

An official journal for the South African Paediatric Association

The South African Paediatric Association (SAPA) is proud to announce its partnership with the *South African Journal of Child Health (SAJCH)*. Many eminent paediatric associations globally have their own publications and SAPA is pleased to join the league with *SAJCH* as its official journal. SAPA recognises that the relationship offers significant benefits to both parties (see Editorial in this issue).

SAPA will host a one- or two-page section in each issue of the journal, where news and developments relevant to South African paediatrics and child health will be highlighted. In addition, new evidence-based practice changes, or guidelines, local continuing medical education events and activities of value to paediatricians will be showcased. SAPA members will automatically receive email notifications of the contents of each new issue of the *SAJCH*. We trust that this initiative will be of benefit to readers of the Journal as well as the South African paediatric community. Here's to a fulfilling partnership!

SAPA initiated registrar exam training workshops in 2018. To date, four successful workshops (in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria and Durban) have been held in partnership with the College of Paediatricians. The next training workshop will be held in the Eastern Cape in November 2019.



Registrars at the Johannesburg workshop.

SAPA conference 2020

The next SAPA conference will be held in Gauteng in September 2020.

With an exciting new format and a host of international and local experts, this is one meeting you do not want to miss next year.

What has SAPA been up to?

The new SAPA executive was elected in September 2018. It has been a busy year with various activities designed to benefit paediatrics in South Africa. Here are a few highlights:

- Since October 2018, SAPA offers a monthly 60-minute live, online educational webinar where an expert offers guidance about the latest developments in the field (e.g. paediatric sepsis)
- In February 2019, SAPA hosted a Unity meeting in Cape Town where representatives from 16 paediatric organisations, subspecialty and interest groups, including the Paediatric Management Group and the College of Paediatricians, met to discuss how they could collaborate to better serve the needs of the paediatric profession, and children, in the country.
- In March 2019, a SAPA representative attended the triennial International Pediatric Association's (IPA) Council of Delegates meeting in Panama. IPA comprises 146 national paediatric societies from 143 countries.
- Plans for the next SAPA conference have been finalised. The conference will be held in Johannesburg in September 2020. A shorter 2.5-day conference with an exciting new format and set of activities is being planned by the enthusiastic University of Pretoria-based organising committee.
- SAPA initiated, and now collaborates with, the College of Paediatricians in offering six-monthly FCPaed examination workshops for registrars. To date, over 200 registrars nationally have attended, validating the value of the offering.
- SAPA is investing in a new digital platform and enhancing its benefits for members. A new online platform will be ready in the next few months to facilitate the updating of our membership database.

SAPA halts infant formula sponsorship

The South African Paediatric Association will no longer accept funding from infant formula companies. SAPA previously accepted sponsorship from these companies for exhibition stands at its biennial conference. However, the SAPA executive decided at its July 2019 meeting to immediately end this practice. It also extended the restriction to financial, or other, support from companies deriving their income from tobacco, alcohol or gambling. A full SAPA policy statement will be released shortly.