



MEDIA RELEASE

SAHPRA invests in capacity building – announcing new graduates

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Pretoria, 5 June 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 pleased to announce the second cohort of graduates who successfully completed the short course for Clinical Assessors within African Regulatory Agencies.

The objective of developing this 12-week course was to address the critical skills gap in regulatory sciences on the African continent. The course, accredited by The University of Witwatersrand, was attended by participants from five (5) regulatory agencies - Ghana Food and Drugs Authority, Kenya's Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, SAHPRA, Tanzania's Medicines and Medical Devices Authority, the Medicines Control agency of Zimbabwe.

"This course will go a long way in addressing this critical skills gap on the continent. The second cohort of graduates certainly do us proud and will pave the way for future success and growth on the continent," indicates SAHPRA CEO, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela.

"The tutorial sessions in the course created a rich, mutually valuable learning environment for the regional and international faculty who endeavoured to discuss examples of work at the five participating African regulatory agencies. This assisted in contextualising international best practice of regulatory sciences with the local environment," said Professor Colin Pillai, CEO of Pharmacometrics Africa.

“We, at the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology at the University of the Witwatersrand, are thrilled to announce our enthusiastic involvement in this exceptional high-quality programme, showcasing our unwavering commitment to supporting regulatory sciences vocational training in South Africa, and throughout the continent. We are committed to supporting regulatory sciences education across the continent and we are excited to have our staff in the Division of Pharmacy Practice actively engaged in this high-quality programme. It's a testament to the calibre of our faculty and their dedication to the advancement of the field of regulatory sciences, and we are thrilled to see the impact that this programme will have on the regulatory landscape,” said Professor Yahya E. Choonara from Wits University.

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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 organizations 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.