

SAPA NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2021

SAPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In August 2021, SAPA and the University of Pretoria held the first SAPA virtual congress, with a variety of high-level talks and workshops. The Hoosen Coovadia lecture by Dr Kenneth Maleta, titled 'Management of severe acute malnutrition in sub-Saharan Africa: Do we need a paradigm shift?', offered much food for thought. Progress has been made in treating this condition with the use of ready-to-use therapeutic foods, allowing a change of management from a hospital setting to a community-based approach. However, this approach carries significant cost concerns. For details, listen to the recording (available to conference attendees at sapa2021.co.za). Another interesting session included a talk by well-known lawyer Emma Sadlier, a specialist in social media and the law. Her talk addressed the many concerns that we have with the use of social media, WhatsApp and the like in daily practice. The conference was attended by 287 paediatricians and registrars nationally. For those who missed the conference and would like to watch the recordings, please contact the SAPA administrator (Megan James) at info@paediatrics.org.za.

The newly elected SAPA executive committee came into office after the congress. The voice of SAPA is ever-increasing in the South African child health space to promote and protect the health of children. As SAPA we seek to serve and unite paediatricians, parents, policy-makers and children together in 'Striving for thriving kids'. For this term, the executive is being led by Prof. Ziyaad Dangor, Dr Despina Demopolous as vice-chairperson, Dr Andrew Redfern as treasurer and Dr Tanya Dennis as secretary. Prof. Mignon McCulloch remains on the committee in an *ex officio* position. Dr Martie Wege runs the SAPA webinar series and Dr Palesa Monyake manages the South African Paediatric Registrar Association. Prof. Ute Hallbauer from UFS has been co-opted as the representative of the SAPA 2023 congress local organising committee. Dr Fiona Kritzinger is the representative from the Paediatric Management Group.



Ziyaad Dangor - Chairperson, Despina Demopolous - Deputy Chairperson, Mignon McCulloch - Ex-officio, Andrew Redfern - Treasurer, Tanya Dennis - Secretary, Palesa Monyake, Martie Wege, Ute Hallbauer, Fiona Kritzinger, Paediatric Management Group

There is lots to be done! The SAPA exec welcomes eager paediatricians to get involved in various subcommittees – advocacy, social media and education – please get in touch to let us know your area of interest.

COVID-19 RAPID REVIEW WEBINARS

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a hot topic and it is easy to get lost in the quagmire of information. Cochrane South Africa (SA) has run multiple rapid review webinars on topics including ivermectin and the use of corticosteroids in COVID-19. For excellent evidence-based guidance on these topics and more, visit <https://southafrica.cochrane.org/learning-support/covid-19-webinars-healthcare-providers/schedule-covid-19-rapid-review-webinars>

OPEN PEDIATRICS – QUICK CONCEPTS

Need a quick reminder on the risk factors for developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH) and how to examine the hips of a neonate? OPEN pediatrics has a series of short videos called 'Quick Concepts' that briefly describe things such as assessing a neonate for DDH, recognising respiratory distress and failure, and the Monroe-Kelly doctrine. These reminders relay the basics in 1 - 2 minute videos – a great way of keeping knowledge fresh while on the go.

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH KNOWLEDGE HUB

The NDoH has a portal for its educational material called the [Knowledge Hub](#). These courses are freely available to all SA healthcare workers, and are zero-rated (no data required to participate). The Knowledge Hub offers relevant CPD opportunities and up-to-date information and policies. A variety of topics are covered, including [Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness](#), a crucial topic for all to remain informed on.

CENTER ON THE DEVELOPING CHILD – WHAT IS EXECUTIVE FUNCTION? HOW DOES IT RELATE TO CHILD DEVELOPMENT?

Executive function is a learned skill that equips us for efficient and successful lives. Children who are given the opportunities to develop and optimise their executive functioning capacity are better learners, better friends and better citizens. The [Harvard University Center on the Developing Child](#) details many aspects of early childhood development and reminds us why ensuring that children are given the opportunities to reach their full developmental potential is of benefit not only to them, but to their families, societies and the country as a whole.