

The Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa Young Pharmacists' Group

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The Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa's (PSSA) Young Pharmacists' Group (YPG) is comprised of a team of three Steering Committee (SC) members who are annually elected by young pharmacists and work towards helping young pharmacists transition from pharmacy students to active contributors of the society, and the world of pharmacy and healthcare.

The PSSA YPG is committed to a journey of evolution, inclusion and growing the Society, therefore in October 2023 a 25-member subcommittee was appointed to support the SC, therefore increasing the working capacity and reach of the PSSA YPG nationwide. From national sector liaisons, project leads and a media team, the PSSA YPG is readying itself for smoother and sustainable transitions between future Steering Committees.

The PSSA YPG also acts as a reliable source of pharmacy, Society and healthcare related information through its newsletters and South African Pharmaceutical Journal (SAPJ) contributions. These articles are carefully curated to attract the attention of, provide opportunities and resources, and inform young pharmacists and pharmacy students across the nation.

Visibility is an important factor in truly making a lasting impact on the lives of young pharmacists, therefore the YPG has prepared numerous value-adding webinars and events in collaboration with various sectors and branches of the PSSA, media houses, and external stakeholders such as universities and Department of Health pharmacist intern and community service pharmacist coordinators.

Mentorship is an important aspect of a young pharmacist's journey and although the Mentorship Programme has historically reaped many benefits and made a positive contribution to past mentees and mentors alike, the PSSA YPG has placed the programme under review until August 2024. To keep the spirit of mentorship alive, the PSSA YPG has designed an Interim Mentorship Programme that was launched on 20 February 2024 and will run until January 2025.

Lastly, the PSSA YPG is honoured to partake in the 82nd FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Cape Town from 1-4 September 2024. Young pharmacists, recent graduates, pharmacy students and pharmacist's assistants have a wonderful opportunity to attend the Congress at an affordable rate, with many exciting social and academic events that are tailored to their interests and value-add benefit.