



SASPEN NEWS: November 2022

SASPEN is honoured to be part of the innovative endeavors that is transforming healthcare. The collaborative culture of the healthcare community is promoting an attitude of excellence and innovation.

The ESPEN 2022 Clinical Nutritional and Metabolism Congress was held in Vienna, Austria, 3–6 September 2022. SASPEN pledged their support to the International Declaration on the Human Right to Nutritional Care 'Vienna Declaration'. The Declaration has been endorsed by ESPEN as well as ASPEN, FELANPE and PENSA. The Vienna Declaration is addressed to each interested clinical nutrition, scientific and professional organisation, and to any healthcare or non-healthcare professional organisation or institution that defends the right to food, the right to health and promotes nutritional care for the fight against disease-related malnutrition. The Declaration is a non-legally binding document that seeks to promote a global recognition for the right to access nutritional care for all patients in any setting.

The annual congress hosted by the Critical Care Society of Southern Africa Congress (CCSSA) and SASPEN was hosted with great excitement as an 'in-person event' on 13–16 October 2022 at the Santon Convention Centre in Johannesburg. The congress featured local and international speakers with vast expertise in the field of clinical nutrition.

SASPEN hosted practical-, hands-on-interactive workshops with the focus on Enteral Nutrition Access Routes and Enteral Nutrition Trouble Shooting and Understanding the GI Anatomy.

Delegates had the opportunity to attend ESPEN LLL (Life-Long Learning) workshops on three different topics:

1. Nutritional support in the perioperative period;
2. ICU nutrition: Treatment and problem solving; and,
3. Nutritional support in Paediatric patients.

The SASPEN recognition awards was presented at the CCSSA Congress for contributions in the field of clinical nutrition:

- The Award for best oral presentation at the 2022 congress was awarded to **Lizl Veldsman** for her abstract titled 'Bedside ultrasound: a reliable tool to assess musculoskeletal quantity and quality in critical care'.
- The Arina Prins Award for best original research publication in an international journal went to **Esmare Van Tonder** for her publication 'Views of public hospital professional nurses on adult malnutrition and their role in nutrition-related activities'.
- The Award for 'Exceptional Contribution to Parenteral Nutrition in Clinical Field Award' was awarded to **Anna-Lena du Toit**.
- The Award for an 'Exceptional Contribution to Enteral Nutrition in Clinical Field Award' was awarded to **Bernadette Saayman**.

The very first SASPEN President's award was awarded to a leader in the field of clinical nutrition both locally and internationally. The award was

presented to **Prof. Renee Blaauw**. She has over 90 peer reviewed publications, both in local and international journals, and is an NRF rated researcher. She has been involved in various working groups, both locally and internationally. She has delivered countless oral presentations and is a regular invited speaker at international congresses. She is a member of the SAJCN Editorial Board and Associate Editor of the Clinical Nutrition ESPEN journal. She is a Professor at the Univ of Stellenbosch and has been involved in the training of innumerable dietitians in this country as well as many masters and PhD students in the field of nutrition. She continues to inspire us as a profession.

SASPEN would like to thank our industry partners who have contributed to the SASPEN awards for 2022: Fresenius Kabi, Nutricia, Nestle Health Sciences and BBraun. Thank you for supporting SASPEN in our objectives by encouraging nutrition education and research in South Africa.

Continuing the topic of education, the SASPEN PM Ward Round Club concluded a very successful year as an online platform with CPD accreditation. For information on next year's topics, keep an eye out on our social media platforms or our website. If you are interested in presenting a case at one of these events, please contact info@saspen.co.za.

In partnership with ENASA, SASPEN research grants aim to encourage further studies in the field of disease-related malnutrition and to establish the role on enteral feeding in diseases related malnutrition. SASPEN invites all potential candidates to apply for the 2023 research grants. Applicants must be fully paid-up members of SASPEN. For more information, please visit our website www.saspen.com.

The SASPEN committee would like to thank all our members for their support, dedication and commitment to science-based nutritional care and innovation. We are looking forward to an exciting new expansion of our existing platforms, that will support and encourage the development and application of clinical nutrition practices in South Africa and beyond. SASPEN will be offering an all-inclusive membership from 2023. Membership will include access to educational opportunities, interest based-working groups, updated guidelines and opportunities to network within the greater field of healthcare in the context of nutrition. Anyone interested in becoming a member (and those who have supported the growth of the Society over many years) are encouraged to update their information on our new website to access the new innovative initiatives.

Please join us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and on LinkedIn to stay informed about events and opportunities. You can visit our webpage on www.saspen.com for any information on the Society and our activities.

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