

SASOM Report – Nov/Dec2009



2009 has been a great year for SASOM and a turning point in SASOM's history. Seven years of planning, organising and fund raising culminated in the successful ICOH2009 in March this year. SASOM can now concentrate on carrying out our mission to further all aspects of occupational health in South Africa, to be the guardian of ethical and medical standards of occupational medicine and the professional information resource on occupational health matters.

The combined SASOM National and SASOM Inland Chapter Conference and family breakaway at Lesedi Cultural Village in October was an excellent way of bringing this year to a close. Renowned presenters shed new light on ethical and legal aspects of occupational medicine practice. The dinner and dance on Friday evening and the cultural programme and braai the next was a great opportunity to renew friendships and forge new ones among SASOM colleagues and friends.

The SASOM Inland Chapter held their Annual General Meeting after the conference programme on the 23rd October. Dr M Botha, Dr E Dorkin, Dr M Mdhuli and Dr P Mogoro were re-elected to the Executive Committee, with Dr P Chagan and Dr M Motau elected as new members.

The SASOM National Annual General Meeting was held at 12:00 on 24 October 2009. The SASOM membership fee for 2010 was approved and is due before 31 January 2010 – invoices have been sent out and if you have not received one, please contact the National Office. The new guideline on hourly tariffs, which is available only to SASOM members in good standing for their personal use, was also accepted.

Honorary Life membership was awarded to Prof. Daan Kocks in recognition of exceptional service rendered, in accordance with the SASOM Constitution.



Prof. Daan Kocks

The SASOM Executive Committee for 2010 includes the previous committee of Prof. D Kocks, Dr A Kotze, Dr F Fox, Dr D Ungerer, Dr M Botha, Dr A Combrinck, Dr EP Dorkin, Dr L La Grange, Dr P Mkalipe, Dr N Mabuya, Dr K Rainier, Dr C Roos, Dr M Ross, Dr H van der Merwe and Dr D Viljoen and newly elected Dr M Coombs, Dr S Kgalamono and Dr M Nhlapho.

With a renewed energy, all SASOM's guidelines on aspects of occupational medicine have been revised and many new ones written. It is

envisaged that they will be available at the end of January 2010.

SASOM will have two conferences in March 2010 – the first in Polokwane and the other in Cape Town. The usual two-day Annual Congress will be held early in August 2010 at the CSIR Convention Centre in Pretoria and we plan to have a conference with the AGM in Durban on 26 November 2010.

In closing – it is vital to re-invent oneself – to slow down and listen to the sound of nature and to receive the inspirational energy that flows back into your work life. The Chairman, Prof. Daan Kocks, the Executive Committee and members of SASOM wish you a peaceful Festive Season with great achievements for all in 2010.

For more information on SASOM and SASOM activities please visit the SASOM website at <http://www.sasom.org> or contact Jenny Acutt in the National Office on e-mail: info@sasom.org or telephone +27 (0)12 803 7418.