Annual Report 2014
of the structures of the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA)

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Community and Social Psychology Division

Towards Establishing a Community of Community and Social Psychology Practitioners

Chair - Prof Eduard Fourie
Vice Chair - Dr Puleng Segalo
Secretary - Mr Wiehann Rademan
Additional Members
Ms Lavanya Pillay, Mr Suntosh Pillay, Ms Nkateko Manabe, Ms Carmelitia de Bruin & Ms Jennifer Graham

The 2011 PsySSA Congress in Johannesburg saw the inauguration of the CaSP Division. During the first couple of years, the aim of the new division was to create an online communication space to share ideas and information about upcoming events and conferences, new publications, to track the history of local publications and conference presentations, to hear how different universities define community psychology and approach the teaching of community and social psychology. We have made a good start by creating a blog for the division at http://psyssacns.blogspot.com/. The blog is intended to serve as a bulletin board and general community nexus for both members of the division and practitioners in both of these interrelated fields. The division further use the opportunity to host round table discussions and symposia at the annual congress.

Over the last year CaSP continued to engage with members and other interested parties through the CaSP blog (http://psyssacns.blogspot.com/). We have worked together towards two symposia for the 20th PsySSA Congress. In the first symposium we look at Social Psychology in South Africa today: Challenges, possibilities and implications (chaired by Puleng Segalo) and in the second symposium the focus is on Inside-out Outside-in: Prison studies and communities (chaired by Eduard Fourie).

Members of the Division participated and attended various national and international initiatives and conferences. A highlight was the 5th International Conference on Community Psychology (ICCP), with the theme “Community Psychology in the current world: challenges, limits and practices” that took place from 3 to 6 September, 2014 in Fortaleza (Ceará, Brazil).

During the 19th PsySSA Congress in 2013, together with the Student Division, the CaSP Division hosted a series of round table discussions on scholarly development in South Africa. The ethos underpinning these roundtables is one of critical, honest and pragmatic conversations on studying and entering the field of psychology in South Africa. The aim was to facilitate open discussions between training institutions, between students and training institutions, organised psychology and the professional board. These discussions aim to illuminate the journey that students take on their way toward professional practice. Since 2013, the CaSP Division together with other interested parties hosted a series of round table discussions and symposia on prison studies and communities with the aim to engage with community psychology approaches and perspectives on the diverse communities that exist in and around correctional systems in South Africa. The focus is on initiatives that cross the boundaries between the inside and outside of prisons. Examples are the establishment of a prisons studies and communities’ interest group, the development of tertiary education opportunities for prisoners, issues of social reintegration and recidivism after release, and issues relating to the families and relatives of prisoners. In addition, Suntosh Pillay published an article Values from the Mandela-Rhodes community in the first issue of PsyTalk in 2014.
The Counselling Division of PsySSA is one of the oldest groupings in PsySSA and of the psychology community at large. The division is better referred to as the South African Association for Counseling Psychology. The division had been dormant for since the mid-2000s when, a few counselling psychologists proposed to revive it at a conference in Durban held in 2008. As such, under the leadership of Dr Munita Dunn was reactivated. Since then, the focus has been on the revival of Counseling Psychology as a community with a focus on visibility, activity and membership. In addition there has been an ongoing discussion about the positioning of counselling psychology within the broader community of psychology as well as debates on its scope of practice. This has taken the form of academic publications (e.g. Naidoo & Kagge, 2009; Pretorius, 2012; Young, 2013 amongst others), engagements with the HPCSA as well as conversation amongst counselling psychologists themselves. Five years later, despite the challenges of active participation and commitment in the leadership of the society, roller-coaster rides in membership as well as the uncertainties of the applied counseling psychology field, the current team has been able to oversee some kind of stability. This is evidenced by the fact that the current executive committee has been able to serve for a full term of office. Furthermore, the team has been able to allocate portfolios in order to achieve goals and to operate strategically. In addition, PsySSA's membership has responded to the call for support and this has yielded positive results.

The picture for counselling psychology may seem to be bleak to others but there are positives to share. For starters, membership in the SAACP has been maintained at a relatively consistent rate. Active participation was noted during ICP2012 as members of the division participated in the abstract reviewing activities. Furthermore, members of the division had also taken part of in several Scientific Committee activities for ICAP2014, Paris. During 2013, Neo Pule who was the chairperson of the division at that time participated in the strategic review of PsySSA. Other member accolades include Dr. Solomon Makola book, “Find Meaning, Stop Wondering”, being accepted for publication. A stable executive committee is the beginning of a brighter picture for the future of SAACP. This new picture implies that there is much to celebrate including the awards that will be presented to 20 counselling psychologists who have made an admirable contribution to the field at the 20th Congress of PsySSA. Between 2012 and 2014, the success of the division is centred around ascertaining stability in the form of a turnaround effort of the structure which now positions the division to endeavour in vigorous efforts.

The most significant achievement for the association is that it has provided the opportunity for empowering young leaders. It is an advantage that these young leaders do not have the historical memory of the association as, this is essential for change, relevance and progression. As such, SAACP is here to stay and new advances are being made. The challenges remain in the pushing of boundaries and the pursuit of igniting innovation in the administration of the organisation as well as in the activities of its interest groups. Coupled with this, the association is moving towards greater use and incorporation on technology and media innovations.

As per PsySSA's constitution, the executive committee has had 4 meetings (2 face-to-face and 2 teleconferences), excluding the AGM which will happen at the congress of 2014. The committee has also had regular informal conversations over email, whatsapp group, phone calls and SMSes. The priority for this year has been to research and plan for the the handover to the incoming executive committee in 2014. Recommendations for this committee include prioritizing and incentivising membership and setting up and maintaining the SAACP website which will be linked to the PsySSA website, considering a logo for the division, promoting and recognising the academic and scholarly outputs. The committee should also promote continued advocacy for counseling psychology amongst the broader membership.

Chairperson: Neo Pule
Division of Psychology Professionals in Public Service (DPPPS)

“Serving our public with dignity, loyalty and pride”

Issues, challenges and achievements of psychological services in public service have been a neglected area of focus for a number of years, until the newly launched Division of Psychology Professionals in Public Service (DPPPS). Launched at the 2013 PsySSA congress, the DPPPS will focus on and address pertinent issues that affect professionals in the field of psychology working in the public sector. The division was launched during the 19th PsySSA Congress at Emperors Palace. At the divisional launch, which was attended by the Prof David Maree (President-PsySSA), the late Prof Siphiwe Ngcobo (Past President-PsySSA), Prof Saths Cooper (President - IUPsyS) and Prof Anthony Pillay, Mr Brian Tebogo Fafudi was appointed as chairperson of the division.

The DPPPS has been established in terms of Article 12 of the PsySSA constitution. As the voice for psychology professionals in state services, our mission is to advocate for and promote the work interests and conditions of service for psychology professionals (including psychologists, psychometrists, registered counsellors, interns, and community Service psychologists) in the public sector. The conditions of service include aspects such as annual salary adjustments, salary scales or levels, performance bonuses, pay incentives, and pension benefits. It also includes aspects impacting on service delivery such as the availability of appropriate facilities, equipment and staffing levels. The above is in line with provisions of the Public Service Amendment Act 30 of 2007, which refer to the organisation and administration of the public service of the republic, the regulation of the conditions of employment, terms of office, discipline, retirement and discharge of members of the public service, and matters connected therewith.

To fulfill these mandates the following members were elected into the executive committee:

- **Chairperson**: Mr. Tebogo Fafudi
- **Deputy Chairperson**: Ms. Nishola Rawatlal
- **Secretary**: Ms. Nondwe Mange
- **Treasurer**: Ms. Lillian Ramathibela
- **Additional Member**: Ms. Dorothy Calata
- **Additional Member**: Mr. Bruce Phillips
- **Additional Member**: Dr. Jan Fouche
- **Additional Member**: Ms. Andiswa Sitole (Mankayi)

Since its inception the committee had teleconferences and met face to face to formulate strategic objectives of the division.

**Executive Meeting Schedule:**

- 1st Meeting Teleconference - 22 October 2013
- 2nd Meeting Teleconference - 19 November 2013
- 3rd Meeting Face to face - 08 March 2014 (Emperors Place, JHB)
- 4th Meeting Teleconference - 16 April 2014

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It has become clear through this process that the challenges were many and varied across different government departments and sectors. Some of the shared challenges include: psychology service budget constraints across all departments, inadequate human resources, lack of proper reporting structures, very poor and challenging working areas (infrastructure limitations) which are sometimes shared across disciplines, lack of basic resources to provide adequate psychological services (for example limited or no psychometric tests, no telephones or computer facilities, no office furniture), no access to skills development funds for upskilling and CPD, no standardized implementation of policies across provinces (for example, public service psychologists are not allowed RWOPS in KZN, but this is allowed in other provinces). We therefore agreed that the initial plan will entail the collection and capturing of data from psychology personnel in the public sector about the challenges and issues affecting service delivery in order to get a clear understanding of the current situation. It was decided that this will be achieved through the development of a research questionnaire.

Dr Jan Fouche was mandated on behalf of the executive to lead this research initiative. Dr Fouche sought the assistance and collaboration of Prof Michelle May from UNISA with regards to ethical considerations before embarking on this research initiative and ultimately the questionnaire design. The questionnaire is currently under review by UNISA’s Department of Industrial and Organisational Psychology. The results of this research will serve to inform the Minister of Public Service about the current state of affairs in the Public Psychology Services. Furthermore, based on findings from this research, the DPPPS envisage making proposals to the honourable Minister of Public Service on how to set best practice standards in Public Psychological Services in years to come.

The celebratory 20th anniversary of the PsySSA Congress, coinciding with South Africa’s 20 years of democracy, promises to be a landmark event in our 2014 calendar. The DPPPS has embraced this opportunity to mark the birth of the division by having a dedicated stream for paper and poster presentations. This stream aims to attract a large audience and thus this would be an enormous opportunity to make our voices heard. The DPPPS Exco hopes that Psychology Professionals in Public Service make use of this opportunity to present at the 2014 PsySSA Congress and future congresses on the challenges, weaknesses and strengths of their work in Public Service.

The DPPPS will also host a round table discussion at the 2014 congress. Our esteemed panel of presenters will include Prof Anthony Pillay, Dr Emmanuel Tlou, Prof Freeman and Dr Thirusha Naidu, who will be discussing “Career Development as a Psychologist in the Public Service” and Mr. Tebogo Fafudi will be the facilitator.

The DPPPS Exco invites all Psychology Professionals in Public Service to join our Division and to share their views and experiences. To register, go to the PsySSA website www.psyssa.com. The DPPPS has also made provision for seven categories of membership, in accordance with the provisions of PsySSA (Article 5). Registration for full membership is R100.00 and Students - R50.00. For more information regarding the division, email the chairperson at fafudit@yahoo.com or 072 507 8269.

As public servants, let’s make our voices heard because together we can make a difference.

Mr. Brian Tebogo Fafudi (Chairperson)
The Division for Research Methodology (DRM) would like to take this opportunity to congratulate PsySSA on its 20th anniversary. The DRM is proud to have joined PsySSA on this twenty year journey and to have contributed significantly to PsySSA activities. Previous DRM executive members have gone on to play significant roles in PsySSA, in the SAJP as well as in academia and the broader society as a whole. The DRM holds amongst its alumni: Prof Norman Duncan, Prof Cheryl de la Rey, Prof Martin Terre Blanche, Prof Kevin Durrheim, Prof Kate Cockcroft, Ms Leonie Vorster, Dr Linda Theron, Dr Desmond Painter and Prof Colin Tredoux amongst others.

As a division, the DRM aims to promote theory and research in psychology; to improve the training of psychologists and the teaching of psychology and to provide a forum for persons who are involved in the teaching of, and research in, psychology. In keeping with these aims, the DRM has always been at the forefront of debates on the role of research in psychology and contributed to responses on Scope of Practice by PsySSA. In the last 10 years, the division has been actively promoting research psychology and the burgeoning numbers of students choosing to do enrol in it together with the increase in awareness in the marketplace around research psychologists and the skills offered by this group of psychologists can in part be linked to activities by members of this division. In the last few years, the DRM has worked closely with the Student Division under the leadership of Mr Angelo Fynn and the Community Psychology division under the leadership of Prof. Eduard Fourie to promote activities leading to conversations on the scope and role of research psychology. These efforts culminated in a series of roundtable discussions on the issue at the 2013 Psychology conference and were instrumental in initiating the dialogues with the HPCSA at the conference. Ms. Makobe-Rabothata and Dr. Segalo have been actively involved in the Forum for African Psychology. The DRM is not only committed to promoting relations within psychology, it recognizes that research extends beyond psychology and psychologists and last year opened up membership of the division to individuals involved in research from cognate disciplines.

The DRM is committed to the broader PsySSA objectives of promoting international co-operation between psychologists and between workers in cognate areas. This was most evident in the active role that DRM members took in the ICP Congress in 2012. Several DRM members served on various ICP committees and were involved in reviewing the abstracts for the conference. Prof Sumaya Laher and Prof Brett Bowman were responsible for the co-ordination of the Emerging Psychologists Programme which was recognized by IUPsys amongst the many successful initiatives of ICP 2012. The development and mentoring of students and early career researchers has always featured as a senior priority within the division. DRM members were instrumental in bringing cohorts of South African students to the ICP conference and ensuring that the students presented at the conference. These initiatives were not only for ICP but have been sustained efforts over the years with students presenting consistently at the annual PsySSA Congresses. DRM members have been strongly supportive of the biennial Southern African Psychology Students Congress with members once again taking active roles in the planning, reviewing of abstracts, securing of funding for students to attend the conference, assisting students with preparing presentations and the presentation of workshops at the conference.

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Committed to relevant science and beyond

Chair - Prof Sumaya Laher
Vice Chair - Dr Puleng Segalo
Secretary
Ms. Lebo Makobe-Rabothata
Treasurer
Ms. Sherianne Kramer
Additional Members
Mr. Angelo Fynn
Ms. Lavanya Pillay

The DRM Executive has met three times in the last year but communicated frequently over e-mail to ensure that the division remained active and vibrant. This year saw the revival of the division newsletter, the DRM News which provided members with the latest information on conferences, funding, research and study opportunities, CPD opportunities and general information and debates in the field. Members received this information in their inboxes almost immediately as the information became available courtesy of exec member, Ms. Lavanya Pillay. The broader PsySSA community received some of this information via the regular DRM contributions to PsyTalk. To promote the sharing of opportunities, the division also took to social media this year creating pages on Facebook and Linked In which were regularly updated by exec member Ms. Sherianne Kramer. The pages are frequently accessed and have received positive feedback. Exec member, Mr Angelo Fynn also distributed the information on student networks. The DRM is currently working on receiving abstracts to put together South Africa’s first open access psychology textbook – an idea initiated by Mr. Fynn.

DRM members are once again contributing to the PsySSA Congress. Ms. Sherianne Kramer is presenting a workshop that focuses on outlining a number of computerised and scientific developments that support research in the modern area. Specifically, this workshop indicates key research innovations that contribute to on-going advances in psychological research as well as their various advantages and disadvantages. The DRM in conjunction with the Student Division and the Community Psychology Division are presenting a workshop targeted at students and early career researchers on employment opportunities. The focus of this workshop is on those soft skills required to become “market ready”. The three divisions have also collaborated on an interesting symposium on mentoring for the Congress.

Aside from the contributions the DRM executive makes to and on behalf of PsySSA, the members are also actively involved in research and advocacy. They have published in excess of 15 publications in books, conference proceedings and journals. Jointly this year, the executive members have presented over 20 workshops on aspects of research, publishing and career mentoring. Ms. Kramer is currently presenting community engagement workshops with community members for the UNISA Institute for Dispute Resolution in Africa (IDRA). Mr. Fynn has been presenting a series of research mentoring workshops to help students get from concept to congress with their research ideas. Prof Laher has been assisting students with converting their research reports into publications and has presented several workshops in this regard. Ms. Makobe-Rabothata continues to conduct research in the public sector that impacts on psychological wellbeing and informs programmes and policies in the sector.

The DRM hopes to have another productive year in 2015 and hopes to meet all members at the DRM AGM which will be taking place on Thursday, 18 September at 17:30. Members at the 2013 AGM were instrumental in setting the agenda for the division’s activities this year. Let’s do it again for 2015!
Committed to contextually relevant educational psychology

Chair - Greg Crighton
Vice Chair - Martin Strous
Secretary - Punyuzwa Titi
Treasurer - Estelle Swart
Additional Members
Bruce Phillips, Helen Dunbar-Krige, Zoliswa Konyana-Bam & Nausheen Ameen

Amongst the Division’s most significant achievements has been its role in addressing shortcomings in the scope of practice for educational psychologists and in promoting the essential role of educational psychology in South Africa. In a country with limited mental health resources, the Division for Educational Psychology is committed to promoting a wide understanding of learning and development, and to help addressing barriers that hinder development, education and psychological well-being.

Over the past decade, members of the division have liaised intensively with the Educational Psychology Task Team, the Professional Board for Psychology, medical aid societies and the Department of Basic Education. The division’s efforts have contributed towards a broader scope of practice for educational psychologists, acknowledgement by the Council for Medical schemes that medical aids cannot determine the discipline’s scope of practice, and the establishment of a psychology advisory panel for the country’s largest, private medical aid.

A perpetual challenge for the division is that the broad role of educational psychologists in South Africa is often misconstrued, distorted, and erroneously interpreted by people with limited exposure to the field of Educational Psychology. This has been a theme in the annual reports of the division for at least the past decade. Given South Africa’s paucity of mental health services, it is unfortunate that the division frequently has to argue against attempts from outside to restrict its members to watertight compartments. Such attempts are not in the best interests of a country that is desperately in need of diverse psychological services. We need to move away from compartmentalisation and to meet broad communal and national needs.

A watershed event occurred in or about 2002 with the emergence of a new scope of practice for educational psychologists. Dr Tiaan Kirsten, then chair of the Division for Educational Psychology, received feedback from many educational psychologists who felt unsure of their professional position. There had been no scope of practice in existence before, and practitioners were alarmed at the narrow and limiting scope presented by the Professional Board for Psychology. The majority of educational psychologists had not been consulted and many perceived this as a crisis. In response, the division tested the idea of a consensus conference as a strategic intervention to make educational professionals’ voices heard. The idea was received well and the division collaborated with the North-West University and University of Johannesburg to host a Consensus Conference at the University of Johannesburg.

The division was poised to become a strong, organised voice of Educational Psychologists by the time Dr Willy Nel became the chairperson in 2005. Dr Nel served as chairperson from 2005 to 2009. Building on Dr Kirsten’s efforts with Dr Helen Dunbar-Krige and others, an historic, first assembly of Educational Psychologists was held outside of the division in November 2006, at the University of Johannesburg. A Task Team for Educational Psychology was born at that assembly, with the division, through its chairperson, participating as an active member. In the two consecutive terms that Dr Nel served as division chair, the goal of ensuring that Educational Psychology matters remained on the agenda of the PsySSA executive and council as well as on the statutory Professional Board for Psychology, was strongly pursued.

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Professor Estelle Swart succeeded Dr Nel as the chairperson of the division. She also served on the Educational Psychology Task Team and as a member of the Professional Board for Psychology. During her term of office as the division’s chairperson, a second Consensus Conference was held. At this conference, the Educational Psychology Task Team and the committee of the Educational Psychology Division received renewed mandates from society members to further explicate the role of educational psychologists. Comprising leading academics, practitioners and policymakers who had been involved in the provision of educational psychology services and in the training of educational psychologists over many years, these committees drafted a Scope of Practice for Educational Psychologists at the Sports Village of the North-West University on 5 And 6 May 2012. The document was submitted to the Professional Board for Psychology and to educational psychologists.

The division will continue to cooperate with various role-players in the fields of both education and health. One of our priorities this year is for the division to finally be included on the PsySSA Executive and tariffs committee in the interests of a truly inclusive representative association. Our division needs to be better incorporated into discussions around the NHI, mental health policy debates, the Occupation Specific Dispensation salary scales for psychologists working in the public sector, the list of endorsed psychology tests, tariffs, and other matters affecting people in need of mental health services.

The executive members of the division liaise frequently by e-mail. Members of the executive have also participated in numerous seminars run by such organisations as the South African School Psychologists’ Association, to name just one recent event. Our members have commented on policy development, such as the Department of Basic Education’s draft policy on screening, identification, assessment and support. We have also indicated the need for at least one educational psychologist to be represented on a planned ministerial advisory committee on mental health. Committee members of the Educational Division frequently collaborate with various organisations and may collaborate further with other formations being set up.

Greg Crighton
Educational Psychologist
Pr No: 0259217
HPCSA Reg No: PS0099104
At the 2014 PsySSA 20th Anniversary Congress, KZN, we will celebrate the contributions of registered counsellors and psychometrists in post-apartheid South Africa. We will critically reflect on the 20 years of the evolution of the state of mental health since 1994. Firstly we must surely celebrate the diversity and creative force of the current RCP Division. The incoming members, since October 2013, began with the appointments of Mirah Wilks (Chair), Soraya Smith (Vice-Chair), Carinna Krantz (Vice-Chair Psychometry), Ms. Mitzi Claassen (Secretary), Dr Johan Cloete (Treasurer) and Brent George (Vice-Chair Psychometry). New Additional Members are Chantal Turner, Malinka Kusel, Waheeda Mutalib and MJ Matlala. Outgoing members: Siphokazi Swana, Prema Naidoo, Carinna Krantz, Colin Blake, Sharon Johnson, and Brenda McCrutcheon were thanked for their valuable contributions.

The initiatives and proactive nature of the RCP Division in the larger community reflect the need to raise awareness of the basic human rights of those with mental health issues, vulnerable populations such (GBV survivors, the disabled, the physically ill, the elderly, women, children, those who are pregnant) and to make sure they have access to affordable counselling care and preventative psycho-educational programmes. The manner in which each member approached this community task was to effectively deal with specific gaps perceived in the mental health arena. The sustainability of structures emerging from these initiatives, is paramount. The initiatives of the RCP Division members call for celebration, as they lead by example. Let us introduce the new members:

**Mirah Wilks**, RC, provides educational and career assessments for mainstream, LSEN and university students. In January 2014, Mirah was appointed to the African PTSD Relief Scientific Committee as a Research Member, as part of a three nation Africa research project on the effects of violence and war on individual trauma and PTS under the supervision of Dr Michael Dillbeck and Prof. Carole Bandy. Mirah is now director of a student counselling centre, IMPILO-LIFE in central Johannesburg. The following RCP Division Members sit on the IMPILO-LIFE Psychology Advisory Board: S.Smith, J.Cloete and C. Turner. Mirah is an Invited Speaker at the SASCH Seminar, Sept 6th, 2014 as well as at the PsySSA 20th Anniversary Congress RCP Division Symposium.

**Soraya Smith**, RC, is a volunteer counsellor at NGO UCEC, KZN as well as a fundraiser. In addition to working as a TB/HIV Association Task Team member, Soraya has started DICTA (Drop-In Centre for Trauma and Addiction) providing pro-bono services.

**Dr Johan Cloete**, RC, practices in suburban, rural, organisational and school communities. He strives to enhance personal functioning in a variety of contexts, including community, workplace, family and school. Specifically trained in intrapersonal and interpersonal life skills and sensitivity, he educates on the effects of stress and trauma on the body and mind, engaging in narrative counselling and providing pastoral work as a psychology professional.

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Psychometrists and Registered Counsellors Division

Chair - Mirah Wilks, RC
Vice Chair - Soraya Smith, RC
Vice Chair
Brent George, RC & P
Secretary - Mitzi Claassen, P
Treasurer - Johan Cloete, RC
Additional Members
Chantal Turner, P; Malinka Kusel, RC; Waheeda Mutalib, RC; MJ Mtlala, RC

Brent George, is well known for his pre-board national examination workshops and is a registered counsellor and registered psychometrist based in Pretoria.

Mitzi Claassen, psychometrist, is the Director of ADDLAB and founder of Psychometrist PMT, and is often interviewed on radio.

Malinka Kusel, RC, Lecturer at Midrand Graduate Institute in Potchefstroom, training RCs and provides counselling at local hospitals and emergency services, Childline and a local rape centre.

Chantal Turner, is a psychometrist, working at JVR, specialising in scholastic, organisational & work-related assessments.

Waheeda Mutalib, RC, is a volunteer counsellor at Laudium Cancer Care Group and has taught Medunsa medical students all about palliative care.

MJ Mtlala is a registered nurse as well as a registered counsellor working in a government hospital.

We were proud to celebrate the launch, in November 2013, of a quarterly newsletter initiative: PSYCH-SHARE, for the RCP Division, on the PsySSA website. This site is a boon for other psychology professionals to advertise their workshops or services, write articles and address divisional issues. All funds go to the PsySSA organization. Many thanks to Dylan Kopping, who is the creative PsySSA specialist.

The 2013-2014 broad RCP DIVISION priority was the development of practical guidelines for RCPs regarding community work, victim empowerment counselling, research, entrepreneurial consulting and counselling opportunities. A point to celebrate, is the acceptance of the first PsySSA RCP Symposium, by the PsySSA Scientific Committee and proposed by the Chair Mirah Wilks. This will be held during the 20th Anniversary Congress in KZN on the 18th September. Expert Speakers are: Prof. C. Foxcroft, Prof R. Snyders, Dr N. Taylor, Mirah Wilks and K. Muhwati Chimango.

Mirah Wilks’ July 2014 PsyTALK article: “When is a Mental Disorder not a Mental Defect?” has highlighted the quandaries of professional practitioners as expert witnesses in the SA Court system. The article pre-empts the final judgement by Judge Masipa, regarding Oscar Pistorius, on 11th September. It seeks to help RCPs and other psychology practitioners to further understand the legal language of the Court as opposed to the health professional’s therapeutic language of counselling.

At this important historical time, celebrating 20 years of psychology practitioners since 1994, the RCP Division has launched a national task force represented by PsySSA members, collaborating on the programming outcomes of the new B.Psych degree. This task team is conferring with Board members and other interested parties

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Psychometrists and Registered Counsellors Division

Finally, the RCP’s plans for the 2014-2015 year ahead - are to address the professional issues affecting the RCPs and to initiate innovative approaches for fundraising within the following key areas.

- Professional-legal guidelines: RCP Division Task force to clarify and provide basic guidelines to RCs and Psychometrists regarding Scope of Practice opportunities as delineated in the Government Gazette of 2008 and September 2011.

- Right to practice according To HPCSA and PCNS registration categories: Private practice vs independent practice limitations and current developments. To address the concerns of past qualified RCPs and emerging RCPs.

- Psycho-educational CPD workshops and programmes: Developing learning and counselling support programmes for RCPS, schools, SAP, victim empowerment groups, community centres.

- University RCP supervision: Liase with universities training RCPs with regard to effective and relevant Supervision during Practicum experience.

- Mobile counselling units at times of disaster and crisis as part of a disaster management plan

- Development of a triage-hub for a disaster management agency to be managed by RCPs

- Publication of a RCP Division collection of essays.

- An art exhibition of the paintings and sculptures of clients and community groups who have experienced trauma and/or PTS.
Sexuality and Gender Division

newest kid on the block...

**Interim Executive:**

**Chair**

Prof Carien Lubbe-De Beer

**Deputy Chair**

Dr Floretta Boonzaier

**Secretary - Dr Ingrid Lynch**

**Treasurer - Mr Niel Victor**

**Additional Members**

Prof Juan Nel, Ms Natalie Donaldson and Mr Khonzi Mbatha

Brief history:

**2007 to 2011: The PsySSA LGBTI Interest Group and IPsyNet**

PsySSA, in its quest to develop the discipline of psychology nationally and internationally as a means to enhancing the human well-being of all, has since 2007 been a member of the International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues (IPsyNET), housed at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Concerns Office of the American Psychological Association (APA). As the sole member in Africa, PsySSA is responsible for leading the work of IPsyNET on the continent and began to commit itself to this leadership role from 2008. Prof Juan Nel (Department of Psychology, UNISA) and Prof Carien Lubbe-De Beer (Department of Educational Psychology, University of Pretoria), have served as co-representatives of PsySSA on IPsyNET since 2007.

The membership in IPsyNET provided the impetus for the formation of the PsySSA LGBTI Interest Group. The group saw increasingly successful sexuality programming at the PsySSA Congresses in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Further, PsySSA first issued a response to a letter published in the Jewish Report (a newspaper aimed at the South African Jewish community) to discourage so-called reparative therapy which is aimed at ‘correcting’ sexual orientation. In January 2010, PsySSA issued a position statement to oppose the proposed Uganda Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2009 and an open statement on 16 November 2010 expressing concern regarding the vote of the South African representatives in favour of an amendment to remove a reference to sexual orientation from the resolution of the United Nations condemning extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions and other killings.

**2012: Funding and the International Congress of Psychology (ICP)**

For an initial period between 2012-2013, the Arcus Foundation was the primary funder of an initial project to enhance collaboration between IPsyNET and PsySSA. The project aimed to facilitate PsySSA becoming a stronger regional organisation, a model ‘regional hub’ dedicated to promoting capacity and membership of other psychological associations throughout Africa in the work of IPsyNET. Limited additional funding support for this work was made available by the Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries’ Multi-Agency Grants Initiative (HIVOS MAGI) fund. In accordance with the objectives set out in the detailed work plan of the project, the idea behind the ‘PsySSA African LGBTI Human Rights project’ was to foster active and vocal participation from the perspective of psychology in current and anticipated debates globally about LGBTI issues and concerns.

The International Congress of Psychology (ICP) that was hosted in Cape Town in 2012 presented a unique opportunity to achieve the vision of PsySSA serving as capacity-building hub for psychology’s contribution to the advancement of LGBTI rights in Africa. To this end, PsySSA, with support from IPsyNET, developed detailed programming and planning meetings to bring together psychology professionals, non-psychology professionals and psychological associations (from Africa in particular) into the ICP 2012 Sexuality and Gender Streams.

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Sexuality and Gender Division

newest kid on the block...

Interim Executive:
Chair
Prof Carien Lubbe-De Beer

Deputy Chair
Dr Floretta Boonzaier

Secretary - Dr Ingrid Lynch
Treasurer - Mr Niel Victor
Additional Members
Prof Juan Nel, Ms Natalie Donaldson and Mr Khonzi Mbatha

In total, 122 proposals on the topic of Sexuality and 175 on Gender were included in the final congress programme. A Quick Reference Guide developed by iPsyNET of which hundreds were distributed at ICP2012, made apparent which presentations specifically focused on LGBTI-related issues. A field trip to Cape Town-based LGBTI mental health service providers and a clinic, similarly, formed part of the official programme. During ICP2012 a call for support was made towards the establishment of an envisaged PsySSA Sexuality and Gender Division to replace the LGBTI Interest Group.

The 2013 PsySSA Congress: The Division sees the light

The 2013 PsySSA Congress saw presentations and symposia on topics such as adolescent sexualities, intimate partner violence among women in same-sex relationships, masculinities, reproductive decision-making, gay men and relationship practices, researching sexual risk among students, sexual violence, LGBTI affirmative practice, and fatherhood.

A major event at the congress was the approval of the Division by the PsySSA Council on 24 September and subsequent confirmation during the PsySSA AGM. A first meeting of the division was held on 26 September and, identified a key immediate focus as the continued expansion of membership of the division to also represent other aspects of sexuality and gender, beyond LGBTI concerns, in line with the broadened scope that had developed in the interest group over the past few years.

At the congress, PsySSA adopted the Sexual and Gender Diversity Position Statement, and presented it to members - a first for both PsySSA and the division. The statement is available on the PsySSA webpage (www.psyssa.com). This was a culmination of the hard work of the 24 members of the Working Group established at ICP 2012. The initial work was presented at the 1st International Conference for LGBT Psychology and Related Fields in Lisbon in June 2013.

During October 2013 PsySSA filed its papers as amicus curiae (‘friend of the court’) in the South Gauteng High Court, in a matter that concerns the contents of a newspaper article entitled “Call me names, but gay is not ok”, written by Jon Qwelane and published in the Sunday Sun on 20 July 2008. The South African Human Rights Commission seeks an apology and damages from Mr Qwelane on the grounds that the contents of the article constitute prohibited hate speech in terms of section 10(1) of the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act, 2000 (“the Equality Act”). As a friend of the court, PsySSA will present evidence and make submissions regarding the important purpose served by section 10(1) of the Equality Act to stem systemic verbal and physical violence based on the prohibited grounds of discrimination in that Act. The matter will serve in the South Gauteng high court again during 2014.

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Sexuality and Gender Division

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2014 - the year so far

An executive meeting on 8 March again focused the division on continuing its growth beyond its historical focus on LGBTI issues to address a wider range of topics including sexual and reproductive health; HIV/AIDS; gender-based violence; work on gendered subjectivities, including femininities and masculinities and other critical psychological work on gender and sexuality – as well as its intersections with other forms of difference and inequity such as (but not limited to) race, place, class, and age. A regular listserv e-mail to members already provide current information and activities, and the division is looking at showcasing the work that our members are doing in these areas over the next year.

The first phase of the PsySSA African LGBTI Human Rights Project came to completion in 2013, and we are privileged that the Arcus Foundation is again supporting the next phase from 2014-2016. The project aims to develop human resource and leadership capacity to enhance the sustainability of PsySSA and strengthen its Sexuality and Gender Division (SGD) to become a regional hub for other African psychological organisations and individual psychologists working in support of LGBTI human rights. A host of activities are planned for the three years as part of the project, and members will be kept informed in the PsySSA newsletter of achievements.

President Museveni, prior to signing the Ugandan Anti-Homosexuality Bill into law in February 2014, appealed to ‘scientific evidence’ on the ‘causes’ of homosexuality to influence his decision on whether or not to support the proposed law. A letter by the IPsyNET, endorsed by PsySSA as well as psychological bodies of numerous other countries, was sent to President Museveni in response. The year also saw the Position Statement and related work being presented in multiple forums, including the 2nd Trans* Health, Advocacy and Research Conference held in May-June in Cape Town, the 28th International Congress of Applied Psychology in Paris in July, and a colloquium on Heteronormativity and Health in Cape Town in August. In addition, a number of academic articles will be published to ensure even broader exposure of the statement.

The new division will be formally launched at the 20th PsySSA Congress - an event that marks the 20th anniversary of our democracy, of PsySSA as an organisation, as well as the launch of the Pan-African Psychology Union (PAPU). We are sponsoring congress attendance for four delegates from Nigeria, Cameroon and Tanzania. The Congress is also set to serve up a bumper package of gender and sexuality related content with nearly 50 presentations, round table discussions, symposiums and a pre-congress workshop.

In conclusion, the division managed to secure project funding to enable its development and growth. This potentially provides a model for other divisions and PsySSA to follow alongside their historical volunteering conventions.

Niel Victor (Acting Treasurer)
Student Division

The PsySSA Student Division would like to congratulate PsySSA on its 20th anniversary. The PsySSA Student Division is proud to be a part of PsySSA on its journey toward making mental health care accessible to all.

The PsySSA Student Division aims to promote student participation in organised psychology as full members and not as observers hoping to gain access to some undefined future. To achieve this aim, the Student Division has, over the past two years, focused on creating and tapping into the vibrant student culture on each university campus in South Africa.

Our objective as a division has been to re-create the division into what we consider a transitional space for students. The idea of the Student Division as a transitional space arose from conversations with students where it emerged that joining the division is often seen as the first step in becoming part of the “real” or “formal” divisions within PsySSA that are focussed on the areas of specialisation that the student ultimately aims to develop during their career. We took this to mean that the Student Division should play a role in supporting students to integrate into their areas of interest and not focus exclusively on their experiences and statuses as students.

Embracing this role implies positioning the Student Division as a resource centre for students aimed at facilitating career development by sharing information on the following: how to approach selection for master’s courses; creating awareness of volunteering and publication opportunities for students; encouraging students to engage with established psychologists by giving advice and guidelines for effective networking.

One of the main activities the Student Division launched in 2014 is the congress preparation programme entitled: Conference presentations - from concept to congress. The concept to congress programme works with students across all levels who are interested in presenting at a national congress. It draws on the experiential training model and all learning is derived from progressive exposure to the environment in which the student ultimately want to perform. Students are placed in small working groups with an experienced academic associated with the Student Division to work on conference papers. The academic mentoring the students receive is augmented by peer-mentoring that takes place in the group setting where students are paired to support each other in the day to day processes of writing an academic paper.

In 2014 the Student Division has implemented its plan to create a network of student associations by affiliating with two student associations. The Psyche student association from the University of Pretoria was the first affiliate association to the PsySSA Student Division and was instrumental in developing the support framework for starting student associations that will be made available to all institutions. The Association for Psychology Students from the University of the North West Mafikeng campus launched on the 25 July 2014 and aims to create a support network for students who are eager to get involved in the community around the university. Both associations will be linked to the PsySSA Student Division and are key partners in expanding the national network of students.

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The initiative described above demonstrates the PsySSA Student Division’s mission to reach outside of the existing PsySSA structure and work with any psychology student, regardless of membership status. In the physical sense it means reaching to students at individual university campuses across the country and creating opportunities for students to network with their peers and with established academics or practitioners. Meeting our emerging psychologists also means understanding where students are in their journey and providing the mentoring they need, when they need it.

The approach described above will take time to evolve into a process with tangible results. It will require a long term investment that should transcend individual chairs and that should form part of the ethos of the division at all levels. However, this does not imply that there will be no short term gains on this journey.

The 20th anniversary Congress is an exciting event for the PsySSA Student Division as we are anticipating a record number of student presentations at a PsySSA Congress. We are excited at the initiative shown by students who are making the statement that they are ready to become active members of organised psychology in South Africa. The congress will also host the first workshop for students aimed at equipping graduates with the skills to enter the psychological career landscape. The workshop is the result of collaboration between the Unisa Centre for Applied Psychology, the PsySSA office and the PsySSA Student Division. The workshop focuses on the key period between graduation and first time employment within the field of psychology and frankly discusses the unique challenges psychology students face when entering the job market.

We look forward to an exciting AGM at the congress where the student division will formally introduce the new executive structure of the division. We also bid farewell to our current chair, Mr Angelo Fynn, who will be stepping down as the student chair. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.
Standing Committee on Psychological Testing and Assessment

The convenor of the committee frequently responds to questions from members regarding the fair and ethical use of psychological tests. Many of these requests relate to the use of tests that are either not on the list of classified tests or are international measures that are distributed in South Africa. There has also been an increase in requests related to the use of psychological tests in research and research related to test development and adaptation. In the latter instance, requests revolve around who may assist with such test development, adaptation and research work (e.g., can a Master’s student who is not in a professional stream assist). PsySSA’s Standing Committee has links with the International Test Commission (ITC) in terms of participating in the ongoing development and refinement of international good assessment practice guidelines. Some PsySSA members attended and made presentations at the ITC’s conference in Spain in July 2014. Links have also been established with the Psychometrics Committee and test publishers to advocate for enhancing the quality and range of available psychological measures in South Africa and to raise matters pertaining to policy, scope of practice, training and ethical assessment practices.
The recent events in the Middle East including the horrendous situation in Gaza, Palestine, Iraq and Israel, or in South Africa in Marikana, Manenberg or Houghton, has foregrounded the importance of an ethical approach in societal engagement. This is critical for health workers, and psychologists in general—who are tasked with attending to the well-being of individuals and communities affected by violence, inequity and social upheaval. This has made it imperative that all practitioners, researchers and scholars of psychology embed in their research and practice, a thoughtful, competent and ethically nuanced approach.

PsySSA membership has displayed this admirably. Queries on matters ethical to the office or Ethics Standing Committee show a well developed and advanced level of knowledge and application among members. The HPCSA requirement of the Ethics examination for registration for newly qualified psychologists and registered counsellors has allowed practitioners to remain current with the necessary legislation and ethical framework governing independent training and practice.

The training courses on Professional ethics, research ethics and workshops on applying ethical practice in psychotherapy are well subscribed nationally. PsySSA has been requested to offer more opportunities for ethics training, both in a research and clinical settings. Membership as well as the public have utilised the advisory services of the PsySSA Ethics Committee, and have offered feedback that the service has been professional, confidential and helpful.

The Committee is developing focussed Ethics training opportunities, for members in the areas of forensics, the law, psychotherapy and applications for working with children and other vulnerable populations. A particular request from members has been the provision of guidelines for psychologists working ethically in correctional services and the military. A training module on ethically working in situations of contextual constrain and extreme trauma is envisaged.

Thanks to Dr. S. Cooper, Ms. Fatima Seedat, Ms. Nosipho Thathi and Ms. Naziha Abbas of the PsySSA Office for their outstanding support to the Committee.

Sincerely

Umesh Bawa
PsySSA Standing Committee
PsyTalk

The dramatic changes in content and delivery that have marked PsyTalk’s transformation were consolidated in 2014 through the finalisation of a production team guided by strict guidelines and timelines. The newsletter also began receiving unsolicited submissions for publication both as lead articles and opinion pieces during the year. This implies some level of effectiveness in its attempts to facilitate broader inputs from its members and other mental health stakeholders. Another marker of success in PsyTalk’s attempts to operationalise its strategic plan over the last 2 years is the discernible increase in its integration of web content. The increase in the number of hyperlinks that connect the articles and announcements to supplementary resources and content shows that the newsletter is gradually growing its content scope and connectedness to psychology web resources beyond South Africa. The PsyTalk team will continue to drive the society’s communication strategy in 2015. Thanks are due to Fatima Seedat, Naziha Abbas and Dylan Kopping for their administrative and design support in 2014.

Prof Brett Bowman
Editor
The South African Journal of Psychology (SAJP), currently in its 44th volume, is the official publication of the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA). The journal has a rich history within the country’s socio-political developments, and against this background the SAJP seeks to further the discipline of psychology and psychological research within a context of democracy, equality and social justice. As of 2013, the SAJP has been published by SAGE (UK), which has also seen notable developments for the publication, including (i) an online submission portal and manuscript management system, (ii) digitised current and past issues on the journal webpage at http://sap.sagepub.com and (iii) the OnlineFirst feature which means that all accepted articles are immediately available to readers.

The major achievement over the past year-and-a-half has been the introduction of the State of the Science section in the journal which presents the latest developments in the field authored by world leaders in psychology and mental health. The SAJP is proud to have been able to publish works by Cara Laney & Elizabeth Loftus; Isaac Prilleltensky; John Berry; Alan Kazdin, and other eminent researchers. In addition, the journal commemorated the life and times of former President Nelson Mandela by publishing a feature article titled The Mandela I knew by Saths Cooper.

The 20th anniversaries of South Africa’s democracy and PsySSA’s formation have been celebrated by way of a special issue coinciding with the 20th Annual PsySSA congress in September 2014.

Members of PsySSA receive free electronic access to the SAJP as well as several other SAGE journals. Readers also have the opportunity to earn CPD points. Plans for the coming year include the publication of further works from internationally acclaimed authors, as well as high-calibre local research and review papers. The tireless efforts and dedication of the editorial team, the editorial board, and our expert reviewers are most appreciated, and we are grateful to our authors for the high quality submissions – all of which are responsible for the journal’s success.