

PACSA ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with great pleasure that I announce the new Paediatric Anaesthesia Community of South Africa (PACSA) council for the 2023-2026 period:

President: Ettienne Coetzee

Vice-President: Kgopotso Pege

Treasurer: Nadia Du Plessis

Secretary: Mishkah Mahomed

Past-President: Anisa Bhattay



‘Delighted to join the PACSA team as the new president, I'm eager to bring my passion for safe paediatric anaesthesia to the forefront of our discussions and initiatives. My journey in healthcare has always been driven by a dedication to ensuring the safest and most effective anaesthetic practices for our youngest patients’.

Beyond clinical excellence, Dr Ettienne Coetzee is deeply committed to innovation, especially in the realm of resource management and problem-solving within healthcare settings. This commitment was recently recognised when he was honoured with the 40 under 40 award in 2023 for the healthcare section. The award celebrated his development of an infusion device designed to simplify Total Intravenous Anaesthesia (TIVA) in low-resource settings, a testament

to his belief in the power of creative solutions in challenging environments. As he step into this new role, he looks forward to collaborating with the team and the community, driving forward our mission to improve paediatric anaesthesia care.



Dr Kgotso Pege-Digwamaje is a Specialist Anaesthesiologist based in Rustenburg. She works in both Public and Private sector. She is a University of Pretoria undergraduate and did her postgraduate studies at Sefako Makgatho University.

She has a special interest in Paediatrics anaesthesia, Interventional Cardiology, Vascular and Neurosurgery.

With a passion for teaching and academia, she is involved in DA (SA) training and FCA exams in the CMSA under SMU cluster.

In her spare time she enjoys fine dining and has an unwavering love for fashion.



Dr Nadia du Plessis is a consultant and senior lecturer at the University of the Free State with a special interest in paediatric, cardiothoracic anaesthesia and pain medicine. She also enjoys open water swimming and hiking with her husband and 3 dogs.



Dr Mishkah Mahomed is a specialist anaesthesiologist practicing in the private sector in Gauteng. She enjoys a diverse surgical population but has a special interest in paediatric analgesia and anaesthesia and is passionate about empowering paediatric patients along their perioperative journey. She practices in several paediatric surgical disciplines including general surgery, orthopaedics, oncology and head and neck surgery. Her special interests include maxillo-facial surgery and non-operating room anaesthesia.

She is currently a member of OPTIMA anaesthesia, a team of specialist anaesthesiologists with a shared passion for anaesthesia.



Dr. Anisa Bhattay is a specialist paediatric anaesthetist based in Johannesburg. Areas of special interest include regional anaesthesia and pain medicine, transplant anaesthesia, simulation and patient safety. She is committed to outreach to improve access to safe paediatric anaesthesia and paediatric pain management, and seeks to cross boundaries by reaching out with teaching engagements and volunteering skills. She is the past president of PACSA, and the Founder and Past President of the Paediatric Pain South Africa Special Interest Group.



The new council brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise and each member's enthusiastic commitment and passion for paediatric anaesthesia will no doubt be invaluable in promoting excellence within the field. We have no doubt that a fresh perspective from a diverse group of individuals will allow council to promote advancements within the paediatric anaesthesia field both locally and globally. One of our aims is to expand PACSA's reach – to obtain innovative ideas, collaborate with colleagues from various regions and to further extend our reach for support to address challenges within the field. We encourage and invite anyone with an interest in paediatric anaesthesia to get in touch to help us reach this goal.

We would also like to take this opportunity to recognise and appreciate the outgoing council:

President: Anisa Bhattay

Vice-President: Ettienne Coetzee

Treasurer: Renilda Pillay

Secretary: Philippa Penfold

Council members: Nezisa Nongqo and Gareth Nobbs

Past-President: Larissa Cronje

We thank you for serving with distinction and for displaying what can be achieved with commitment, passion, collaboration and expertise.

With grateful thanks

Dr Mishkah Mahomed

PACSA Secretary