



# SAIOH President's report

## Condolences

We start this report to members on a very sad note. It was with deepest regret that the Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH) learned of the untimely passing of Mr Robin Jones, long-time friend of occupational health and safety in South Africa, and Founding Member, Director, Councillor, President and Immediate Past-President of the South African Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Saiosh). Robin's sudden death leaves a huge void in the occupational health and safety community and allied professions in South Africa. His invaluable contribution to the ongoing improvement of the health and safety of our workforces over more than four decades is well recognised and much appreciated – our sincere thanks to Robin for his dedication, enthusiasm and perseverance in numerous health and safety activities and initiatives over many years. On behalf of SAIOH Council and members, we express our deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to Robin's family, friends and colleagues.

## SAIOH SPECIAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SAIOH held a Special Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 26 May 2017 at the Gijima Office in Kosmosdal, Samrand, in Gauteng. The main purpose was the presentation of SAIOH's financial statements for 2015 and 2016, particularly since the 2015 financial statements were not available for presentation at the 2016 SAIOH Annual Conference, as is the usual case. In a first for SAIOH, the AGM was broadcast as a webinar for those members who were not able to attend in person. The AGM was well attended, with 42 members present in person, and 31 members participating via webinar. The SAIOH Special AGM was opened by the SAIOH President, Kenneth Hlungwane, who introduced the presentations by the immediate Past-President, Jaco Pieterse, and the current SAIOH Vice President and Treasurer, Julie Hills, on the 2015 and 2016



**Approximately 70 SAIOH members participated in the SAIOH Special AGM, attending in person, or via webinar**

*Photograph: Claudina Nogueira*

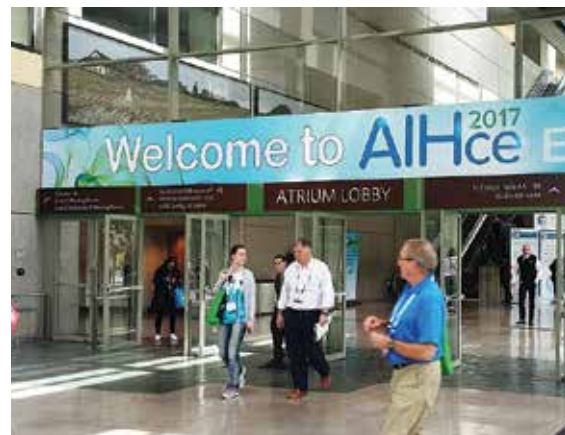
financials, the SAIOH Regional Structure, and the updating of the SAIOH Quality Management System (QMS) Manual. Kenneth Hlungwane took the opportunity to officially introduce Hennie van der Westhuizen, the newly elected SAIOH Council member who is responsible for the technical portfolio.

## SAIOH REPRESENTATION AT AIHce 2017

Peter-John (Jakes) Jacobs, SAIOH Council Member (co-opted) and SAIOH's representative to the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), of which he is a Board member, attended the recent IOHA Board Meeting in Seattle, Washington State, USA. Jakes also attended the Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA) Board Meeting; SAIOH has a working partnership with OHTA, which benefits the professional development of its members. Both meetings took place on 3 June 2017, with representatives from more than 15 member associations in attendance. The meetings were held in conjunction with AIHce 2017 – the Annual Conference and Exposition of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) with whom SAIOH has a Memorandum of Understanding. SAIOH continues to be an association that is called upon to play a prominent role internationally and, more specifically, in Africa, where a number of its members serve as occupational hygiene (OH) practitioners, improving workplace health. A detailed article will follow in a future issue of the *Occupational Health Southern Africa* journal – watch this space!

## REFRESHER: SAIOH AWARDS

Those members who have attended the Gala Dinner held as part of the SAIOH Annual Conferences will be aware that SAIOH presents several awards to deserving members who are nominated by their peers. These awards are important, as many past recipients will attest. The recognition and receipt of one of these awards opens many career doors and is a



**SAIOH was represented at the recent AIHce 2017, as well as the Board meetings of IOHA and OHTA, in Seattle, Washington State, USA**

*Photograph: Jakes Jacobs*

major boost for one's CV and professional development. The criteria for the various awards are detailed in the SAIOH QMS procedures, and a call for nominations with all related instructions and requirements is posted by SAIOH Administration several months prior to the conference.

In 2016, the number of nominations was exceptionally poor, with several categories receiving no nominations at all. SAIOH Council feedback identified that members find the detailed process time-consuming; hence, Council is currently addressing this issue by reviewing and simplifying the process. It is, however, important to gather sufficient information and evidence to allow the awards sub-committee to identify the most deserving recipient for each award.

The following categories are available for award each year:

**Honorary Fellow:** This is a purely status position and is based on peer acceptance. It is awarded only to persons who have worked as occupational hygienists for at least 15 years; have been registered with SAIOH as occupational hygienists (ROHs) for at least 10 years; and have made contributions to the advancement of the profession of OH.

**Occupational Hygienist of the Year:** This award is made in recognition of exceptional professional conduct and achievement as an occupational hygienist during the previous calendar year. The award consists of a certificate, recognising this achievement, and a monetary reward of ZAR 1 500.

**Occupational Hygiene Personality of the Year:** This award is made to any SAIOH member in recognition of noteworthy efforts made nationally and/or internationally to promote OH and/or SAIOH as an organisation during the previous calendar year. The award consists of a certificate, recognising this achievement, and a monetary reward of ZAR 1 500.

**Occupational Hygiene Student of the Year:** With this award, SAIOH aims to recognise outstanding efforts by OH students formally enrolled in designated programmes presented by tertiary institutions. The award also aims to recognise outstanding efforts by students enrolled for other vocational OH education and training courses on offer; this includes, but is not limited to, the OHTA module system. An award in each of the following two categories can be made annually: 1) **Tertiary Institution (TI) Student of the Year award** and, 2) **Vocational Education and Training (VE&T) Student of the Year award**. Each of the award recipients receives a certificate recognising him/her as SAIOH Student of the Year, a cash prize, and remittance of the following year's SAIOH Annual Conference registration fees. The cash prize for the TI Student of the Year is ZAR 1 500 and, for the VE&T Student of the Year, ZAR 1 000.

**Top Achiever of the Year awards (Assistant, Technologist and Hygienist):** SAIOH aims to recognise outstanding achievements by candidates who were assessed during the past/previous calendar year. The top achiever for each category receives a certificate in recognition of his/her accomplishment.

The SAIOH Awards are a wonderful opportunity for you to nominate and vote for your peers - the people you feel are making a difference in our profession.

## SAIOH REPRESENTATION AT THE NIOH'S WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK

The National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH) held a seminar on 30 May 2017 to commemorate the World Day for Safety and Health at Work (an International Labour Organization (ILO) initiative, held every year on 28 April). The theme of the seminar was 'Optimising the collection and use of occupational health and safety data'. Jaco van Rensburg represented both SAIOH and the Association for Occupational Hygiene Approved Inspection Authorities (OHAIA) by delivering a presentation titled 'AIAs and exposure data collection'. Deon Jansen van Vuuren attended the proceedings and represented SAIOH Council. Jaco's presentation gave a comprehensive overview of OH Approved Inspection Authorities (AIAs) - background, definitions, requirements, functions - with a special focus on OH data recording and the keeping of records. The two take-home messages from his presentation are worth sharing, as they are an excellent summary of OH data collection and recording:

1. Exposure data should be able to outlive the person that collected it, so it must be accurate and detailed enough to ensure that the result that they support will be able to withstand the 'acid test', even in the absence of the person that actually performed the measurements.
2. The motto is (or should be): 'It is impossible to collect too much data (when conducting an OH measurement) because, as with many other things in life, it is better to have too much and not need all of it, than to need it (to withstand the 'acid test') and not have enough'.

*Report by:*

*Kenneth Hlungwane, SAIOH President 2017*

*e-mail: saiohpresident@saioh.co.za*

*Julie Hills, SAIOH Vice President and Treasurer 2017*

*e-mail: julieh@saioh.co.za*

*Kate Smart, SAIOH Chief Administrative Officer*

*e-mail: info@saioh.co.za*

*Jakes Jacobs, SAIOH Council Member (co-opted)*

*e-mail: pjjacobs@lantic.net*

*Deon Jansen van Vuuren, SAIOH Council Member*

*(co-opted)*

*e-mail: Deon.JansenvanVuuren3@gijima.com*

*Claudina Nogueira, SAIOH Council Member*

*Portfolios: Liaison and Communication & Marketing*

*e-mail: claudinan@saioh.co.za*