



MEASLES: A Spot of Concern

by Lynda Steyn (BPharm)
Amayeza Info Services

Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a paramyxovirus. The virus may be transmitted from person to person via large respiratory droplets, or via airborne transmission in closed areas for up to 2 hours after a person with measles has left the room.

OUTBREAK MEASLES

South Africa, amongst many other countries in the world, is currently experiencing a measles outbreak, which is classified as “three or more confirmed laboratory measles cases reported within 30 days of the onset of the disease, in a district.”

A high coverage of vaccination is needed to prevent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases. This means that we need a high number of people vaccinated within a certain period of time to prevent the disease. To prevent an outbreak of measles, a coverage of 95% or greater of 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine is needed.

NOTIFIABLE MEDICAL CONDITION

Diseases that pose a risk to public health that have the potential for outbreaks, and the possibility of high fatality rates, are categorised by the National Institute for Communicable Disease (NICD) as Notifiable Medical Conditions (NMCs). Measles is considered to be a Category 1 NMC, which means that healthcare providers must report a clinical or laboratory diagnosis of measles immediately, using the most rapid means, followed by a written or electronic notification within 24 hours of diagnosis. A healthcare provider is obligated to notify the NICD immediately upon suspicion of a measles case. Failure to report a NMC is considered a criminal offence.

CLINICAL FEATURERS OF MEASLES

Clinical features of measles include:

- A prodrome lasting 2-4 days (range 1-7 days) characterised by fever, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis
- Koplik spots (blue-white spots on a bright red buccal mucosa) occur 1-2 days before the appearance of the measles rash
- Maculopapular rash persists for 5-6 days, beginning at the hairline and gradually proceeding downwards over the face, neck, body and outwards to hands and feet
- Rash may coalesce in some areas, and in areas where the rash is more severe, the lesions may peel off in scales
- The rash fades sequentially in order of appearance

COMPLICATIONS OF MEASLES

Complications of measles include otitis media, diarrhoea, pneumonia, encephalitis, subacute sclerosing panencephalitis and death. Another concerning complication associated with measles disease is the risk of immune amnesia, where the measles virus destroys the host's pre-existing immunological memory, leaving them vulnerable to secondary infection. This immune amnesia may last for approximately 2-3 years. Interestingly, the measles vaccine has not been shown to induce this immune amnesia, which highlights the importance of getting vaccinated against the disease.

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Those at highest risk of complications include children in the under 5-year age group, adults over 20 years of age, pregnant women and those who are immunocompromised, malnourished or with vitamin A deficiencies.

MEASLES OUTBREAK RESPONSE

As of 10 Feb 2023, the total number of confirmed measles cases in South Africa is 484, with the highest number of cases reported in North-West province, followed by Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Gauteng and Free State. The most affected is the 5-9 year old age group (40%). However, a considerable proportion of cases are also seen in the 1-4 year old and 10-14 year old age groups. The highest proportion of measles cases reported from the hospitals was observed in children under one year of age.

The Department of Health in South Africa was running a nationwide measles campaign until the 31st March, whereby all children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years were targeted to receive a dose of measles vaccine. This measles vaccine is given as an “extra dose” over and above the child’s previous measles vaccination history. The aim of the campaign is to contain the outbreak by ensuring the target of 95% coverage is achieved for this age group.

MEASLES VACCINE

The measles vaccine is a live attenuated (weakened) vaccine. In South Africa, we have two single antigen measles vaccines, namely MeasBio® (used in the measles campaign) and Measles Vaccine Cipla®. Measles vaccine is also available in combination with mumps and rubella vaccines (MMR).

Live vaccines may pose a safety risk in certain individuals, and are therefore contraindicated in:

- Severe immunosuppression from either disease or therapy
- Pregnancy

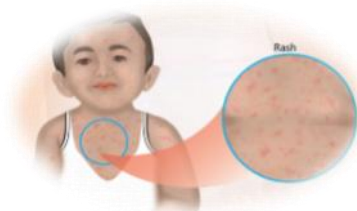
Another contraindication to the measles vaccine, or measles-containing vaccine, is a history of a severe (anaphylactic) reaction to any vaccine component (e.g., neomycin) or following a previous dose of measles or MMR vaccine.

WHAT CAN THE PHARMACIST DO?

Pharmacists can play an active role in educating the public about the seriousness of measles and the importance of preventing measles. High vaccination coverage is the most important means of preventing outbreaks of this disease. Parents should be encouraged to make sure their children are up to date with all their vaccines, but especially with measles vaccine because of the current outbreak. A high vaccination rate also protects vulnerable people, who are contraindicated from having the measles vaccine, from being exposed to measles and the complications thereof.

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SAACP
South African Association of
Community Pharmacists

REPORT OF THE 71st AGM OF THE SAACP SG, FEBRUARY 15th 2023.

by Patricia Tharage

The Southern Gauteng (SG) Branch of the South African Association of Community Pharmacists (SAACP) held its highly anticipated 71st Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at The Old Edwardian Sports Club in Johannesburg. Despite the long pandemic-induced hiatus, members were thrilled to finally gather in person.

The event featured a special welcome to Mr. D Bayever as guest presenter, and the Auditors, Mr. D Smith and Ms. R Setzer .

The attendees were then treated to a talk by the well known Mr. David Bayever, who shared his extensive knowledge and expertise in the field of pharmacy legislation, in his insightful presentation regarding **MATTERS THAT CONCERN COMMUNITY PHARMACY**, as his presentation was titled. Mr. Bayever, a seasoned industry veteran with over 40 years of experience, captivated the audience with his vast experience, including lecturing to WITS University pharmacy students on 'Pharmacy Practice' . He shared valuable insights into the world of community pharmacy, covering topics such as inspections in pharmacies, electronic transmission of prescriptions, sale and advertising of Scheduled medicines, responsibilities of a Responsible Pharmacist (RP), and more. The attendees were left in awe of his presentation, but it was unfortunate that community pharmacists were not present in greater numbers to benefit from this valuable information.

The Chairman, Ms. Winny Ndlovu, took the opportunity to recognise the past Chairmen of the SG Branch present, still serving on the Branch Committee, including D. Sieff (1976 -1978), G. Kohn (1985-1988), A. Tannous (2006-2009), T. Rabali (2014-2019), and F. Landman (2019-2020), as well as D. Bayever, himself a past Branch Chairman from 1990 to 1992, but not currently serving on the Committee.

Honorary Life Members of the Branch, D. Sieff, and G. Köhn, were acknowledged, as were past Presidents of the SAACP National Body, G. Kohn, and T. Rabali . The recipients of the prestigious Jack Bloom Award were also recognised, including D. Bayever in 1992 and D. Sieff in 2013.

The Chairman read a list of obituaries and called for a moment of silent to honour departed colleagues.

It is with pleasure that we announce the South African Association of Community Pharmacists, Southern Gauteng Branch, Committee members for 2023. We wish them a successful term of office as they strive to contribute meaningfully to the community pharmacy Sector.

Newly elected members of the SAACP Branch Committee were announced, including F. Landman as Chairman, P. Tharage as Vice-Chairman, and G. Kohn (re-elected) as Honorary Treasurer. Other committee members include P. Hlekane, J. Makhlof, S. Mogafe, W. Ndlovu, T. Rabali, D. Sieff, and A Tannous.

The Auditors presented the Financials for discussion and ratification. The meeting also confirmed the reappointment of the Auditors as proposed at the pre-AGM meeting held on February 1st, 2023.

Mr. A. Tannous took the opportunity to commend Ms. Ndlovu for her exceptional work in the past 3 years of her service as Chairman of the SAACP SG Branch.

Although the meeting did not reach the required quorum, those who attended the AGM still considered it a success, and despite the disappointingly low turnout, the event presented an opportunity for community pharmacists to connect, and to learn from one of the profession's most esteemed figures, Mr. David Bayever.

Overall, the 71st Annual General Meeting of the Southern Gauteng Branch of the SAACP left attendees feeling inspired and motivated to continue their important work in the field of community pharmacy.

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2023 SAACP SG BRANCH COMMITTEE OFFICERS



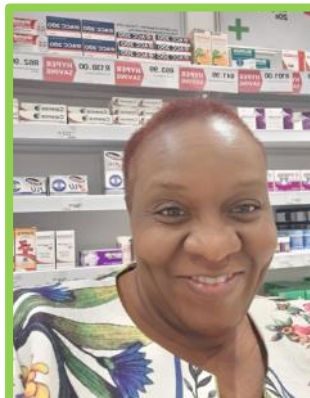
*Mr. Frans Landman
Chairman*



*Ms. Patricia Tharage
Vice-Chairman*



*Mr. Gary Kohn
Honorary Treasurer*



*Ms. Winny Ndlovu
Immediate Past Chairman*

Committee members:

- Ms. Pumza Hlekane
- Mr. John Makhlouf
- Mr. Simon Mogafe
- Mr. Tshifhiwa Rabali
- Mr. David Sieff
- Mr. Arthur Tannous



South African Association of Community Pharmacists
(Southern Gauteng)

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MATTERS THAT CONCERN COMMUNITY PHARMACY

by David Bayever

On Wednesday 15th February, at the AGM of the Southern Gauteng Branch of the SA Association of Community Pharmacists (SAACP SG), held at the Old Edwardians Sports Club, Mr. David Bayever presented a comprehensive account of **“MATTERS THAT CONCERN COMMUNITY PHARMACY”** in which he informed the pharmacists present on all aspects of this important topic, with a series of detailed slides.

He divided the items for discussion into 5 main categories, as reported below. [In a brief summary]

INSPECTIONS IN PHARMACIES AND RELATED PROVISIONS

These include the most frequent non-compliant reasons for not achieving A Grade status, Mentoring the Profession, Protecting the Public - most important ! - and 10 non-negotiable Criteria to prevent Removal from the SA Pharmacy Council (SAPC) registers. Self-Inspections by the Responsible Pharmacist (RP) must be conducted before official SAPC inspections are made, to comply with the Good Pharmacy Practice (GPP) requirements, and submitted before March 1st, annually, to avoid disciplinary action.

Pre-May 2023, if no Licence had been issued by the National Department of Health, this must now be obtained and recorded with the SAPC, with no fee payable if the ownership and premises remain the same, otherwise, a new application is required. Operating a pharmacy for more than 90 days without an RP leads to removal from the Registers for non-compliance with the GPP and other Pharmacy Legislation.

Pharmacists employed in the Public Service may not work in another pharmacy, as this is fraudulent behaviour, and disciplinary action will result. Nurses are subject to the provisions of the Nursing Act, and acts performed in a self-contained pharmacy Clinic must be authorised. ‘Vets’ may prescribe only for animals under their care, from a restricted list of medicines. Dentists are similarly constrained and limited, within their scope of practice.

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF SCRIPTS

Pharmacists must ensure their validity and that the procedure is correct; they must verify the authenticity, and a permanent copy must be kept for the pharmacy records. (A record in a computer is **NOT** permanent, as it may be altered or lost !)

PRIMARY CARE DRUG THERAPY (PCDT)

Pharmacists must undergo training by a recognised and registered institution and its course; a permit is issued in accordance with Section 22A (15) of the Medicines Act, with a restricted ‘Scope of Practice’, and they may prescribe and administer from a limited medicines’ and substances’ list.

NON-PHARMACISTS RUNNING PHARMACIES

There is a serious concern if there is no pharmacist present, or no registered RP, and if a ‘C’ Grade score is given for more than 2 consecutive inspections, the pharmacy is removed from the SAPC Registers – 83 closures were recorded in 2022 !

RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONSIBLE PHARMACISTS (RPs)

Numerous conditions are stipulated for RPs registered with the SAPC, such as direct personal supervision of personnel, the pharmacist’s name and designation displayed on a sign over the main entrance, correction of deficiencies arising from inspection reports, policies and procedures for employees’ services, correct storage of medicines and scheduled substances under personal supervision, detailed records of purchases, sales, possession, safekeeping, returns of medicines and scheduled substances, and a fridge for possible cold chain maintenance stock received.

Destruction of Schedules 5 and 6 medicines are elucidated in the SA Health Products Registration Authority (SAHPRA) Guidelines.

Circumstances and Conditions apply when a RP may be absent from a pharmacy; for instance, Schedule 1 medicines must be inaccessible to the public, while Schedules 2 to 6 substances must be locked away, with the key in the RP’s personal possession; written scripts received must be deposited in a locked box, and verbal scripts

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may not be received. A sign informing the public of these directions must be conspicuously displayed. Other pharmacists or 'locums' present may perform their usual duties, but the RP remains responsible for any act or omission by or on behalf of the RP that may involve disciplinary action by the SAPC.

This informative and interesting presentation was concluded to deserved applause from the audience, and a token gift was handed to Mr. Bayever in recognition of his excellent presentation.



ANNOUNCING THE EXCELLENCE COURSE IN ONCOLOGY PHARMACY (EXCOP)

Calling all professionals working with/interested in oncology mixing and oncology pharmacy!

Do you want to improve your knowledge on cancer and chemotherapy and be up to date with the latest oncology mixing standards? Then this a training you should not miss!

SASOPh ((South African Society of Oncology Pharmacists) is excited to announce the much-awaited opening of registration to the **Excellence Course in Oncology Pharmacy (EXCOP) in collaboration with ESOP (European Society of Oncology Pharmacists).**

This full 5-day course will be held in Sandton, Johannesburg from 10 May to 14 May 2023 and promises to be a learning-packed experience for participants.

Please click on the link <https://excop.sasoph.org.za/> to find out more and to register.

Once you have completed this 39 hour course, SASOPh members are welcome to finish the EUSOP course offered by ESOP. See <https://esop.li/education/eusop/>

The EXCOP organising committee (*Johan Labuschagne, Carien van der Merwe, Razeeya Khan, Teresa Smit and Tegan Bilse*) look forward to having you on board.





by Cecile Ramonyane

Ouma Swafo is the daughter of one of the Southern Gauteng Branch employees, Rooiklip Swafo. She obtained her matric with **five(5) distinctions: Mathematics, Physical Science, Geography, Life Sciences and English.**

The Golden Mortar went out to find out how she did it.

Q: How did you manage to obtain such great results?

A: I have always been a hard worker, and I knew I was capable of reaching greater extents in life. I told myself I was going to put every effort I have on my studies. Making my parents proud was the most vital driving force that kept me consistent. I was and still intrinsically motivated, I believe there wasn't anything impossible I couldn't do. I made use of each and every material and assistance available to understand my school work. I attended all my classes, and went further on social media like YouTube to collect every relevant piece of information to assist with my studies.



Ouma Lehlabane Swafo

I communicated with learners from neighbouring schools to share and receive more information. I was studying not to pass but also to gain knowledge, assimilate, and be able to apply theories in real life matters. This way I was able to correctly answer differently structured mathematical problems based on the same perspective.

Q: Any school achievements?

A: I got a certificate of excellence for being in the top 20 (quintile 1–3) of Capricorn South District of Limpopo Province, in 2022 based on my overall grade 11 results. I was awarded certificates of excellence by Fortune Found Foundation for being the top learner of Phunyakho High School throughout 2022.

Q: What are you studying at Wits?

A: I am currently studying Chemical Engineering, a four year degree.

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Q: What are your hobbies? I also understand you love netball:

A: I have always loved reading novels and writing short stories of my own. Yes, I loved and played netball at primary school level, but because I became more buried in my studies and novels, I stopped playing it.

GM: Thank you for sharing with us your excellent route to achieving your great results in matric, and best of luck for the future.



The PSSA Book Department

Do you know that the Book Department has a range of essential publications for pharmacists at preferential prices for members of the PSSA?

From overseas publications such as Martindale, Merck Manual and Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary to local publications such as the Daily Drug Use, South African Medicines Formulary (SAMF) and the Scheduled Substance Register.

Ordering is as simple as 1, 2, 3.

1. Go to the PSSA website, www.pssa.org.za click on Membership and then Member Services.
2. Complete the order form and submit it.
3. Make payment via EFT.

Or contact Dinette at PSSA National Office on (012) 470-9559 or at dinette@pharmail.co.za



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Professional Indemnity Insurance

You should be aware that pharmacists in all spheres of Practice require Personal Indemnity Insurance. Not to have it is simply not an option – it is a requirement of the South African Pharmacy Council.

PSSA offers its members access to the essential cover at very competitive rates through the Professional Provident Society.



For further details please contact Nikita at the PSSA National Office on (012) 470-9557 or at Nikita@pharmail.co.za

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PSSA SG Branch Committee Elections and the Annual General Meeting

Cecile Ramonyane reports

BRANCH ELECTIONS

Nominations were called for in January 2023 for 8 positions on the Branch Committee. The following 8 Members were elected:



Tshifhiwa Rabali
Chairman



Stephanie De Rapper
Vice-Chairman



James Meakings
Hon. Treasurer



Thanushya Pillaye



November Nkambule



Rashmi Gosai



Hilton Stevens



Gina Partridge

SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

- SAACP: Frans Landman, Patricia Tharage and Winny Ndlovu (Alt)
- SAAHIP: Shaista Nabee and Tshilidzi Shabangu
- SAAPI: Thavashini Pather and Tammy Maitland-Stuart
- Academy: Prof. Yahya Choonara and Muhammed Vally
- YPG: Esther Shuping
- WPSC: Qiniso Madonsela and Lethokuthula Ndaba

In addition to these members we have 2 Honorary Life Members who attend meetings of the Branch Committee, namely David Sieff and Gary Kohn.

EXCO REPRESENTATIVES

- Thanushya Pillaye
- James Meakings
- Tshifhiwa Rabali

APPOINTED BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Val Beaumont
- James Meakings
- Lynette Terblanche
- Tshifhiwa Rabali
- Rashmi Gosai
- Thanushya Pillaye
- Sybil Seoka

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BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Branch AGM was held on Tuesday 14 March 2023, and Thanushya Pillaye chaired the meeting. The guest speaker was Steven Levy from DARE 2BE who gave an excellent presentation on Leadership, its significance and responsibility in the world today.

Unfortunately, after the presentation, the AGM business could not continue due to not making a quorum, and the meeting had to be rescheduled for the 23 March 2023.

All went well in the rescheduled meeting, though the number of attendees was very low when one considers the big Southern Gauteng Branch membership, though it is known that loadshedding might be a problem. Tshif congratulated the previous committee and welcomed the new committee members. He promised to work harder with the new committee to bring the branch to its status of being the biggest Branch.



WEBSITE FOR MEDICINES - CURRENT AVAILABILITY OR OTHERWISE, NEW AND DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS, ETC.

The website was first launched in 2011 as "Medical News & Events", which had over 600,000 pageviews. In 2019 we decided that a new "face" was required and we updated the website to **PharmaNews**, click on the link to view.

Our mission is to supply information that is fast, reliable, and accurate, regarding Scheduled products that directly impact on the medical and pharmaceutical professions, using push notifications.

A Healthcare Professional (Pharmacist, Pharmacist Intern, Community Service Pharmacist, Pharmacist's Assistant, Doctor, Intern, and Nurse) will be able to check on New Products as they are launched, the availability, should there be a supply problem, and the withdrawal of a drug for whatever reason. This is of particular interest to pharmacists in the Community Pharmacy Sector, and Locum pharmacists. We have seen an increase in readership since Covid restrictions on Company Representative visits.

In order to comply with the National Code of Marketing, the website is secure and the Healthcare Professional needs to register with their respective "P" Numbers. This prevents the consumer from seeing sensitive information. (The number you use is, e.g. "11585", without the "P". I cannot see your password, in terms of the POPI Act and you can generate a new one if so desired).

The log-in link is https://pharmanews.co.za/wp-login.php?redirect_to=https://pharmanews.co.za/ and for those colleagues that want to register the link is : <https://pharmanews.co.za/register/>.





55
YEARS



THANK YOU FOR VISITING SARCD AFRICA 2023!

WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR SARCD AFRICA 2023 STAND WINNERS

BEST STAND AWARD

MelCreations (D10 & 12)

GOLD EXCELLENCE

Dinaledi Creations (B08)

Ikhaya Africa Export (F02)

SILVER EXCELLENCE

Chapters Home Fragrance (F24a)

Jambo Imports & Exports (E01)

Mockana Trading (D05)

BRONZE EXCELLENCE

Basketly (D24,26 & 28)

Design by Q&A (C05)

Haylo Botanicals (G05)



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FRIDAY, 18 AUGUST | 09:00 - 16:00

Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand

TRADE ONLY





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The Editor reserves the right to amend punctuation or text for correctness, and to summarise where necessary.

We welcome all contributions and as space permits, these will be published.

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Hospital Pharmacy:	Shaista Nabee & Tshilidzi Shabangu
Industrial Pharmacy:	Thavashini Pather & Tammy Maitland-Stuart
Academic Pharmacy:	Prof Yahya Choonara & Muhammed Vally

Contact them through the Branch Office: Tel: 011 442 3615

The Editorial Board acknowledges, with thanks, the contributions made by the SA Association of Community Pharmacists (SAACP) Southern Gauteng Branch, to the production of this newsletter.

