



SASLHA's Quarterly

Newsletter

Issue 10: June 2025



Hallo from **Your SASLHA Team!**

Can you believe we're only four months into our new membership year? It honestly feels like we've crammed an entire year's worth of excitement, growth and meaningful connections into these short months!

We've been busy **connecting with stakeholders, championing your professional development and working tirelessly to support both you and our incredible profession.** Guess what? We're just getting started!

This month's ECHO brings you something special – our passionate CPD committee members share short video insights explaining why they selected each article and how these pieces can truly transform your clinical practice. It's their way of connecting with you personally about what matters most in our field.

So grab your favourite cup of coffee (or tea!), get comfortable and let's dive into everything that's been happening in your SASLHA community.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.sasliha.com



WELCOME NEW COUNCIL

We're thrilled to introduce **two incredible professionals joining our Council family**:



KHOMOTJO KGARE

Khomotjo Kgare stepped up when Xoli Mazubuko needed to step down for personal reasons. We're grateful for Xoli's years of dedicated service and wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavours.



QHAWEKAZI MAZALENI

Qhawekazi Mazaleni brings fresh energy and represents our younger professional demographic – a voice we've been eager to amplify on Council.

Both bring unique perspectives and passion that will undoubtedly strengthen our organisation.

Welcome aboard!



SASLHA AGM 18 JUNE 2025

What an incredible turnout – **118 members joined us for our AGM and CPD event!**

Our **partnership with PPS** delivered a thought-provoking ethics presentation on *"Balancing Clinical Autonomy with Ethical Responsibility."*

Missed it?

No worries! Catch up on everything.

[READ THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT](#)



[READ THE FINANCE REPORT](#)





'REIMAGINE' STRATEGY SESSION YOUR FUTURE, OUR FOCUS

Our Council and Committee leaders gathered for an intensive strategy session with YourHub, themed "Reimagine" – because sometimes you need to look back to leap forward!

Here's what we're cooking up for you:

- ✓ **Digital Transformation:** We will be revamping our website and exploring a mobile app because we know you're always on the go!
- ✓ **Growing Our Community:** New strategies to help students transition smoothly into full membership, plus better university partnerships and follow-up support.
- ✓ **Inclusion & Representation:** DEI principles are being woven into everything we do, including an exciting new ambassador program.
- ✓ **Better Governance:** Streamlined volunteer onboarding, clearer roles, and stronger support systems, because you deserve the best from us.
- ✓ **Strategic Communication:** Quarterly updates, behind-the-scenes wins, member spotlights, and tailored content for students, public sector, and private practice professionals.
- ✓ **Income Diversification:** Exploring new revenue streams to better serve you without increasing membership fees.





DEI TASK TEAM YOUR VOICES MATTER

Our dedicated DEI Task Team is hard at work **analysing your survey responses** to create recommendations that will truly benefit you, your patients, and our professions.

Shout-out to our task team superstars: Skye Adams, Mikateko Ndhambi, Natalie Herb, Babalwa Ludidi, and Musawenkosi Sithole



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Michelle Frewen and the Member Engagement Committee rocked the **Career Expo at Parktown High School for Girls!** They introduced bright young minds to the amazing worlds of Speech Therapy and Audiology.

The team created fantastic career information materials and shared our *"What is a Speech Therapist/Audiologist"* brochure. **Way to go, team!**

Big thanks to: Michelle Frewen, Hlaello Phago, Sanele Khoza, Romanda Hombir, and Qhawekazi Mazaleni





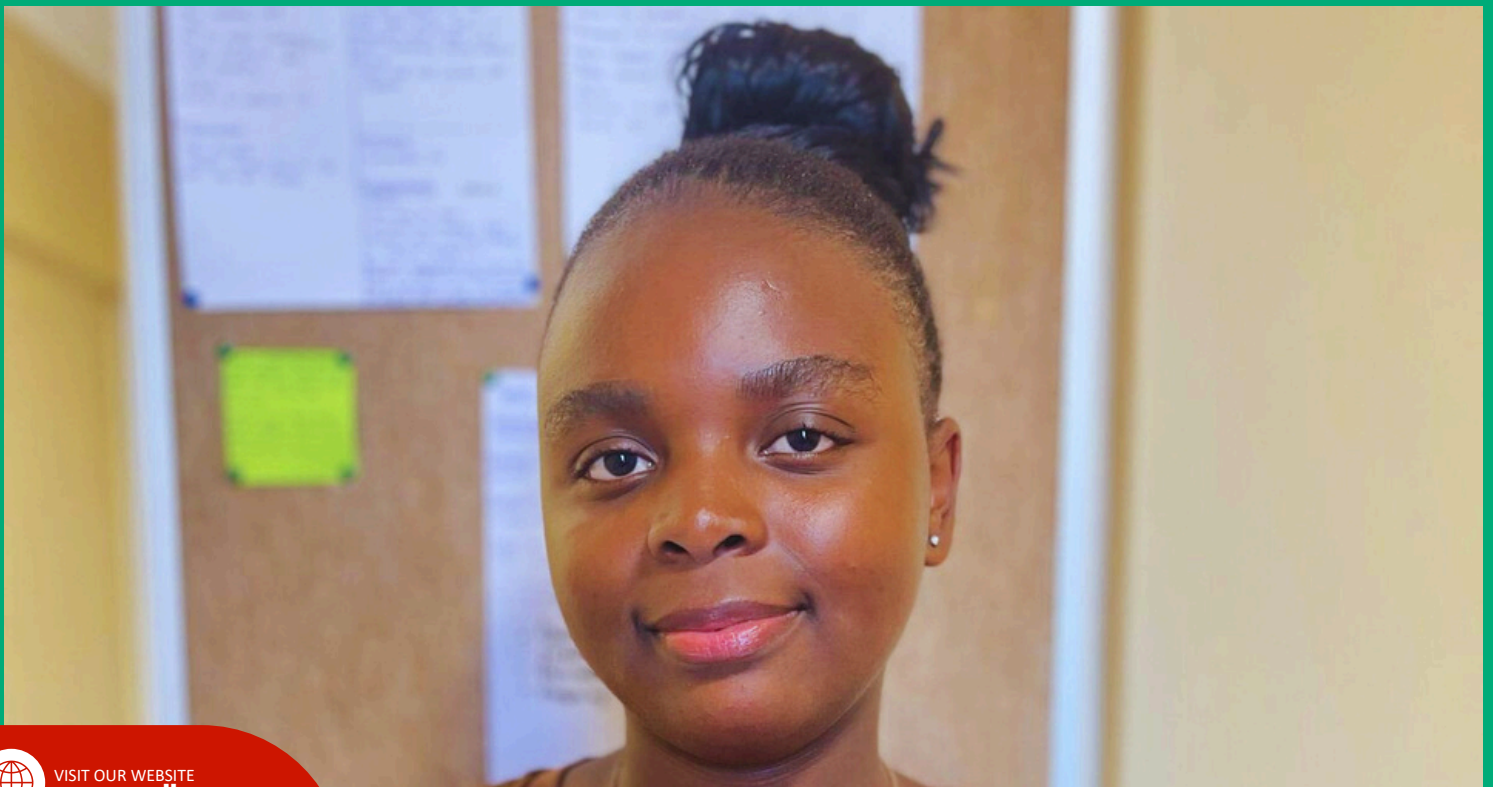
CELEBRATING OUR MYRTLE ARON BURSARY WINNER

We're absolutely thrilled to announce that the **Myrtle Aron Bursary** has been awarded to **Sanele Khoza**, a dedicated third-year audiology student at the University of Cape Town!

This prestigious bursary supports the development of future professionals in speech-language therapy and audiology, honouring the incredible legacy of Myrtle Aron's lifelong commitment to our profession.

Sanele's genuine passion for audiology and unwavering commitment to making a meaningful difference in the field perfectly embody the values this bursary represents. We couldn't be more excited to see the incredible impact Sanele will make in the years ahead!

Congratulations, Sanele – the future of audiology is brighter because of passionate students like you!





YOUR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH IS OUR PRIORITY

Our CPD Committee has been absolutely crushing it with an incredible lineup of learning opportunities! From our Edu-Series events to the Growth Mindset Course, we're here to fuel your clinical excellence.

Don't Miss: Our August Day Seminar featuring "The Six Thinking Hats" – designed to empower you to deliver more ethical, effective, and connected care.

REGISTER NOW!

WHAT'S COMING UP: SASLHA EVENTS CALENDAR

- ✓ Fall Risk Symposium (Parts 5 & 6)
- ✓ Cochlear Implants in Geriatric Population
- ✓ Feeding Decisions in Advanced Dementia
- ✓ Hearing Loss and Workplace Chemicals
- ✓ Personal Professional Development
- ✓ And so much more through December!

Want to know why our CPD articles matter? Our committee members Tali Frankel and Carol Legg have created personal video messages explaining the impact and relevance of selected articles. They'll show you exactly how these pieces can add real value to your clinical practice.

Huge appreciation to our CPD Committee: Tali Frankel, Jessica Paken, Katerina Ehlert, Bianca vd Walt, Nancy Barber, and Carol Legg

AUDIOLOGY



TITLE	AUTHOR
Investigating Hearing Function in Paediatric Patients with Cancer in South Africa	Tlangelani Nyeleti Chauke; Katijah Khoza-Shangase
Pre-school hearing screening is necessary to detect childhood hearing loss after the newborn period: a study exploring risk factors, additional disabilities, and referral pathways	Allison R. Mackey, Anna Persson & Inger Uhlén
Effectiveness of an Over-the-Counter Self-fitting Hearing Aid Compared With an Audiologist-Fitted Hearing Aid: A Randomized Clinical Trial	Karina C. De Sousa; Vinaya Manchaiah; David R. Moore; Marien A. Graham; De Wet Swanepoel

ETHICS

TITLE	AUTHOR
Systematic review of international ethics knowledge in the speech-language pathology literature (1980–2022).	Naudé, A., Kanji, A., Louw, B., & Bornman, J.

SPEECH



TITLE	AUTHOR
Are Speech Sound Difficulties Risk Factors for Difficulties in Language and Reading Skills? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	Line Walquist-Sørli, Ømur Caglar-Ryeng, Bjarte Furnes, Trude Nergård-Nilssen, Enrica Donolato, and Monica Melby-Lervåg

Keep your ear to the ground for the next available articles!





ENT/SASLHA CONGRESS 2025: DON'T MISS THIS!

This isn't your typical conference – it's a game-changer! **We're bringing you Intensive Masterclasses designed to supercharge your clinical expertise.**

Whether you're a Speech-Language Therapist or Audiologist, there's something for everyone. From the Dysphagia Masterclass, offering real-world strategies for complex swallowing cases, to the AAC Masterclass, championing communication rights, and a powerful focus on multilingual therapy in South Africa's diverse context. The learning is hands-on, practical, and deeply relevant.

Audiologists can look forward to precision-driven sessions like Hearing Aid Verification, client-centred care Beyond the Hearing Aid, and tackling the Speech-in-Noise challenge with tools tailored to our multilingual realities. **This is masterclass-level, future-ready practice!**

[REGISTER NOW](#)



[FULL PROGRAMME](#)



THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY HEAD AND NECK SURGERY
AND SOUTH AFRICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION

ENT SASLHA CONGRESS 2025

STRIVING TOWARDS EXCELLENCE IN ENT, AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH THERAPY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH ALLIED SOCIETIES

17 – 19 OCTOBER 2025

THE BOARDWALK CONVENTION CENTRE | PORT ELIZABETH / Gqeberha



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.saslha.com

PARTNERSHIP



CELEBRATING OUR AMAZING PARTNERS

We believe in showing appreciation where it's due, and our partners deserve a special toast! SASLHA recently hosted a delightful wine tasting event that brought together representatives from some of our most valued supporters.

It was wonderful to connect with our friends from Asizwe, Medifix, Southern ENT, Unitron, Shackleton Risk, Amtronix and PrivySeal, in a relaxed, enjoyable setting.

This wasn't just about the wine (though it was excellent!), it was our heartfelt way of saying thank you for the incredible support these partners provide to SASLHA and, ultimately, to you as members.

The event created the perfect space for meaningful conversations and genuine connections, reminding us that the best partnerships are built on shared values and mutual respect.

To all our partners: Thank you for believing in SASLHA and supporting our mission. Your partnership makes a real difference in what we can achieve for our members and the profession.

Here's to many more years of collaboration and success together!



WE'RE YOUR VOICE WHERE IT MATTERS MOST

- ✓ **HPCSA & Professional Practice:** Our engagement continues with positive momentum. Recent meetings have provided clarity on ethical rules, advertising regulations, and scope of practice updates (speech therapy scope revision expected by October!).
 - ✓ **International Connections – IALP:** We're proud to announce that Dr. Skye Adams will be South Africa's flag bearer at the opening ceremony of the 33rd World Congress! 🇿🇦
 - ✓ **Universal Health Coverage (UHC):** We attended the UHAC meeting where strategic policy briefs were presented for reforming the South African health system. Key discussion points included:
 - **Workforce & Governance Reforms:** National health workforce strategy and removing political interference
 - **Decentralisation:** Autonomous district health authorities and independent public hospital management
 - **Financing System Changes:** Social health insurance and universal pooling systems
 - **Access & Quality:** Universal emergency care and private sector pricing controls
- The 10-point reform framework aims for equitable, efficient healthcare through decentralized governance and fiscal sustainability.
- ✓ **Smart Health Africa Summit:** Our representative is attending this exclusive summit focused on driving practical healthcare innovation across Africa. Watch this space for updates!
 - ✓ **WHO-FIC & Rehabilitation Standards:** We're actively participating in implementing classification standards for health interventions.



A WORD FROM OUR CEO



What strikes me most about these past few months, is how much we've accomplished together. Every meeting attended, every policy discussion, every CPD session. It all comes back to one thing: supporting you in your incredible work.

Whether you're treating patients in public hospitals, private practice, schools, whether you're a seasoned professional, academic or just starting your career, you are the heart of what we do. Your dedication to changing lives through communication and hearing healthcare inspires everything we do at SASLHA.

As we head into the second half of 2025, I'm excited about what we'll achieve together. Keep an eye out for those quarterly Council updates, get involved in our ambassador program when it launches, and please keep sharing your stories with us. Your experiences shape our direction.

Thank you for being part of this incredible community. Thank you for trusting us to represent your interests. And thank you for the amazing work you do every single day.

Here's to the rest of 2025 being even more extraordinary!

Annaline Jack
SASLHA CEO

P.S. Don't forget to check out those CPD videos from Tali and Carol, they're waiting to share some real gems with you! We would love to hear from you. What would you like to see more of in ECHO? Drop us a line, this is your newsletter, after all.