



# SAAFoST

SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION for  
FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

*National Secretariat:*

*PO Box 4507 Durban. 4000*

*Tel: (031) 368 8000 Fax: (031) 368 6623*

*E-mail: [Viroshab@turnergroup.co.za](mailto:Viroshab@turnergroup.co.za)*

## **President's Report BGM 05 September 2017**

**Dr Lucia Anelich**

It has been a pleasure serving as Acting President, in honour of Professor Amanda Minnaar's memory. She wanted young professionals, the organisation's future leaders, to have a real voice in SAAFoST. So, in keeping with her passion, the MySAAFoST initiative has been named "The Amanda Minnaar, MySAAFoST initiative."

At the upcoming Congress, the two MySAAFoST sessions will be chaired by Jessica Kemp, one of our rising young professionals. The IFT Student Association (IFTSA), a student-governed community of IFT members with almost 3 000 members from around the world, will link in to the sessions when two of its members will be involved in the initiative. Matthew Teegarden (current IFTSA President 2016-2017) and Amy DeJong (IFTSA Immediate Past President 2015-2016) will share their experiences with SAAFoST students and young professionals, in the hope that SAAFoST might start its own student chapter. Christie Tarantino-Dean (CEO at IFT) will also be presenting, and we look forward to seeing many of our members there.

SAAFoST has had a busy year thus far, with members and former members invited to participate in an online survey. This was a starting point to determine how to take SAAFoST forward to deliver more to existing members and to entice younger members to become more involved. The feedback was excellent and some of the points made included the following:

- **Travel**

While members do not want to travel far to an event, it is not always possible to use nearby venues because of the costs involved. We make use of generous offers by tertiary institutions and companies who allow us to use their venues without charging.

To keep event fees down, we need venues that are free of charge so, if your company can offer a lecture theatre or social area (in any of the main provinces), please contact Irene Burke on [saafost.irene@telkomsa.net](mailto:saafost.irene@telkomsa.net) or call her on 012 349 2788.

- **Event dates**  
Preferred dates for events/workshops and factory visits were from the beginning to mid-month, with month-end meetings more difficult to attend due to work obligations.
- **Part-time study opportunities for members**  
You asked for study opportunities for professionals, so we are making bursaries available for working SAAFoST members to study further in the Food Science and Technology field, part time in 2018 via the SAAFoST Foundation.
- **Trending topics**  
You want workshops, talks and seminars on a variety of subjects. By far the most popular events are those that combine science, fun and networking opportunities.
- **Membership renewal**  
SAAFoST has invested in a new system to ease online membership registration and payment. This will soon be going live!
- **Work opportunities for students**  
  
SAAFoST re-launched *Student on Site* (<http://www.saafost.org.za/StudentsOnSite/index.asp>) and *Select a Student* (<http://www.saafost.org.za/StudentsOnSite/SelectAStudent.asp>) in May and the number of student members looking for part-time, full-time employment, internships or vacation employment doubled. Industry has reacted very well and corporates have been in touch to recruit.

The survey results brought into sharp focus the direction that I want to take, in terms of our communication with members and marketing of the Association. As Council, we are dedicated to ensuring SAAFoST remains important to its students and young professionals, to the changing needs of its members and to attracting new members. SAAFoST has been in existence since 1960 (57 years) and I want to ensure its continued relevance to all our stakeholders. To this end, much of our campaign is targeting social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn).

### Events National

Since the last BGM on 9 Sept 2015 in Durban, fifty events, covering a wide range of subjects, have been held in the branches, equating to one about every two weeks. These included evening and breakfast lectures, factory and facility visits, commercial presentations, workshops, symposia, student events and several overseas guest speakers. Some were joint events with other organisations such as ADSA, NSSA, SASDT, SAIChE, SAAFFI and not forgetting the two, one-day IUFoST sponsored workshops on Science in Legislation and Food Fraud. Circulars to branch events are now being mailed out nationally to enable and encourage those who are travelling to other branches to participate and network.

## SACNASP (South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions)

SAAFoST is a SACNASP recognized Voluntary association (In terms of the National Scientific Professions Act [Act 27 of 2003]) and will, through its working committee, have the responsibility of providing/approving/validating Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities. The CPD point system was rolled out on 1 April this year, from which date already-Registered Natural Food Scientists may start to earn, within five years, the necessary twenty five CPD points as a legal prerequisite for employment/continued employment. All food science professionals not already registered with SACNASP, are urged to do so as soon as possible and start earning CPD points!

## Membership

Membership is currently in the order of 2 100 individuals and companies and we thank all members for their continued support.

A special word of thanks must go to our Custodian Members who go the extra mile in giving back to the food industry by contributing so very meaningfully towards the running of this Association.

## FACS

The Food Advisory Consumer Service, chaired by David Watson (who succeeded, the late Pieter van Twisk), has reached new heights since 2015. Over thirty FACS article authors, being experts in their various fields, have agreed to update the freely available FACS articles on the service's website, many dating back to 1995, on an annual/as-necessary basis. New articles and links continue to appear on the website as circumstances demand.

## Finances

SAAFoST prides itself on keeping money matters in good shape and members can rest assured that their money is put to good use as can be seen via annually-audited financial statements and the Treasurer's report (Rosie Maguire).

## SAAFoST Foundation

SAAFoST continues to support the Foundation, not only financially, but also through attending and contributing to Foundation meetings. The Foundation has provided and managed a large number of bursaries to date, more of which will be reported on by David Watson (Chair of the Board of Trustees).

### The *FST* Membership Magazine

The *FST* magazine, now in its sixth year of publication underwent some changes this year. However, the changes have not affected the continued excellent quality of articles, their value and relevance to members. I am grateful to Tricia Fitchet who manages the magazine so very well.

Finally, I want to thank Council, Past Presidents (Ryan Ponquett and Gunnar Sigge), Vice President (Anza Bester), Treasurer (Rosie Maguire), the Branch chairs and committees, Executive Director (Owen Frisby), Membership Development Officer (Irene Burke), *FST* editor (Tricia Fitchet) and SAAFoST Foundation trustees (under the chairmanship of David Watson) for their commitment to SAAFoST. I am proud to have been Acting President and look forward to my term as President for the period 2017-2019.