



## President's Update July 2016

## President's update

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Dear PsySSA Member,

A great deal has been happening at PsySSA and this brief communicate is to keep you updated on the developments and the work in which your Executive has been engaged.

Firstly we have been in ongoing discussions with the leaderships of the Professional Board for Psychology and the Recognition of Life Long Learning in Psychology Action Group (ReLPAG) regarding the pending court matter. We have offered our services to these two parties with the aim of facilitating a meeting between them so that a resolution can be reached. PsySSA is very concerned about the scope of practice matter that has had unfortunate effects. The current situation is that we have received positive responses from both parties and are in the process of setting up the meeting.

On a related matter PsySSA has continued to approach various Medical Aid bodies in attempts to address the problem of non-payment of claims submitted by members. Virtually all of the Medical Aid groups have declined to meet or negotiate further, with many awaiting the outcome of the ReLPAG/Professional Board court matter. We have, further, planned a round-table discussion with the Medical Aid groups at the plenary session of the 22nd Annual Psychology Congress in September during which these issues could be discussed.

PsySSA also had a meeting with the Professional Board for Psychology during April to discuss issues such as the scope of practice guidelines, training guidelines as well as the psychometric test classification matters, among others. The Board assured us that these issues were being addressed and that communications would follow. PsySSA representatives also attended the Stakeholder engagement meeting called by the Board addressing issues relating to training. The test review and classification issue was also addressed at this meeting.

PsySSA has been involved in drafting responses to the White Paper on the National Health Insurance (NHI) as well as commenting on issues related to criminal capacity assessments and the Criminal Procedures Act. PsySSA has a representative attending meetings called by the Department of Health on the development on the NHI. PsySSA also responded to the Career Development Practitioner Framework document from the Department of Higher Education & Training, pointing out the role and value of psychologists in this area.

You will be pleased to note that a draft programme for the 22nd Annual Psychology congress has been posted onto the website. A record number of abstract submissions were received and the content was generally of a good standard. President-Elect Professor Sumaya Laher and Executive

# Presidential message

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## President's update continues...

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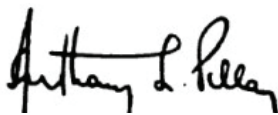
Director Fatima Seedat have driven this process, putting in countless hours to ensure a conference of a high standard. Numerous hours of reviewing and editing abstracts by the Scientific Committee, have resulted in a scientific and practitioner-focused programme that will surely satisfy all. Under the theme #PsychologysResponse/ability this congress is already attracting much interest.

On the topic of conferences, we are pleased to let you know that PsySSA won the bid to host the 1st Pan African Psychology Union (PAPU) Congress. It is significant that this inaugural event will be held in South Africa during September 2017 at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in Durban. This is expected to be a bumper event with a host of national and international experts in various fields of Psychology.

During May 2016 PsySSA co-hosted the 6th International Conference on Community Psychology with the Institute for Social and Health Sciences (UNISA) and the Medical Research Council Violence, Injury and Peace Research Unit. The event, held at the Durban ICC, drew a large contingent of esteemed researchers, academics and activists in the field. PsySSA's President and its Chair of the Division on Community & Social Psychology Professor Ronelle Carolissen delivered opening addresses. PsySSA will also be well represented at the International Congress of Psychology (ICP 2016) in Yokohama, Japan at the end of July. Several symposia and presentations will be delivered by the PsySSA leadership and members, including a symposium that reflects on the outstanding success of the ICP 2012 hosted by PsySSA in Cape Town four years ago.

Nominations for the next PsySSA Executive opened on 30 June 2016. Details are available of our website. The Society is also in the midst of its 2014-2018 Strategic Review which is currently under the very able leadership of Past President Professor Juan Nel. This rather comprehensive process is already resulting in many enhanced administrative and organizational systems and processes.

While the year thus far has proved quite challenging in terms of the issues that we have had to deal with as a Society, we hope that the developments and progress made in various areas are evident. Your continued support and input is certainly appreciated.



Prof. Anthony Pillay

President

Psychological Society of South Africa  
(PsySSA)

