



Dear Colleagues

Year-end again, would you believe, and time to thank all our ASAIPA members for their continued support – 2022 presented unprecedented challenges to GPs and general practice as a whole.

The year, of course, started with a carry-over of COVID dominating our practice concerns and again, personally and on behalf of ASAIPA, we express our condolences to colleagues and their families who have lost loved ones during this very trying period. We also appreciate the tremendous effort members have put in to caring for their patients.

A big thank you to our ASAIPA office staff, namely Tanya, Charmaine, Nellie and Charl, for the diligent manner in which they deal with all our member practice issues with care and determination. Mention must also be made of the tremendous effort they put into organizing the IPAF “GPs in Danger of Becoming Extinct” roadshows in Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg and Pretoria in September.

As detailed in our last ASAIPA News4U, PIMART (Pharmacy-Initiated Management of Antiretroviral Therapy) was very much in focus in our roadshows as we continue to support IPAF’s legal action against this threat to our autonomy as GPs. ASAIPA strongly believes that the expansion of the scope of practice and amendments to the Act is unlawful.

ASAIPA’s Legal department formally

- Requested a review of the PIMART board notices
- Objected to the 13% increase the HPCSA imposed on its Registration Fees for Medical Practitioners
- Submitted extensive comments to the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) on the Low-Cost Benefit Option Framework Report and Risk Assessment & Roadmap
- Supported Solidarity’s case against the DOH on the controversial Certificate of Need legislation. We at ASAIPA were well satisfied with the Pretoria High Court’s decision and can confirm that the Recession Application of the Minister has been postponed sine die, pending the finalisation of the directive issued by the Constitutional Court.

New Exciting developments on the home front

- ASAIPA has been appointed as an official HPCSA CPD accreditor
- ASAIPA Mediation Helpdesk to provide legal assistance to all members
- Formation of our ASAIPA Charity Foundation with the main objective being giving back to the community – “striving to uplift the well-being of the most vulnerable and marginalised communities throughout South Africa”. The first fundraising event was an ASAIPA Charity Foundation Golf Day held at the Pretoria Country Club with the first benefactor being the Sebokeng Hospital Ophthalmology Unit to assist with its Gift of Sight initiative. We thank you all our sponsors involved with the project.

ASAIPA is also proud of our Exco Team and Chairperson who, as has become their custom, dutifully represented us on all key and relevant national forums during the course of the year. We must make use of this opportunity once again to congratulate our NMA 2022 recipients, to recognise and honour you for your hard work and dedication in maintaining and elevating the standards of our country's medical care.

ASAIPA promise to build on our commitment to take care of our individual doctors who diligently provide healthcare in their communities. Your daily efforts and dedication drive us in ASAIPA.

ASAIPA wishes you and your families well over the Festive Season – a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Kind regards,

Dr. Unben Pillay
ASAIPA CEO