

## **PBACMU Chairperson's Report: November 2016**

### **1.Election of Office bearers: November 2015**

The following members were elected:

Dr Anette Saaiman, Chairperson

Dr Andre Sorger, Vice-Chairperson.

### **General /Overview**

PBACMU had an eventful 2016 starting with welcoming our newly appointed community representative in May 2016. (Ms Helen (Linky) Molatoli).

Education matters were at the forefront of matters for PBACMU during 2016 with the external institutional review of UWC as the most prominent issue. The training of Naturopaths in acupuncture was (and still is) one of the hot debating points for PBACMU. We are eagerly awaiting Council's decision on this serious matter.

This year also saw various issues being addressed such as the new legislation (Amended Medicines and Related Substance Amendment Act 2013) regarding the MCC and the scheduling of our various herbs, minerals, etc. that we prescribe to our patients on a daily basis. Very important work was done by PBACMU in this regard.

PBACMU also attended to matters regarding the CMS and medical scheme benefits for our patients. The Chairperson PBACMU attended meetings on behalf of the AHPCSA at the CMS together with the Registrar and Dr Danny Pillay (who made the presentations) to make a start at addressing this issue.

PBACMU Chairperson also had the opportunity to attend the Competition Commission hearings on behalf of the AHPCSA in Cape Town during February 2016. A presentation was made on behalf of the AHPCSA by Dr Danny Pillay. During this meeting the inequalities and unfair treatment towards complementary medicine practitioners by medical aid schemes were laid bare to the Commission.

PBACMU also attended to other issues such as the completion of a Corporate and Governance Questionnaire, as well as the adjustment of the strategic plan of NDoH . Worth noticing in this regard is that the AHPCSA is required to adapt its own strategic plan to that of the NDoH.

PBACMU strived to make it a meaningful year in addressing issues relating to the professions that fall under its wing.

### **Council Matters**

A new Declaration of interest form was created to streamline the process for Council and Professional Board meetings.

The AHPCSA created a new website that is a lot more user friendly and is a welcome improvement.

The AHPCSA attended to the election of new office bearers for Council members during February 2016. Nominations were received and Dr Wagheda Cassiem was duly elected as the new Councillor for PBACMU. PBACMU congratulates our new Councillor and wish her all of the best for her term.

### **Education Matters**

The most pressing issue this year was the long awaited external review of UWC.

The professions of Chinese Medicine, Acupuncture and Unani-Tibb are represented by PBACMU. These professions are taught at UWC. Members of this Board, namely Dr Joy Saville for Unani-Tibb and Dr Anette Saaiman for Acupuncture and Chinese medicine, represented the interests of these specific professions during the review. The clinics of both Mitchells Plain as well as the University Campus Clinic were visited. Interviews were conducted with personnel as well as students of UWC.

A report was drafted and sent for comment to UWC.

This process is still ongoing and will be addressed in the coming year.

2016 also saw the further development in policies regarding CPD. This is an issue that still needs to be streamlined as matters arise.

PBACMU and Council discussed the opening of new sub-registers for Ayurveda.

PBACMU, per Dr Eeswari Reddy, drafted scopes of practice Primary Healthcare Facilitators and Panchakarma Technicians for consideration by the Legislation Committee.

PBACMU also discussed the opening of sub-registers for so called 'Western Medical Acupuncture'. SASP (South African Society of Physiotherapists) made a submission to the Board for consideration. The PBACMU rejected their submission as being of insufficient education and training to protect the health of the public. PBACMU decided 360 credits would be the minimum accepted qualification.

### **Professional Matters**

PBACMU drafted a comment document on: "Toward a national framework: The roles and responsibilities of the CHE, HEIs and professional councils regarding the accreditation of professional programmes and related quality assurance functions."

### **Legal Matters**

Legal matters were dealt with as and when they arose. Most dealt with persons practising our professions illegally for gain without being registered with the AHPCSA.

## **Conclusion**

PBACMU want to express its gratitude towards the Registrar for getting up at an ungodly hour in order to appear on the breakfast TV show Health Talk. The Registrar promoted our professions and informed the public as to the mandate of the AHPCSA.

PBACMU also want to thank the Registrar for always dealing with matters in an efficient, fair and inclusive way.

PBACMU also want to thank the Director of operations, Ms Beverley Hirst, for all the travel arrangements, writing of the minutes and the one million other things she does for the Board.

Lastly I want to thank the members of the Board. It was a privilege to be the Chairperson of PBACMU this past year. Thank you for all the hard work and hours that went into making this Board functional.

**Dr Anette Saaiman.**

**Chairperson PBACMU**