

Dear Colleagues,

As we are now thoroughly into the second half of 2026, the SASA Acacia Branch would like to update our members on what has been a busy and rewarding year so far, and to share our plans for the months ahead.

Firstly, a sincere thank you to every member of our committee for the time and energy you have given to the branch this year. Serving on the committee is unpaid work on top of already demanding clinical and academic schedules, and your commitment does not go unnoticed. This includes our co-opted committee members, whose valuable contributions help to increase value to our branch members. On behalf of the branch, thank you.

Our 2026 Committee:

Name	Role
Theresa Samuel	Chairperson (2025–2026)
Leanne Frankish	Past Chairperson (2025–2026)
Charlé Steyl	Vice Chairperson (Remainder 2026)
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
Yameen Adam	Treasurer
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>
Joy Maseko	Nurses' Education
Kgopotso Pege-Digwamaje	TIDE & North-West Representative
Andre Retief	Wellness
Kerissa Moodley	Committee Member
Lloyd Duncan	Mpumalanga Representative

Co-opted Members

Name	Role
Helene Huyzers	Green Form Distribution
Karin Booysen	Journal Club
Aleks Brandl	Grants Committee
Dawid van der Merwe	UP Representative & Grants Committee
Mammie Motiang	SMU Representative & Grants Committee
Unathi Mzinyathi	SMU Registrar Representative
Ruan Scheepers	UP Registrar Representative
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Limpopo Representative</i>

Farewell and Welcome

This year we said goodbye to a few committee members whose contributions deserve special mention. Dr Karin Booysen stepped down from the committee after many years of involvement, both as a committee member and as a past chairperson; she continues to support the branch through arranging and hosting our online journal club, and we are most grateful for that. Dr Stephan Erwee handed over the treasurer role to Dr Yameen Adam after his term, and we thank him for his four years of careful stewardship of branch finances, and the many other years of serving on the committee in various different roles.

Dr Fatimah Hoosen, our Mpumalanga representative, has relocated to Cape Town and has since been elected to the SASA National Committee. We congratulate her on this appointment and look forward to working with her as the SASA National SIG and Branches representative. Dr Lloyd Duncan has stepped in as our new Mpumalanga representative, and we welcome him to the committee.

We would also like to recognise Dr Leanne Frankish, our past chairperson, who has also been elected to the SASA National Committee and now chairs the Private Practice Business Unit. Her ongoing work benefits the whole branch and we appreciate her continued involvement.

Call for Nominations

With several portfolios currently vacant, we would like to encourage members to consider putting themselves forward for committee positions for 2027. We are particularly in need of a secretary and a new vice chairperson for 2027-2028. If you are interested in contributing to the branch in this way, please keep an eye out for the formal call for nominations which will be sent in the Anaesthesia Times in September. If you would like some more information on what it means to be a committee member, please contact Charle Steyl at anaesthesia@drcsteyl.com.

The Year in Review

It has been a productive year so far for our branch. In February we kicked off the year with a social evening at Boma at Wolwespruit, where members could catch up with colleagues. The Acacia Branch online journal club continues to run every second month, free of charge for members. Each session is accredited for 3 CPD points, so attending all six sessions in the year earns you 18 points. Keep an eye on the Anaesthesia Times for the link to register for the next journal club to be held in September.

The branch sponsored registrars from the University of Pretoria (UP) and Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) to attend the Lowveld Anaesthetic and Perioperative Medicine Symposium (LAPOMS), and we will be sponsoring registrars again this year to attend and present at the SASA National Congress in September. Our annual book prize, a copy of Miller's Anaesthesia, will once again be awarded to the best-performing Part I candidate at both UP and SMU.

Our branch CPD day was a highlight of the year, with 185 delegates attending the program at The Capital Menlyn Maine in Pretoria. For the doctors' program, four thought-provoking lectures were presented, whereafter each attendee could choose to attend two hands-on workshops from the following options: cardiac output monitoring, awake intubation, gastric ultrasound and sphenopalatine block and processed EEG interpretation. The nurses' program had talks and demonstrations on preparing theatre for a patient with malignant hyperthermia, setting up

for cell-saving, and recognising and managing anaphylaxis, to mention just a few. Feedback from the day was excellent and we are already planning next year's programme.

Looking Ahead to 2027

Save the date for our branch CPD day on 13 March 2027. The focus will be on ethics, with talks covering topics such as the National Health Insurance, social media use in medical practice and medical gaslighting, among others. We are hoping to secure 4 ethics points for attendees. As always, the day will also be a good opportunity to catch up with colleagues and see what industry has planned for anaesthesia in the year ahead.

We are also planning a wellness event at the Discovery Health Food Studio in Sandton, where members will have the opportunity to prepare a meal under the guidance of a professional chef before sitting down to eat together. Attendance is free for members, with partners welcome to join for a fee.

In addition, the 2027 SASA National Congress is coming to Pretoria in September, and we would love your help. If you are interested in assisting with wellness events, social events or workshops for the congress, please contact Theresa Samuel at drtheresasamuel@gmail.com.

Nominations for the 2027 branch committee will open in September. Details will be communicated in the Anaesthesia Times. If you would like to stand for a position, or if you would like more information about what is involved, please contact Charle Steyl at anaesthesia@drcsteyl.com.

Have Your Say

We would also like to hear from you directly. Please take a few minutes to complete our member engagement survey; your input will help us understand what you need from your branch and shape our planning for next year:

[Complete the survey](#)

(Or copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://forms.gle/4FpezaXJSbk9XhkK8>)

Save the Date: AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will take place in November. Details will follow closer to the time.

Thank you again for your continued support of your local SASA branch. We look forward to seeing many of you at our events in the coming months.

Warm regards,

The SASA Acacia Branch Committee Members

Prepared by:

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