



**SANDTA Annual Chairperson's Report**  
**July 2019 - June 2020**

I have the privilege today to present a summary of the activities and events for the previous financial year. The 2019/2020 year has been an interesting one with lots of ups and downs and changes to plans. The coronavirus has forced us all to adapt in ways that we did not anticipate including adapting to online training, virtual meetings and this virtual AGM. I commend everyone for rising to the challenge and adjusting to the “new normal”.

Our committee members for 2019/2020 included the following:

Chairperson - Andrea Fourie

Chair-elect - Pam Gibbs

Secretary - Bianca Reinecke

Treasurer - Tamar Koekemoer

PRO and Marketing - Shelley Broughton

Branch Liaison - Sharon Rothwell

NEC Representative - Ingrid Vriend

CPD Representative - Zinnete Cronje

In light of COVID-19 many of the training plans and events had to be put on hold for the year and this has particularly influenced Ed Comm and their ability to offer workshops. It has been wonderful to see how much time and energy they have put into the online modules, developing new online material and constantly meeting to try and stay on top of the ever changing training landscape. For this we commend Ed Comm.

The SANDTA branches have also risen to the occasion with all branches offering online AGMs with either live or pre-recorded talks. Having AGM's online has allowed more cross-branch engagement allowing SANDTA to truly become a national organisation. We commend all the

branch committees and chairs for reaching more members than ever with innovative, new ideas and topics.

The highlight for the year for us as NEC has been the design, planning and development of the website. Sublime Creative was appointed as our web developer and we are excited to see the new SANDTA design, website and branding come to light. The website will allow for a more up to date, user friendly member section where online articles and CPD can be easily accessed. The Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology Journal access will also be integrated into the member section making this a one of a kind feature for SANDTA members. We are updating and enhancing the sections for the public and are very excited about the reach and spread that we should be able to achieve to the general public.

### **SANDTA Educational Committee (Ed Comm)**

The Educational Committee has had an interesting year with many in-person training courses postponed due to COVID-19. The Basic Course consisted of 6 weeks full time with an additional online self-study module. The Classification module was added to this year's online content. Ed Comm has continued with the services of Brainebox to assist us with the distribution and to run the daily administration of the online modules. The online modules have been successfully completed by the participants but the course continues with one monthly online tutorial from July to November 2020 in preparation for the face to face/practical weeks. This will likely occur in early 2021 in Cape Town.

Only 1 introductory course was presented in October 2019 in Cape Town for the department of Education by the team of Donne D (PT), Faizah T (ST) and Lisa R (OT). All other courses that were planned in Johannesburg, Cape Town and KZN have been cancelled and postponed to 2021.

AN Advanced Early Intervention Course was led by Gay Girolami (PT), assisted by Karien Marais (ST) and Diane Frits-Ryan (OT). It was attended by 19 NDT trained therapists at The Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital from the 2 March – 13 March 2020. The course was very well received and successfully completed by all participants. The last few days were held under

the imminent threat of covid. We hope to present the next baby course with a team of local tutors.

Despite this change in face-to-face teaching they have been hard at work. EdCom tutors participated in 8 Zoom meetings between September 2019 and August 2020. These meetings served to discuss a variety of issues pertaining to the business of EdCom including course planning and organisation; Introductory, Basic and Advanced course content and curriculum development; and multidisciplinary tutor training. Additionally, lockdown has given Ed Comm an opportunity to work on the content of the basic course online content.

The content of the online self-study modules of the basic course was offered to therapists who previously completed the 8 weeks basic course in the past. It was oversubscribed with more than 50 therapists completing the modules. Ed Comm will use the feedback received from this year attendants to improve our material and continue to promote Bobath/NDT.

Ed Comm is still dedicated to training tutors with Lisa Rawstone, Faiza Toefy and Sharon Rothwell working towards becoming tutors in OT, Speech and Physiotherapy respectively. .

It is with sadness that Ed Comm accepted the resignation of Ingrid Vriend Occupational Therapy Tutor in July 2020. We would like to express our gratitude for her contribution to EDCOM and SANDTA and we hope to stay in contact for the future.

We would like to thank the Educational Committee and the chairperson Doris Mbuyu for their ongoing commitment and dedication to SANDTA and for continuing to educate our members on the latest developments in the Bobath/NDT arena.

## **Office**

SANDTA would not be able to run effectively or efficiently without the support of Marianne Oosthuizen and Lynett Venter, our office administrators. Marianne and Lynett are always available to handle any query and support both NEC and EdCom in the day to day running of the organisation. Over the last year Lynette and Marianne have seamlessly managed the CPD applications, online module registration and administrative support for advertising. I would like to extend our thanks to Marianne and Lynett for all their support over the last year.

## **PRO and Marketing**

The main focus of the PRO and Marketing portfolio this year has been with regards to advertising, website development, Facebook page administration and general communication with members. This year has seen the growth of our SANDTA facebook page from 272 active participants at last year's AGM to 424 members on the group today. The facebook page is open to all therapists and is used to advertise courses, job posts and other interesting pieces of work and information pertaining to Bobath/NDT. Additionally we encourage therapists to use the platform to network, interact and engage with SANDTA and their peers. Thank you Shelley for everything you do for SANDTA.

## **Way Forward**

SANDTA's mandate has always been to provide relevant, up to date knowledge and training to therapists working with children with neurodevelopmental conditions. We continue to strive to fulfil this mandate and thank you the members for engaging with us, providing feedback and suggestions in order for us to continue to do what we do. We are hoping to be able to continue to offer a combination of in person and online training to provide access to more people from different parts of the country. As with the topic tonight it also allows us to access international topics and speakers without the associated travel costs.

Lastly, I would like to thank the NEC, branch and EdCom committee members for their dedication, commitment and input over the last year. This organisation would not be possible without you. I would specifically like to thank Tamar Koekermoer (our treasurer) and Sharon Rothwell (branch liaison) who will be stepping down from the NEC committee. We appreciate your dedication and commitment to SANDTA and we thank you for all the time, energy and effort put in.

Thank you.

Report Compiled by Andrea Fourie, SANDTA NEC Chairperson.

