SECRETARY’S REPORT

A brief update on ALLSA ExCom activities during the past few months:

Dr Di Hawarden together with Ruwayda Adams of the Membership Services portfolio have spent a considerable amount of time on updating the membership database. This is an important area of focus to ensure effective and efficient communication with members so that they are kept abreast of developments in the field of allergy and immunology and made aware of opportunities for further training and research opportunities that arise from time to time. To date ALLSA has 674 members residing mainly in Gauteng (40%), Western Cape (25%) and KwaZulu-Natal (15%). The major professional groups that contribute towards this membership base are paediatricians and general practitioners. A comprehensive database will also identify potential membership growth areas in the rest of the country and Africa at large, as well as across professions.

The Education and Training subcommittee under Prof Robin Green has been responsible for initiating intercity meetings in Gauteng and organising next year’s congress that will be hosted with the SA Paediatric Association at Sun City from 29 May to 1 June 2008. This will be an important congress as it marks ALLSA’s 20th birthday! Arrangements are well on their way for the Allergy Master Class that will be held in Durban on 12 August this year, thanks to Dr Ahmed Manjra.

The activities of the Research portfolio have centred around consolidating the funding sources for ALLSA’s prestigious research awards, currently in its 17th year since inception when only R15,000 was available from one sponsor. For this year, a total of R125,000 has been made available for disbursement from four sponsors. Research proposals of a very high standard were received this year. These proposals have been sent out for peer review both locally and internationally before the awards will be announced later this year. The Policy and Advocacy subcommittee headed by Dr Andrew Halkas has been involved with promoting the discipline of allergy and clinical immunology. These promotions include ALLSA involvement in World Asthma Day activities and the ‘You can Control your Asthma’ campaign together with NAEP, spearheaded by Dr Mike Levin. ALLSA has also provided financial support for the Asthma Guidelines Implementation Project that is being done in collaboration with our family medicine and pulmonology colleagues.

Profs Heather Zar and Eugene Weinberg have continued to make our journal, Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology, one of the best in the country by broadening its focus and updating its format to stimulate the readership.

Prof Cas Motala (Past Chairman) continues to play an important role as International Liaison for ALLSA as he sits on the World Allergy Organisation (WAO) Board. ALLSA will be hosting a symposium on ‘Allergy and Asthma to Seafood: A paradigm model for developing countries’ at the WAO Congress in Thailand in December this year.

Finally, the ALLSA ExCom has initiated a process for developing a declaration of interests and governance charter to promote good governance under the very able leadership of our chairman, Dr Sharon Kling.

I would like to extend, on behalf of the ExCom and ALLSA membership special thanks to Ruwayda Adams, Anne Hahn and Jean Aprill for their dedicated and sterling work in the Cape Town office.

Mohamed Jeebhay
Honorary Secretary

ONLINE CPD ACCREDITATION NOW AVAILABLE FOR CURRENT ALLERGY & CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY

Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology has been accredited for CPD points in the Clinical category, so you can now earn 2 CPD points for Individual Learning. CPD accreditation is only available through the online service; no faxed or mailed responses will receive CPD credits. To obtain CPD credits:

1. Read the journal
2. Answer the questionnaire on p.111 by accessing the online CPD accreditation on the ALLSA website at www.allergysa.org/cpd or follow the links from the home page www.allergysa.org.
3. To register, you will need to enter your name, personal details, HPCSA number and a password.
4. Once you have registered, you will receive an email confirming your registration. You can either answer the questionnaire immediately or log on at a later date to answer the questionnaire. Please note that each questionnaire has a closing date – the closing date for submission of the June 2007 questionnaire is 31 August 2007 and for the August 2007 questionnaire it is 30 November.
5. Follow the instructions given on the questionnaire page and online.
6. After you have submitted your answers, they will be marked immediately, and you will be informed of the results and the number of points earned.
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