

NEWS LETTER

IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE



Issue 1/2025
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Empowering Excellence, Advocating Integrity. SAMLA - Shaping the Future of Medico-Legal Standards in South Africa.

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NEWS LETTER

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EXCELLENCE

Welcome to all our SAMLA Members,

We're excited to bring you the first edition of our 2025 newsletter! A lot has happened since our last update. The SAMLA website is now live and fully operational—your go-to resource for all the latest news, events, and resources.

After months of dedicated work and planning, we're proud to announce that the much-anticipated **SAMLA Conference will take place this October 2025**. It's already generating great excitement, and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Additionally, we'd like to remind members that the **comment period for the Draft Mediation Bill has been extended until 30 May 2025**. This is an important opportunity for your voice to be heard—be sure to share your insights.

Thank you for being part of the SAMLA community. Here's to an engaging and impactful year ahead!

Warm Regards,

Maryke Pienaar

Editor, SAMLA Newsletter



SAMLA BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING- 25 JANUARY 2025

A Strategic Board meeting was held on Saturday, 25 January 2025, at the Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo, from 10:00 to 15:30. All the Directors who serve on the SAMLA Board, including our Non-Executive President Dr/Adv Anton van den Bout attended the strategic planning session. The agenda was extensive and required thorough discussion and engagement. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the Directors and the IT team for their commitment and participation. A special word of appreciation goes to Ms Sybil Abrahams for her dedication and hard work in organizing the meeting.

Welcome Stefan Jansen van Vuuren

We are pleased to welcome Dr Stefan Jansen van Vuuren, a forensic pathologist, to the Board of Directors. We sincerely appreciate his willingness to contribute his time and expertise in supporting the Board and participating in its meetings.

Resignation of Rowan Haarhoff

It is with much sadness that Mr Haarhoff has resigned from the Board of Directors due to personal reasons. He served five years on the SAMLA Board. His contributions were always valuable and he will certainly be missed. On behalf of the SAMLA Board and members, we wish to take the opportunity to thank Rowan Haarhoff for his priceless and valuable contribution to SAMLA and his time spent with SAMLA.

SAMLA WEBSITE UPDATE

We encourage all members to visit SAMLA's newly designed website, which is user friendly. Please take a moment to check that your personal details are accurate. If you need to update or add any information to your profile, kindly contact Ms Christa Koelewyn for assistance.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Johan Jordaan and Mr Hein Linde for their hard work and dedication in getting the website up and running. Their efforts have ensured that it is both functional and professional in appearance.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

A special word of thanks to Prof Henry Lerm for taking over the Education and Training Committee as Chairperson. We truly appreciate his dedication, commitment and the hard work he is putting into this important role.

FOUNDATION COURSE IN MEDICO-LEGAL PRACTICE 2025

The Foundation Course is offered at a NQF Level 8, which is essential for a medico legal practitioner as all personal injury, including medical negligence cases are complex and requires a practitioner to have analytical and critical thinking skills, not only to have the knowledge about a case.

The study has been designed based on eight (8) modules, with a specific purpose and outcomes for each module. You may complete individual modules but only an attendance certificate for that module will be awarded. The course will be offered over a period of eight Saturdays commencing on the 17th May 2025 and ending on the 1st November 2025.

NB: All foundation course queries should be sent to: Ms Sybil Abrahams; email address: support@samla.org.za

The modules will be offered on the following dates:



2025

Modules

Module 1 : 17 May 2025 - Introduction to Foundations of Medico legal Practice

Module 2 : 21 June 2025 - Introduction to Medical Law

Module 3 : 12 July 2025 - The interaction between Medical Law & Ethics

Module 4 : 2 August 2025 - Alternative Dispute Resolution vs Litigation

Module 5 : 23 August 2025 - The Critical Role of Medico Legal Experts in Litigation

Module 6 : 13 September 2025 - Court Procedure and Conduct

Module 7 : 4 October 2025 - Mediation

Module 8 : 1 November 2025 - Quantification of Damages

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18
FEBRUARY
2025

SAMLA FIRESIDE TALK

FIRESIDE

On **18 February 2025**, Prof Ethelwynn Stellenberg led a thought-provoking Fireside Talk on **Scientific Writing**, which was well-received and sparked engaging responses.

On **15 March 2025**, a Webinar on **Report Writing** was held from 09:00 to 17:00, featuring speakers including Prof Ethelwynn Stellenberg, Ms Waheeda Essop, Mrs Yvonne Ruwa Nthuli, Dr Karen Levin, Ms Stacey Ayres and Adv Maryke Pienaar. Attendees actively engaged by raising insightful questions throughout the session. This course is definitely being considered for inclusion on the 2026 agenda.

On **12 April 2025**, a **Forensic Medicine** Webinar was held presented by Dr Stefan Jansen van Vuuren and Ms Judith Exley as the second presenter. The topic proved to be engaging, and attendees responded positively to the session.

SAMLA CONFERENCE 2025

Please save the dates - **10 and 11 October 2025** - for the SAMLA Conference, which will be held at the Aha Kopanong Hotel & Conference Centre in Benoni. For further updates and details, kindly refer to the official SAMLA website. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Carina van de Wall and her committee for their dedication, hard work, and the many hours they've invested in organizing this important event.

From the National Chairperson's Desk

Our website has been renewed and provides a user-friendly use for all who engages with it. I especially would like to urge our members who qualify to be a registered medico-legal practitioner to take the leap and register as a medico-legal practitioner. The register for medico-legal practitioners provides an advert opportunity to those who are on the register. There is always a need for a Medico-Legal Practitioner and access to this need is provided through SAMLA. SAMLA offers three tiers for the registration as a medico-legal practitioner. Tier one offers a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) or Knowledge route; Tier 2 the Advance Medico-Legal Practitioner and Tier 3 the Senior Medico-Legal Practitioner. The criteria for each tier are clearly explained and should an applicant have any query please do not hesitate to contact Ms Sybil Abrahams, the Chief Coordinating Officer, at support@samla.org.za or Ms Christa Koelewyn at info@samla.org.za

Prof Ethelwynn Stellenberg

CONTACT

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