2013 is almost over and it gives me great pleasure and pride to tell you that allergology in South Africa and ALLSA in particular have had an awesome year.

Our website has become a valuable resource for many people and we now enjoy over 3 000 ‘hits’ per month. Let me encourage you again to visit us (www.allergysa.org). The website hosts our monthly Newsletter, case study and the international journals *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* and *New England Journal of Medicine*, as well as our own journal *Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology*.

Please also visit our facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/209866825692192/?ref=ts&fref=ts#!/pages/Allergy-Society-of-South-Africa/357099261038595?fref=ts).

Dr André van Niekerk and Prof Sam Risenga hosted a most magnificent ALLSA Congress in combination with SATS and the Primary Immunodeficiency Association of Africa. We had a number of speakers from EAACI who were in praise of ALLSA and ALLSA’s activities.

The patient education brochures have been updated and translated into many languages. These are a valuable resource for our patients. They are now available as printable PDFs on the website. Thank you Dr Di Hawarden for completing this enormous task. In April we hosted World Allergy Week and highlighted the importance of management of South Africans with food allergies and also anaphylaxis. Please ensure your patients with this devastating condition are registered on the Anaphylaxis Registry on our website. Thank you to Prof Mike Levin for getting that project up and running.

In Gauteng we hosted 3 Focus Group evenings which were phenomenally well attended. We had great guest speakers and we plan the same for 2014. In addition Aspen have kindly offered to roll these out to Durban and Cape Town. Watch this space for more details.

2013 also saw ALLSA publish a number of allergy-related guidelines: acute asthma, allergic rhinitis, and about to come, atopic dermatitis and food allergy. Thank you to the *South African Medical Journal* for publishing these.

I understand Drs André van Niekerk and Monika Esser will be working on guidelines for PID soon.

Prof Sharon Kling managed our research awards and there were two recipients this year, Dr Wim Wijnant in Pretoria and Dr Shirani Naidoo in Cape Town.

Profs Matt Haus and Eugene Weinberg have completely transformed our journal (*Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology*) into a world-class medical journal and I personally want to thank them for the brave new venture. Anne Hahn has managed this journal with aplomb.

As we wind down the year I would also like to thank the members of my Excom for their tirelessly help and support. Ahmed Manjra, Di Hawarden, André van Niekerk, Sam Risenga, Sharon Kling, Matt Haus, Claudia Gray, Sarah Karabus and Mike Levin, thank you.

And lastly, but by no means least, I want to thank Ruwayda Adams of the ALLSA office for handling the day-to-day business so well. ALLSA would not be in the great shape it is in without you. Thank you, Shahnaz, for all your support too. Enjoy this issue of the journal and have a great 2014. See you at our August congress in Durban.

Robin J Green  
*Chairman*