

SAAVT Newsletter: First Quarterly Report and New Year Greetings

Dear Colleagues,

First Quarterly Report and New Year Greetings

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2025, I hope this year brings opportunities for growth, success, and fulfilment in all our endeavours.

With the start of a new year, I take this moment to reflect on our journey and share a brief overview of our first quarterly report since assuming office on November 1, 2024, following our successful congress.

Congress Review

The congress, held on October 9th and 10th, 2024, stands as a monumental achievement for the SAAVT. It was the first event entirely organized by the previous Central Management Committee (CMC), an endeavour we approached with determination and some trepidation. Despite the challenges, the event exceeded expectations and set a new benchmark for our organization's capabilities.

The congress welcomed:

- **122 in-person attendees on Day 1**
- **102 in-person attendees on Day 2**
- **204 virtual attendees for both days**

A total of **11 CPD points** were allocated to participants, emphasizing the event's professional development value. The success of the congress was further enhanced by the contributions of our **ten sponsors and exhibitors**, to whom we extend our deepest gratitude:

1. JGK
2. UCT
3. Chemetrix
4. SANAS
5. Labotec
6. Inqaba Biotec
7. National Separations
8. The Scientific Group
9. Lasec
10. HWSETA

Their participation added immense value and highlighted the importance of collaboration in achieving our goals. The total cost of the congress amounted to **R476,813.00**, and we are pleased to report a profit of **R 959 871.21**. A detailed congress report can be accessed (<https://www.saavt.co.za/published-papers-articles/> or https://www.saavt.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Savetcon-Report_Close-Out-updated-07_01_2024.pdf) .

We also extend our appreciation to our keynote and guest speakers, as well as to you, our colleagues, for making the congress a resounding success.

Selection and Allocation of Office Bearers

Following the AGM, the following individuals have been elected and allocated portfolios:

- **Chairperson:** Dr. Itumeleng Matle
- **Vice Chairperson:** Ms. Nomkhosi Mathebula
- **Treasurer:** Ms. Thea Conradie
- **Secretary:** Ms. Boitumelo Mokwana

Additionally, to align with AGM recommendations, the following members have been co-opted:

- **Deputy Secretary:** Mr. Jabulani Magagula – for exposure to association management.
- **Research, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation:** Ms. Germishys Molaba – an exciting new portfolio to be detailed in future reports.
- **Training and Continuous Professional Development:** Ms. Masego Mokgathe.

Other portfolios remain unchanged:

- **SAAVT – SAVC Representative:** Mr. Sphamandla Qwabe
- **SAAVT Student Representative (TUT):** Ms. Obakeng Boshielo
- **SAAVT Educational Representative (TUT):** Ms. Nomsa Letsoalo

For more details, please visit our website to connect with your office bearers:
<https://www.saavt.co.za/management/>

Constitution Review

The AGM mandated a review of our constitution, and the process is now underway. Mr. Qwabe and Ms. Mathebula have been nominated to lead the review committee, guided by the following timeline:

- **Phase 1 (February – May 2025):** Committee consultations, benchmarking, and drafting initial recommendations.
- **Phase 2 (June – July 2025):** CMC review and input.
- **Phase 3 (August – September 2025):** Member feedback through surveys, focus groups, and consultations.
- **Phase 4 (October – December 2025):** Incorporation of member comments into the final draft.
- **Phase 5 (February 2026):** Presentation of the final draft at the AGM for approval.

The review will address key areas identified as weaknesses in the current constitution, including:

1. Objectives and Strategic Direction
2. Membership and Inclusivity
3. Governance and Leadership
4. Financial Management
5. Digital Strategy
6. Research and Advocacy
7. Conflict Resolution
8. Conflict of Interest
9. Member Recognition

Scholarship and Sponsorship Policy

The AGM also tasked us with developing a Scholarship and Sponsorship Policy. Ms. Nomsa Letsoalo and I have been entrusted with this responsibility, and the first draft will be circulated for review by **July 2025**. This policy will aim to provide clear guidelines for supporting professional development and encouraging participation in SAAVT activities.

Other Activities

In addition to the above, notable activities during the quarter include:

- **Nomination of SAVC Monitors:** Ensuring representation and oversight for critical professional activities.
- **Chairperson's Participation in Conferences:** Dr. Matle represented SAAVT at both the **SAAHT Congress** and the South African Veterinary Public Health Association (SAVPHA) **Congress**, strengthening our association's presence and collaboration with key stakeholders.

Closing Remarks

As we look ahead, I am confident that with your continued support and dedication, we can achieve the ambitious goals set for the year. Thank you for your commitment to advancing the mission of the SAAVT. Let us make 2025 a year of impact, innovation, and success.

Warm regards,

Dr Itumeleng Matle (PhD)
SAAVT Chairperson
On behalf of SAAVT CMC Team