



## SMU receives R600 000 funding from CHIETA

SMU recently received funds to the tune of R600 000 from The Chemical Industries Education & Training Authority (CHIETA) to fund 10 needy students in the school of Pharmacy. SMU publications Editor Phaladi Seakgwe spoke to the Dean of the School of Pharmacy Professor Patrick Demana about the exciting developments.

**Phaladi Seakgwe:** *CHIETA has responded positively to the application by the university for a grant, how did you receive the news, you must be elated?*

**Prof Patrick Demana:** We are definitely very excited. AS A School, in order to have good communication with CHIETA, we have strategically appointed someone specific to look after all CHIETA projects. In this regard, the School has appointed Senior Lecturer, Dr Moliehli Matlala as our Project Co-ordinator for Chieta. So she basically acts as our Skills Development Officer (SDF) in terms of the language used by CHIETA, and hence the news was communicated to the school through her.

**PS:** *Please outline the process of making such a request and some of the conditions that SMU had to meet before approval was granted.*

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**Prof Demana:** Once CHIETA send out a call for applications, as a School, we identified the grant we could qualify for at the time, we then put a motivation for the application, which included the background of the university and the types of students we attract, we went on further to outline the importance of Pharmacy as a profession, then provided the budget for the grant application with specifics, showing what the money will be used for.

**PS: How will this grant assist the students of SMU?**

**Prof Demana:** The amount is given as a bursary to each student. Therefore, the grant will assist the student with registration fees, tuition fees, purchasing books and any educational material including e-learning resources as well as accommodation if needed. In this regard, the grant will cover any educational needs that the student requires within the budget provided.

**PS: How will the 10 students be selected, in other words, what criteria is used to identify those who are assisted?**

**Prof Demana:** We use the normal criteria for the need and the student's academic performance. We mainly look out for those students who are not funded by NSFAS.

**PS: When did the partnership with CHIETA starts and what benefits have both parties derived from it?**

**Prof Demana:** The partnership started in 2016, when the Department of Pharmacy (as it was called then) was granted various grants, including refurbishment of the biochemistry lab in the BMS building to meet the requirements for South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) pharmaceutical chemistry lab practical which are critical for our Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm) degree accreditation, Maths and Science project for grades 10 & 11 which takes place on Saturdays, and the latter has been ongoing since then with our aim to get the foundation right and at the same time hoping some of the

students will then come to SMU. With the Maths & Science project, we have a student who was part of the initial group who is now doing 4<sup>th</sup> medicine at SMU. CHIETA also funded acquisition of some special hearing aid equipment for students who had hearing impairments, which was used to assist in class. In addition, for the years 2016-2018, we also received funding from CHIETA for both post graduate and undergraduate bursaries. The benefit for CHIETA is that the funding is meant to assist in developing skilled workforce of the country. Therefore, by sponsoring SMU, the students are assisted with the funding in terms of developing skills through education, and hence when they graduate, they are skilled workforce with appropriate attributes to grow the economy of the country directly or indirectly which benefits everyone in one form or another.

**PS: SMU has been awarded R600 000, is this what was initially requested?**

**Prof Demana:** We initially requested R2 400 000.00 which translated to R60 000 bursary for 40 students (20 postgraduates and 20 undergraduates). We are however, much grateful with the R600 000 to assist 10 students because this will go a long way in assisting these needy students taking into account that everyone is affected by the Covid-19 pandemic including CHIETA.

**PS: What is your message to the potential recipients of the bursaries?**

**Prof Demana:** The message to potential recipients of the bursaries is that they must work very hard to show that they are worthy of deserving the bursaries because not fulfilling this goal may result in withdrawal of the grant. Besides this, the reputation of SMU will be left in tatters if the recipients do not work hard and they fail. This will diminish SMU's chance for receiving the grant again, thus impacting negatively on prospective needy students who could benefit from the bursaries.



**University Inaugural Dialogue**  
**COMING SOON**  
*Theme: "What will a successful SMU look like"*

**DATE :** 20 - 21 April 2021  
**TIME :** 08h00 - 16h00  
**VENUE:** • Saint George Hotel and Conference Centre (Centurion)



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# Prof Risenga Chauke plans to unify doctors as he takes the reins as President of SAMA

By Phaladi Seakgwe



**S**MU Acting Dean of the school of medicine Professor Risenga Chauke has recently been elected the new President of the South African Medical Association (SAMA).

SAMA is a professional association for medical doctors and represents their interest. The new president acknowledges that there are some challenges confronting the association that requires urgent attention. He cites fragmentation as one of the challenge for the organization and hopes that this will be addressed during his tenure. "Fragmentation amongst doctors is a challenge. We need a strong SAMA that will represent and serve practitioners in both the private and public sector", said Chauke.

He continued to say that unity of doctors is very important and went back to the days of the formation of SAMA. "When SAMA was formed, the intention and purpose was to have a strong voice for doctors. Therefore, we need to tread on what our forebears went through and tap into their knowledge and find out how they navigated their way through negotiations when the association was formed because it was not an easy task to bring together a number of people from different backgrounds", he said.

Prof Chauke also believes that there is a need to bring together SAMA and SAMATU to work with each other on matters of common interest while still finding better ways of managing the issues that separate them.

Reflecting on his journey to becoming President, he hinted that he has been previously requested to avail himself for the position but declined on several occasions until he was persuaded this time around to accept the nomination. Chauke is no stranger to SAMA having been involved with it since 1995/96 and previously served as the Deputy Chairperson of the SAMA North Gauteng branch.

He is looking forward to the new responsibilities which include overseeing the general working of all structures of the association; providing advice and appraisal where required and to represent SAMA in forums, gatherings and other platforms.

Amongst the other areas he will look at during his leadership role include: ensuring that SAMA continues to have a strong voice in influencing the policy and regulatory space within government; focus on research, education and training; cohesion; membership and employer engagement.

According to the new President, the future looks good for as long as the unity of doctors is prioritized as this will also assist the professionals to have a voice on their own in the bargaining council.

He believes that SAMA has done well in the past including on matters where disputes arose between its members and employers. "I am a beneficiary of the services of SAMA myself. When I had a dispute some time back which went all the way to the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), the association came all out for me and others to ensure that we were well represented and the outcome was in our favour", he said.

Amongst the current issues that SAMA is very vocal on include Covid-19, vaccinations, the HPCSA fees, training issues as well as allocation of positions for interns and newly qualified doctors.

Prof Chauke believes that as part of the way forward, members and doctors should remember why SAMA was formed in the first place, a moment that brought hope to many and feels it is important that it should be renewed.



# SMU Vice – Chancellor urges staff and students to take care of the newly opened Cardio and Strength Gymnasium

By Maditsi Matlala

**S**MU's mandate to produce well trained and completely rounded health care professionals has taken another significant leap forward, with the opening of a Cardio and Strength Gymnasium (CSG) today. Located at the Sports Complex, the gym boasts a lot of new state of the art gym equipment to cater for 16 different student sporting codes, staff and community wellness needs and interests.

The new equipment comprises amongst other things: four bikes, for cycling enthusiasts. Three treadmills, eight Cardio Machines for those who love cardio exercises to break a sweat, a stepper and lots of various weight sizes, for those who like

pumping iron for body building purposes. The unveiling of the equipment is in line with the grand plans to improve the lives and experience of SMU students.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the CSG to a captive audience consisting of team coaches, team leaders and staff, Vice – Chancellor Prof Peter Mbatia emphasized that as a predominantly health sciences focused university, the opening of CSG will go a long way to give physiotherapy students better opportunities to hone their classroom theoretical skills through clinical exposure to sports injuries that gym members often sustain.

“Using the gym is a good habit to develop, as young people. But it is also good for staff to exercise and the benefits of using the gym are there for all to see and they include cardiovascular fitness, strong muscles, and better movement”, Prof Mbatlana emphasized. The CSG is located under the same roof as Sports Injury Rehabilitation Unit (SIRU), within the Sport Complex, which makes access easy for gym users.

The VC urged the management of the CSG to “take care of the equipment, keep it clean and well lubricated at all times,” within the limitations of the university's budget. Mbatlana also enthused about the opportunities that the CSG will avail to the students to conduct research.

“If members come to the gym for the first time and they find the gym equipment well maintained, they will be more inclined to return to the gym more often.

Our students need to have access to the gym. Whilst members of our neighbouring community need to be afforded an opportunity to use the gym, there is a need to properly manage access to the gym and to ensure our students have maximum access to the gym. Managing the gym well would not result in tension in the management system of the gym”, said the VC.

The Vice – Chancellor also mentioned that some of the indoor and outdoor facilities need to be refurbished and called for a

project plan to be drafted to improve these facilities. He further indicated that a mixed model of funding would go a long way to bring about the desired outcomes of improving SMU sports facilities. The facilities will create more opportunities to the students to conduct research.

Dr Irene Mohasoa, the Executive Director for Student Affairs, also emphasized the importance of embracing healthy lifestyles not only on the part of students, but also staff and members of the Ga-Rankuwa community. By giving the Ga-Rankuwa community access to the CSG, SMU is thereby fulfilling its core business of community engagement through use of the gym and exposing them to the services that SIRU offers.

Dr Mohasoa added that “sports is health, sports is life”, when students and the community embrace healthy lifestyles, it enables the country to realise United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal of fostering healthy nations by eradicating lifestyle diseases such as obesity, Diabetes etc, through active lifestyle.

Mr Tshepo Lechaba, the Acting Deputy Director, Sport and Recreation outlined plans that the university is embarking upon to improve the extracurricular experience of university students, one of which is to refurbish the Olympic size swimming pool. The gym charges a modest amount to the users.





# SMU ready for a conversation

In a few days' time, the university community will be engaged in a dialogue, the first of its kind. It has not been an easy journey considering the processes that had to unfold to arrive at a stage where SMU can bring multiple stakeholders to have a conversation in this form. SMU publications Editor Phaladi Seakgwe spoke with Tshepo Lechaba SMU Transformation Manager who is spearheading the process.

**Phaladi Seakgwe (PS):** *The inaugural University dialogue is just around the corner. As the project manager, what is the state of readiness?*

**Tshepo Lechaba (TS):** Bringing together hundreds of staff members and students in a two-day dialogue about what the SMU should look like is no easy task. Many people have worked very hard over the last number of months to plan the dialogue. This includes various stakeholders consulted, a Design Team that consists of employees, labour, students and

academics who attended various design meetings and internal specialists in Marketing, IT and HR.

COVID-19 is the biggest factor impacting readiness as the various levels of lockdown forced us to stop-start the dialogue. COVID-19 also forced us to try to actively engage large numbers of participants on the MS Teams platform.

We are 80% ready for the dialogue. It is going to take place in three places – on the SMU Auditorium (100 participants), Saint George Hotel (200 participants) and online on MS Teams (another 100 – 200 participants). The one area that we have not yet fully worked out and tested is ensuring seamless flow and integration between the three places.

What we, however, do know is irrespective of where staff and students participate:

- There will be an opportunity to have a

conversation with various stakeholders

- There will be an opportunity for people to make their voices heard
- The views expressed and the insights shared will be captured and will form part of the record of the dialogue
- The views shared will shape the future culture of the SMU

**PS: What does the University seek to achieve with this dialogue?**

**TL:** During a culture survey, staff shared their views on what is working and not working. Through various interactions with students and labour, it also becomes clear that although some aspects work well, we do not have a shared idea of what a successful SMU would look like.

For the University, the inaugural dialogue is not an event, it's an important step in a journey of culture change where we must jointly figure out what a successful SMU culture should look like, the core values that we can all commit to and what should happen over the next few years to jointly build that new culture, based on shared values.

The University does not doubt that this may be a difficult start. Various stakeholders are not used to listening to one another and seeing the world through each other's eyes. Given our history, we recognize that many people got hurt. We know that healing is required. We also know many people may be skeptical about the process, but we must start somewhere. If we are all serious about the future of the institution, we believe that through dialogue and collaboration, we can jointly build that future.

The University hopes that after two days, we can adopt a Culture Compact (an agreement between all the stakeholders) on what our culture should be and our approach to the culture journey.

**PS: You are also the manager responsible for transformation at SMU. Does this fit well with the approach to transformation?**

**TL:** The new University strategic plan (2021-2025) was approved by Council in 2020. On the basis of this, it is important to align the transformation plan to the new strategic plan and part of the outcomes from the inaugural dialogue will form part of the new transformation plan, inclusive of the institutional compact.

**PS: What will happen after the dialogue? For instance, is the institution going to compile the inputs of all stakeholders, then what would be the next step?**

**TL:** The dialogue is not an event. It is part of a journey. If we say we would like to shape our journey jointly, we would like to hear from those in the dialogue what the next steps should be.

## From a high-level perspective, the following activities will flow from the dialogue:

- Captured and integrate participant's inputs.
- If all the stakeholders manage to achieve consensus on a Culture Compact, submit this to Council for consideration and approval.
- Develop a culture change management plan based on the inputs generated during the dialogue.
- Submit the change management plan for consideration and approval.
- Implement the change management plan.

**PS: Any message that you wish to convey to the SMU community members about the dialogue?**

**TL:** Despite the diverse backgrounds in the university, all SMU community members should speak in one voice and live up to a culture that is values based.

**PS: How will you manage to have a dialogue with so many people?**

**TL:** Several principles will underpin the dialogue:

- Keeping presentations and speeches to a minimum to allow time for dialogue between people. Key stakeholders need to share their views. Thus, there will be short 15 – 20 minute presentations by stakeholders to allow time for reflection and discussion.
- Dialogue and conversation will occur in smaller, max-mix groups consisting of students, labour, administrative staff, support staff, and academics. Ideally, each group will represent a microcosm of SMU. The inputs of the max-mix groups will be captured and will inform the way forward.
- There will be an opportunity for max-mix groups to report back to plenary. Given the number of max-mix groups (at the SMU Auditorium, on MS Teams and Saint George), each team will not be able to report back after each discussion. The facilitators will, however, ensure that feedback from all three places is shared during the dialogue
- The dialogue does not make provisions for individuals from the floor to make individual inputs. All inputs and views are shared and debated in the smaller groups. The design does not make provision for individuals to debate one another in the plenary as this will eat up time that all of us can have conversations in the max-mix groups
- Tight time management by all: If we want to ensure everybody remains aligned, there is a huge responsibility on all to stick to the allocated times:
  - Everybody stick to start times, breaks, etc.
  - Stakeholders making presentations stick to their allocated times.
  - Those providing feedback of max-mix groups sticking to their times.



# Mental Health: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Facts

2 April | # WorldAutismAwarenessDay

## What is Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder?

- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder that impairs the person's ability to communicate and interact
- ASD or autism, characterised by challenges with social skills, speech and nonverbal communication, repetitive behaviours, and obsessive interest
- Autism is known to be an invisible neurodevelopmental disability.

## What are the Signs & Symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder?

- The most obvious signs appear between ages 2 and 3 years but a diagnosis can be made as early as 18 months
- Signs and symptoms may include:
  - *Behaviour*: inappropriate social interaction, poor eye contact, compulsive behaviour, impulsivity, repetitive movements, self-harm, or persistent repetitions of words or actions
  - *Cognitive*: intense interest in a limited number of things or problems paying attention  
*Development*: learning disability or speech delay in children
  - *Emotions*: limited or constricted emotions, unaware of others' emotions
  - *Sensory*: sensitivity to sound, touch, or tic
  - *Psychological*: anxiety or depression.

## What is the Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder?

- According to the Centre for Disease and Control (CDC), autism is on the rise globally
- 1 in 59 children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder between 6 and 17 years in the USA
- Accurate local figures for Autism in South Africa are not available



*Developed by Antonio G Lento, Ph.D. Senior Lecturer and Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Department of Clinical Psychology, School of Medicine, SMU*

- Current estimates suggest that 1 in every 110 children in South Africa is born with autism
- Yet, an estimated 135 000 autistic children in South Africa aren't getting specialised education they need.

## Who is at risk for ASD?

- Boys are 4 times more likely than girls to be diagnosed with ASD than girls
- ASD occurs in every racial and ethnic group, and across all socioeconomic groups.

## What causes autism spectrum disorder?

- *Biological*: People with ASD show differences in the development of several regions of the brain that is associated with a disruption in brain cell communication, control and regulation
- *Environmental*: Environmental factors may play a role in gene function and development, but no specific environmental causes have yet been identified
- Genetic and non-genetic risk factors may include

neurological, physical, and behavioural, and pre-and post-natal factors may contribute to the risk of ASD

- The role of vaccination in childhood as a cause of autism has long been disproved.

### What role do genes play in ASD?

- Twin and family studies strongly suggest that people have a genetic predisposition to ASD
- In families with one child with ASD, the risk of having a second child with the disorder also increases
- Autism risk also increases in children born to older parents
- Some genetic disorders are associated with an increased risk for ASD, i.e. Fragile X syndrome (known to cause intellectual disability), which results from a mutation in a single gene.

### How does ASD affect functioning?

- The term “spectrum” refers to a wide range of symptoms, skills and levels of disability in functioning that can occur in people with ASD
- Some children and adults are fully functioning and able to perform all activities of daily living while others require substantial support basic activities
- 1 autistic child needs the same amount of care and attention as 6 neurotypical children
- Many children are kept home, hidden from society and thus not exposed to appropriate early development and stimulation.

### University students with ASD

- The estimated number of autistic students at university is believed to be between 0.7% and 2.4%
- Evidence suggests that less than 40% of ASD students complete studies
- Lack of understanding and appreciation of neurodiversity among students, stigmatization and discriminatory practices on a university campus could prevent students with autism from disclosing their diagnosis and subsequently seeking support.

### What are some of the psychosocial aspects of students with ASD at university?

- Students with ASD may find university life challenging combined with social and academic demands
- Autistic university students, like their peers, have to cope with independent living
- Similarly to neurotypical peers, autistic university students have to cope with new routines while adapting to a large number of new challenges
- Social challenges may include difficulties with social skills, lack of social support
- University going autistic students can experience

heightened social isolation, loneliness, and stigmatization.

### What are some of the common mental health challenges of university going autistic students?

- University students with ASD may be at increased risk for depression and anxiety compared to their neurotypical peers
- Adjustment problems

### How can university students with ASD be assisted?

- Strengthening the social aspects of the university through the provision of social support
- Improvement of academic support is essential
- Research shows that structure in academic settings, concrete instructions and smaller assignments helped autistic students with some of the academic challenges
- Access to psychosocial support structures on the university that is sensitive to the needs of individuals with ASD can have a positive consequence of improving the quality of life of ASD students at university.

### How is ASD diagnosed?

- Children should be screened for developmental delays during periodic check-ups and specifically for autism at 18- and 24- months
- ASD is diagnosed based on the assessment of signs and symptoms by a multidisciplinary team, including clinical/neuropsychologist, paediatricians, and paediatric psychiatrist, neurologist, speech and audiologist
- The team will conduct a thorough assessment, including medical and neurological testing and in-depth neuropsychological, speech/language and hearing assessment, according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-DSM-5.

### Can ASD be treated?

- Yes, but it is IMPORTANT to understand that there is NO cure for ASD
- Medication and behavioural therapies can substantially improve symptoms of ASD
- Ideally, treatment is tailored to meet the specific needs of the individual.

### What medications can be used to treat ASD?

- Medication cannot cure ASD but it can be used to treat the main symptoms of ASD and help with related symptoms of anxiety, depression, ADHD, and obsessive-compulsive disorder
- Antipsychotic medication is commonly used to treat

severe behavioural problems in ASD individuals

- Anticonvulsant drugs are often used to treat comorbid seizures
- Stimulants used to treat attention deficit and hyperactive disorder have been used effectively to decrease impulsivity and hyperactivity in individuals with ASD.

### What behavioural interventions can be used to manage ASD symptoms?

- The early behavioural intervention has been very successful in many children with ASD
- Applied behaviour analysis (ABA) therapy have been used effectively as a behaviour modification and to remediate specific skills deficits in autistic children in South Africa
- Intervention such as speech and occupational therapy has been used in treating developmental regression in children.

#### IMPORTANT:

Early recognition, as well as medical, behavioural intervention, educational and family therapies, may reduce symptoms and support development and learning.

#### Where to get more information on ASD?

- **Autism South Africa- The Star Academy:**  
<https://thestaracademy.co.za/autism-south-africa/>
- **Autism Research Institute:**  
<https://autismresearchinstitute.com/>
- **Autism Science Foundation:**  
<https://autismsciencefoundation.org/news/autism->

science-foundations-day-of-learning-will-address-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-autism-families/

- **Autism Spectrum Disorder Information:**  
<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/All-Disorders/Autism-Spectrum-Disorder-Information-Page>

#### Resources used in developing the fact sheet

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# Physiotherapy Student Elected Chairperson of NPSG

SMU Physiotherapy student Phomello Mokgonyana was duly elected as the chairperson of the National Physiotherapy Student Group (NPSG), under the auspices of the South African Society of Physiotherapy (SASP). His term of office is valid for 2021 academic year, which is his final year of studies. The objectives of the NPSG are to spread awareness of the SASP to qualified Physiotherapists and those studying towards the profession; hence, all universities that offer the course are represented in the NPSG. "My role as a chairperson is to lead the NPSG in reaching its objectives. It feels great to be the chairperson because I have a chance to represent my university on a national scale. I will also get an opportunity to leave a footprint in the profession of Physiotherapy in South Africa," said Phomello.

# SMU FM is now six years' old

By Maditsi Matlala



**S**MU FM, the campus radio of the university has turned six years old. The Vice – Chancellor Prof Peter Mbatlana led the celebrations to mark this critical milestone. In the midst were several SMU FM listeners and the SMU President Thato Masekoa who alongside the VC led the cake cutting proceedings.

The Vice-Chancellor made an appearance at the Wave Change Show hosted by Ms Nthabiseng Kgobane and expressed his admiration for the station. “Congratulations, Nthabiseng to the SMU FM, for turning six, today. SMU FM does a number of things, first of all there are programmes to educate, not only the SMU community, but the entire community that is able to get access to our radio station, and that is very important. There is a lot of entertainment, in terms of the good music that is played. I must say, I listen regularly”, Mbatlana said.

The message he wanted SMU FM to take home is that he wishes them to continue doing the good work it does on the airwaves, as it has the vibe and great presenters.

“Importantly, issues around entertainment and education need to continue to be right on top of the agenda of the radio station. So, I wish you the very best, for the many years the radio station must continue going from strength to strength” he added, to the delight of Ms Kgobane.

Prof Mbatlana also said that health talk shows fit in perfectly well within the university's mandate as a health sciences university. He said many would really like to be informed about how COVID-19 impacts on our lives, and the measures to take to avoid getting infected or infecting others. He called upon health experts and health sciences students to use SMU FM airwaves to raise awareness and to explain in simple terms, the COVID 19 pandemic.

The Radio Station Manager Ms Precious Pheelwane together with the SRC President led everyone in the activities of the cake cutting as a symbol to confirm that SMU FM is now six years old.

Mr Thato Masekoa, also congratulated the radio station for its sixth milestone and expressed his wish to see more students going on air presenting health shows.



Six years old, SMU FM is for all intents and purposes still young. Yet the depth of experience it has accumulated over the years is impressive. It went on air for the first time in 2015 where it set itself the niche of entertaining with a purposes of informing about health issues. And indeed it spared no effort to cover an impressive array of health topics like the outbreak of Listeriosis, all the way to the current COVID19. Local and famous personalities graced the airwaves of SMU FM.

Amongst other things, the station did a live coverage of the launch of the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences (SMU) in 2015, which was addressed by the former President Jacob Zuma.



# Focus on Library week

The 2021 SMU Library Week was celebrated online on 18 March 2021. Ms S. Kibirige, Director, Library & Information Services (LIS) welcomed library clients, partners from the Library and Information Services in South Africa (LIASA) including the former Medunsa Library Acting Director Mr Van Niekerk.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Prof Ayo-Yusuf, DVC Research Postgraduate Studies & Innovation who urged the those responsible for the Library to critically re-examine how services are delivered.

It was emphasized, Librarians need to demonstrate that Libraries matter and there should be focus on transformation, effective use of resources and proactive outreach to SMU clients and the community.

During the keynote address, Chairperson of the LIASA Gauteng North Branch, Ms Suzy Nyakale who is also a Faculty Library Manager at the University of Pretoria paid tribute to colleagues who have been denied an opportunity to celebrate SALW 2021 by the Covid-19 pandemic. She said that the Covid-19 Pandemic has presented Libraries with an opportunity to intensify their online presence and engagement.

Covid 19 has proven that access to Libraries still matter with Libraries embracing the opportunity to learn about new ways of reaching out to clients, such as rendering services under strict and limiting protocols, and becoming, virtual, walking and talking libraries.

The speaker compared the pandemic period with 2015/16 "Fees must Fall Protests" when universities and other institutions of

higher learning were shut down. Public libraries became a refuge; students visited them to use facilities and equipment to access lecture notes and other learning content. According to the speaker, temporary partnerships were formed between institutions of higher learning, the public and community libraries. That is how libraries mattered at that time. Partnerships that were started then are useful now.

Ms Nyakale also said that Libraries can bring together people of diverse and even clashing perspectives to seek common ground. It is done in Research evidenced by the Open Science, Citizen Science movements. Libraries can also start talking about Open Libraries and Citizen Libraries.

She further highlighted the role played by Libraries and the immense contribution they make to communities.

## Library guides Launch

The Library has implemented an online platform for customised Library guides for each School. Ms Duduzile Ntombela gave a brief overview and announced a competition open to all clients.

### The prize-winners were:

1. Anna. Salimo
2. Veena. Abraham
3. Lindi. Zikalala
4. Esther. Modise

For more information <https://smu-za.libguides.com/>



## Book Launch



Mr Branney Mthelebofu is a Researcher in the School of Health Care Sciences. He launched his book entitled "How to Negotiate, solve and present problems". The book focuses on issues around planning, communication and implementation of institutional plans. "Change requires new knowledge and tactics such as problem solving and negotiation," he said.

Everyone involved in a team or unit fully must understand policies and procedures. He concluded by saying that strategy implementation calls for new communication techniques.

Mr Mthelebofu donated two copies of his book to the SMU library because Library clients matter to him.

# SMU NEWS BRIEFS



1. SMU congratulates Professor Patrick Demana on his recent appointment as the Vice President of the South African Association for Pharmacists in Industry. SAAPI is an association of pharmacists and other professionals who practice in the pharmaceutical industry. Prof Demana is the Dean of the School of Pharmacy at SMU.

2. The University also congratulates the DVC for Teaching, Learning and Community Engagement Prof Eunice Seekoe for recently being appointed as the Chairperson of the national Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) Communities of Practice (CoPs).

It is envisioned that the CoP will play a leading role in advancing the national agenda for entrepreneurial universities amongst other things through its role in the annual EDHE executive leadership workshop and the ongoing United Nations Economic Commission for Africa study on advancing entrepreneurial universities in Africa.



3. SMU is pleased to announce that Professor Lekan Ayo-Yusuf has recently been appointed by the Office of Health Standards Compliance(OHSC) to serve as a member of its Scientific and Research Technical Task Team. The task team focuses on ensuring that healthcare services are compliant with relevant regulations and standards so that patients in both the public and private sectors are protected.

