

## SAPA monthly educational webinars are a hit

The South African Paediatric Association (SAPA) has had a busy year. Its primary focus has been on education in the form of monthly webinars (held on the last Wednesday of each month at 17h00) presented by national experts on a variety of paediatric topics requested by registrars and aimed at paediatric practitioners. It has been an overwhelming success with up to 80 individuals from all over South Africa participating per session.

A diverse range of topics, many not covered in traditional paediatric registrar curricula but increasingly tested in the Fellowship examination and highly relevant to clinical practice were covered in 2019. They included paediatric orthopaedics, sport medicine, the limping child, metabolic diseases, radiology, non-invasive ventilation, ECG's, tracheostomy care, palliative care, dysmorphism and failure to thrive. An on-line Q&A session with active participation follows each presentation. So, if you are a paediatric trainee or a paediatrician wanting to keep up with the latest developments, be sure to mark this monthly event on your 2020 calendar. Details are available on the SAPA website.

SAPA has also been working hard on extending its social media presence including developing a new website and an App. These will be launched in early 2020. You are encouraged to Save the Date for the SAPA 2020 Congress to be held in Pretoria from the 4-6 September 2020. The SAPA executive wishes you a Happy Festive Season.



### Meet your SAPA Executive

(L to R) Gary Reubenson, Tanya Dennis, Mignon McCulloch (chairperson), Melantha Coetzee (conference convenor), Despina Demopoulos (secretary), Naseema Khan, Haroon Saloojee, Ziyaad Dangor, Andrew Redfern. Missing: Beyra Rossouw (treasurer), Fiona Kritzinger (PMG rep).

### Child Health News update

- South Africa has been recertified in Oct 2019 as being polio-free after losing accreditation in 2017 because of inadequate polio surveillance. Meanwhile, WHO announced the eradication of wild poliovirus type 3 worldwide, leaving only one wild polio serotype still circulating,
- In Sept 2019, South Africa's Constitutional Court ruled that the common law defence of 'reasonable and moderate parental chastisement' of children is unconstitutional. The necessary legislative interventions must now kick in.

### Did you know?

Measles virus wipes out 11% to 73% of the different antibodies that protect against viral and bacterial organisms a child was previously immune to (*Science* 2019;366:599). Following measles infection, clinicians may want to consider strengthening children's immunity to other infections by providing a round of booster shots of all previous routine vaccines.



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