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For immediate release

GEMS wins award for creating access to healthcare

The Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) is delighted to have won the Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF) of Southern Africa Titanium Award for Excellence in creating Access to Healthcare.

The fifth Titanium Awards were presented on 22 July 2019 at the 20th annual BHF Southern African Conference at the Cape Town International Conference Centre. By recognising service excellence and celebrating the success of individual and business contributions to the healthcare industry in Southern Africa, the awards seek to improve the quality of healthcare services in the region, to create a platform that unites the region's healthcare industry and to demonstrate best practice in healthcare.

"We're delighted. This award is welcome recognition of our hard work towards improving access to quality healthcare in South Africa," says GEMS Principal Officer Dr Guni Goolab.

Competition in the Excellence in creating Access to Healthcare category was stiff, making GEMS win gratifying, says Dr Goolab. "We're truly honoured to have our efforts to broaden access to quality healthcare in South Africa recognised by the BHF."

The category is open to all organisations in the healthcare sector, including corporate social investment programmes, small- and medium-sized enterprises, medical schemes, administrators, pharmaceutical professionals, managed-care companies, healthcare professionals, non-profit organisations and government agencies.

GEMS is South Africa's second-largest medical scheme overall, with more than 705 000 primary members and 1.8-million beneficiaries. It is a closed scheme, restricted to the country's public-service employees, and has grown its membership remarkably since its 2004 launch. The scheme's primary membership expanded from 694 262 in 2016 to 705 182 in 2018.

"GEMS is continually exploring ways to increase benefits for all of its 1.8-million beneficiaries. Doing so benefits all of South Africa through improving the health and well-being of the country's public servants and thereby increasing productivity across the public sector," says GEMS Chief Operations Officer Dr Stan Moloabi.

“This award reaffirms our confidence that the healthcare programmes and strategy that we have implemented will serve GEMS and its membership well as we continue to provide access to equitable, comprehensive and sustainable benefits to all public service employees and their dependants,” concludes Dr Goolab.

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Issued by Flow Communications on behalf of GEMS.

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