



## Report for the period July 2018 to June 2019

### 1. Committee

Four committee meetings were held during this period:

11 September 2018,

29 November 2018,

16 April 2019,

4 June 2019.

The National committee members during this period were:

Ljiljana Marjanovic	(Chairperson)
Brendon Naicker	(Vice-chairperson)
Duncan Cromarty	(Immediate-past Chairperson)
Schalk de Kock	(Treasurer)
Egmont Rohwer	(International Representative)
Maré Linsky	(Minute Secretary)
Mike Britton	(Liaison with SACI)
Caryn Hepburn	(Vendor Industry Representative)
Dwayne Koot	(Vendor Industry Representative)
Edwin Madala	(Metabolomics Representative)
Désirée Prevoo-Franzsen	(Industry Representative)
Ireshyn Govender	(Industry Representative)
Stephan Woodborne	(Industry Representative)

Regional representatives were:

Johan Jordaan	North-West Province
Marietjie Stander	Western Cape
Gabre Kemp	Free State
Graeme Bradley	Eastern Cape

Caryn Hepburn resigned from the committee in March 2019 due to emigration.

Dwayne Koot resigned from the committee in March 2019 due to changing jobs.

The term of office of the above committee ended at the end of June 2019.

### 2. Membership

SAAMS has a membership of 424 members (as of June 2019) including students, analysts, researchers and instrument supplier representatives. The members are from different regions in Africa but also from Canada, Boston and Pakistan. Apart from chemical laboratories and institutions, members come from other disciplines such as veterinary, microbiology, pharmaceutical, food and drugs, geology, agricultural, medical etc. 156 members are registered members of SACI.

### 3. Finances

Following the closure of the SAAMS financial year on 30 April 2019, the bank statements, all associated paperwork and transaction authorizations were forward to Mr WG de Kock, who has audited the SAAMS finances for the last 20 years. Unfortunately due to a prolonged illness, Mr De Kock was unable to perform the audit and has recently advised SAAMS to secure the services of another auditor.

In the absence of SAAMS audited statements for the period ending 30 April 2019 we provide here a summary of SAAMS' financial position:

During the financial year, the SAAMS Bank balance increased from R363 052 to R372 691 at 30 April 2019.

(This included a savings account balance of R132 626 and unit trust investments of R240 065)

The most significant income received during the last financial year was SAAMS' portion of the conference profit of R21 251 from Analitika 2018, as well as interest on the investments.

Total income during the 2018-19 financial year was: **R37 468**

Expenses during the period included the cost of function venues, meetings and meals, auditing fees for the previous year, bank charges, awards to young scientists and membership to the International Mass Spectrometry Foundation.

The total of all SAAMS' expenses was: **R27 829**

SAAMS will acquire the services of a new financial auditor as soon as possible, and forward the audited statements to SACI once the audit is completed.

### 4. Functions and activities

#### **Annual General Meeting**

SAAMS' Annual general meeting (AGM) for 2018 took place on 23 July 2018 during the Analitika 2018 conference. The AGM for 2019 is planned to take place during October 2019. SAAMS will invite a speaker to present on a mass spectrometry related topic to incentivize members to attend. At the AGM there will be a reflection on the activities that occurred during the July 2018-June 2019 period. Future activities and suggestions from members will be part of the agenda. The new SAAMS national committee and regional representatives for the 2019-2021 term will also be formally announced at the AGM.

### **Analitika 2018**

The Analitika 2018 Conference was held at the Legend Golf and Safari Resort in Mookhopong, Limpopo from 22 to 25 July 2018. There were a total of 178 Attendees (78 delegates, 45 students, 5 invited speakers, 45 exhibitors and 5 accompanying persons). SAAMS was represented on the organizing committee by two of our committee members, Prof Duncan Cromarty and Dr Ljiljana Marjanovic. A successful post-conference workshop on TOF-MS was jointly organized with the South African Spectroscopic Society (SASS). SAAMS awarded first and second prizes for students' oral and poster presentations where mass spectrometry was utilized.

### **International Mass Spectrometry Conference (IMSC) 2018**

Prof Egmont Rohwer represented SAAMS when attending the IMSC 2018 event held in Florence, Italy from 26-31 August, 2018. In 1998, SAAMS was one of the founding members of the International Mass Spectrometry Foundation (IMSF) which organises the IMSC. IMSC 2020 will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. IMSC 2022 will take place in Maastricht, the Netherlands. There could be an opportunity for SAAMS to host the conference in South Africa in future. Considering that the IMSF has on several occasions sponsored international speakers for our local conferences, the annual membership fee paid to the IMSF is well-warranted. SAAMS is considering the partial sponsorship of student(s) to attend IMSC's in future and will continue to assist local students to apply for existing fellowships that are offered by the IMSF.

### **Metabolomics / Accelerated Mass Spectrometry event**

The event was held at the i-Themba LABS at the University of the Witwatersrand on 4 October 2018. Dr Steven Lai (Waters, USA) presented a lecture on "*Mapping metabolic pathways over time*" and Dr Stephan Woodborne presented a lecture on "*Hot birds and dying crocs – adventures in stable light isotope science*". The event was sponsored by Microsep (Waters division). A similar event was held at the i-Themba LABS in Cape Town shortly afterwards.

### **SAAMS / SASS LA-ICP-MS event**

An event organized jointly by SAAMS and SASS that took place at the National Laboratory Association's (NLA) labs on 19 October 2018. Presenter Dr Nick Westaway from Teledyne Cetac presented on "*Laser Ablation ICP-MS and Small volume sample introduction systems*".

### **SAAMS / SASS Young Mass Spectrometrist / Spectroscopist Student Symposium**

The Northern region's symposium was for the first time jointly hosted by both SAAMS and SASS. The event was held at PerkinElmer's auditorium in Midrand on 30 November 2018. A total of six postgraduate students from various tertiary institutions presented their research which utilized spectroscopy and/or mass spectrometry techniques. The Southern region's event was unfortunately cancelled due to insufficient abstracts being received. Mr Qedile Zwane, a Masters student from the University of Johannesburg, won both the Northern region event with the prize sponsored by SAAMS/SASS as well as the National prize of R 5000 which was sponsored by PerkinElmer.

## **5. Website and Social media**

SAAMS has acquired the services of Blutodlogix to host the website domain. The website subcommittee has received the necessary training to manage and update the website as needed. The subcommittee has also decided to discontinue using the SAAMS Facebook account but will continue to use the SAAMS LinkedIn account as a means of social media communication.

## **6. General**

The SAAMS committee looks forward to organizing more mass spectrometry related activities in the year ahead and appreciates the continued support and involvement from mass spectrometry vendors. The SAAMS committee is further thanked for their time attending committee meetings and the dedication shown to all of SAAMS' endeavours.

Brendon Naicker  
SAAMS Chairperson  
22 October 2019