

SASOM News

SASOM representation at the Department of Labour's Occupational Health Forum

On 15 February 2017, Prof. Daan Kocks, Chair of the South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM), attended the first meeting of the year of the Department of Labour's (DoL) Occupational Health Forum. At the Forum meeting, the DoL requested that SASOM and the South African Society for Occupational Health Nursing Practitioners (SASOHN) jointly develop a document on the requirements for occupational health services as a template for employers, to be used as the norm in industry. The first discussion between the two Societies for the development of the document will be held in March 2017.

SASOM Refresher 1 – registration as Occupational Medicine Practitioner or Specialist

SASOM would like to remind all professionals involved in the field of occupational health that in order to practice as an Occupational Medicine Practitioner or Occupational Medicine Specialist, a medical practitioner must register the applicable additional qualification (Post Graduate Diploma in Occupational Health/Medicine or Fellowship of the College of Public Health Medicine Division of Occupational Medicine of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa, respectively) with the Medical and Dental Professions Board of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

The registration of the diploma or specialist qualification should be done by an entry of the additional qualification in the register for medical practitioners. HPCSA application form 19 should be used for this purpose. This entry will be confirmed by the Board issuing a 'Certificate of Registration of Additional Qualification' to the practitioner. The entry is also recorded in the HPCSA i-Register. For diploma registration, the practice field remains 'medical practitioner' and the additional qualification is listed.

A separate application for specialist registration is then made by using HPCSA application form 21. After verification, the specialist registration is entered into the category of 'specialist' as 'occupational medicine'. The entry is also recorded in the HPCSA i-Register: the practice field is indicated as 'specialist'.

The entry into the HPCSA i-Register allows the public to verify that the practitioner is indeed registered and conforms to the legal definitions of occupational medicine/medical practitioner in the Occupational Health and Safety Act No. 85 of 1993, and the Mine Health and Safety Act No. 29 of 1996.

SASOM Refresher 2 – accessing OHSa articles electronically

SASOM members are reminded that their annual membership fee includes subscription to the *Occupational Health Southern Africa (OHSa)* journal (six issues per annum) – in both hard copy and online formats. OHSa is published online at www.occhealth.co.za and members will need to use their

personal log-ins in order to access the journal electronically. Please note that individual personal log-ins are allocated by OHSa, and you will need to contact the journal to request electronic access, even though you may already receive the hard copy version.

Please e-mail lauren@dbn.technews.co.za if you have any queries or require assistance.

Under development – another dimension to sister organisation collaboration

SASOM was the frontrunner in developing Continuing Educational Units (CEUs) for its members, through the CEU questionnaire that SASOM designs for each issue of the OHSa journal. Members are able to obtain CEUs by reading the journal articles, completing the questionnaire, and submitting it to SASOM.

At the last meeting in 2016 of the Editorial Board of OHSa, SAIOH and SASOHN Editorial Board members indicated a keen interest in using the same OHSa questionnaire for their members, for the purposes of obtaining CEUs, and for accreditation with their respective statutory organisations. SAIOH and SASOHN are in the process of developing procedures for the inclusion of their organisations into the OHSa CEU questionnaire system.

SASOM PROGRAMME 2017

SASOM 2017 Annual Congress

SASOM will hold its Annual Congress on 9 and 10 June 2017, at the Protea Hotel by Marriott, OR Tambo International Airport, in Kempton Park, Gauteng. The theme of the Congress is 'Challenges in Occupational Health: Doing right, at the right time'. The preliminary programme and registration form are available on the SASOM website www.sasom.org.za. SASOM is pleased to announce that the Congress will host the meeting of the Regional (African) National Secretaries of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH); ICOH Vice-President, Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang, who is responsible for the ICOH National Secretaries Portfolio, will be the invited international keynote presenter.

SASOM 2017 Annual General Meeting

The KwaZulu-Natal branch of SASOM will host the SASOM Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday 25 November 2017; venue to be advised.

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