

PBHNP CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2016

The Professional Board of Homeopathy, Naturopathy and Phytotherapy had its first meeting of 2016 on 01 June 2016 and the subsequent meeting was held on the 3rd of November 2016. There were two council meetings and EXCO meetings during this period. This report highlights certain matters and a detailed report is contained in the minutes of the Council, EXCO and PBHNP. This report must be read in conjunction with those minutes.

i) General Administration:

The professional board had to vote in the office bearers for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, i.e. Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Drs Danny Pillay and Benjamin Herr were voted in as chairperson and vice chairpersons respectively, for both these periods.

ii) Council Matters

Council election: The board notes the election and inauguration of councillors and election of office bearers and congratulates the incoming councillors and wish them well for their term of office. It is regretted that despite the huge expenditure sending out ballots to practitioners that there was a poor ballot return. This may partly be practitioner apathy but may also revolve around inefficiencies in the postal service. Council will investigate the use of eRegistered Mail.

The election of new boards will take place in 2017 and the term of the current boards will end in November 2017.

Application for New Registers

PBHNP revisited the application by SAANT/Functional Nutritional Therapy and came to the same conclusion. This was presented at the Council where the matter was debated and the decision made that the application be denied.

iii) Education Matters

Internship

Members of the AHPCSA Education Committee, the AHPCSA Registrar and PBHNP Chairperson met with DVC Academic of DUT at DUT. Several other persons including the Dean of the Faculty of Health were present. A task team with two representatives from Department of Homeopathy DUT and two persons from PBHNP met to map a way forward. Drs Abbey Wagner and Danny Pillay represented the PBHNP and Drs Hall and Couchman represented the DUT. One meeting was held and the mechanisms of an internship were discussed. The DUT representatives were going to respond post the department external review. To date no further communication on the internship has been received from the DUT. The internship MOU is at an advanced stage with the UJ.

Education and Training UWC

An Academic review has been conducted at the UWC for Phytotherapy and Naturopathy. The External Review Panel appointed by the Board has generated a comprehensive report that has been submitted to the UWC via the Registrar's office. The report has highlighted concerns that have to be addressed by the UWC with reference to these programs.

Education and Training DUT

The academic review of the Department of Homeopathy has been completed and the document has been finalized for submission to Council and the DUT. The on campus clinic and off campus clinics were inspected and approved subject to changes.

Education and Training UJ

The external review will be conducted in early 2017.

iv) Registration Matters,

The entry of new persons onto the register is noted. Council will enforce its policies on non-payment of professional fees with the respective penalties imposed or de-registration. A list of de-registrations has been recommended by the board and approved by Council and such de-registrations to be gazetted.

v) Professional Matters

Resignations

Dr George Sedupane has resigned from the PBHNP due to relocation. We thank him for his contribution to the board and wish him well in his future endeavors.

CPD

The first CPD audit was completed in 2015 and practitioners who did not comply were requested to provide explanation and comply by 31 March 2016 extended to 31 July 2016. CPD applications have been processed within acceptable time frame. The cross accreditation rule was revisited. Only this board approves discipline specific education
NHI WHITE PAPER.

Board members reviewed and updated their profession specific submissions for the NHI white paper submissions.

Dispensing License

The board notes the problem of the lack of a Dispensing License course for our practitioners and awaits the submission and approval of the course by the SA Pharmacy Council.

Inspection and Approval of Clinics

As above.

Review of the Scopes of Practice

Council has formed an adhoc committee (Legislative Committee) chaired by the Chairperson of the AHPCSA to address scopes of practice (SoPs). An external legal person has been consulted for SoP drafting. The PBCO scope of practice was reviewed by this expert and sent back to the LC, which has reviewed this SoP for further submission to relevant stakeholders.

The LC will address the scopes of practice of PBHNP professions next.

PBHNP and PBACMU have to resolve acupuncture standards for naturopaths. This has to be raised at Council level at its first meeting in 2017. Dr Stephen Farrugia presented to the PBHNP at its second meeting of 2016 on benchmarking of acupuncture standard for Naturopaths.

Medical Schemes

The Registrar, Legal Assistant, PBACMU and PBHNP chairpersons engaged with the Council of Medical Schemes and at another meeting addressed the principal officers of medical schemes at the CMS offices.

LEGAL MATTERS

An inquiry committee was constituted to attend to a complaint of unprofessional conduct.

A policy for the conducting of homeopathic provings has to be established.