

SASAS COMMUNIQUE

"Experientia docet"



"It is only the farmer who faithfully plants seeds in the Spring, who reaps a harvest in the Autumnn."

B.C. Forbes

CHAIRMAN NOTES



The swallows are back, about 3 weeks early and the August winds are here (in August for a change). Does this bode well for an early spring?
As we start a new season, we proudly introduce the SASAS Main council below.
We are looking forward to a productive year ahead, especially with the revision of our 5 year plan which will be implemented at the next AGM.

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

Prof JBJ van Ryssen - Honorary President

The executive committee oversees the daily functioning and the finances of the Society.

Dr T J Dugmore - President: and Prof Schalk Cloete - Vice-President

Secretariat - Prof Hettie Schönfeldt assisted by Juanita Cloete

The council members are:

Ms. Amelia du Preez – Student Affairs and Branches Portfolio - liaising with branches over the congress, student quiz and debate.

Dr Helet Lambrechts – Awards Committee - oversee of the call for nominations and evaluation of the SASAS bursaries, student merit awards, medal awards and trophies

Prof Cuthbert Banga - Publications Committee – oversee journals and the publication process.

Dr Simon Lashmar - Science and Education Committee - evaluation of the Scientific aspects of our profession and assisting congress organising committees on their scientific programmes, as well as liaising with the relevant animals science departments in our educational institutions on the educational curricula for Animal Science.

Heiko Köster – Professional Development Committee - mentorship, CPD's and liaising with other relevant scientific associations and industry on issues pertinent to Animal Science.

Jackie Tucker – Public Relations and Marketing Committee - fundraising, marketing and social media of the society to relevant stakeholders.

Klaas-Jan Leeuw - Professional Affiliations - co-opted member who represents SASAS on the Livestock Welfare Coordinating Committee; together with Prof Norman Casey representing SASAS on the World Association for Animal Production (WAAP) and Prof Cuthbert Banga on the All-Africa Association of Animal Production (AAAP).

SASAS STRATEGIC PLAN: VISION 2025

The previous strategic plan which laid out the vision for the South African Society for Animal Science (SASAS) for the five-year period (2020–2025) comes to an end at the next congress.

The various portfolios of council are looking into our way forward and issues raised at the AGM or by discussions with members at congress to be included into our strategic outcomes for 2025 to 2030.

Members are welcome to contact us if there are any contributions/suggestions they would like to make/discuss.



SASAS AWARDS >>>

Congratulations to all the winners of various medals and trophies that were awarded at the annual SASAS Congress in East London. Here is a list of highlights - more details on each winner will be posted on the Facebook page.

Bronze medals: Ms. Daniëlle Alberts, Ms. Bhaveni Koooverjee, Dr. Matome Madilindi and Dr. Jabulani Ngcobo.

Silver Medals: Prof. Abubeker Hassen and Dr Thobela Tyasi

David Uys Trophy: This award for best paper published in the SAJAS in 2023 went to D.A. Linde, E. van Marle-Köster, M.M. Scholtz, M.G. Gonda, J.L. Gonzalez-Hernandez & M. D. MacNeil for their paper; *Differential gene expression in the Longissimus dorsi of Nguni and Bonsmara bulls finished on low and high energy diets, published in Vol 53: 101-108*

Presidents Award: This was awarded to Prof Gareth Bath in recognition of his outstanding contribution to sheep and goat health and production, as well as for championing livestock welfare in South Africa.

Best poster by a postgraduate student:

Applied animal science: Wilmie Hough

Animal breeding, genetics and reproduction physiology: this award is sponsored by The Livestock Improvement Schemes Trust. Mokgadi M Seshoka

The AFMA award for the best Student Nutrition Poster for 2024: Makiwa Mthana



Plaas Media Student Quiz

THE THREE UNIVERSITIES WHICH REACHED THE FINALS WERE, THE UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE, THE UNIVERSITY OF MPUMALANGA (UMP) AND STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY (SU).

PAUL BEVAN WAS THE QUIZMASTER WHO MODERATED AND ENSURED THAT THE AUDIENCE STAYED ENGAGED THROUGHOUT THE QUIZ.

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

WERE THE QUIZ CHAMPIONS FOR 2024.

THE WINNING TEAM FROM STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY COMPRISED DANI VAN DER MERWE, MULLER CRONJÉ AND ELZETTE VAN SCHALKWYK.

Student Debate

PART OF THE CONGRESS PROGRAMME FEATURED AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE LED BY PROF BATH, CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVESTOCK WELFARE COORDINATING COMMITTEE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RECIPIENT OF THE 2020 GLOBAL ANIMAL WELFARE AWARD OF THE WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION. AS WE WERE IN EAST LONDON, THE EXPORT HARBOUR FOR LIVE ANIMALS BY SEA, A VERY RELEVANT TOPIC DEBATING THE MERITS AND WELFARE ISSUES OF LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS VIA SEA.

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY ARGUED FOR LIVE ANIMAL EXPORT TO OTHER COUNTRIES, WHILE THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA COUNTERED THE ARGUMENT BY OPPOSING LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS. THE WINNING TEAM, AFTER A LIVELY DEBATE WAS THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA.

THE WINNING TEAM COMPRISED: STEFAN CORBETT, JENNIFER-LEE O'DONOVAN AND RUDOLF BENEKE. WILMIE HOUGH AND ELZETTE VAN SCHALKWYK REPRESENTED STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY



Portfolio: Awards committee

There is nothing to report for this period. All awards and medals were awarded during the recent congress held in East London. A new awards committee will be put together in time to consider the existing guidelines for awards and medals, and the new members will be communicated to Council once members have confirmed their participation.

Portfolio: Science & Education Committee

Our goal is to ensure that high standards of education, research, technology, and science-based public policy are upheld regarding animal production and animal products.

One of the main roles of this committee will be to identify the scientific needs and requirements of both academia and the animal science industry. In terms of academia, the primary focus area will be the standardization of the quality of education presented across all South African universities that offer animal science curricula. In terms of industry, the primary focus will be to increase the involvement of SASAS in the industry (e.g. through the inclusion of more industry-focused opportunities). Full-rounded animal science graduates must be produced from academia who are not only academically strong but also have the skills and capabilities to thrive in the industry and is of importance to the subcommittee to therefore strengthen the “link” between academia and industry.

One of the main challenges that the committee will have to tackle, which pertains to both academia and industry, is to continue to engage with SACNASP on the Day-One Compliance (DOC) document set up with the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC). The listed DOCs will be considered by SACNASP in future to award candidate or professional registration. Because SACNASP is a governing body (that protects Animal Scientists), it is the responsibility of the council (and specifically this subcommittee) to keep these conversations going (and put onto paper the Animal Science “defense”) to prevent certain on-farm practices and animal-related jobs from becoming restricted to only vets.

The subcommittee will furthermore seek to liaise with the Limpopo local organizing committee (LOC) on the scientific program of the upcoming 2025 congress. Lastly, the possibility of monthly CPD-registered webinar sessions, and the potential topics and speakers (local and international from both academic and industry backgrounds), are also being discussed and planned.

Portfolio: Professional Development Committee

The following will be the main actions of the committee:

- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) - Our aim is to drive to inform and guide the members to make sure that they commit to keeping their CPD points up to date and comply with regulations.
- Drive the mentorship program for CPD and candidate professional animal scientists.
- Manage all CPD events that require uploading on continuous basis.
- Manage education matters that relate to CPD activities.
- Update and revise documentation relevant to the Animal Science profession. Current members and future members need to understand what it entails to be a professional animal scientist, who qualifies and also make the differentiation of categories of registration clearer.
- Liaise with affiliated organizations and societies, such as the WPSA, AFMA, Wildlife Association, South African Veterinary Association, GSSA and other relevant Associations that have animal scientist working in the field of animal sciences and get the support to motivate their members to join SASAS and SACNASP and the registering of symposia, technical workshops and conferences for members to earn CPD points.
- Protection of professionalism in animal science.

Portfolio: Student affairs and branches

The mission of the SASAS branches is to advance the animal science profession. All SASAS branches operate under the auspices of the Society and execute the Society's aims by hosting region-specific activities. The branches are important in promoting associations between members, students, and industry. For the last few years, most branches have only been active in their congress year which has been a concern, however, most regional branches have been reinvigorated with newly elected and committed members. We are in the process of setting minimum activity goals which each branch will need to adhere to over a two-year cycle. These goals will consist of student-focused and industry-focused activities. The goal is to bridge the gap between academia and industry, create more opportunities for students to connect with industry professionals, and ensure that there is regular contact with members.

There are five branches and their chairpersons are, the Eastern Cape (Sindisile Goni), Free State (Dr Foch-Henry de Witt), KwaZulu Natal (Dr Nomfuzo Mkhize), Northern (Karla Zietsman), and Western Cape (Dr Pfunzo Muvhali) branches. If you wish to become more involved in SASAS, please reach out to the branch that represents your area - details will be shared on the Facebook page and in an email from SASAS secretariat.

Students are the future and to ensure SASAS's future, we need to get the students involved. The Student Affairs portfolio has been created and aims to educate students on what the animal science profession entails, to help students connect with industry professionals, and to get students involved in SASAS activities. The subcommittee will consist of one representative from every university in South Africa that presents animal science. The Student Affairs subcommittee plans to collaborate with the Branches subcommittee and main council to organise a SASAS roadshow. During the roadshow members from the main council and that region's branch will talk to undergraduate students about animal science and SASAS. We also plan to increase interaction between universities and industry by collaborating with the Scientific and Education subcommittee in organizing webinars where postgraduate students and invited industry speakers present and discuss specific animal science topics. It was suggested that each university create its own student SASAS branch – a type of student representative council if you will – to encourage students to assist in planning SASAS activities and spreading the word of animal science to schools.

EVENTS & MARKETING NEWS

➤➤➤ SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS



Our Facebook page is live with the convener of our marketing portfolio, Jackie Tucker, as the administrator. Please follow it on this link and join the conversation:

[SASAS Main Council Facebook](#)

**SASAS IS GROWING AND THERE ARE EXCITING TIMES AHEAD.
WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE ALL PASSIONATE ANIMAL
SCIENTISTS TO BECOME MEMBERS OF SASAS IN ORDER FOR US TO
CONTINUE WITH OUR DREAMS AND GOALS OF CREATING A
SOCIETY THAT ASSISTS AND DEVELOPS PROFESSIONAL ANIMAL
SCIENTISTS FOR THE FUTURE OF FOOD PRODUCTION IN AFRICA.
FOLLOW THE LINK IN THE QR CODE ALONGSIDE TO BECOME A
MEMBER TODAY!
YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL CREATE THE CHANGE YOU ALL WANT!**



UPCOMING EVENTS



[Register Here](#)



[More info](#)



[AFMA symposium info and registration](#)

WITH THANKS,

TREVOR DUGMORE
SASAS PRESIDENT

&

JACKIE TUCKER
PR & MARKETING