During our business meeting held on 20 September 2021, SAPS held elections for the position of Treasurer and for two Executive Committee members. As a result of that election, our Treasurer Vaiyapuri Subramaniam was re-elected for his second term. We also had elected two new executive committee members, Dalia Dawoud from the UK/Egypt and Peter Guthrey from Australia. We would like to thank our two outgoing executive committee members Silvana Nair Leite from Brazil, and Pamela Heaton from the United States for their engagement and contributions over the last four years. We are also excited to work with our new Exco members to provide more engagement with our members.

Following our inaugural awarding of the SAP’s research grant in 2020, SAPS decided to offer 2 awards for 2021- one being for a research project related to SAPS interests, and the other for a Covid-19 related project of interest to SAPS. We had a number of submissions for the SAPS award, however, no submissions for the Covid-19 related project. However, we ended up with two excellent project submissions that we deemed equally deserving of the grant so we have awarded in 2021 two research grants.

One grant was awarded to Dr Nebojša Pavlović from Serbia for his project on “Overcoming barriers to the involvement of community pharmacists in smoking cessation programs in Serbia: time for action.” The second grant was awarded to Certina Ho from Canada for her project on “Quality Improvement Community of Practice for Pharmacy Professionals.” We look forward to getting the results in an update later this year to be reported during our business meeting.

SAPS have begun a series of regional outreach programs, designed to seek member feedback into what they want from FIP and SAPS in particular. These “meet-ups” have been designed to be held in regional areas, in the first language of these regions. The meetups are also facilitated by a local member or Exco member, along with a local colleague. We have so far held a successful Arab region/Arabic speaking meet-up, and have a Japanese speaking, South American/Spanish speaking and Sub-Saharan African meeting scheduled in the coming months. The idea for the meetups is to gain insight into areas of interest, expertise and needs of pharmacists in these regions, to allow us to direct our communications and education efforts to cover these gaps in the future.

SAPS have again participated in FIP Webinar series, with Exco members facilitating and speaking in a number of webinars over the last year. SAPS aims to continue to contribute to this valuable resource in the future.
SAPS has continued regular communication with its members, through our newsletters, and various mail outs, focusing on specific events. Our social media presence continues to grow, with our Facebook members doubling over the last year. We aim to grow our Twitter and LinkedIn presence this year, as we have Exco members who are responsible for these platform posts.

Our regional meet-ups, held in the local time zone, and in the native language of the country/region. We hope this will reach out to areas traditionally less well represented by FIP, and not only provide information about FIP, but gain insight into areas they feel they need more support, education or resources. We hope to compile this into a report for FIP.

One of SAPS’s highlight of the year was the presentation of our inaugural SAPS research award. This award was designed to provide a forum for our members to present new and innovative SAPS related research to fellow pharmacists globally, as well as to encourage new members to join our FIP family. Our inaugural award was bestowed on Catarina Bernardo, a PhD student from Lisbon University, for her research on “Exploring medication adherence in breast cancer patients shifted from IV to oral forms according to the ABC taxonomy”.

Goals in 2022:

- Goal #1: Facilitate regional discussion in the first language of the pharmacists from that region. meet-ups
- Goal # 2: Grow our communications network, with more newsletters, social media posts and be more interactive with members via these mediums.
- Goal #3: Provide ongoing contributions to FIP webinar series