Vol 2 2012 issue- it is clearly that there is plenty to share and a lot to discuss. I am really looking forward to the team engaging on different successes/challenges/ideas or anything else would take the organisation to even greater heights.

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SAACHS 2016 - LIMPOPO CONFERENCE REPORT

What Went Well (WWW)

- Time was impressively respected with regard to the conference programme and delegates were offered apologies for unfortunate, inevitable delays. This lent a professional touch to the way of running things.
- The turnout of delegates was impressive as all but one institution managed to grace the conference with their presence. This sentence has mixed ideas. One or all institutions?
- The overwhelming majority of programmed speakers honoured the invitation and graced the event as expected.
- All speakers were relevant to the theme of the conference.
- Delegates attending the conference displayed disciplined as they attended all of the sessions and that implied an existence of order within SAACHS.
- Given that it was the 37th Annual Conference marked SAACHS' 40 years of existence, the professionalism displayed was worth the anniversary celebration.

Even Better If (EBI)

- Having 2-3 break-away venues would have provided the chance to have parallel sessions which in turn would have created enough room for longer presentation time, and ample chance for questions and answers sessions. The 15-minutes presentation time did not do justice to the spirit of the conference.
- For sessions-facilitation uniformity, it might be ideal to have a joint Facilitators' Briefing at the onset of the workshop to agree on the dos and don'ts of facilitating sessions. (In its constitution/guidelines, SAACHS may stipulate such issues as "Do facilitators comment after each presentation and if so, how do we accommodate the time used for that?")
- To save transition time between sessions, there might be a need to create "uploading" time, ideally before the day's programme starts and during tea breaks/lunch.

Report by: Mr Mohlake Mosimaneotsile

General Comments from delegates on questionnaire were as follows:

- The conference was a success and in future, it is a wish that the research done should be aimed at tackling issues on the ground that affect students directly e.g. substance abuse, sexual risks, STI's.
- Time allocation was not satisfactory and programmes to be sent out in advance so that delegates know what to expect.
- Universities to send all delegates to attend conferences and not just a certain number of people as this is a chance where we get meet and discuss issues affecting student health.
- How can the gap between support staff and academic staff be bridged, SAACHS committee to look into the matter. (Discrimination of employees.)
- Establishment of Occupational Health services for employees.
- Meal requests to be honored in future for religious and medical reasons, it was overlooked at the conference. "Apologies from the team, it was an oversight."



Positive talk with Metro FM Talk show host, Chriselda Dudumashe-Kananda (left), with the Vice Chancellor and Principal of University of Limpopo: Professor N.M. Mokgalong (right).



**Sr Molimi Geya, Chairperson COP
"sowing like an Eagle."**



"Papa action" - Mr Mosimaneotsile Mohlake giving a summary of the conference.



Dr Ramneek Ahluwalia, Director HEAIDS presenting on the role and impact of HEAIDS.



The welcoming team during the cocktail evening event, addressed by the chairperson Mr Andries Slinger (5 January 2016)



The team at Modjadji's Kraal, with bare feet, learning the culture and history of the Rain Queen (6 January 2016)



Embracing the Venda culture - Faith Mashau: Manager Health and Wellness UNIVEN simulating their procedurals.



Limpopo at its best: The 1700-year-old Baobab tree. It is hollow inside and houses a Bar for entertainment.



The new executive committee members, from left Mr. Slinger A. (Chairperson), Mr. Maraba P. (Deputy Chairperson), Ms. Sooriagandhi W. (Secretary) and Ms. Sefolosa A. (Treasurer)

NOTICE

Colleagues, I just wanted to get the ball rolling and could not wait for other articles. The newsletter is published three times a year, April being the end of the first term so this is just an ice breaker. Your contributions are highly appreciated and can be forwarded to the Editor by mail or fax for next term's issue, which I am sure will be the size of a bible/dictionary.

I am really looking forward to receiving those correspondences and thanking you in advance.

