**SASOHN snippets**

**SASOHN 35TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 2015 SAFETY, THEORY, ACTION, RESEARCH**

SASOHN Western Cape will be hosting the 35th Annual National Conference and AGM from 4 to 6 November 2015 at the Lagoon Beach Hotel, and is supporting the Starfish Foundation as the charity of choice.

Three pre-conference workshops will be facilitated by experts in the subject areas, and include audiometry, the ageing worker, and TB in the occupational health worker. The conference programme for Thursday includes eight speakers presenting topics relevant to occupational health nursing, and includes a motivational talk by Dr Helgo Schomer. See www.sasohn.co.za for more details.

A full programme of entertainment has been lined up for participants’ enjoyment – Making Waves cocktail function on the Wednesday evening – be sure to wear something nautical. The gala dinner and awards evening will be held on Thursday – smart and dashing with a touch of gold – to celebrate SASOHN’s 35th birthday and the outstanding achievements of members.

SASOHN Western Cape looks forward to seeing you all there making friends, creating memories and taking home new knowledge that will help you make a difference to the lives of workers in South Africa.

**ACADEMY OF NURSING SOUTH AFRICA (ANSA)**

SASOHN is proud to announce that four SASOHN members have now been inducted as fellows of ANSA: Linda Grainger and Louwna Pretorius who are both founder members of this prestigious group, Penny Orton in 2014 and most recently, Karen Michell. The inauguration in September 2015 brought the number of fellows to 53. Nominations to ANSA are made by peers and are then adjudicated by a panel in South Africa as well as an international adjudicator. Nomination is open to any registered professional nurse or midwife who has made an extraordinary contribution to the field of health care in South Africa, evidenced by outcomes and impacts on individuals, systems, policies and/or organisations; evidence of leadership, innovation and scholarship; and the potential contribution of the person to the activities of the Academy. The fellows urge all SASOHN members to nominate occupational health nurse practitioners who they believe meet the criteria for fellowship. More details are available on the website www.ansaacademy.co.za.

Louwna Pretorius is a board member of ANSA and Penny Orton was recently elected as a board member, giving SASOHN good representation on the Board. ANSA has an important role to play in the development and advancement of the specialist nurse and advanced practice nurses. Occupational health nursing (OHN) is one of 16 specialities identified by the South African Nursing Council for these two groups of nurses. SASOHN, through its members who are fellows, will actively participate in the development of the OHN specialist and advanced practice in South Africa.

ANSA held its first Annual Colloquium on Friday 31 July 2015, in Gauteng. The purpose of this first Colloquium, in collaboration with South African Nursing Council (SANC), Democratic Nursing Organization of South Africa (DENOSA), and other professional and professional specialist societies, was:

- To obtain an overview of the current status of specialist nursing by sharing ideas and experiences
- To discuss common issues around the generic competency framework, education and training, as well as practice matters related to specialist nursing in South Africa.

Guest speakers included Dr Jabu Makhanya, the Chief Nursing Officer for South Africa; Professor Busi Bhengu, Chairperson of SANC; Ms Madithapo Masemola, Acting General Secretary; DENOSA; Ms Hannelie van Rensburg: Director; DHET, and Professor Singegugu Duma from the University of Cape Town. All the presentations are available on the ANSA website: www.ansaacademy.co.za. During the afternoon session, delegates worked in three small groups on the following aspects of the specialist nurse and advanced nurse practice:

- Applying the new role of the nurse specialist and advanced practitioner in practice – positions, job specifications, responsibilities, career ladder, and remuneration
- Facilitating articulation between qualifications (legacy and new) to increase the production of specialist nurses – models for NEIs/HEIs
- The need to develop practice standards for specialist nurses

Going forward, ANSA will formulate a position statement in support of the specialist nurse and advanced nurse practice, and will engage with stakeholders to start the development of practice standards against which specialist nurses can be assessed for competence. The OHN competencies are available on the SANC website: www.sanc.co.za.

The ANSA fellows look forward to more nominations in the category of occupational health nursing clinicians. Please contact one of the fellows: Louwna at louwna.pretorius@corobrik.co.za, Penny Orton at penyo@dut.ac.za, or Karen Michell at karen@cosafety.co.za, if you require assistance or further information.

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