The SANC 2018 Workshop was hosted at the Birchwood Convention Centre from 18-19 June 2018. Delegates from various stakeholder groups within nursing attended to address and discuss issues regarding:

- The achievement of the 15TH SANC Council against its five-year strategy
- The SANC regulatory framework
- Translating new nursing categories into new nursing qualifications
- Towards offering the new nursing qualifications by public nursing colleges
- The CHE - SANC collaboration on accreditation of Nursing Education Institutions (NEIs)
- Distinguishing devices for new categories of nurses
- Are ethical and professional values still relevant for nursing in the future?
- Competencies development for nurse/midwife specialists
- Nurse prescriber - implementing Section 56 of the Nursing Act
- Handling transgressions in nursing and role of Impairment Committee of Council in caring for the carers
- Continuing professional development (CPD)
The networking and feedback from delegates provided valuable information for the SANC and stakeholders alike to consider and implement in future plans and strategies.

The Workshop also marks the end of the 15th SANC Council’s tenure (2013 – 2018). Read more about this further on this newsletter

The SANC would like to thank all delegates for their input and attendance and look forward to hosting similar future events. Consistent engagement is and remains key in ensuring that we address all areas concerning our chosen profession.
At the recent SANC Workshop we honored one of our own with a Service Excellence Award for her dedication to the profession and her patients.

In 2016 Sister Primrose Goge, a nurse at Shakaskraal Clinic in KwaZulu-Natal, noticed an abnormality while surveying an ultrasound scan on a 29-week pregnant patient. And the rest, as they say, is history.

This nurse’s instincts and dedication to her patients saved the life of baby Smangaliso, who subsequently to the scan received a pericardiocentesis procedure to save his life – a procedure that has never before been performed in South Africa.

Nurse Goge has worked in primary healthcare, including antenatal, for the past 16 years while using only basic equipment. “But this has taught me to rely on my instincts in order to provide the best possible care for my patients,” she says.

This is what happened on that day:

The patient arrived for her routine Ante-Natal check-up at 29 weeks. After checking the fetal heart Nurse Goge heard an abnormal, added sound (irregular fetal heart heard) from the fetoscope that told her that the baby is alive but the heart beats were weird. Nurse Goge had a feeling that something was not right and requested the mother to go for an ultrasound scan.

She did not leave it there though, insisting that the mother brings her the results of the scan as soon as it was available. The scan revealed an anomaly around the heart and lungs of the baby, and Nurse Goge referred the mother to her nearest hospital for further investigation.

It was found that baby Smangaliso had an extremely rare foetal cardiac condition, whereby a vascular malformation in the outer chamber of the heart was causing fluid to leak into the space around the heart. Had it not been detected, this fluid would have been fatal to the baby. This condition is so rare, it is found in only 1 in 300 000 pregnancies world-wide.

Baby Smangaliso underwent surgery while in his mother’s womb, a procedure that entailed doctors to insert a needle precisely into the pericardial space in order to extract the fluid build-up around the heart and thus relieving the compression of the heart by the surrounding fluid.

Baby Smangaliso has since been born via caesarean weighing 2.8kg and is a happy and healthy baby.

In Nurse Goge’s own words: “We, as nurses, are the first defence against any life-threatening problems, and we cannot wait or take chances. We are responsible for people’s lives, and when it comes to pregnant mothers we are responsible for more than one life at a time.”

True to her caring nature and her commitment to healthcare, she leaves us with these final words: “I want this baby’s story to remind and encourage pregnant mothers about the importance of antenatal check-ups.”

Nurse Goge, we salute you. You make the profession of nursing proud and you are a true reflection of the SANC Coat of Arms’ motto: “AD EXCELLENTIAE STUDENDUM” which means “In Pursuit of Excellence”.

From left: SANC Chairperson Prof. Busi Bhengu handing over a Service Excellence Award to Nurse Primrose Goge.
Saying farewell to the 15th SANC Council

The term of office (2013-2018) of the 15th SANC Council has come to an end and a new Council will take its place for the next five years as of July 2018.

The 15th Council ended its tenure with a suitable sign-off in the form of the recently hosted 2018 SANC Workshop, setting the tone for the new Council to continue on and build on its basis.

We said goodbye one last time to the Council members at a special dinner on Wednesday 20 July. Certificates of Appreciation for their service were handed out to each of these Council members:

- Prof BR Bhengu (Chairperson)
- Mr MN Chauke
- Mr JC Cloete
- Prof M Davhana-Maselesele (Deputy Chairperson)
- Ms MJ Dzebu
- Prof DI Gihwala
- Ms G Harper
- Prof SP Human
- Ms N Isaacs-Raiss
- Ms G Jeftha
- Dr EL Coustas
- Ms TR Mdalalose
- Ms TL Mkhonza
- Ms SI Mokale
- Ms NC Mokoape
- Ms DQ Ngidi
- Mr FO Nyalunga
- Prof AJ Pienaar
- Ms P Santho
- Ms A Thupane
- Ms SA Mchunu
- Ms P Magagula
- Ms D Seerane
- Dr M Molepo
- Dr H Ally
- Ms N Gumede.

The Registrar and Staff wish them well in their new endeavours and leave them with this thought:

“Great leaders don’t set out to be a leader…..They set out to make a difference. It’s never about the role, always about the goal. Thank you for making a difference during your tenure as Council member.”
The 15th Council of the SANC count the following as some of its achievements over the five years of its tenure:

The Council’s strategy Focus Areas were:
- Reposition and re-engineer the organization
- Provide nursing leadership
- Regulate nursing and midwifery education, training and practice

Some of the achievements

- Produced a five-year strategic plan within six months of the Council coming into office which includes details as to how the Council planned to achieve its objectives under the Nursing Act
- Produced an Operational Plan on an annual basis crafted by the SANC management based on the Council’s annual strategic review and plans
- Strengthened good governance practices hence setting up of Audit and Risk Committee and others
- Submitted six-monthly reports to the Minister of Health to advise on matters of the profession and Council
- Developed Charters for Committees of Council to enhance good governance
- Developed new regulations, finalized regulations from 14th Council and reviewed some in existence - ten sets implemented and six sets in progress.
- Completed Nursing Act Amendment
- Improved financial controls and obtained an unqualified audit opinion for financial year 2016/2017, the first since 2011
- Strengthened the Human Capital for effectiveness especially Executive Management - Human Resources and Communication and Marketing, with a further review identifying a need for Senior Manager: Internal Audit and a Company Secretary
- Established a Remuneration Committee and combined it with the HR Committee
• Initiative to overhaul the ICT System to improve the efficiency of the organization and service to the clientele
  - Membership Management system/payment engine to enable easy payment by members through electronic devices and retrieval of receipts in progress
• Initiated overhaul and replacement of the outdated Call Centre system to enhance effective interaction with the profession and stakeholders currently in progress
• Initiated partnership with the Department of Health for payment through Persal system to increase payment options and assist employers, practitioners and the SANC
• Reviewed accreditation policy to align with requirements of the HEQSF-aligned nursing qualifications and commenced with process of implementing the new nursing qualifications
• Developed and implemented programme qualifications frameworks, exit level outcomes for more than ten new nursing qualifications leading to registration of Nurse/Midwife Specialists
• Reviewed Assessment and Moderation Policy as well as policy guidelines regarding the registration of internationally qualified nurses and midwives and/or foreign qualifications with the SANC
• Developed competencies for Nurse/Midwife Specialists in collaboration with professional formations
• Received and investigated six hundred and twenty (620) complaints of unprofessional conduct
• Held 23 sittings of the Professional Conduct committee and processed one hundred and thirteen (113) matters
• Initiated the development of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and completed the CPD Framework, Feasibility study and Pilot study
• The SANC’s Impairment Committee, whose task is to support practitioners who have been reported as unfit to practice the profession due to alleged illness or disability, supported one hundred and fifty five (155) practitioners during the past five years
• Enhanced stakeholder engagement through circulars, recently #SANC Newsletter, Facebook, Stakeholder meetings, media releases, SANC 2018 2-day workshop, etc.