The best presenter in the following categories will be awarded:

- **Scenario presentations:** Formal 10-minutes presentation, with a further five minutes allowed for questions from the floor. A scenario could involve an in-depth study of a specific real-world event or a particular problem encountered and solved in a clinical or practice-related environment. Scenario presentations should illustrate a good understanding of why the event happened or the problem occurred. It should highlight concerns arising from the scenario that would require further investigation or how the problem can be solved.

- **Pearl presentations:** “Pearls” are the “fun” way of presenting serious topics. They are short presentations of five minutes’ duration with a different slant. Just as a pearl has intrinsic value, these presentations should be about something that is exceptional, precious and generally not well known. The presentation should convey a useful, punchy message that has not been widely published or taught. The ideas can come from any practice setting, i.e. clinical, administrative, pharmaceutical care, quality improvements, etc. Although both a title and an abstract are required to be submitted for the selection process, only the title will be published in the conference programme, so as to preserve the essence of the pearl presentation.

**Awards**

The best presenter in the following categories will be awarded:

- Best podium presentation by a practising hospital or institutional pharmacist
- Best poster presentation by a practising hospital or institutional pharmacist
- Best scenario presentation by a practising hospital or institutional pharmacist
- Best podium or poster presentation by an academic pharmacist

Only paid-up SAAHIP members will qualify for awards. Award winners at the previous two conferences and members of the judging panel will not be eligible for an award.

**Abstract Submission**

Abstracts must be submitted electronically via Easy Chair. Use the following web page to submit your abstract:

https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=saahip2012

For further information contact the organisers at: saahip2012@easychair.org

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Abstract submission deadline: 10 October 2011

Notification of acceptance or rejection from the Academic Committee: 14 November 2011

**Wottrimay Unity**

Thanushya Pillaye,
President: SAAHIP

How fortunate are we to enjoy the life we have. If you are reading this, you are probably more fortunate than most. I find myself writing this column at the time that the world joins South Africa in wishing Nelson Mandela a happy 93rd birthday. However you look at it, whatever your political affiliation and your opinions may be, South Africa is a better place for all previously disadvantaged population groups. And for this, we are grateful to Nelson Mandela and the like.

Transformation has been a priority for the Pharmaceutical Society for a while now, which our sector SAAHIP has embraced wholeheartedly. SAAHIP is the most progressive sector and can boast the first female president, the first black president as well as the first PSSA President who is female, black and a SAAHIP member.

The transformation process in SAAHIP came about as a result of the broad transformation process taking place in South African society at that time in our history. As November Nkambule, our immediate past president is fond of saying, our members must see themselves in the executive committee. The advantages of this are that we have an executive committee which members and pharmacists in general can relate to, and when we make representation to the general public, the department of health and the media, we are seen as being truly representative of the demographics of our membership as well as South African society at large.

However, the election of female and black presidents does not a transformation process complete.

We need capable, energetic, enthusiastic (read young) members and pharmacists to take up positions at branch level, starting at “junior” positions like facilitating CPDs and tackling membership, so that they can be groomed to assume the responsibilities of branch secretary, or perhaps treasurer, before being elected as branch vice chairperson with a view to being elected branch chairperson. Wait a year or two between each portfolio so that the process is gradual and steady.

Identify these bright shining stars in your branch, coax and entice them with enthralling and relevant CPD functions. Task them with responsibilities. Encourage them to serve on your branch committees and when they are not looking, nominate them for vice chair. Usually, this is the point of no turning back! Look at where it got me…

As important as it is for young pharmacists to step up and accept responsibility, it is equally important that our older members who have served the Society and Association well for years, step back, although this should be only after ensuring that their younger colleagues have confident and capable control of the reins.