



MEDIA RELEASE

SAHPRA invests in capacity building with a focus on patient safety

Embargo: Immediate release

Pretoria, 14 December 2023 - The South Africa Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), in collaboration with Pharmacometrics Africa and the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology at the University of Witwatersrand, is responsive to the evolving and advancing healthcare technology innovation by developing relevant training for its staff, to keep up with these advances. The short course for Clinical Assessors developed for African Regulatory Agencies has a key focus on patient safety.

The development of the 12-week course does not only to address the critical skills gap in regulatory sciences on the African continent but is also addresses a critical aspect of patient safety during its face-to-face lesson on 14 December 2023. The course, accredited by the University of Witwatersrand, has now grown to involve more National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs), industry, as well as patient specific organisations like the National Osteoporosis Foundation of South Africa (NOFSA). Participants from NRAs included [Ghana Food and Drugs Authority](#), [Kenya's Pharmacy and Poisons Board](#), [Ethiopia's Food and Drug Authority](#), SAHPRA, [Tanzania's Medicines and Medical Devices Authority](#), [Namibia Medicines Regulatory Council](#), and the [Medicines Control Agency of Zimbabwe](#).

"This course is steadily evolving to address healthcare challenges, not just in the area of the critical skills gap on the continent but to consciously and purposefully focus on our three pillars of safety, efficacy and quality to ensure that medicines meet the requisite standards to protect the health and well-being of the public. We are pleased that more NRAs have come on board and excited to

collaborate with our various stakeholders and partners where we continue to pave the way for future success and growth on the continent," indicates SAHPRA CEO, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela.

"We have introduced several new components to this third iteration of our training program for clinical assessors working at African regulatory agencies. I am especially excited with this one that aims to facilitate candid dialogue among regulators, pharmaceutical industry players and academics in order to ultimately benefit patients with better therapeutic interventions, access and quality of care across the continent," said Professor Colin Pillai, CEO of Pharmacometrics Africa.

Tereza Hough, CEO of the National Osteoporosis Foundation of South Africa (NOFSA), was one of the presenters during the course, explains that "being a part of this clinical assessor course where I was able to share a patient perspective is showcasing how critical a patient's experience is in terms of a medical impact like side effects, and availability of medications."

"We, at the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology at the University of the Witwatersrand, are encouraged and very excited to continue this journey to support regulatory sciences vocational training in South Africa, and throughout the continent," said Professor Yahya E. Choonara from Wits University.

Issued by:

Dr Boitumelo Semete

CEO

boitumelo.semete@sahpra.org.za

For further enquiries /information contact:

Media contact:

Ms Nthabi Moloji

Cell: 082 407 8854

E-mail: nthabi.moloi@sahpra.org.za

About SAHPRA

SAHPRA is tasked with regulating (monitoring, evaluating, investigating, inspecting and registering) all health products. This includes clinical trials, complementary medicines, medical devices and in-

vitro diagnostics (IVDs). Furthermore, SAHPRA has the added responsibility of overseeing radiation control in South Africa. SAHPRA's mandate is outlined in the Medicines and Related Substances Act (Act No 101 of 1965 as amended) as well as the Hazardous Substances Act (Act No 15 of 1973).

SAHPRA has three pillars to ensure that medicines, medical devices and IVDs meet the requisite standards to protect the health and well-being of all who reside in South Africa:

- Safety
- Efficacy
- Quality

It is these three pillars that define the ethos of SAHPRA.

About Pharmacometrics Africa

Pharmacometrics Africa is a not-for-profit company registered in South Africa as a platform for interested groups to establish and run open access quantitative clinical pharmacology educational programs in partnership with local research organisations and academic groups.

About the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology at the University of the Witwatersrand

The Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology at the University of the Witwatersrand is home to a dynamic and innovative community of academic and support staff, postgraduates, undergraduates and postdoctoral fellows. As leaders of pharmacy education and research in South Africa, the key areas of pharmaceutical formulation and drug delivery technology, regulatory sciences, pharmaceutical entrepreneurship, management of drug therapy, counselling on the use of medication, monitoring drug therapy outcomes and pharmacology lie at the heart of our activities. We are dedicated to providing high-quality research-led teaching and supervision that can change the world we live in.

About National Osteoporosis Foundation of South Africa

The National Osteoporosis Foundation of South Africa (NOFSA) is the only non-profit, voluntary health organisation dedicated to promoting lifelong bone health in South Africa. This is done in order to reduce the widespread prevalence of osteoporosis and associated fractures, while working to find a cure for the disease, and by supporting research and developing programmes of education and advocacy.