South African Pharmacy Council
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MEDIA RELEASE

The South African Pharmacy Council honours excellence and pioneering contributions at the 2026 National Pioneer Pharmacy Awards

The South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) honoured outstanding pharmacy professionals and institutions at the 2026 National Pioneer Pharmacy Awards ceremony, held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre Complex ("Durban ICC"). The National Pioneer Pharmacy Awards honoured fourteen (14) pharmacy professionals across twelve (12) adjudicated categories, and eight (8) researchers in the pharmaceutical sciences for excellence in leadership, innovation, patient care, education and community service.

The evening's highlight was the presentation of the inaugural National Health Impact Recognition Award, presented to Ms Malebona Precious Matsoso, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to public health leadership, medicines regulation, global health diplomacy, and equitable access to essential health products. Her distinguished career spans more than three (3) decades, including leadership of South Africa's National Department of Health and senior roles at the World Health Organisation.

The Legacy Award, awarded to pharmacists whose lifetime efforts on behalf of the profession in service of South Africa and her people, and in a career spanning 30 years and more, are judged to have been the most remarkable, was jointly presented to three remarkable pharmacists. Dr Andrew "Andy" Gray, Professor Cassim M. Dangor and Mr Johan van Niekerk, were the joint winners of the 2026 Legacy Award.

The awards also recognised emerging talent, community and institutional pharmacists, academic excellence, pharmacy support personnel and institutional innovation.

Key award categories included the Community Pharmacist Award, acknowledging excellence and contribution to community pharmacy practice; the Public Sector Institutional Pharmacist Award celebrated valuable contributions to public-sector pharmaceutical services; and the

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Private Sector Institutional Pharmacist Award, recognising excellence in private-sector institutional/hospital pharmacy practice.

The overall national winners for the professional and facility categories were Dr Martlie Mocke-Richter and Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital Pharmacy, respectively crowned the National Pioneer Pharmacy Professional and National Pioneer Pharmacy Facility during the ceremony officiated by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla, and SAPC President, Mr Mogologolo Phasha.

Prestigious awards recognised pharmacy professionals and facilities whose contributions have strengthened pharmaceutical care, advanced patient safety, improved access to medicines and positively influenced healthcare delivery across South Africa. The category winners are listed below

	Award Category	**Winner/Recipient**
1.	National Health Impact Recognition Award	Ms Malebona Precious Matsoso
2.	Legacy Award	Dr Andre "Andy" Gray
		Professor Cassim M. Dangor
		Mr Johan van Niekerk
3.	Future Pharmacist Award	Mr Mahlorhi Baloyi
4.	Community Pharmacist Award	Mr Johannes Tendani Ravele
5.	Pharmacy Support Personnel Award	Ms Willemien Cherien Charles
6.	Public Sector Institutional Pharmacist Award	**Dr Martlie Mocke-Richter*** **(Also, Overall Winner:** National Pioneer Pharmacy Professional Award**)**
7.	Private Sector Institutional Pharmacist Award	Mr Nicholus Malesela Magongwa
8.	Academic Pharmacist Award	Professor Rajesh Vagiri
9.	Community Pharmacy Award	Pharmacy at SPAR – Brownsdrift
10.	Public Sector Institutional Pharmacy Award	**Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital Pharmacy*** **(Also, Overall Winner:** National Pioneer Pharmacy Facility Award**)**
11.	Private Sector Institutional Pharmacy Award	Netcare Krugersdorp Pharmacy
12.	Conference Ambassador Award	Ms Nomaphelo Krakri
Research Awards		
1.	Hospital Sector	Ama Annor
2.	Community Sector	Tsitsi Nyamuzihwa
3.	Manufacturing and Wholesale Sector	Handsome Ndlovu
4.	Young Scientist: Pharmacy Practice	Danielle Hope Fourie
5.	Young Scientist: Pharmaceutical Sciences	Simone Heuer
6.	Poster Presentation Day 1	Lebogang Molepo
7.	Poster Presentation Day 2	Hanlie Steyn
8.	Poster Presentation Day 3	Bonginkosi Ndzamba

The awards reaffirmed pharmacy professionals' and institutions' vital role in strengthening healthcare delivery, improving medicine safety,

expanding access to pharmaceutical services and advancing better health outcomes for South Africa.

For more information on the awards criteria, please visit: https://www.sapc.za.org/Awards and access more details on all the winners click here: https://www.sapc.za.org/Media/Default/Documents/Media%20Documents/2026%20National%20Pioneer%20Pharmacy%20Awards%20Winners_excl%20Research.pdf

Issued by the South African Pharmacy Council

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