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4 May 2020

Dear SAAPS Members

### **Postponement of 2020 SAAPS Biennial Conference**

It is with regret that we announce the postponement of the 2020 SAAPS Biennial Conference which was due to be held at Rhodes University in August 2020. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, we have decided to postpone the conference to August/September 2021. By that time, we sincerely hope that national and international travel and large gatherings will be feasible. Further information about the 2021 conference will be released in due course. We will keep all the abstracts sent in and those who submitted abstracts will have the opportunity to indicate whether they would like to submit the same abstract again or whether they would prefer to submit a different abstract. We will also open the 2021 conference up to new abstract submissions.

The SAAPS Constitution indicates that SAAPS office-bearers are chosen at the General Members' Meeting that takes place at each biennial conference. Due to the postponement of the conference, these elections cannot be held this year. This means that the current Council members' terms of office will be extended and new office-bearers will only be elected at the 2021 conference. Further information about the election process will be released closer to the time.

Also affected are the awards that are usually made at the conference. These include the various categories of "Best Student" awards and the Lifetime Service Award. These awards will be made at the 2021 conference.

It is very sad that we are not able to meet this year. We encourage all SAAPS members to continue to be active within our research committees. If anyone would like to join such a committee, details are available on our website ([www.saaps.org.za](http://www.saaps.org.za)).

We encourage members to ensure that their membership fees are paid up to allow for the continuing work of the Association. Details about how to renew your membership are also available on our website.

With best wishes,

The SAAPS Council