

Through the year we have continued to be challenged by several further developments. Many of the issues tackled are on-going but there have been some notable achievements.

1. **HPCSA Fees:** Together with other groups, SAPPF successfully challenged the planned fee increase for 2022 and in terms of the PAIA (Promotion of Access to Information Act), obtained the HPCSA financials and minutes of meetings to determine whether due process had been followed. We continue to call for the unbundling of the Medical & Dental Board.
2. **Discovery Health Forensic Processes:** SAPPF participated in a comprehensive review of Discovery Health's forensic processes, issuing a final report in March 2022. This has contributed to a significant change in the scheme's approach to Fraud, Waste and Abuse (FWA) investigations.
3. **Criminalisation of Healthcare Practitioners:** SAPPF has extensively participated in discussions following the arrest of more than one healthcare practitioner on a charge of murder as a consequence of an adverse outcome following treatment. The definitions of culpable homicide and murder as they relate to medical practice are being vigorously interrogated. Significant law reform is needed in this country. The SA Law Reform Commission has been specifically requested to address this and SAPPF is participating in the process that is required to institute a full enquiry. SAPPF, SASA, FOSAS and other groups are once again collaborating on letters to the Ministers of Justice and Health, seeking a meeting with the NPA, engaging with the National Department of Health to put pressure on NPA and SAPS and generally keeping our colleagues well informed.
4. **COIDA:** In 2022 SAPPF has engaged extensively with the Minister of Employment and Labour, the Commissioner and Medscheme, the appointed administrators of the Fund. We objected to the 0% increase for this year and the arbitrary deletion of large numbers of codes. The deleted codes will now be reactivated. SAPPF participated in fee negotiations for 2023/2024 in August 2022.
5. **SA Law Reform Commission:** SAPPF submitted a comprehensive report to the SA Law Reform Commission on Discussion Paper 154 which focusses on Medico-legal Claims.
6. **Netcare Electronic Medical Records (EMR):** Largely in response to complaints from members we had very useful discussions with Netcare concerning the introduction and implementation of their Care On system.
7. **Doctor-led Corporatisation of Healthcare:** SAPPF has initiated discussions around possible models of doctor-led corporatisation of private healthcare to keep doctors in the driving seat in the future. This work stream will develop strategies to allow a move out of a solo practice structure into group practices. It will also explore remuneration options other than fee for service. Data collection and outcomes monitoring is critically important in these models.

8. **BHF application for Competition Act exemption:** In May 2022 the BHF applied for the second time for an exemption from the Competition Act to enable them to set a Scale of Benefits, exert downward pressure on the prices of healthcare services, determine what tariffs are reasonable, negotiate collectively with representative associations and allow collaborations on healthcare technology assessments. SAPPF lodged a comprehensive submission opposing this on 30 June 2022.
9. **IPAF application for Competition Act exemption:** In August, SAPPF made a submission supporting the Independent Practitioners Association Foundation.
10. **Discovery Health Hospital Rating System:** We have engaged extensively with Discovery Health expressing numerous reservations. We remain concerned regarding potential collateral damage to specialists and believe that too few metrics were included to arrive at proper conclusions regarding the quality of hospitals. Although we were unable to prevent the final publication on the Discovery website, we managed to significantly influence the way in which Discovery conducted the launch and communicated the system to its members
11. **‘Early Career Orientation to Private Practice’ course:** In conjunction with Discovery Health, we are facilitating the development of courses aimed at equipping young specialists for a career in private practice. A 3-evening webinar was presented to Surgicom members in November.
12. **NHI Discussions.** Following the SAPPF submission to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Health in 2019, we have continued to participate in the process through the Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) Health Policy Committee.
13. **Outcomes Measurements:** SAPPF has taken up a seat on the board of Health Quality Assessment (HQA) to assist in the further development of outcomes measurement and in 2022 participated in the start of a prostate cancer outcomes registry.
14. **Isoleso submission to the CMS on LCBO:** The SAPPF submission supported the inclusion of optometry as part of the benefit schedule for low-cost benefit options.
15. **Engagement with healthcare professional groups:** We maintain relationships with SAMA and other groups and have established ourselves as meaningful and worthy participants in various collaborative efforts. During 2022 we have collaborated with the South African Dental Association, the Chiropractic Society, SASA, ASAIPA, UFFP, IPAF and others. Since August 2022 SAPPF initiated and has been leading a monthly meeting with the clinical leads of the various hospital groups. These meetings are attended by a wide representation of healthcare professional groups representing many specialist disciplines.
16. **Membership:** In 2022 we welcomed the Audiology Private Practice Forum (APPF) as members of SAPPF. Despite the success of 2022 and the ongoing serious attempts at providing effective communication to members, both in newsletters and

by the CEO and Chairperson speaking at the conferences and or Exco meetings of every single membership group, we have had member groups resigning from SAPPF. The only reason given is the cost of SAPPF membership. In 2022 the Neurology Association of South Africa (NASA), the Dermatology Society of South Africa (DSSA) and the Gynaecology Management Group (GMG) have resigned their membership as of 31 December 2022. We have approached the South African Orthopaedic Association to join as members but they have declined.

There is no doubt that much of this work will continue in 2023 and we will be faced with new challenges and opportunities. Please be assured of our unwavering commitment to representing you, our members.