



## SACNASP Newsletter 3/2016

# November 2016

Dear Registered Natural Scientist, welcome to warm South African summer! The sun is out, the trees are green and the Jacarandas are in full bloom here in Pretoria but sadly we are faced nationally with a crisis due to the low rainfalls. We of course need to do all we can to not only conserve water but also to inform our communities and constituencies on the best methods to do so. We also have a duty, as the scientific leadership of this country, to assist and lead at this time when our nation needs it.

This newsletter will cover a research colloquium that SACNASP was invited to attend, a brief introduction to one of our Voluntary Associations, a sad memorial to one of our PAC Chairpersons and lastly some good news from the registration department.

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# Research Colloquium on Skills Planning

SACNASP, in conjunction with the Department of Science and Technology attended the Research Colloquium on Skills Planning hosted by the Department of Higher Education and Training. The event was hosted over two days at the end of September and was attended by stakeholders in the higher education sector. They discussed some of the challenges faced by South Africa in terms of availability of skills. The topics covered by experts in the field and areas of focus were: Skills planning from a labour market perspective, reskilling and workforce development, forecasting and planning. From a SACNASP perspective, the issues of soft skills and continuous professional development came through as critical in terms of ensuring an adequately skilled workforce. What made the Colloquium very successful, was that the organisers allowed adequate time for discussion. One highlight of the Colloquium was the release of a publication entitled "Skills Supply and Demand in South Africa". This initiative was a joint exercise by the Labour Market Intelligence Partnership which, for this report, consisted of the Department of Higher Education and Training, the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and University of Cape Town. The report provides "a holistic understanding of the current supply and demand for skills in South Africa, and represents one of the first attempts to analyse how the two interact to inform future skills policy to support an inclusive economic growth path." It is an excellent read for those involved in academia and management. The report can be downloaded from the HSRC website at <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/research-data/view/8254>

## Introduction to Voluntary Associations

SACNASP will in future, publish a small article on the Voluntary Associations aligned to us. There are currently 42 voluntary associations aligned to us representing the 24 fields of practice. The aim in publishing is to inform the registered scientists about the VAs that are out there, a bit about their history and what constituency they represent. This is to act as information and also create opportunities for networking. This information is drawn from the reports they submitted to SACNASP earlier this year. We will cover them in alphabetical order of one per newsletter. Firstly -

### **The Anatomical Society of Southern Africa:**

Founded in 1967, this society "brings together scientist and students in the areas of morphological anatomy, histology/cell biology and biological anthropology. ASSA members are also involved in clinical anatomy, embryology and developmental biology, imaging, cell biology, genetics, histology, neuroscience, forensics, microscopy, anthropology, movement science and numerous other exciting and developing areas. Anatomy is an essential part of health professionals and the society has 188 members drawn mostly from local academics and medical professionals but has members from as far afield as USA, UK and Australia. The society promotes excellence in research and education through its annual meetings, website and list servers. Membership of the society is open to anatomists and others with an interest in this field. Those interested in joining or getting involved can contact the Society via its website [www.anatomysa.co.za](http://www.anatomysa.co.za) for further information. (Adapted with special thanks from the VA report authored by Prof M. Steyn)

## In Memorial - Mr Ray Maloka



It is with great sadness that SACNASP wishes to inform you of the passing of Mr Ray Maloka. Mr Maloka was the Chairperson of the Professional Advisory Committee for Geological Science and was a member of the Registration Committee of SACNASP. He was a professionally registered scientist for 20 years and also sat on the SACNASP Council from 2009 to 2015. He was also a member of the Council of the Geological Society of South Africa at the time of his passing. He is survived by his wife Priscilla, son Tumelo and daughter Refilwe. The SACNASP Council would like to pass its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Maloka

## From the Office of the Registration Manager

The Registrations Department is very happy to announce that SACNASP has crossed the 10 000 registered scientists mark! After processing the results of the previous Registrations Committee Meeting we now have a total of 10 251 registered scientists on our database. Since the end of 2013 this number has increased by 48%. SACNASP would like to express its appreciation for all involved with the registration process. This includes applicants submitting all documents timeously, registered scientists acting as referees, evaluations done by all Committee Members and the SACNASP Administrative Team. Thanks to these continuous efforts, SACNASP is now representing a substantial number of the South African Scientific Community.

In an effort to further improve the turnaround time for finalising registrations, SACNASP is currently upgrading the system to a more automated process. This will entail automatic e-mails, reminders and updates being sent out to pending applicants and their referees. The onus however lies with the new or upgrading applicants to follow-up on any outstanding documentation.

An additional field of practice, Atmospheric Sciences, has been approved by the Minister of Science and Technology, the Hon. Naledi Pandor. SACNASP is in the process of establishing a new Professional Advisory Committee and its specific requirements together with the National Association for Clean Air. All relevant information will be published on the SACNASP website as soon as the requirements have been finalised. This brings the total number of SACNASP fields of practice to 24.

Finally, application Requirements (and Procedures) can be obtained directly from the SACNASP office or by accessing the SACNASP website.

Digital certificates can be obtained from [spitso@sacnasp.org.za](mailto:spitso@sacnasp.org.za)

For further information on documents required and the submission process, please contact the SACNASP offices on: +27 (0) 12 748 6500 or [www.SACNASP.org.za](http://www.SACNASP.org.za)

# From the Office of the Finance Manager

A note to those registered scientists who have not as yet paid their annual fees: Please pay urgently as this was due earlier this year. A further note to those registered scientists with long outstanding annual fees: The office is going to very soon start deregistering you. These letters will be going out at the end of November and deregistration will be effective 1st December 2016. This will result in you being removed from the SACNASP database as a registered scientist which will result in you not being able to practice or consult legally or participate in the Continuous Professional Development programme. If you have any enquiries, please contact the office.

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