



Report for the period August 2019 to July 2020

1. Committee

Three committee meetings were held during this period:

27 August 2019

5 December 2019

4 February 2020

The following members were elected to serve on the SAAMS National Committee for two years from July 2019:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Brendon Naicker * | (Chairperson) |
| Maré Linsky | (Vice-chairperson & Minute Secretary) |
| Ljiljana Marjanovic | (Immediate-past Chairperson) |
| Schalk de Kock | (Treasurer) |
| Egmont Rohwer | (International Representative) |
| Mike Britton | (Liaison with SACI) |
| Maxime Chalmers van den Berg | (Vendor Industry Representative) |
| Duncan Cromarty | (Metabolomics Representative) |
| Désirée Prevoo-Franzsen | (Industry Representative) |
| Ireshyn Govender | (Industry Representative) |
| Madelien Wooding | (Academic Representative) |

Regional representatives:

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

* Brendon Naicker resigned from the committee in March 2020 to take up a job opportunity in the UK. Maré Linsky took over the role as Chair, while Ljiljana Marjanovic agreed to fill the position of Vice-chair for the remainder of the term of office. Madelien Wooding has taken over the role of Minute secretary.

2. Membership

SAAMS has a membership of 432 members (as of July 2020) including students, analysts, researchers and instrument supplier representatives. Apart from chemical laboratories and institutions, members come from other disciplines such as veterinary, microbiology, pharmaceutical, food and drugs, geology, agricultural, medical etc.

3. Finances

Following the closure of the SAAMS financial year on 30 April 2020, the bank statements, all associated paperwork and transaction authorizations were forwarded to Mr John Mosdell, SAAMS' new financial auditor. Unfortunately, due to a prolonged illness, Mr De Kock (SAAMS' previous auditor of 20 years) was unable to perform the 2018/2019 audit, and Mr Mosdell audited SAAMS' financial statements for the last two years. These audited statements were provided to SACI at the end of June 2020.

The most significant income received during the last financial year was interest on the investments.

Expenses during the period included the cost of function venues, meetings and meals, bank charges, awards to young scientists, etc. Due to a reduction in sponsorships, the most significant expense was cost associated with functions.

4. Functions and activities

SAAMS / SASS mini-symposium, 22 August 2019



This event was organized jointly by SAAMS and SASS as an opportunity to celebrate the winner of 2018's Mass Spectrometrist / Spectroscopist Student event. At the event held on the 22nd of August 2019 at the South African Grain Laboratories (SAGL) Conference Centre, the winner - Qedile Zwane from the University of Johannesburg presented a talk on his thesis entitled: Photoreduction of Chromium (VI) using multi-phase Bismuth Vanadate (BiVO₄) Photocatalyst. After his presentation, he officially received his prize.

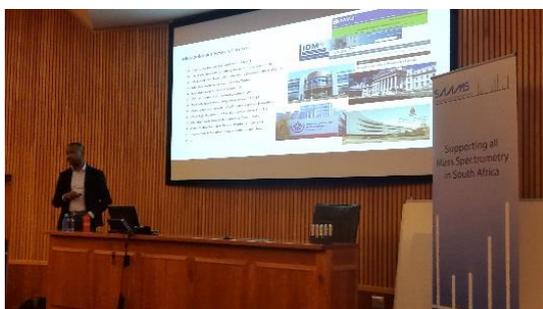
Qedile's presentation was followed by another student presentation from Machel Leuschner from the University of Pretoria on her recently completed PhD-thesis on Bioanalysis of the Geneva phenotyping cocktail in whole blood collected with volumetric absorptive micro-sampling by LC-MS/MS.

Annual General Meeting, 23 October 2019



SAAMS' Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2019 took place on 23 October 2019 at the South African Grain Laboratories Conference Centre. The AGM was hosted in conjunction with a lecture by Dr Fidele Tugizimana, from the University of Johannesburg on "Mass spectrometry in Metabolomics: a story of co-evolution?" In his presentation Dr Tugizimana gave a comprehensive overview of the development and various current applications in the field.

During the AGM section of the meeting, the Chairman's report was discussed, specifically providing updates on SAAMS membership, finances, SAAMS' auditor, social media and reviewing events held during the past year. The new SAAMS national committee and regional representatives for the 2019-2021 term were also formally announced at the AGM.



SAAMS / SASS Young Mass Spectrometrists / Spectroscopist Student Symposium

The Northern region's symposium was jointly organised by both SAAMS and SASS. The event was again hosted at PerkinElmer's auditorium in Midrand on 29 November 2019. Four postgraduate students from various tertiary institutions presented their research which utilized spectroscopy and/or mass spectrometry techniques. SAAMS sponsored the prize for the Regional winner, Lorely Cairns. Unfortunately, the Southern region's event again had to be cancelled due to limited interest.

Organic solvent vapours addition during electrospray ionisation and desorption electrospray ionisation, 12 December 2019

Prof André Venter from Western Michigan University in the USA presented A Mass Spectrometry Fundamentals Lecture on: Organic solvent vapours addition during electrospray ionisation and desorption electrospray ionisation, at the CSIR on the 12th of December 2019. The presentation focussed on the addition of polar organic solvent vapours in the atmosphere surrounding the electrospray plume to change protein charge states, i.e. to reduce cationization by ions, while also improving signal intensities. Important application areas include fields such as proteomics, as well as the pharmaceutical industry, with the rise in the development of biotherapeutics.

SAAMS Beginning of the year event

The committee was in the process of organising a beginning of the year event in March/April of 2020 with presentations from Prof Duncan Cromarty and Madelien

Wooding, both from UP. Due to the onset of the Covid-19 crisis these plans unfortunately had to be halted.

5. Website and Social media

SAAMS are currently maintaining a website as well as a SAAMS LinkedIn account as a means of social media communication with its members.

6. General

ChromSAAMS 2020:



This bi-annual conference has provisionally been postponed to 2021 due to the international Covid-19 crisis. A suitable date to host the conference in Stellenbosch in 2021 will be chosen as soon as the Covid-19 situation has

stabilised and the safety of delegates can be guaranteed.

The SAAMS committee looks forward to organizing more mass spectrometry related activities once the Covid-19 crisis is over and will in the meantime continue to support applicable web-based events as far as possible.

Maré Linsky
SAAMS Chairperson
11 August 2020