

South African Association of Registered Phytotherapists

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SAARP Meeting Minutes Held online on 9th May 2020

Chairperson: Dr Sonia Couto

Opening and Welcome

Administration

Members Present: Dr Sonia Couto (Chairperson), Dr Caren Hauptfleisch (Vice-Chairperson), Dr Catherine van Dorsten (Secretary), Dr Sarah le Grange (Treasurer), Dr Wendy Staak, Dr Tammi O'Flynn, Dr Carla Boswell, Dr Sanien de Beer, Dr Connie Meyer, Dr James Campbell and Portia Mbushi.

Apologies: Dr John Taylor, Dr Leonie Curtolo, Dr Mariyam Kisten and Simone Amann.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting will be ratified after they have been edited as discussed. This was proposed by Dr Caren Hauptfleisch and seconded by Dr Connie Meyer.

Announcements

SAARP would like to congratulate the newly graduated Phytotherapy practitioners and welcome them to our profession – Simone Amann and Chipso Manyanganya. They are still in the process of registering with the AHPCSA, the process has been delayed due to the current pandemic.

Introduction to online meeting forum and why it was chosen

SAARP has chosen to hold online meetings for the foreseeable future due to the current pandemic and the imposed restrictions. This also allows for members around the country to attend and for this reason we will continue to have an online option for these members when we are allowed to meet in person again.

We chose the Jitsi Meet platform because it caters to our needs, has no time limits, and is a free platform. In comparison, Zoom costs US\$150 per year and we did not believe that this was a necessary cost to the association.

Update on medical aid tariff process

To date, we have sent a trial questionnaire to various practitioners to gather data on what they are charging for each item that has a tariff code. Now that we have a draft questionnaire and some data, Dr

Leonie Curtolo and Dr Sonia Couto are drafting an email to Dr Neil Gower to ask for his advice regarding the draft questionnaire. Once we have heard from him, we will send the questionnaire to every Registered Phytotherapist. We need over 80% of Registered Phytotherapists to reply to this email in order for us to collate statistically significant data to present to medical aid companies. It is for this reason that all members are asked to participate in the process as SAARP will not be able to lobby for changes without it. An example of the current tariffs is that R5.74 is offered for 10ml of tincture – the lowest cost price currently available is R7 and this does not take into account what the patient will pay. The tariffs need to be revised but this can only happen if members participate. After 80% or more responses have been gathered SAARP will contact Dr Neil Gower for the next step of action.

Update on website and logo changes

As we discussed at the AGM, the logo needs to be changed because of the change of our name as an association. After receiving various quotes, we have been working with our chosen designer on different options. Once we have three options, we will send these out to our members for voting, along with a questionnaire on what you like or don't like so that minor changes might be made to the final logo.

At the same time, we have been in discussion with our chosen website designer, after receiving various quotes, to update the name, user friendliness and general look of our website. Once the logo is complete we can start work on the website and will send another update at that point.

Updated version of 'Life After Graduation'

SAARP will be opening up the '*Life After Graduation*' document for revision and improvements, and ask for assistance from members. Your contributions are highly valued and appreciated. It is challenging to go from academia to full time work and we would like SAARP to point our graduates in the right direction and allow them to stand on our shoulders.

'Member of the Month' marketing campaign

Just a reminder that we have this marketing campaign on offer and that members can send their details to us whenever they are ready, as per the protocol document sent earlier in the year. It is beneficial for your practice to have your name online in more areas, it improves SEO searches, and social media profile if used.

Corona virus pandemic updates

It was decided in the meeting that SAARP would like to put together and publish an information brochure on general tips to improve immunity during the pandemic. Dr Catherine van Dorsten, Dr Tammi O'Flynn and Dr Sonia Couto will be working on this and would love further input or editing from any other members.

Any Other Business

Dr Tammi O'Flynn noted that SAARP should find a way of making our profession more visible to other medical professions, for example, GPs. She suggested that we do talks by Phytotherapists on our approach to improve immunity with herbal medicine, focusing on a single herb at a time and describing in detail how this herb is used in our profession, thus highlighting our skill level rather than doing a crash-course on a broader group of herbs. This would hopefully encourage other medical professionals to work with, and refer patients to, Registered Phytotherapists. Dr Sonia Couto noted that in order for our talks or workshops to be accepted by the HPCSA for CPD for their members they need to be highly clinical in nature.

Dr Caren Hauptfleisch noted that SAARP still has a few hundred brochures for members to use, but that they contain our old name. It was suggested that we should design and print stickers with our new name, logo and website address to put on the brochures so that they can still be used, as they are very useful as

marketing in our individual communities. It was agreed that this is a good idea and will be done once the logo and website are completed.

SAARP's mission statement was discussed in light of all the new changes to our name and branding. Our current mission statement is 'Professional health care using herbal medicine'. There was a vote at the beginning of the discussion about who was in favour of continuing to use this statement: Those who voted for were: Dr Catherine van Dorsten, Dr Connie Meyer, Dr Caren Hauptfleisch, Dr Wendy Staak, Dr James Campbell and Dr Sarah le Grange. Those who voted against were: Dr Tammi O'Flynn, Dr Carla Boswell, Dr Sanien de Beer and Dr Sonia Couto. It was discussed further and another suggestion was made – 'Individualised health care using herbal medicine and nutrition'. It was decided that we needed to open this process up to the larger group for a creative gathering of suggestions and move forward from there.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held online on 29th August 2020. We would like to hold a special purpose lecture close that time too and need suggestions on the topic as well as volunteers to speak.