

SECRETARY'S REPORT



It is hard to believe that we are already into the first quarter of the new year! I hope you had a good holiday season, and are raring to go in 2006! The past year was an excellent year for ALLSA, as reviewed in the Chairman's report in the November edition of *Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology*. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to thank Cas Motala for his inspirational leadership during

2005. He continues to represent us at international level, and has valuable connections with the World Allergy Organisation. He also maintains excellent relationships with the pharmaceutical industry. Last year he put a great deal of effort into achieving tax exemption status for ALLSA, so that the funds we have at our disposal can be put to good use in furthering education and research in allergy in South Africa.

What of 2006? Our first activity will be the Diploma in Allergology, with the clinicals being hosted by the University of Pretoria, thanks to Robin Green. We have 5 candidates for this examination, clearly indicating that the Diploma is becoming a sought-after qualification. The Allergy Masterclass for 2006 will be held in Cape Town on 20 May, as Gauteng have a few inter-city meetings on the cards for this year, and also host the Congress. Please see elsewhere in this journal for the application form and provisional programme for the Masterclass.

ALL 4 KIDS, the combined ALLSA and SA Paediatric Association Congress, will be held in Sun City in September. André van Niekerk is the ALLSA convenor and congress co-chair. Already the line-up of interna-

tional and local speakers promises a congress of the very highest quality, and the allergy section boasts speakers of the calibre of Michael Kaliner, Allen Kaplan and Gideon Lack. Kindly diarise the date: 7-10 September.

A major focus for this year is the revision of both the adult and the children's asthma management guidelines. To this end it is heartening to report improved liaison between ALLSA and NAEP (Andrew Halkas is the official ALLSA representative on NAEP Council), and between ALLSA and SATS (Elvis Irušen and Heather Zar are both ALLSA Excom and also SATS Council members). Kindly also diarise World Asthma Day on 2 May.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Mike Levin on achieving his doctoral degree in linguistics, pointing out the language barriers that exist between doctors and our non-English speaking patients. His article appeared in this journal last year and won him the Editors' award for the best publication in 2005. His research was partially supported by an ALLSA research award. Congratulations too on the arrival of your daughter Amara, Mike!

Finally, I would like to make an appeal to our members to submit letters and articles to this journal. *Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology*, our flagship, makes a very important contribution to allergy in SA. The editors and guest editors do a marvellous job with review articles, but they need input from our members. Please see the Contents page for details regarding contributions.

Sharon Kling
Secretary

PRODUCT NEWS



THE AGE OF 2 YEARS!

Nasonex Aqueous Nasal Spray is indicated for use in adults, adolescents and children between the ages of 2 and 11 years to treat the symptoms of seasonal allergic or perennial allergic rhinitis.

In patients who have a history of moderate to severe symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis, prophylactic treatment with Nasonex Aqueous Nasal Spray is recommended prior to the anticipated start of the pollen season.

Dosage and directions for use

Adults and adolescents: The usual recommended dose for prophylaxis and treatment is two sprays (50 µg/spray) into each nostril once daily (total dose 200 µg). Once symptoms are controlled, dose reduction to one spray into each nostril (total dose 100 µg) may be effective in some patients for maintenance.

Children between the ages of 2 and 11 years: The usual recommended dose is one spray (50 µg/spray) in each nostril once daily (total dose 100 µg).

For more information contact Gary Vine,
Schering-Plough (Pty) Ltd,
011-922-3300.

