

# APPSA CONGRESS

## Round-up

The APPSA 2018 Congress hosted by APPSA KwaZulu-Natal at The Birchwood Conference Centre in Boksburg, Gauteng, was smaller in number than other congresses - but offered the 175 delegates and 12 exhibitors an exceptional time for interaction and connection. This was the first year that APPSA looked at hosting an annual instead of bi-annual congress and although it was smaller, it was very successful.

The APPSA 2018 Congress organising committee chairperson and national executive board vice-president, Rita Williams, said: "Although there were fewer delegates than we are used to having at our congresses, the feedback from both delegates and exhibitors was extremely positive. The standard of the academic programme was still exceptionally high and the level of interest from delegates and members of the trade reflected this. Once again, delegates and members of the trade partnered together to share invaluable information about the latest technology available to peri-operative practitioners in South Africa today.

"The Elize Michau Lecture - *Passion For My Profession* - was expertly delivered by Thabasile Gasa. The organising committee of Gasa, Mischelle Doodnath, Nosipho Mthembu, Dudu Ngcobo and Ramona Nullia ensured that everyone who attended the event thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The *Hats And Heels* dinner was a true highlight for everyone and the worthy winners of the Best Hat and Best Heels prizes showed us all exactly what style was all about."

Being an 'in-between congress year' and not the official congress year, there was no AGM, but an APPSA Information Session and discussion with delegates. During this session, the APPSA national board executive president, Esmarié Cronjé, Marianne Oosthuizen (treasurer) and journal editor, Madeleine Hicklin, addressed delegates about the current state of healthcare in this country and how elevating the standing of APPSA as an association was vital to the future success of not only the association, but of South Africa's healthcare industry in general. Said Cronjé: "The scope of practice of today's peri-operative practitioner is so much broader, more efficient and demands greater experience than ever before. As a dedicated group of peri-operative practitioners, seasoned professionals at the top of our game whose commitment to the well-being of our patients is paramount, we need to aim to empower ALL our members to ensure that we deliver quality care and promote safe surgery at all times."

### THANK YOU'S

Williams gave a vote of thanks to her organising committee for their incredible commitment and dedication to the process of organising the congress - especially from afar as we are all based in KwaZulu-Natal; to Marianne Oosthuizen and Lynett Venter from Congress Services who were always available to ensure the smooth-running of the congress; and to the APPSA journal editor and business manager, Madeleine Hicklin, and Carma Design's Carole Hicklin, who ensured that the APPSA educational guidelines, mugs and APPSA-branded notebooks were available at all times.

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Honorary Life Membership of APPSA is awarded by the APPSA national executive board in recognition of the effort of those special individuals without whose tremendous commitment APPSA would not have grown to become such a dedicated and dynamic organisation. The award also acknowledges APPSA's deep appreciation for their long and dedicated service to the nursing profession. The recipients of Honorary Life Membership in 2018 were:



From left to right:  
**From the Free State:** Jannetta Smit, **From the Western Cape:** Raymond Visagie,  
**From the Eastern Cape** Trudy Smith

The APPSA 2019 Congress will be hosted by the APPSA Gauteng Chapter and marks this Chapter's 40th Anniversary. The proposed dates are 02 to 05 September 2019, and the venue will once again be at The Birchwood Conference Centre in Boksburg, Gauteng.



