SASOM 70: 1948 to date

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On 8 October 1947 the first South African Society of Industrial Health was established. The Constitution has been in existence since July 1948 as a group within the Medical Association of South Africa (MASA), presently known as the South African Medical Association (SAMA).

Since then (and still applicable today) the standards of moral or ethical decision-making are:

- The workman must retain the right to choose his own doctor and that it would be incumbent on the Factory Medical Officer to retain any fees so earned by him, and
- The Society will not at any time enter into discussion or negotiations with any other individuals or organisations regarding remuneration for services rendered by its members.

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 1951 the "Rules in the case of part-time and full-time Medical appointments to Factories and similar Industrial organisations" was formulated and at the 1958 AGM it was agreed to open membership to all members of the Medical Association of South Africa who have occupational health interests.

The name changed in September 1957 to the South African Society of Occupational Health and the Society was renamed again in August 1985 to the South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM) as it is known today.

SASOM successfully initiated the Occupational Health Southern Africa Journal (OSHAJournal) in 1995, recognising Occupational Medicine as a separate medical specialty in 2005 and hosting the ICOH 29th Triennial International Congress on Occupational Health in Cape Town in March 2009.

Current interfaces in South Africa are with NIOH, SASOHN, SAIOH, MMPA, SASTM, OTOH, Universities, FCPHMOccMed(SA), HPCSA, COHSASA, Department of Employment and Labour (DoELForum) and Occupational Health Southern Africa Journal (OHSAJournal). International liaison and collaboration include the International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH), Occupational Health in the Chemical Industry (MEDICHEM) and International Occupational Medicine Society Collaborative (IOMSC).