



The South African Medico-Legal Association

Dear SAMLA Members,

As the President has announced, and as we are all aware, COVID-19 is our new shared reality. Significant measures have been introduced by government to stem the spread of the virus. Everybody is urged to remain vigilant and dedicated to COVID-19 containment measures. According to the official government COVID-19 support service, the best actions you can take to reduce your chance of getting COVID-19 are:

- ✓ Wash your hands frequently with soap and water. Need to wash your hands but there is no soap and water? Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- ✓ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, and throw it away after use
- ✓ Avoid close contact with infected people
- ✓ Practice Social Distancing

It is clear that we can no longer gather in large groups for the SAMLA-UCT Medico-Legal Practical Training Workshops, and that we have no choice but to forfeit the benefits we have all experienced in such gatherings.

Rather than cancel our programme, as many organisations have already done, we have decided to practice social distancing by converting to an online learning format. This will entail a small gathering of lecturers, technical personnel and some participants for the purpose of delivering, recording and streaming the lectures and interactive discussions. This will occur in a small venue with natural ventilation, at 85 St. Patrick Road, Houghton, Johannesburg, employing a strict protocol to prevent transmission of the virus. We thank Azlyn Creative for their willingness to rearrange their logistic, technical and administrative procedures and plans to this new and safer strategy.

Each course participant will be able to participate in the workshops via live online streaming, in the safety of their home or office. Alternatively participants can view the recorded material shortly after the Workshop day, at any time that is convenient, but leaving sufficient time to submit their assignments and participate in syndicate

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meetings. The webinar has a chat functionality which enables all live online participants to communicate/interact with the lecturers and facilitators which allows for the spirit of learning to continue during Q&A sessions, even though participants may be online.

As there will be space for a small number of participants at the live lecture/recording venue, participants who prefer to attend the lectures live should apply to Azlyn Creative. Seating will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Mr JP Venter will communicate with syndicate leaders in relation to the principles of social distancing and safety measures for Syndicate Meetings.

Let us now figuratively hold hands, and continue our pursuit of mutual learning and development, in the ultimate service of the public that unintentionally become embroiled in medico-legal disputes.

Warm regards,

Dr Herman Edeling

Neurosurgeon / Mediator

Faculty Principal / Admin. Director

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