



MAG chairman's report 2014

Feedback on what transpired, within MAG over the last 2 years

MAG projects:

- **Research projects at the Wits Business School (GIBS)** - Research funds will be available to MBA students whose research has the potential to contribute to our understanding of, inter alia:
 - Health policy
 - Health funding
 - Economic impacts of health interventionsMAG will contribute R15 000 per successful application towards the student's tuition fees. Maximum 2 bursaries will be approved.
- **Research projects at the University of Stellenbosch business school** – exactly the same invitation was provided to the USB, where 2 students will receive bursaries from MAG to the value of R15 000 each to complete their MBA degree in the mentioned categories above.
- **USB Health technology assessment course** - MAG will contribute R2 000 per MAG member that enrol and successfully complete the HTA course presented by the USB. The details of the course are posted on the MAG website.
- **MAG SAMA working group** – the last meeting between MAG and SAMA was held in September 2011,

MAG website:

The MAG website is fully functional.

Electronic registration and updating of member's details can be done via a unique password and login details. *It remains the MAG member's responsibility to ensure that his/her contact details are updated on the website.* I would like to urge members to visit the website, in order to see if their contact details are still updated. The risk of communication not reaching the MAG member if we do not have your correct email address is huge, please assist us to keep the MAG membership as updated as possible.

We are also looking at adding various important industry links on the website where, by clicking on a link, will take the browser to the relevant website such as for example the South African Medical devices' website.

If any MAG member has suggestions how we can enhance the functionality even further, please contact me with your suggestions and I will take it up with the webmaster and responsible exco member.

MAG's exco has extended the current webmaster, Ms Belinda Frylinck's contract with a further 12 months.

MAG monthly meetings:

The monthly meetings, in Gauteng went well. Unfortunately the two exco members from the Western cape both resigned which lead to a vacuum in the monthly meetings in the western cape. I contacted Manie de Klerk in this regard and he assisted with the Medical advisor meetings in the WC over the last 4 months. Manie was not on the exco during that period, and I would like to thank him for helping out during that period.

It will be important that there is representation on exco in both Gauteng and the Western cape in order to ensure continuity of services in both provinces.

It is also important to formally thank our sponsors at the various monthly meetings for their financial assistance, as without their support, we will not be able to have these valuable get togethers where relevant topics can be discussed.

MAG membership:

As in the past, updating our MAG membership details remain a big challenge. At present we have over 100 members' details on our data base. However, less than half of the members on the database actually renewed their membership.

I would like to urge the members to pay their annual contributions.

The contact details of the MAG's exco chairperson will be placed on the website, in order to assist the treating providers if and when they can not get a hold of a particular medical advisor.

Financial report:

Please refer to the audited financial report as provided by MAG's treasurer, however, I need to add that MAG's financial position is healthy and the finances are being properly managed.

Tax exemption:

I have again applied to SARS, on behalf of MAG, to be exempted from paying income tax.

A big thank you to MAG's exco for their services during 2012 to 2014:

I would like to thank the current exco members namely Maurice Goodman, Chantal Hadfield, Bruce Sparks and Dion Kapp for the services they rendered so diligently over the past 2 years. We are all very busy, and to make time for MAG's activities during one's busy schedule is not always easy. However, I need to thank the exco for all they have done to serve our members over the last two years.

Planned National Health Insurance:

We have a new minister of health at the helm of the Department of Health and progress under his leadership is evident.

The “Green paper” on the planned NHI has been published for public comment.

The National Health Insurance implementation remains on the ANC’s agenda, however, the planned 5 year implementation date was not practical, and the eventual implementation date has not been made public. Much needs to happen for the NHI to be implemented successfully in SA, and as things stand now, the public sector hospitals upgrading and management would be paramount before the NHI can be implemented successfully.

What does the next two years hold for MAG?

One area that I do believe medical advisors need to get involved in is publishing scientific papers. The funding industry sits on a massive amount of valuable information, i.e. actual costs that we as funders have paid in relation to specific procedures and treatments. We can and should publish our experiences based relating to contentious issues, such as arthroplasties in obese patients, phase 4 clinical trial in medications etc.

We will continually monitor the developments around the NHI implementation and align ourselves accordingly.

From a personal point of view – I would like to thank the members of MAG for the opportunity they gave me to serve as Chairperson of MAG’s exco, it certainly is an honour for me.

Kind regards
Jaco Makkink