



# SASA

## PUBLIC SECTOR BUSINESS UNIT

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

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Association Not for Gain

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## **SASA PSBU REPORT APRIL 2024**

### **DRUG SHORTAGES**

Drug shortages have continued to be reported on the WhatsApp group and communication with the NDoH Affordable Medicines team has been efficient; allowing timeous and accurate feedback to members. There has been significant overlap between Public and Private members on the group which has contributed to more robust discussion and engagement on this platform. Currently there is a shortage of Cisatracurium which is due to be replenished in April but no supply constraints on Atracurium. Fresenius Kabi have alerted to low supply of Neostigmine but this mostly affects Private users as the tender supplier for state is Pharma-Q who have assured steady supply.

We once again thank the Affordable Medicines Directorate team (Anzelde Willemse and Babalwa Melifata) for always being available to report on stock and supply queries.

### **EQUIPMENT AND CONSUMABLES**

This sub-portfolio has been put on hold.

### **DISTRICT ANAESTHESIA**

There is lots of overlap with the Education Business Unit for this portfolio. Anaesthesia outreach to remote and rural areas has continued with more SAFE-Paeds and SAFE-Obs courses held over the course of the last year. Funding for 2024 has been confirmed from MercyShips and course planning with the National leads (Clover-Ann Lee and Janine Malherbe) is underway.

### **SASA PSBU MEDICAL OFFICER (ASSOCIATE MEMBERS) VALUE PROPOSITION**

The member value proposition for medical officers working in anaesthesia in the state sector has been flagged as an important function of the Associates Representative in conjunction with the PSBU. Brainstorming and planning sessions have been scheduled but unfortunately none of these meetings were realised due to clinical commitments of the various role-players. This will be a priority and will contribute to the quantification of the Public Sector workforce (see below).\



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**President (Past)** | Dr L Lasersohn **Chief Executive Officer** | Ms L Britz  
**National Secretary** | Dr GL Davies **National Treasurer** | Dr A de Goede  
**Public Sector Business Unit Convener** | Dr S Hendricks



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### **SARFA**

This will be fully covered in the SARFA report.

1. SARFA project: care package with branded SARFA socks and other sponsored goodies was well received. Project planning for 2024 is underway.
2. WSU accreditation: the non-accreditation of the MMed(Anaesthesiology) programme (amongst others) at the Walter Sisulu University has been highlighted in the media. SASA, through Caroline Corbett, was able to leverage significant media involvement through SAMA and the DA and finally a response from the CHE was received. There are ongoing delays with accreditation and no clear timeframes but follow up continues. The university has promised recognition of learning during the "unaccredited" time for those registrars affected which is up to 20 months for some.
3. Succession planning: SARFA representative succession planning was tricky with the change in Congress date for 2024 and working around the exam schedule of the representatives. Kay Barnard (UCT) will be taking over from Laika Essa (WITS) at AAAC 2024 but will have formal induction into Council at the July council meeting. Between April and September the responsibilities will be shared between them as they are both approaching final exams. Western Cape (Stellenbosch) will be approached to identify the next representative (2025).

### **PUBLIC SECTOR WORKFORCE**

It is no secret that academic anaesthetic departments throughout the country are severely understaffed, particularly in terms of senior staff (consultants). This not only compromises patient care, but also the standard of training. If this continues, the workload and working conditions for those who remain in service becomes completely unbearable. There is no accurate data available to quantify how short staffed the departments are. Liaison with the EBU and HOD's forum must be undertaken to determine where the staff shortages are and find ways to support those anaesthesia providers as a priority for 2024.

### **CONCLUSION**

Again, a relatively uneventful quarter for the PSBU with few actionable items. I commend and thank Laika for her hard work during her term of service.

Dr Sadé Hendricks (PSBU Convenor)



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