

EDITORIAL

Dear SAUA Member,

As we start a new year, I wish to share some key highlights of your Association's activities during 2025.

Strategic vision and advocacy

- EXCO held a two-day *lekgotla* in February 2025 to redefine SAUA's priorities and align with modern healthcare challenges. This led to a commitment to grow the Association beyond traditional advocacy, focusing on collaboration, innovation, professional standards and engagement with healthcare funders.
- Support for universal healthcare through UHAC (Universal Healthcare Access Coalition) and reforms in government and private healthcare. We remain opposed to the NHI Act in its current format. See <https://www.uhac.co.za/>
- Financial support provided for legal challenges against the NHI Act, ensuring protection of private and academic health care. See <https://sappf.co.za/blog/sappf-october-important-update> for what SAPPF have been doing behind the scenes on your behalf.
- SAUA represented at board level at SAPPF and SAM registry.
- Active involvement in coding reform kicked off in 2025 with the development of a **new code for the Rezum procedure**. New code development pipeline for robotic pyeloplasty, robotic reconstructive procedures, targeted/fusion prostate biopsies, anatomical enucleation of the prostate (Holep) are under way.
- **Funder relationships** to be strengthened to assist with FWAE (Fraud, Waste, Abuse and Error) in coding/billing practices. This is taking more of our time and requires proactive engagement with both our members and the funding administrators.
- The SAUA is already represented on **SAMA coding committee, SAPPF coding committee and is also a member of SACHI** (The South African Classification of Healthcare Interventions [SACHI] is a multi-party organisation that manages modernisation of coding in South Africa).
- **Creation of SAUA subcommittees:** The success of the democratically elected **Robotic Surgery Interest Group (RSIG)** has shown how involvement of members can shape the future and deliver results for the specialty. The Exco has prioritised the following subcommittees/interest groups for 2026:
 - EndoUrology interest group needed to focus on laser prostatectomy and minimally invasive BPH treatments
 - Reconstructive and UroGynae subcommittee



Meetings and relationships

- Record South African attendance at **EAU 2025 in Madrid**, enabled by our group membership of the EAU and additional negotiated discounted fees for SAUA members.
- **Strengthened ties** with EAU and PAUSA. Rekindled relationships with BAUS (UK) and USANZ (Australia and New Zealand), opening doors for reciprocal training opportunities, outreach and conference participation. Memorandum of co-operation with SRS (Society for Robotic Surgery).
- SAUA invited to present at the **1st Southern African Prostate Cancer Summit in Windhoek**, cosigning a declaration to improve prostate cancer care in subSaharan Africa.
- Outreach visit to Maputo, Mozambique, fostering regional collaboration.
- Invited to present on surgical training at the **70th Anniversary Conference of the CMSA** (Colleges of Medicine of South Africa), Pretoria – reinforcing partnerships in training and education.

Training and education

- Successful Registrar Masterclass (SAUREM25) in Johannesburg, sponsored by NuAngle. Large number of members acting as faculty.
- Launch of first SAUREM and Best of EUREP Resident Training Programme, bringing European expertise to Africa via partnership with EAU's European School of Urology. First meeting scheduled for Cape Town, February 2026. Trainees from South Africa and other African countries.
- Development of local guidelines and position statements on male circumcision, mesh use in urology, BPH treatment, and urogynaecology procedures.
- Collaboration with the CMSA and College of Urologists to strengthen training standards and examinations.
- Drafted guidelines for training and accreditation of robotic surgeons in South Africa.
- Offering variety of CME opportunities to members, online and in person. Facilitates conversion of international conference attendance to local CPD points.
- Virtual national registrar training programme started by Dr Evelyn Moshokoa.
- Member survey on urology training in South Africa – excellent response from members, forms basis for position statement on training.

Research and innovation

- **Launched the SAM Urology Registry** – supporting surgical data capture, for doctors by doctors. Web/cloud-based registry for you to record your surgeries and allow automated patient

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3000765-001	S5	Testosterone	50mg/5g	Gel in sachet	30 per box

References: 1. **AndroGel**[®] Package Insert; 2. Wang C et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 2000;85:2839-2853; 3. Wang C et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 2004;89:2085-2098; 4. Behre HM et al. Aging Male 2013;15:198-207

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followup with patient recorded outcome measures (PROMS). It also allows coding guidance and allows individual audit of your practice. See <https://www.samregistry.org>

- **Prostate cancer research** – research grant obtained for SAUA initiated collaboration with DKFZ (German Cancer Research Foundation) and Stellenbosch University. Opportunity for members in private practice to partake in research. More information in first quarter 2026.
- Progress made towards a **National Prostate Cancer Registry** – collaboration with Department of Health via National Cancer Registry and Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Sustainability and operations

- **Membership fee** adjustments implemented for longterm sustainability. Ongoing operational streamlining of business.
- **Investments** leveraged to deliver financial growth but also support salaries, external contractors and legal advocacy.
- **Raised R1.5 million** in educational grants for future educational events.
- Enhanced member communication via new **WhatsApp line**, allows direct communication between members and EXCO. Contact us if you don't have access to the Whatsapp group! Weekly email news will continue.
- **SAUA website upgrade** completed and new website is live and being populated. The place to find information.
- **New streamlined SAUA logo** to reflect the NPC status of our organisation.

Looking ahead at 2026 – diarise these dates now!

- **18–21 February** – SAUREM26 with Best of EUREP – Venue: Newlands Sun hotel, Cape Town. Sponsored by AstraZeneca, Boston Scientific, Nuangle medical, Karl Storz, Olympus and

SAUA. Faculty needed. Please contact me if you wish to be part of this great initiative or just want a free flight to Cape Town.

- **13–16 March** – EAU2026, London – see <https://eaucongress.uroweb.org> – remember to ask for extra 20% SAUA discount! Speakers needed for the joint SAUA/PAUSA/EAU session! Contact me if you want to present internationally.
- **21–25 October** – SAUA Biennial Congress dates confirmed. Venue is Protea Marriott Hotel Technopark, Stellenbosch. Significantly reduced registration fee for members – the only thing that is not going up in 2026! See <https://sauacongress.co.za>. Prepare your abstract and book your time off. This is going to be a good one.
- Continued collaboration with international partners to expand training opportunities.
- **AI medical scribe software Heidi** – New perk for SAUA members in 2026 includes reduced subscription to <https://www.heidihealth.com> (South African website live next year).

In closing

Thank you to each and every one of you for your commitment and contributions throughout 2025. Our membership numbers are growing. Together, we are building a stronger, more innovative and united urological community in South Africa and beyond.

Please get in touch with me if you want to get involved in the affairs of the SAUA in any way. You already have all the skills needed!

On behalf of the Exco I wish you and your families a fruitful and healthy year ahead. We look forward to catching up in Stellenbosch in October.

Warm regards

Karlheinz Jehle

President – South African Urological Association NPC