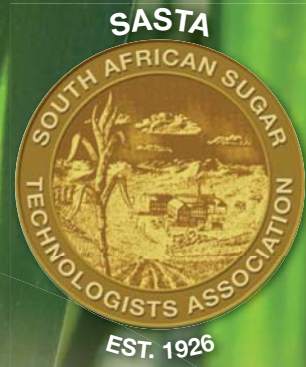


# Welcome to **SASTA Congress** 2015



*On behalf of the SASTA Council we would like to welcome all delegates to the 2015 Congress. Two of the objectives of SASTA, as outlined in the Constitution of the Association, are to “promote the interchange of scientific knowledge of and the discussion and investigation of technical problems related to the production and processing of sugarcane products” and to “encourage and assist in the improvement of the technical knowledge of persons engaged in the South African sugar industry”. We believe that these objectives are met by the Annual Congress.*

The annual SASTA Congress is one of the premier events in the South African sugar industry's calendar. This event is acknowledged as one of the leading sugar technologists' events worldwide. SASTA Congress enjoys consistent support from the industry with approximately 450 delegates expected at the 2015 Congress. Whilst the majority of delegates are from South Africa, SASTA Congress also attracts representatives from other African countries as well as overseas delegates.

The 2015 Congress sees us back in the familiar setting of the ICC. This year we welcome two significant changes; the first being a new Conference organising Committee (CoC) Chair. Dr Sumita Ramgareeb has been appointed as CoC chair for the 2015 SASTA Congress. The second change heralds a new Conference partner. Turners Conferences

have partnered with SASTA to assist with the organisation of the 2015 Congress. The CoC are looking forward to this exciting new partnership.

A very special welcome to our keynote speaker, Professor Marjanne Senekal, Head of Division of Human Nutrition at the University of Cape Town. Professor Senekal has kindly accepted our invitation to address the SASTA delegates on the facts about Sugar and Health. We are looking forward to hearing a scientific overview on the facts of sugar in the diet.

The SASTA Council strives to host a Congress of a high standard that both delegates and sponsors and exhibitors are proud to be associated with. Support for the SASTA Congress, through sponsorship and the purchase of an exhibition stand, has a direct impact on the quality of the Congress. SASTA Council values the support received from its exhibitors and sponsors and will acknowledge this at every opportunity throughout the duration of Congress.

Thanks are due to the Congress Organising Committee for their hard work in the time leading up to the Congress. The Congress Committee is made up of members of the SASTA Council as well as a few co-opted members, all of whom are volunteers. The SASTA Congress would not be the successful event it is without the commitment and dedication of the committee members.

We trust that you will all enjoy your time at the Congress and please feel free to provide us with any constructive feedback that will enable us to keep improving the Congress. We look forward to welcoming you at the 2015 SASTA Congress.



**FROM LEFT:** Gavin Smith (SASTA President 2014-2015) and Sumita Ramgareeb (Chair: Congress Organising Committee)