



SOUTHERN AFRICAN  
**HIV**  
CLINICIANS SOCIETY

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### **Initiatives 2001**

The Society aims to support a high standard of health care to populations affected by HIV and quality clinical care for people living with HIV through:

- Establishing 'best practice' standards;
- Representing the professional interests of medical practitioners involved in managing HIV, as the official South African Medical Association (SAMA) *Special Interest Group for HIV/AIDS*;
- Publishing a quarterly peer-reviewed specialist journal – the *Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine*;
- Compiling peer and internationally reviewed locally-appropriate Clinical Guidelines of which: ART for adults, ART for Children, TB Prophylaxis, Infant Diagnosis and Prevention of MTCT have been completed and published in the society journal. The prevention and treatment of Opportunistic Infections and an update of ART for adults are in progress.
- Distributing a quarterly newsletter, *Transcript*, containing topical HIV/AIDS news and announcing forthcoming events.
- Providing HIV-related continuing medical education (Certificated Course) and professional development programmes in partnership with the Foundation for Professional Development (the education division of SAMA) and the IAS (International Aids Society);
- Accrediting and supporting a network of committed providers;
- Facilitating clinical research, drug and vaccine trials;
- Providing copy for the Forum HIV section of the SAMJ;
- Fulfilling an advocacy role in national and international forums;
- Holding monthly regional Branch Meetings at which local experts present talks on a variety of appropriate topics and expert physicians present difficult cases for discussion;
- Increasing access to information by linking to a number of other national organisations' websites e.g. SAMA – coming shortly.
- Co-operating with other local and international professional organizations that are involved in HIV prevention and care, and
- Creating a regularly updated provider information database.
- Allocating CPD points to members for Society initiatives