



# SASOM

## An introduction to the SA Society of Occupational Medicine

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Occupational Medicine Specialist

# About SASOM (1)



- Established in **1948** to further Occupational Medicine and has become an important voice in occupational health in South Africa.
- A professional society and a **special interest group** of the South African Medical Association (**SAMA**) with links to the **World Medical Association**.
- Has been affiliated with the International Commission on Occupational Health (**ICOH**) and its 27 scientific committees since its inception

# About SASOM (2)



- Networks with specialist groups in the field of Occupational and Environmental Medicine notably
  - **NIOH** – National Institute for Occupational health
  - **MIMPA** – Mine Medical Professionals Association
  - **SASTM** – SA Society for Travel Medicine
  - **SASOHN** – SA Society of Occupational Health Nurses
  - **SAIOH** – SA Institute of Occupational Hygiene
  - (**OTOH**) – Occupational Therapy in Occupational Health
- and jointly issues an accredited scientific journal with them

# About SASOM (3)



- A successful career
- 16  
Dr CL Carstens Port Elizabeth Branch Chairman  
Dr E Cheevers KwaZulu-Natal Chapter Chairman  
Dr JB de Villiers Klerksdorp Branch Chairman  
Dr VP Kalapdeo Richards Bay Branch Chairman  
Dr G Kew Western Cape Chapter Chairman  
Dr W Kruger Bloemfontein Branch Chairman  
Dr J le Roux Northern Cape Chairman  
Dr N Modiga Welkom Branch  
Dr M Mothemela Polokwane Branch Chairperson  
Dr V Motlhale Mpumalanga Branch Chairman  
Dr D. Moyo Zimbabwe Branch  
Dr P Pretorius Namibia Branch Chairman  
Dr J Sapire Witwatersrand Chapter Chairperson  
Dr L Seymore Pretoria Branch Chairman  
Dr K Staunton Witbank Branch Chairman  
Dr L Trollope East London Branch Chairman

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# Other Role Players



- Other role players in the discipline of Occupational Medicine
  - **Academic Institutions** – Universities across SA; training of diplomates and specialist
  - **Colleges of Medicine (Division of Public Health Medicine)** – standard setting for specialist training, qualifications and certification

# Members



- 225 paid up members in 2016
- members are registered **medical practitioners and other professionals** who work in occupational health or who have an interest in this area of medical practice

# What does SASOM do?



- The voice of OH in SA – especially occupational medicine
- Interacts with national stakeholders, such as:
  - Government (Dept of Health Dept of Labour, Dept of Transport, Dept of Mineral Resources)
  - Educational institutions (universities)
  - International bodies (ICOH - International Commission on Occupational Health)
  - Network of OH related stakeholders mentioned above
- Sets standards (library of guidelines and position papers)
- Supports training and development of the field (conferences, academic meetings and through the guidelines)
- Runs the OH journal

# SASOM Website ([www.sasom.org](http://www.sasom.org))



SASOM

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What Drives Us

Our People

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SASOM is a Professional Society, registered as a special interest group with the South African Medical Association and affiliated to the International Commission of Occupational Health (ICOH).



# Guidelines



NO	TITLE
1	Occupational Medicine Practice
2	Management of Tuberculosis in industry
3	Management of Absenteeism due to illness or injury
4	Design, equipment, staffing of OH centres and mobile units
5	HIV / AIDS in the work place
6	Medical requirements for fitness to drive
7	Occupational Health and Safety Policy
8	Food handling in industry
9	Alcohol and drug abuse in the workplace
10	Epilepsy and Employment
11	Occupational Health Audit
12	Diabetes and Employment
13	Refrigerated cold environment work
14	Contact with blood and other body fluid
15	Spirometry in industry
16	Medical records in industry
17	Occupational Health Ethics
18	Occupational Risk Profiling,
19	Management of medically incapacitated workers
20	Radiation: Ionising and non-ionising (sun) and heat
21	Medical Surveillance, Initial Health Evaluation, Biological Monitoring and Exit Health Evaluation
22	Injuries on Duty and Occupational Diseases
23	Pregnant workers
24	Accommodation of workers
25	Hypertension
26	Vision in industry
27	Medicines in Occupational Health
28	Occupational Health for Health Care Workers
29	Audiometry in industry
30	The older worker in the work place
31	Shift work
32	Worker job specifications
33	Personal protective equipment
34	Health and Safety training and health promotion
35	Transfer of an Occupational Health Clinic

# Western Cape Chapter



## Monthly Meetings & Topics for 2017

Date	Topics	Responsible
Jan	Holidays	-
Feb	Medical ethics: implications for OH. Speaker: Izak Loftus.	Hanli de Wet
Mar	Quality control of spirometry (SA Navy divers & submariners) – and show that this is still poorly done in settings even where pulmonary fitness is paramount. Speaker: Jack Meintjes / Blanche from Jack's unit. Evaluation of occupational asthma – practical aspects of analysing serial peak flows and other special investigations – or perhaps approach to the asthmatic worker in jobs where asthma is problematic (e.g. divers/ submariners) Speaker: Jack Meintjes	Jack Meintjes
Apr	Neurocognitive testing: an introduction for the occupational health practitioner. (second week in March, so as to enable DOH students to attend) Speaker: Dr Hetta Gouse.	Greg Kew
May	Vision testing – the approach taken from the revised SASOM standard. (New content referring to the validity of the Snellen Chart, Contrast Sensitivity testing, and colour vision). Speaker: Dr Greg Kew Driver Fitness – a quick overview of the new SASOM Driver Fitness Guideline. Speaker: Dr Greg Kew	Greg Kew
June	Occupational TB – still a major problem in the public sector settings. Speaker: Jack Meintjes / other (also consider Rodney Ehrlich, Shahieda Adams)	Jack Meintjes / Greg Kew
July	Holidays	
Aug	Sleep apnoea and drivers (repeat) Speaker: Dr Karrieker (ENT), Dale Rae, other	Greg Kew

# Interest in EMFs



- Many of our members are involved in industries in which EMFs are present and potentially pose risks to health
- This is an area in which many colleagues are not well informed



Thank you!

Now sign up 😊

[www.sasom.org](http://www.sasom.org)

# Current Issues



- Quality of OH Service delivery – Dept of Labour
- Certificates of Fitness – can nurses sign?
- National Health strategy for implementation of Occupational Health (including the Certificate of Need & OH) - Dept of Health
- New legislation (Regs for HCS, asbestos, lead)

# Emailed invitations



You are invited to a CPD of SASOM's Cape Chapter scheduled for **TUESDAY 16 August 2016**

- **Guest !** See map for directions – GPS Coordinates:  
Latitude: -33.893048 | Longitude: 18.564785

- **Date:** 1

- **Topics:**  
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- **Time:** 1

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