

SADCAS Signs MoU with NAMLS

The SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Namibia Association of Medical Laboratory Sciences (NAMLS). The objective of the MOU is to advance professional laboratory medicine practice in Namibia through accreditation.

NAMLS is the national association for Namibia's medical laboratory professionals whose mission is to serve as the voice of all medical laboratory professionals and is committed to the advancement of the medical laboratory practice through advocating the value and the role of the profession in ensuring effective health care. NAMLS vision is to improve health care in Namibia through promoting the strengthening of medical laboratory practice. On the other hand SADCAS is a multi economy accreditation body established to meet the accreditation needs of 13 SADC Member States including Namibia. SADCAS offers accreditation programmes including the medical laboratories accreditation program in accordance with ISO 15189. SADCAS also offers training in accreditation related activities including training for medical laboratories.

Realizing the common goal of advancing professional laboratory medicine practice through accreditation, the SADCAS and NAMLS have agreed to cooperate by:

- Training of medical laboratory professionals;
- Sharing technical information on areas of mutual interest and developing suitable linkages to facilitate easier access to information from the 2 organizations;
- Advocating for the critical needs of laboratory medicine and the need for policy makers to embrace accreditation as a strategy for quality laboratory service delivery; and
- Cooperating in other activities or projects that are of mutual interest and in support of the implementation of the MoU.

The MoU negotiations started in February 2015 when SADCAS received a proposal from NAMLS. SADCAS responded to the proposal in March 2015 outlining possible areas of cooperation taking into account the need for SADCAS to abide by principle of impartiality and to ensure that there is no conflict of interest in the activities under cooperation. Upon agreement of the possible areas of cooperation a draft MOU was prepared and subject of negotiations for a good 5 months. In July 2015 NAMLS formally advised of their approval of the draft MoU which was subsequently approved by the SADCAS Board of Directors at its meeting held on 2 September 2015.



Dr Chris Hikuam - NAMLS President and Mrs Maureen P Mutasa - SADCAS CEO signing the MoU



Dr Hikuam and Mrs Mutasa after the signing of the MoU.

Speaking during the signing ceremony both Parties committed to abide with the undertakings in the MOU for successful realization of its objectives. “Let us therefore safeguard our integrity and reputation by making this MoU a success not just a paper exercise” Mrs Mutasa said in her remarks.

The MOU between SADCAS and the ASLM was signed on 26 September 2015 in Windhoek during a seminar organized by NAMLS. The seminar was attended by over 50 NAMLS members under the theme “Striving towards quality of Medical laboratory Services”. Various papers were presented including a paper on “SADCAS Experiences from the Medical laboratories Accreditation Programme” by Mrs Mutasa, a paper entitled “Point of Care Testing: The past, present and the future” which was presented by Ms K Kuun a representative of Scientific Group, South Africa suppliers of medical equipment. Other papers were presented throughout the day of the seminar.



Participants at the NAMLS Seminar

