

SASOHN Western Cape branch report

Sandra Muller: Treasurer and ExCo representative, SASOHN Western Cape
e-mail: sasohnwctreasurer@gmail.com

SASOHN Western Cape was borne out of a group formed by Sisters Ellen, Hansen, Volschenk and Tattersall, for nurses working in 'industry' at Irvin and Johnson in Woodstock, Cape Town. The group's first official meeting was held in 1974. SASOHN Western Cape is proud of its contribution to occupational health, not only in the region, but also in the wider occupational health nursing community.

We are proud to have had two vice presidents and two treasurers from the branch serving on the National Executive Committee. Our members have won the Ian Webster Gold Medal for the best master's or doctoral OHN student in southern Africa, and the Janet Taylor Award for Best Diploma OHN student, numerous times: Annie Tattersall was the first Ian Webster gold medalist for a degree course in the Western Cape, and Theresa Bosman emulated this prestigious achievement in 2016. Both are the only honorary life members to have won this award. Honorary life membership has been awarded to six Western Cape members: Annie Tattersall, Dalene Lorimer, Marhenetha Volschenk, Betty Lambert, Fransie Smit and Theresa Bosman.

The regional committee works with enthusiasm to meet the objectives of professional development and upliftment of occupational health nurses and to assist them in the promotion, adherence and delivery of the highest possible standards rendered in all occupational health practices. One such endeavour in the pursuit of professional development was the full-day educational workshop held in February 2020.



KALEIDOSCOPE 2020

The Wikipedia definition of a 'kaleidoscope' is an optical instrument with two or more reflecting surfaces, enclosed in a tube with one end containing a cell of loose, coloured pieces of glass.¹ When the cell is rotated, the motion of the glass pieces presents the viewer with an ever-changing picture.

SASOHN Western Cape has presented several 'kaleidoscope' workshops through the years, but this is the first time that the SASOHN president, Ms Denise Minnie, agreed to open the workshop.

Each kaleidoscope workshop offers members a capsule of information on a particular theme and provides an opportunity to uplift their professional practice by absorbing ever-changing information about occupational health. Engaging with the presenter and colleagues helps to further stimulate one to strive for best professional and, most often, personal best practice.



**Back L-R: Annie Tattersall, Dalene Lorimer, Theresa Bosman
Front L-R: Eppies Volschenk and Bettie Lambert (late)**

Photograph: Joan Visser

The theme for 2020 was *TOOLS for the occupational health profession* designed to equip attendees with updated information on what we regard as essential 'equipment' for occupational health nurse practitioners. We drew on the expertise of four SASOHN members: Estelle Smuts, Lindsay Zurba, Viv Stern and Lindie Jansen van Rensburg.

The TOOL topics included:

- Health risk assessment: Dr Hanli De Wet
- Fitness to work: Dr Hanli De Wet
- Vision screening without technology: Dr Greg Kew
- Physical examination: Estelle Smuts
- Urine dipstick analysis: what you need to know: Dr Younis Essack
- Spirometry: Lindsay Zurba
- Legislation and summary of changes: Lindie Jansen van Rensburg
- Ergonomics: Viv Stern

The event was well attended with 46 SASOHN members, one occupational health student and four non-members. In addition, we were proud to welcome four occupational medical practitioners, including Dr Geoffrey Tafaune, the current South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM) Western Cape chairperson.

Feedback from the attendees was extremely positive, with several asking for another, similar workshop to be held over more than one day's duration. As always, 12 stalwarts of the occupational health service provider industry were in attendance to showcase the latest equipment, provide support, and answer queries.

The Western Cape regional committee is highly appreciative of the support that all service providers show for SASOHN Western Cape. We



**SASOHN president,
Ms Denise Minnie**



**Ms Lindsay Zurba,
Education for Health Africa**



Mr Steve Geier, Amtronix



extend our thanks and appreciation to Ampath, Ed-Unique, Homemed, SSEM Mthembu, Patient Focus Africa, Elana Human, Ergonomicsdirect, Education for Health Africa, PathCare, Onsite X-Rays, Amtronix and Occuvision. The committee further thanks Alan Hastings of ClinicSister for a monetary donation, although he was unable to attend the event.

REFERENCE

1. Kaleidoscope. Wikipedia. Available from: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaleidoscope> (accessed 17 Apr 2020).

Award recipients: SASOHN members, 2011–2019

Year	Ian Webster Gold Medal	Ian Webster Silver Medal
2011	Gail Irwin	Mariette Smit
2012	-	Hendrika Barrett
2013	-	Joan Razzano
2014	-	Anina Olivier
2015	Margot Pretorius	Jo Goebbel
2016	Theresa Bosman	-
2017	-	Karla Whiley
2018	-	Helene Mausling and Yolanda Koorzen
2019	-	Aletta Dedekind