

SAIOH president's address

Hennie van der Westhuizen: SAIOH president
e-mail: president@saioh.co.za



Hennie van der Westhuizen holds an MSc Occupational Hygiene: University of Greenwich, and a PhD Environmental Health (Occupational Hygiene): Catholic University of Leuven and CPUT

Photograph: courtesy of SAIOH

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As the incoming president of SAIOH from January 2021, I stepped into the big shoes of Norman Khoza. Fortunately, Norman's personality and skills will not be lost to us as he will continue to serve on the SAIOH National Council in the position of the immediate past president. A change in the SAIOH constitution, which was ratified at the annual general meeting in 2020, now specifies a two-year term of office for presidents, from 2021. Therefore, my tenure, and those of my fellow Council members (see Table 1), will be for two years. I look forward to serving with them to focus our experience, knowledge, and skills towards growing and strengthening SAIOH, and serving our members and our profession.

COVID-19 negatively affected the attainment of some goals set for 2020 and the future remains uncertain. However, planning, backed by contingency planning, is being put into place to address the affected issues, such as marketing and the Annual National Conference. A face-to-face scientific conference is planned for October this year (in Cape Town) and, in addition, regional workshops/seminars are being considered. More information regarding these events will be disseminated through the course of the year.

Operational matters will be dealt with in the usual manner. The only difference is that there is a shift towards the electronic execution of activities, where possible. Matters on the horizon that require mentioning are the finalisation of the improved oral examination procedures and the fine-tuning of the quality management system.

Occupational hygiene is an integral part of the interdisciplinary specialist team in occupational health and safety (OHS), locally and internationally. SAIOH champions occupational hygiene and supports the combined OHS effort by honouring, liaising with, and entering into memorandums of agreement with bodies that represent the various disciplines. Credit needs to go to our members, as their professional conduct puts the stamp on the principles that SAIOH advocates.

Throughout all our operations, the administrative staff are key to the success of our endeavours. We thank and honour them for their integrity, loyalty, and dedication.

As we venture into the new year, with as many possibilities as there are challenges, I know that we, as the occupational hygiene community, will persist and strive to protect our fellow workers and communities.

Table 1. SAIOH National Council and key management, 2021

Title	Name	Portfolio position	Email address
Dr	Hennie van der Westhuizen	President	Hennievwest@gmail.com
Mr	Norman Khoza	Past president	NormanK@nepad.org
Ms	Naadiya Nadasen	Vice president	naadiya@apexenviro.co.za
Ms	Karen du Preez	PCC chair	KarenD@nioh.ac.za
Mr	Andrew Dickson	PCC vice chair	andrewd@geoenv.co.za
Mr	Nico Potgieter	Council member (marketing and communications)	n.potgieter@dundeeprecious.com
Mr	Deon Swanepoel	Council member (technical)	deon@d-oh.co.za
Mr	Moses Mokone	Council member (branches)	MosesM@nioh.ac.za
Prof.	Cas Badenhorst	Co-opted member	cas.badenhorst@angloamerican.com
Mr	Jaco Pieterse	Co-opted member	Jaco.Pieterse@gjjima.com
Mr	Deon Jansen van Vuuren	General manager	deon.jvvuuren@gmail.com
Ms	Kate Smart	Chief administrative officer	info@saioh.co.za
Ms	Lee Doolan	PCC administrator	lee@saioh.co.za

SAIOH STRATEGY

Nico Potgieter: SAIOH marketing and communication
e-mail: n.potgieter@dundeepriceless.com

Following the SAIOH Council's strategic workshops and input from members, we look forward to implementing the short-/medium-term strategy. Strategic objectives include:

- to maintain and ensure SAIOH's relevance in creating workplaces free of health risks, in the African context;
- to embrace the application and use of 4IR and digital technologies in occupational hygiene practice;
- to preserve professionalism and ethical professional practice amongst occupational hygiene practitioners;
- to develop and build the SAIOH brand in the African context, locally and abroad;
- to contribute to improving training and continuous development of the occupational hygiene profession in the African context;
- to provide and maintain good governance and administrative practices within SAIOH.

SAIOH ACTIVITIES

Nico Potgieter: SAIOH marketing and communication
e-mail: n.potgieter@dundeepriceless.com

Kate Smart: SAIOH chief administrative officer
e-mail: info@saioh.co.za

SAIOH webinars and conferences

Based on the successful webinars in 2020, SAIOH will again host webinars on topical and technical aspects during 2021. Dates and topics will be communicated to members, using the relevant platforms. Members can look forward to virtual mini-conferences this year, which will be hosted by the various SAIOH branches. Keep an eye open for communications from SAIOH or your branch chair. COVID-19 permitting, SAIOH will host its annual scientific conference from 26 to 29 October 2021, in Cape Town. Venues, topics, and presenters will be confirmed as arrangements are made and will be communicated to our members. We wish the organising committee well in this endeavour!

We welcome inputs

The SAIOH Council invites ideas and suggestions on topics for the upcoming webinars, regional conference, and annual conference. If you have any suggestions or contributions in this regard, please e-mail them to our president at president@saioh.co.za or to the chief administrative officer at info@saioh.co.za.

Council activities

Council members are eager to start their work with renewed energy, following the holiday period. Please refer to important SAIOH Council and Management Board dates in Table 2.

For 2021, some of the following key initiatives will be driven:

- ethics training and awareness webinars;
- more position and technical papers;
- revamping of the SAIOH website to make it more interactive; and
- marketing of SAIOH and occupational hygiene to schools and universities.

Table 2. SAIOH National Council and Management Board meetings, 2021

Date	Meeting
28 January	SAIOH Management Board meeting
11 February	SAIOH strategy meeting
19 February	SAIOH Council meeting
15 March	SAIOH Management Board meeting
12 April	SAIOH Management Board meeting
07 May	SAIOH Council meeting
07 June	SAIOH Management Board meeting
26 July	SAIOH Management Board meeting
20 August	SAIOH Council meeting
13 September	SAIOH Management Board meeting
4 October	SAIOH Management Board meeting
8 November	SAIOH Management Board meeting
30 November	SAIOH Council meeting

SAIOH will continue liaising with its sister organisations, governmental departments, and other key stakeholders to further the occupational hygiene profession. SAIOH will furthermore continue to explore novel ways, and improve existing means, to add value to its members.

Make your mark

The SAIOH Council invites topics from its members, and the establishment of working groups for technical papers. If you have any suggestions or contributions in this regard, please e-mail them to our president at president@saioh.co.za or to the chief administrative officer at info@saioh.co.za.

The SAIOH fees for 2021, by category, are listed in Table 3.

FROM THE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE (PCC)

Lee Doolan: SAIOH PCC administrator
e-mail: lee@saioh.co.za

SAIOH PCC registration assessment and meeting dates, 2021

We urge all prospective members, as well as current members wishing to attain certification at the next level, to familiarise themselves with the assessment dates in Table 4. For all assessment matters, please visit the SAIOH website (www.saioh.co.za) or contact Lee Doolan, PCC administrator, at lee@saioh.co.za.

The 2021 certification assessment and PCC meeting dates are also available on the SAIOH website (www.saioh.co.za), or on request from the PCC administration.

ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES, 2020

Deon Jansen van Vuuren: SAIOH general manager
e-mail: deon.jvvuuren@gmail.com

The PCC completed three certification assessments in 2020. After the first quarter's written assessments, using SAIOH facilities, the final two written assessment sessions were completed online. All oral assessments were held via virtual platforms. In 2021, all assessments will be

Table 3. SAIOH assessment, membership, and other fees, 2021

SAIOH Fees	Excluding VAT	Including VAT
Membership		
Certified member	1 832.30	2 107.15
Non-certified member	1 099.38	1 264.29
Pro rata: July–Dec 2021	916.15	1 053.57
Pro rata: Nov–Dec 2021	305.38	351.19
Organisational member	3 118.50	3 586.28
RTP		
Application	1 969.23	2 264.62
Renewal	623.70	717.26
W201 course: assessment	924.00	1 062.60
Certification		
Application fee	383.91	441.49
Assessment fee: OH assistant (W201)	924.00	1 062.60
Assessment fee: technologist/hygienist	1 050.20	1 207.73
Student application and assessment	661.31	760.51
Re-mark/one-on-one review	668.62	768.91
Advertising		
SAIOH e-mail system*	374.15	430.27

* for advertisements/notifications sent via the SAIOH e-mail system

RTP: recognised training provider; W201: Fundamentals of Occupational Hygiene module

Table 4. Important PCC dates, 2021

Assessment/ Meeting	Payment deadline		
	Applications and evaluations	Assessments	Assessment date
Written assessment	29 January	19 February	12 March
PCC ExCo meeting	26 March		
PCC meeting/oral assessment	23 April		
Written assessment	14 May	04 June	25 June
PCC ExCo meeting	02 July		
PCC meeting/oral assessment	30 July		
Written assessment	06 August	27 August	17 September
PCC ExCo meeting	01 October		
PCC meeting/oral assessment	15 October		
Written assessment (universities)	1–30 November		

online until conditions allow otherwise. A lot of time and energy was spent on developing the online electronic written assessments, including ironing out some glitches, and making access and usage easier. The team working on the new oral assessment formats is making progress and should reach the halfway mark early in 2021.

2020 assessment statistics

The number of written assessments for registered occupational hygiene assistants (ROHAs) was exceptionally low for 2020, down 40% from 2019. However, the numbers of assessments for registered occupational hygiene technologists (ROHTs) and registered occupational hygienists (ROHs) were higher than in 2019. Regrettably, the ROH written and oral assessment pass rates were again low (lower than in 2019), but the ROHT written and oral assessment pass rates improved from 2019.

Table 5 summarises the results for written oral and final assessments. The column 'Oral assessment' results are also the final

assessment outcomes, and these members will now be certified at the respective levels. The ROHAs do not do oral assessments, and the ROHTs and ROHs must pass the written assessment (65% and 70%, respectively) before being allowed to do the final/oral assessments (the same pass rates are required). All ROHA assessments now comprise of the Occupational Hygiene Training Association's (OHTA's) W201 (Fundamentals of Occupational Hygiene module) questionnaires.

We congratulate all our members who passed their assessments and wish them the best in their professional development journey! All the candidates who passed were certified and registered at the respective levels, as per the SAIOH PCC established processes. We encourage those who did not pass to persevere and to seek mentors through SAIOH's mentorship programme to assist them in their development. Lee Doolan, the PCC administrator, can be contacted in this regard.

Table 5. Written and oral assessment results, as of December 2020

Certification category	Written assessment				Oral assessment					
	Assessed	Passed	Failed	Pass rate %	Assessed	Passed	Failed	Pass rate %		
	n	n	n		n	n	n			
		2020		2019		2020		2019		
Occupational hygiene assistant*	150	111	39	74	88	ROHAs do not do oral assessments				
Occupational hygiene technologist (ROHT)	49	31	18	63	58	41	27	14	66	58
Occupational hygienist (ROH)	45	15	30	33	54	16	12	4	75	88
Total	244	157	87	64	81	207	150	57	73	84

* includes members writing OHTA W201 exams through the RTPs (ROHA)

OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE SKILLS FORUM

Deon Jansen van Vuuren: SAIOH general manager
e-mail: deon.jvvuuren@gmail.com

The Occupational Hygiene Skills Forum (OHSF), a sub-committee of the PCC, was busy in the latter part of 2020. Activities included:

- developing the application (requirements and forms) and the evaluation (criteria and matrix) for training organisations that wish to become SAIOH recognised training providers (RTPs) in any occupational hygiene skill set or course; and
- developing criteria and formats for the evaluation of the tertiary institutions' occupational hygiene qualifications (meeting the PCC's 50% occupational hygiene content requirement).

As soon as the above activities are completed, they will be incorporated into the SAIOH quality management system (QMS) and be available on the SAIOH website (www.saioh.co.za).

HAVE YOUR SAY

The SAIOH Council invites and welcomes your feedback on how this communication is helping you as a SAIOH member, and what we can do to improve our service delivery. If you have any suggestions, inputs or contributions, please e-mail them to our president at President@saioh.co.za or to the chief administrative officer at info@saioh.co.za.