

YOLANDÉ SWANEPOEL advises on the qualifications and training needed for therapists to work alongside doctors.

With the wellness, beauty and anti-ageing industry growing exponentially over the years, so too has the demand for minimally to non-invasive treatments. This has ultimately led to an increased need for therapists and doctors to work side by side. Indeed, the partnership between doctors and therapists forms the ideal model to provide safe, state-of-the-art care for patients. However, the fact that there is almost no legislation governing these therapists provides very little guidance in terms of setting standards (which is proving to be a challenge for stakeholders in the medical aesthetic industry).

And so, it's with this in mind that

the South African Association of Health and Skincare Professionals (SAAHSP) registered four designations in the industry, namely: nail technologists, beauty technologists, beauty therapists, and somatologists. It also teamed up with the Aesthetic and Anti-Aging Medicine Society of South Africa (AAMSSA) to develop a clear scope of practice for a dermal aesthetician.

What is a dermal aesthetician?

A dermal aesthetician has studied for four or more years, and works within a medical aesthetic practice or with other health professionals (such as dermatologists and plastic surgeons). SAAHSP is currently

