



# ANNUAL REVIEW 2024

**2024 IN MOTION: CELEBRATING PROGRESS AND  
PURPOSE WITH THE SASP!**





## NATALIE BENJAMIN-DAMONS

*President*

As 2024 draws to a close, I look back with pride and gratitude on an extraordinary year for our profession and organisation. This centennial year has commemorated a century of physiotherapy in South Africa, tracing our evolution from modest beginnings to a vibrant profession backed by a committed community of physiotherapists.

### **Celebrating Growth and Support**

This year underscored the expansion of physiotherapy in South Africa. The SASP has bolstered its members through Special Interest Groups, providing targeted Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities to keep physiotherapists skilled and informed.

### **National Advocacy**

We championed the essential role of physiotherapy in South Africa's healthcare system, contributing to discussions on National Health Insurance (NHI) and the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) project in the Western Cape. Our efforts included input on electronic health records and mapping physiotherapy practices to assist the Department of Health in understanding service distribution.

### **Private Practice and Representation**

For those in private practice, we refined coding structures and engaged with medical aid schemes. Numerous meetings enhanced the representation of physiotherapists in private practice, addressing their challenges and strengthening their role in healthcare.

### **Rural and Specialised Initiatives**

Our participation in the Rural Health Conference allowed us to learn from innovative rural healthcare initiatives. We also collaborated with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) to advance the recognition of higher learning and specialization, broadening the scope of physiotherapy.

### **Global Collaboration**

A highlight was hosting the World Physiotherapy Africa Region Congress in Cape Town, bringing together physiotherapists from across the continent. As we look forward to 2025, we are excited to represent South Africa at the World Physiotherapy Congress in Japan, amplifying our voice on a global stage.

### **Looking Ahead**

Thank you for your dedication and support of the SASP. Here's to a promising future ahead!



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# VISION AND MISSION

## VISION

The SASP is committed to being a dynamic, professional and innovative organisation, effectively representing its members and playing a pro-active role in the formulation and implementation of health care policy in South Africa.

## MISSION

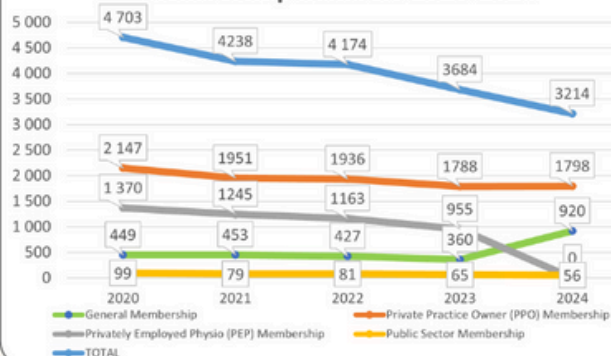
The South African Society of Physiotherapy affirms that:

- It provides a structure within which the needs of its members are met.
- It strives to ensure the quality of physiotherapy services to all peoples throughout South Africa.
- It does not discriminate on grounds of race, colour, creed, national origins, social status, or gender in the practice of physiotherapy or in the administration of its organisation.
- It safeguards the welfare of its members and makes representation against any form of discrimination against its members.
- It acts as a planning, development, and information resource to its members, to other health professions, to health planners at all levels, and to the general public.
- It supports unequivocally the provision of unitary health service and encourages all progress made in the integration of health care services.

# FINANCIAL REPORT - 2023

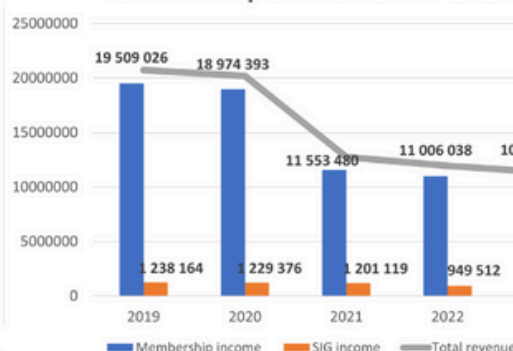
This document provides a summary of the South African Society of Physiotherapy's 2023 financial report, highlighting changes in membership numbers, income, assets, and liabilities.

## Membership numbers 2020-2024



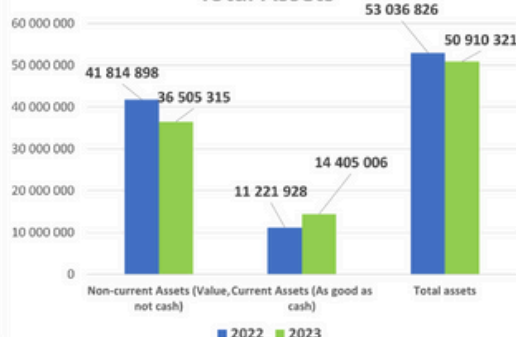
Membership numbers have shown a steady decline in recent years, with a decrease in 2023. Going into 2024, the removal of the Privately Employed Physio category showed a direct increase in the General membership.

## Membership income: 2019 - 2023



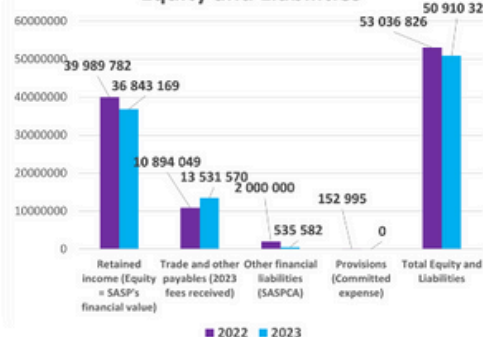
Membership numbers don't directly reflect income. In 2021, we offered a 25% membership discount and froze fees for the next two years.

## Total Assets



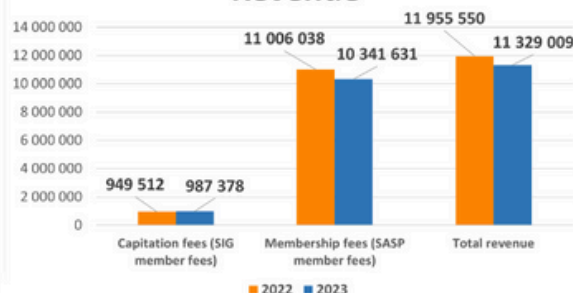
Overall, there was a 4% reduction (R 2 126 505) in the total assets from 2022 to 2023.

## Equity and Liabilities



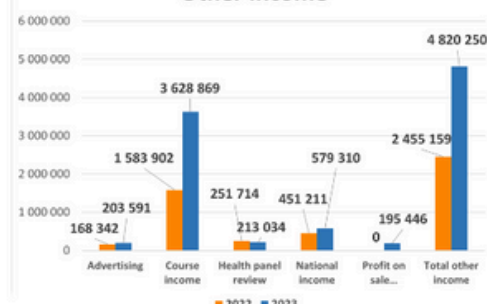
-As expected, the combined Equity and Liabilities matched the Total Assets at a decrease of 4% (R 2 126 505) from 2022 to 2023.

## Revenue



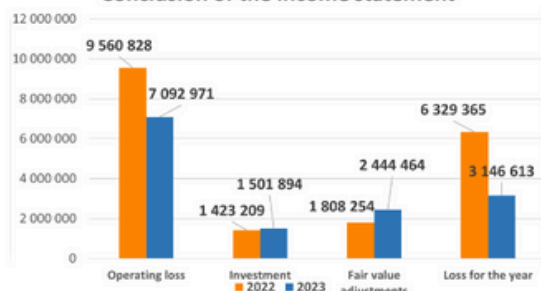
Our total revenue consists of our SASP membership fees, which decreased by 6% (R 664 407) from 2022, and the SIG capitation fees which showed an increase of 4% (R 37 866).

## Other Income



Other Income for the society almost doubled at a 96% increase (R 2 365 091) from 2022 to 2023. This is mainly due to a 129% (R 2 044 967) increase in course income, and 21% (R 35 249) and 28% (R 128 099) increases in advertising and National income, as well as profit on the sale of assets and liabilities.

## Conclusion of the income statement



### Conclusion:

- Operating expenses remained close to the level of 2022 with a slight 3% decrease (R 729 315).
- The SASP showed an operating loss of R 7 million in comparison to the R 9.56 million loss in 2022. This occurred as a result of reduced membership uptake, no increase in membership fees, and high fixed expenses.
- Our investment income increased by 6% (R 78 685) from 2022 to 2023. This increase comes despite a 10% decrease in dividend income. The investments also yielded higher fair value adjustments at R 636 210, compared to 2022.
- The investment income and fair value adjustments buffer the operational loss to some extent but still leave a sizable loss overall.
- The overall loss of R 3.1 million is a decrease of 50% from 2022.



## 100 YEARS STRONG: HONOURING THE LEGACY AND FUTURE OF PHYSIOTHERAPY



In 2024, the physiotherapy profession in South Africa proudly celebrated its centenary—a remarkable milestone marking 100 years of advancing health and wellness. Over the past century, physiotherapy has grown from its early beginnings to become a vital pillar of healthcare, improving lives through prevention, rehabilitation, and holistic care. This historic achievement reflects the dedication and innovation of physiotherapists who have tirelessly worked to enhance the well-being of individuals and communities across the nation. The centenary stands as a testament to the profession's enduring commitment to excellence and its vision for a healthier future.

## SASP'S ROLE IN NHI DEVELOPMENT

The South African Society of Physiotherapy (SASP) plays a crucial role in shaping the integration of physiotherapy services within the National Health Insurance (NHI) framework. As a leading advocate for the profession, SASP works to ensure that physiotherapy is recognised as an essential component of primary healthcare under the NHI, focusing on accessibility, quality, and cost-effectiveness of care. SASP collaborates with policymakers, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders to highlight the value of physiotherapy in preventing illness, managing chronic conditions, and promoting rehabilitation. By actively engaging in policy discussions, SASP aims to secure the inclusion of physiotherapy services that meet high standards, ensuring equitable access for all South Africans and contributing to a sustainable, patient-centred healthcare model.



# Summary of SASP's Role in NHI Development

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## Healthcare Reform Necessity:

South Africa's healthcare system is at a crossroads, requiring reforms to ensure equitable access for all citizens.



## Historical Advocacy:

The SASP has been advocating for healthcare reform since the 1940s, including a National Health Service, showcasing its long-standing commitment.

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## Inequities in Healthcare:

The divide between private and public healthcare systems underscores the need for the National Health Insurance (NHI) to address disparities.



## NHI Act Framework:

The NHI Act establishes a foundation for universal health coverage but requires detailed regulations for successful implementation.

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## Stakeholder Engagement:

Ongoing consultations with healthcare professionals are essential for effective policymaking and NHI success.



## Multidisciplinary Collaboration:

Teamwork across disciplines is vital to improve healthcare access and service delivery.

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## Accreditation Opportunities:

Accreditation with medical funds could enable healthcare providers to claim for pro bono services, fostering care for underserved populations.



## Resistance to Change:

Acknowledging resistance to reform is crucial in strategising the implementation of new healthcare policies.

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## Importance of Communication:

Continuous updates and open dialogue among stakeholders ensure adaptability in a changing healthcare environment.



## Professional Resources:

SASP and similar organisations provide resources and updates to keep healthcare professionals informed and actively engaged in NHI developments.

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# THE YEAR THAT WAS!



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As the Special Interest Group (SIG) representative on National Executive Committee (NEC), I am proud to highlight the vital role of special interest groups in advancing physiotherapy. This year, we expanded our influence by representing physiotherapy at societies and congresses, contributing to education, and providing input on medical aid and National Health Insurance (NHI) documents. We also developed CPD activities and specialised content, enhancing the profession's impact and reach.

- **Alison Lupton-Smith: SIG Representative**



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The provinces have supported SASP's strategic goals by promoting physiotherapy, enhancing education, and fostering innovation. We've strengthened transformation through collaboration, outreach, and interdisciplinary activities while advancing education via diverse learning platforms. Innovation and marketing efforts have highlighted physiotherapy's role in healthcare, and our new online platform enhances stability. As SASP marked its centenary, provinces continue to celebrate and elevate the profession.

- **Alicia Granzier: Provincial Representative**



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As we wrap up 2024, we're proud to share the committee's achievements this year. We streamlined communications, introduced a weekly course email, finalised official logos for SASP groups, and created multilingual outreach materials for National Physiotherapy Week and Global Move for Health Day. Major highlights included supporting the Manguzi Gijima event for persons with disabilities in rural KwaZulu Natal and showcasing physiotherapy's vital role at events like the Comrades and Soweto Marathon. Thank you for your support in strengthening our profession and building a sustainable future for physiotherapy in South Africa—remember, the difference is in your hands!

- **Martin van Heerden: Comms and Marketing Chair**



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Money makes the world go round, and at the Financial Committee, we prioritise ensuring every rand provides value to both our members and the society. We focus on transparency, efficiency, and continually reviewing processes to cut unnecessary costs and maximise benefits. Over the past three years, we've analysed spending trends, identified savings opportunities, and made gradual but impactful changes. At Fincom, we're always working to save you money and enhance your membership value.

- **Carine van der Merwe: Finance Coordinator**



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The National Development Portfolio on the SASP National Executive Committee plays a vital role in advancing the profession through education, research, and evidence-based initiatives. Key committees under this portfolio include the National Physiotherapy Educators Forum, Bursary Committee, Research Committee, and the Coding Committee, among others, each focused on critical areas like education quality, financial support for students, evidence-based practice, and physiotherapy coding systems. The portfolio also oversees the South African Journal of Physiotherapy, which offers members free access to high-quality research and subsidised publishing, and the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Committee, responsible for accrediting courses and activities. By supporting initiatives like digital transformation and professional development, this portfolio ensures the continued growth and sustainability of physiotherapy in South Africa.

- **Corlia Brandt: Professional Development Portfolio Chairperson**



# THE YEAR THAT WAS!



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The Private Sector Group (PSG) is proud to share our achievements this year! We've launched a Norms and Standards Programme to ensure top-quality patient care, advocated for better funding models with medical funders, and collaborated on a new coding system to simplify documentation and reimbursements. Our 'Coffee with PSG' sessions and Strava Club events have fostered community and encouraged physical activity among physiotherapists. Thank you for your support—let's continue advancing physiotherapy together, and don't miss our Nexus Roadshows in 2025!

- **Lizl van Heerden: PSG Chairperson**



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My portfolio supports physiotherapists, technicians, and assistants in the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Education (DOE). With reps in most provinces, we promote physiotherapy, run mentorship programs, and host events.

We offer free and discounted webinars, back Community Service Officer (CSO) advocacy projects, and connect through a national WhatsApp group. Our reps also engage at the Rural Health Conference.

Looking ahead to 2025, we're expanding support for our members. Get involved—let's grow the profession together!

- **Roswyn Kohlenken: Public Sector Chairperson**

*Thank you*  
for an eventful year



South African Society of Physiotherapy  
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# THANK YOU

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