



**SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH EDUCATIONALISTS CENTRAL REGION
NEWSLETTER**

November 2016

**Opinions, views and comment expressed by contributors are not necessary the official opinion of
SAAHE.**

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I. Feedback on the SAAHE Council meeting and AGM 21 and 22 June 2016

The 10th SAAHE conference 5 to 8 July 2017 North West University, Potchefstroom campus. The conference theme is 'from classroom to community'. The dates are 5 July for the pre-conference workshop and 6- 8 July 2017 for the conference. The website link for SAAHE 2017: <http://health-sciences.nwu.ac.za/saahe>. The conference website will be activated by the end of 2016.

The distinguished educator award winner of 2015/2016 is Prof M de Villiers of Stellenbosch University. The criteria for the award were revised and aligned with the vision and mission of SAAHE. There were eight nominations received. Nominations will be valid for a period of three years to counter the tendency that nominees who do not win in a particular year, do not have to resubmit the nomination.

The SAAHE research award

The award was made to Susan van Schalkwyk of Stellenbosch University for the publication: Van Schalkwyk, S. C., Bezuidenhout, J., & de Villiers, M. R. (2015). Understanding rural clinical learning spaces: Being and becoming a doctor. *Medical Teacher*, 37(6), 589-594

Fellowship committee: Based on the model of AMEE fellows and associated fellows, the President proposed a similar concept for SAAHE fellows. The purpose of the SAAHE fellowship will be to acknowledge competency in Health Sciences/Professions Education and celebrate those individuals who are dedicated to SAAHE mission and vision. The fellowship is envisaged to be a title with no financial benefits, thus no financial implication for SAAHE. Local, national and international 'members' can qualify for a fellowship nomination.

The role of SAAHE in HPE: Encourage and create a space for joint discussions to include HELTASA, SAFRI, Provincial representatives and the deans committees (both health sciences and medical deans). A workshop will be presented at the 2017 SAAHE conference to further explore the joint discussion.

Assessment special interest group: Council approved a proposal to establish an assessment special interest group received from Proff S Schoeman and F Cilliers.

SAAHE Facebook page on the website: Twitter and Facebook feeds were added to the

website (<https://www.facebook.com/saahenational/> or search in Facebook OR Twitter for @saahenational and when posting use the #saahe2016)

Hesta Friedrich-Nel

II. AMEE 2016 Barcelona

In 2016, I was privileged to tick off a bucket list item: Visiting AMEE, one of the largest medical education conferences in the world, has always been a dream. Weighing in at around 3500 delegates from over 90 countries at the *Centre de Convencions Internacional de Barcelona* (CCIB), it was definitely worth every cent!

The packed conference included (rather expensive) pre-conference weekend workshops - only eligible for those not handicapped by exchange rates - as well as the main conference programme from Sunday evening 29 to Wednesday morning 31 August 2016. The daily schedule included plenary sessions, symposia, research papers, short communications, workshops and poster sessions and group meetings and courses. This meant that at any given time, there were up to 30 (!) parallel sessions forcing one to rely heavily on the programme booklet for sessions, titles and authors and a Conference app for abstracts.

How to choose when it's obviously impossible to do it all? The plenary sessions were held in a large auditorium, and were typically presented by the "big" names in medical education: worthwhile to hear about new ideas. I tried to learn more in my fields of interest (including professionalism, selection, student well-being and motivation) in the symposia and short communication sessions, and once again was struck by how issues are similar across the world in spite of such differences in environments. The large poster viewing area was arranged in foremost topic streams, showing off amazing variation and originality.

I also embraced the opportunity to move beyond my habitual comfort zone. This included a curious afternoon on the AMEE "Fringe" with hands on music therapy, sensory training, stretching of the imagination and acting and performance art...definitely something different! Another novelty was the PechaKucha™ presentations: using 20 slides for 20 seconds each; a format derived from architecture and internationally used to share

creativity and ideas – definitely a cure for “death by PowerPoint!”

The large exhibition and food hall made for a friendly environment to network and learn (it included a CPR training area), and the technology and admin support desks worked efficiently. Overall, the conference had a congenial, informal atmosphere, reflected in the interested and interesting people who populated sessions. The large number of student attendees made it very “hip”, and created a sense of open-mindedness and positive change.

The saying goes, “Barcelona is always a good idea”. One of the most beautiful cities in the world, the late summer heat and perfect skies meant that everywhere you looked was a photo opportunity. Presenting AMEE 2016 in Barcelona meant that it could live up to its theme: “Inspire...and be inspired”. Enough said.

Lynette van der Merwe

III. SAAHE News

1. SAAHE National Conference 2016

The 9th annual conference of the South African Association of Health Educationalists (SAAHE) was held from the 22 – 24 June 2016 as a collaborative effort between the four universities in the Eastern Cape (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Walter Sisulu University, Rhodes University and Fort Hare University). The theme of the conference was “Transformative Health Education in Motion”

The abstract book can be found at <http://saahe.org.za/conferences>

2. SAAHE Web Presence

The SAAHE web site can be accessed at <http://saahe.org.za/>.

3. Registering as a SAAHE Member

In order to compile a national members database SAAHE National request registration on the web site. Registration is free but it will help to manage a national communication and interest database. Please register at <http://saahe.org.za/register/>

4. Contribute to the SAAHE Central Region Newsletter

All members are invited to present inputs for the SAAHE Central region newsletter. Contributions may be in the form of an article or a summary of an academic activity. Members

may present contributions that were compiled by teams; you do not even have to do it on your own! Contributions may be send to Alwyn Hugo at Gnanaph@ufs.ac.za or Riaan van Wyk at VanWykR3@ufs.ac.za

IV. Closing message

It is again the end of yet another year. 2016 has been different things to all of us. Hopefully it has been amazing for your academic careers. I hope you have reached the goals you set for yourselves at the beginning of the year or you are well on your way to achieving them.

For SAAHE it has been another amazing year. We have welcomed new colleagues in the management committee who have touched the ground running with the symposium on ethics in educational research that was hosted in September. Judging by the success of that event I can assure you that the coming year will be even better. So hold on to your hoods SAAHE Central is about to do amazing things in 2017.

The SAAHE Central MC would like to thank you for your continuing support and wish to see you at all our upcoming events next year! Thank you for working with us; we make an amazing team. Cheers to our spirit. I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy eventful 2017!

Dee Mtyongwe

Compiled by Riaan van Wyk 2016