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South African Optometric Association

Welcome to SAOA e-News

SAOA March 2010 newsletter



Editor's Column

My father used to say the purpose of a car is to be a vehicle that gets one from point A to point B. Oh, yes and it needed to be a good, reliable vehicle. Needless to say children and parents differ significantly regarding the value proposition of a vehicle...

Amongst other factors the vehicle in use determines the quality of your travel experience - travelling can be a pleasurable journey, but it could easily cost you your life.

The efficiency and achievements of the SAOA could very well be likened to the vehicle it provides to the profession for the journey to a predetermined destination. The brand, efficiency, safety, class and reliability are all factors which determine the quality and potential success of reaching the destination.

SAOA has a 85 year proud legacy of having transversed the treacherous roads of the challenges to the Optometric profession in the South African environment. At times the down hills provided a fresh gentle breeze in the hair and at times the up hills were met with some mechanical challenges and often some cooling down of overheated engines were required.

Modifications were also at the order of the day and every now and again, adjustments as demanded by the needs of the times, were made. Internal and external changes adapted the vehicle to the ever increasing demand to support and protect the practitioners in the profession.

And so here we arrive in 2010 and we have to acknowledge that a redesign of our vehicle is required. Some of our passengers and drivers have lost faith in the brand and will need some convincing to realize that there is only one brand providing the neutrality, reliability, support, credibility and consistency for being transported into the future of optometry. That brand is SAOA ...

The value proposition of reinventing and revitalizing our vehicle is an opportunity offered to all optometrists concerned about their future in SA Optometry. The process aims to create a unique environment where we could harvest energy and input from optometrists representing the demographics of optometry in South Africa including all the various practice models, academia, public sector and various generations of practitioners.

With the aid of highly skilled independent external change management consultants the strategy is to assess current structures, processes, systems, comments and complaints from members, non-members and officials. The expectations of the potential or desired results would be clarified.

With the assistance of the change management professionals we will be led on a journey of revitalization or redesign of our vehicle.

This is a precious opportunity for SA Optometry.

Please embrace this, take due ownership of it and participate in revitalizing and redesigning your own future in your chosen profession.

Deidre de Jongh



From the Desk of the CEO



According to Chinese custom, during new year celebrations, red envelopes (usually with money enclosed in even amounts) are handed out to family members (etc) to bring about prosperity and success. From an Optometry perspective, SAOA membership status assumes the role of the red envelope in terms of addressing the interests of its members to bring about good fortune for practices.

2010 is expected to be an exciting year for all South Africans with the much anticipated Soccer World Cup as THE event. From a health care and optometry perspective, a number of (legislative) changes are also on the horizon, including:

- :: Appointment of a Professional Board for Optometry and Dispensing Opticians , having been delayed for some time
- :: Finalisation of the Reference Price List (RPL) processes which were not completed by the Department of Health in 2008/9. In this regard the South African Private Practitioner Forum and 22 other Associations have lodged an application against the Department of Health (“DoH”). The Application will be heard in the Gauteng North High Court on 22nd- 24th February 2010. The Application has been joined with similar applications brought by the Hospital Association of South Africa (“HASA”) and Netcare 911 & ER24.
- :: Introduction of the Risk Equalisation Fund in 2011/12. This process has been delayed for a number of years but may be introduced as a forerunner to the introduction of National Health Insurance
- :: An expansion of full clinical validation of ICD10 codes as pressure on Prescribed Minimum Benefits increase.
- :: Re-defining of Prescribed Minimum Benefits as a Basic Benefit Package and possible price regulation thereof. The Council for Medical Schemes has cautioned Medical Schemes to get their houses in order as to the proper administration of PMBs.
- :: Involvement of HPCSA in private practice matters as evidenced by the attempt to scrap the Ethical Tariffs during 2008/9.
- :: A re-introduction of the National Health Amendment Act to Parliament in 2010. This was successfully opposed by various bodies during 2008, but will be required if Government wants to price regulate healthcare services in South Africa.
- :: The release of the long awaited Green Paper (Discussion Document) re the introduction of National Health Insurance to South Africa. This document will be followed by a “White Paper” and draft legislation. Timelines re implementation is unknown at this time.
- :: Etc

From the SAOA staff and Directorate, our very best to all for a prosperous 2010 and look forward to meeting you at various events planned.

Best Wishes

Harry Rosen

In the News - Reference Price List

The Reference Price List for 2010 has been surrounded by much controversy and confusion during the past year, involving legal action instituted against the Dept Health by the Private Specialist Forum and twenty two other associations for non adherence to the published regulations. This action has been joined by Netcare and Emergency services disciplines As a result the Dept Health is unable to publish a Reference Price List for 2010.

However as published by the Acting Registrar of the Council for Medical Schemes on 21 December 2009 , reference was made to the Minister of Health who has recommended an inflator of 7.9 % using the 2009 RPL as a platform for 2010 to serve as a reference as an interim measure for role players concerned.

It is important to note, from an optometric perspective, that this RPL is nothing more than the RPL as published in 2007 with an inflator added for each subsequent year without any amendments despite errors identified..

A completely revised Reference Price List for Optometry submitted by the SAOA in 2008 to accommodate publishing in 2009 was approved by the Dept Health and only had to undergo a verification process. However based on the legal action referred to above the approved Optometric RPL submission will not be published by the Dept Health for now.

Nevertheless, from a reference perspective the SAOA encourages members to peruse the revised submission which appears on the SAOA website bearing in mind that an inflator of 7,9 % has been suggested for 2010 as a principle.

Argument pertaining to the legal action taken by the Private Specialist Forum et al against the Dept Health will be heard in the North Gauteng High Court on 22- 24 February .The SAOA , of course will keep you

updated.



SAOA Transformation

An Achievement towards the realization of a Dream



The conceptualisation and the adoption of transformation as a strategy and tactic in 2001 was a process of efforts organizational and theoretically, to confront the challenges which apartheid has caused in the association and the country at large.

The many strides that had been made by the association together with the agents of change to make sure that our association becomes truly representative of the demographic of the country and relevant to the changing community had not been as successful as originally planned.

We as an association had as yet to clarify on what was to be done, and how - in order to unite our diverse membership to achieve our broad vision on transformation and broad based black economic empowerment.



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From the Professional Development Portfolio



Whoa! South Africa is hosting 4 big events; the 2010 Soccer World Cup, World Congress of Refractive Error (WCRE), Sixth World Conference on Optometric Education (WCOE6) and the Do Optometry tours.

Also exciting this year, the Do Optometry event will form part of the proceedings at the World Congress of Refractive Error (WCRE) in Durban.

The Do Optometry tours offer practising Optometrist and Academics the opportunity to exchange the latest information in Optometry and Optical dispensing, thus enhancing patient care and advancing the professions.

The Do Optometry continues with its themes; Education, Ethics and Management & Motivation.

Abstracts are now being accepted for the Education theme on topics on current clinical and basic science advances in Therapeutics, Contact Lens, Refractive Surgery, Imaging in Optometry, Dispensing & Lens Optics, Pediatric and Binocular Vision.

Hope to see you in Bela-Bela, Bloemfontein, Midrand, Nelspruit, Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. Visit the [SAOA website](#) for more information.



Lucky Nkosi holds a B. OPTOM Degree from the University of Limpopo and an advanced postgraduate certificate in sport vision from the RAND AFRIKAANS University. He is currently in private practice in the city centre of Johannesburg. He serves on the SAOA transformation committee and as an Ombudsman.

Ocularists Association of Southern Africa

The Ocularists Association of Southern Africa (OASA) has recently held their 6th Annual Congress. This gathering being their first multi- disciplinary Congress including Orthoptists, Ophthalmic assistants, fellow Ocularists as well as our Ocularist members from Germany. This informative event was once again a huge success.

The agenda was varied to include our fellow Professionals Insight into the understanding of patient service as well as self-assessment reviews were discussed. For the Ocularists, a hands-on practical in the form of a workshop was of particular value not to mention the fun-filled team-building experience paddling down the Crocodile river!

This Annual event ended off on a very positive note with the AGM voting session and new posts in the directorate group were filled and announced.

The new appointed OASA Directorate being
 Pedro Carvalho – President OASA
 Gail Altona - Immediate Past President/ Treasurer
 Beryl Carvalho – Secretary
 Jackie Heatlie – Vice President/PRO
 Jorgen Cieslik - Member Liaison
 Vida van der Linde – Directorate Member

New ideas were exchanged among the OASA members and all the Ocularists are now looking forward to an exciting year after a well deserved rest and filling a special place in the world of eye care.

Most importantly all the members of the Ocularist Association wishes to thank their sponsors – SOS, Bausch & Lomb and Alcon for their much appreciated support and a very special thank you to Mr. Harry Rosen CEO of the SAOA, for his informative presentations and valuable input into our Associations' important decision making and vision for the Ocularistry profession in the future.

Did you know?



The eye was a symbol of life to the ancient world, particularly in Egypt, where bronze and precious stone eyes were placed on the deceased. The Romans decorated statues with artificial eyes made of silver. Ambrose Paré (1510-1590), a famous French surgeon, was the first to describe the use of artificial eyes to fit an eye socket. These pieces were made of gold and silver, and two types can be distinguished: eklephara and hypoblephara, intended to be worn in front of or under the eyelids, respectively. A hypoblephara eye was designed to be used above an atrophic eye, as enucleation was not a common practice until the middle of the 1800s.

As with most things that evolved over time, it is difficult to trace the inventor of the artificial glass eye, but William Shakespeare (1564-1616) knew of its existence:

Get three glass eyes;
 And, like a scurvy politician, seem
 To see the things thou dost not.

(King Lear to the Earl of Gloucester,
 Act IV, Scene 6)

Profile on John Nugent - Northern Cape Regional Representative



Born: East London 29th November 1945 (For those who wish to send a Birthday present)

Schooling Mrs. Harmuth's Nursery School, Selborne Primary and Selborne College (Sub A to Std 10: 1952 to 1963.) Played 1st team Tennis and later Border Junior tennis

National Service - 9 months 1964. It was in the Army that I decided that Optometry was the Profession of choice.

Thereafter spent 3 months working in the workshop at General Optical in East London. Was originally booked to go to Rhodes University to study Bsc.Chemistry, but could not bear the thought of spending all day checking if Litmus was going red or blue. Decided that asking a patient if a target was better on red or green was more interesting.

1965 started at School of Optometry at Wits Tech and finished in 1967. Working for George Green, Werner Guttentag and Derek Humphriss over weekends and holidays

Started work for Trevor Lander in Bloemfontein at F Lander with Ed Pitschlitz where met and married his daughter in 1968 (Andre Roos as best man.) Three children born from this union. Two sons, also optometrists, and a daughter married to an Upington farmer. Seven grandchildren at present with 8th on the way.

1969 appointed manager of "WH Glietenberg" - oldest optometric practice in Bloemfontein. Paul Kruger had obtained a pair of specs from Glietenberg a little before he took over.

Later, in 1969, transferred to Cape Town and managed Elcone Optical Co. for Lander family. Here I was a lot closer to Trevor Lander. He will always be remembered as a gentleman first and a very shrewd, astute optometrist who taught me a great deal about Optometry and life in general. But realized that owning one's own practice was the only way to practice Optometry

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Oh I see



At this time it is not legal to supply contact lenses via inter net ; however legislation is to be tabled in the future whereby an optometrist may supply contact lenses on line but :

::**Must** apply for approval via HPCSA

::Prescription (not older than one year) to be provided by patient.

The proposed legislation is to first appear in the Government Gazette before promulgated.

-There is no legislation which prevents on line supply of spectacles provided services rendered by an Optometrist or Dispensing Optician also on the basis of an appropriate prescription

:: Sale of Contact lenses, both Prescription and Cosmetic , by non registered persons is regarded as a criminal act

- Suspension from the HPCSA register relegates the practitioner concerned to the status of lay person and thus would be forced to close the practice if sole owner for the period of suspension; i.e. may not employ locum etc.

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