

SASOM news



From L to R: Ms Claudina Nogueira (SASOM and SAIOH), Mr Deon Jansen van Vuuren (SAIOH), Ms Angie Butkovic (SASOHN), Dr Thomas Fuller (guest presenter from the USA), Ms Karen Michell (SASOHN), Dr Jenny Sapire (SASOM Secretary), Prof. Daan Kocks (SASOM Chair), Ms Milly Ruiters (DoL), and Ms Alta Kruger (SASOHN)

Photograph: Duschanka Hitzeroth

Occupational health practitioners have benefitted from the number of SASOM academic meetings and seminars in recent months.

First, the Wits School of Public Health hosted a seminar on 17 July 2017 with two presentations by Dr Thomas Fuller, an Associate Professor of the Safety Programme of Illinois State University, USA. The event was supported by the Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH), the South African Society of Occupational Health Nursing Practitioners (SASOHN), and the South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM). SAIOH and SASOM sponsored the snacks and lunch that was served to the 80 delegates after the event.

For a comprehensive report on this seminar, access the *Occupational Health Southern Africa* website (www.occhealth.co.za).

Dr Fuller's first presentation, entitled 'Global issues in occupational safety and health', highlighted the need for qualified occupational safety and health practitioners to address the growing challenges of survival and sustainability of enterprises and of nations. In his second presentation, 'Innovations in industrial hygiene approaches to infection control', he discussed new methods of air and surface monitoring, advances in personal protective devices, and improvements in hospital ventilation. Go to the link <http://www.sasom.org/2017/07/17/industrial-hygiene-innovations-in-infection-control/> in the SASOM website to access this presentation.

The programme was accredited with two clinical continuing professional development (CPD) points by the South African Medical Association (SAMA), and CPD certificates were issued to the delegates.

Second, Dr CL Carstens, Chairman of the SASOM Port Elizabeth Branch, arranged an academic evening on 1 August 2017. The programme included a presentation on the 'Baobab Process' which is an outpatient alternative to substance abuse treatment, by Mr Konrad van Staden, and was accredited for one Clinical CPD point. We thank Sulene Nel who sponsored the event.

Third, on 16 August 2017, an academic meeting preceded the SASOM Northern Cape Annual General Meeting at the

Red Sands Lodge near Kuruman. In the academic programme, Prof. Daan Kocks discussed occupational health services as defined by SASOM and SASOHN, while Prof. Gill Nelson explained the pitfalls of plagiarism and how and why to avoid it. Dr Michel Muteba reported on trends in mesothelioma deaths gained from four different data repositories in South Africa for the period 2003-2013. Last, Dr Jim teWaterNaudé explained the reading of digital chest X-rays and how these differ from analogue readings. SAMA awarded two clinical CPD points to the attendees.

SASOM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

The SASOM Annual General Meeting will take place on 25 November 2017 at the Coastlands Hotel in Umhlanga. The AGM will be preceded by an interesting conference organised by the SASOM KwaZulu-Natal Chapter. The preliminary programme includes presentations on:

- Challenges of workplace absenteeism, by ICAS.
- Management of absenteeism and 'sick certificates', by Dr Jan Lapere (SASOM).
- Fitness to work with food allergens, by Prof. Mohamed Jeebhay (UCT).
- Greener workplaces for a greener environment, by Dr Sophia Kisting (NIOH).
- Key issues on the design and implementation of a substance abuse programme, by Dr Greg Kew (SASOM).
- Update on the Compensation Fund and the latest legislative changes by the Department of Labour, by Ms Milly Ruiters.
- The updated SASOM Guideline on Medical Requirements for Fitness to Drive, by Dr Greg Kew.

SASOM will apply for accreditation of six clinical and two ethics CPD points for the conference programme.

SASOM appreciates the contribution to the report by

Ms Claudina Nogueira.

Report by:

Jenny Acutt

SASOM National Office

e-mail: info@sasom.org