



SANDTA Annual Chairperson's Report July 2011-June 2012

Chairperson: Nina Strydom

I am honoured to present the summary of SANDTA activities for the previous financial year, which has flown past at a relentless pace. I am pleased to report that thanks to a committed, enthusiastic, very special group of people on NEC, we have managed to achieve many of the targets set out at the start of the year.

The setting up of a formal SANDTA office in Bloemfontein has been very successful and well received by members. The office has assisted in reducing the burden on NEC members, particularly for updating of member details, processing queries, sending out of statements, as well as keeping track of payments. We will continue with this arrangement in future.

The primary goal for NEC to improve communication has been largely realised, and members report a very positive experience regarding the website. This is very much thanks to the enthusiasm of Shelagh Hughes, the website representative. Great ideas from all were quickly and efficiently transferred into practice, which has resulted in the desired change in member behaviour and increased utilisation of the website. New features were added to the website, including "find a therapist" section, real-time loading of information and alerting members of new information posted on the website via sms or email and the opportunity for members to access the 7 articles and obtaining CEU's directly via the website. Since February 2012 we have sent out six advertisements; 4 employment opportunities, one for therapy equipment and one course being run by another organisation. The income generated was R1 650 which will be largely used to offset the running costs of the website and member sms services.

The following additions have been or will be made to the SANDTA website:

- A page for protocols and procedures in the member's section
- An advertising page for use by members and non-members

The website-based member database has been updated and will be finalised once all of the annual fees are received. Any non-payment after 30 November will result in members being removed from the database. The office will keep the database information up to date. Members can and are encouraged to make changes to their

personal and contact details directly on the website. Members (especially those on SANDTA committees) are requested to post a photograph on their portfolio.

It was decided that the newsletter will continue, but not necessarily in the same format. The most recent newsletter is available on the website.

A gmail account (sandtanewsletter@gmail.com) is in use for all matters relating to the newsletter. Branches and Ed Com are encouraged to send requests for posting of information using the above email address.

The second primary goal was to improve governance on all levels, including communication, advertising and financial governance, and a number of procedures outlining best practice have been drawn up by members of NEC, and circulated to the branches for approval. It is hoped that these, and other procedures will remove any ambiguity that may exist regarding operations, and will also assist as a formal handover to new committee members. As the procedures are adopted, they are available to members on the members-only page on the website.

Carol Brenner who has taken over as the new Treasurer at the beginning of this year, has settled well into her new role. The budgeting process has been smooth, and all Branches and Ed Com have now adopted the same cycles for financial year end.

A huge thank you must go to Dorothy Russell, CPD officer for her continued management of the CPD processes. A procedure on continuing professional development has been compiled which clarifies processes for requesting and obtaining authorisation for training events, as well as the issuing of certificates. It is important to note that accreditation for branches activities remain free of charge, which is one of the benefits of being a SANDTA member. Official SANDTA courses are accredited at a nominal amount to cover the printing of certificates. The SANDTA office has been assisting Dorothy with these. A total of 55 events have been accredited this year, and a total of 230 SANDTA course certificates have been printed and issued.

As agreed at the previous AGM to make more resources available to members for training and research, the NEC, together with Ed Com finalised the procedure for applying for financial assistance. Payment of R12 000 were made to Dr Gillian

Saloojee to assist with her research into *A randomised control trial of alternative service provision to children with cerebral palsy in rural Kwa-Zulu Natal*. Prof Faith Bischoff received R13 000 towards travel and accommodation expenses to attending the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine meeting in Toronto, Canada (12-15 September 2012) and for presenting a paper at the 4th International Cerebral Palsy conference in Pisa, Italy (10-13 October 2012). A previous request for attendance to the same conference by another member has been withdrawn after funds were approved, and another request is currently pending. Members who receive financial assistance all agree to certain terms, including acknowledging SANDTA in presentations, presenting at upcoming SANDTA conferences, writing of articles and presenting workshops to branches. Members are encouraged to apply for assistance.

Branches all report good health, with lots of CPD activities offered to members, including initiatives of inviting international speakers such as Heather Holgate, Jean Pierre Maes and others. I would however like to see more training opportunities for therapists working with the adult population. Worth a special mention is the Northern Gauteng branch committee who has managed to resurrect and growing a previously ailing branch. Branches have been supported by Jenny Lange, branch liaison. Jenny is unfortunately vacating this position to dedicate her time to the organising of the next SANDTA congress, which will be held in Cape Town in October 2013.

I want to thank the Eastern Cape Branch and Sarita Nel, Chairperson of the branch for hosting this year's face-to-face NEC/Branches meeting. This annual event, attended by one or two branch members has proven very successful and will continue.

Thank you also to a wonderful group of people on the executive committee who worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of SANDTA – I am indebted to you all.

Nina Strydom
13 October 2012