

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



The new ALLSA Excom took office after the AGM at the All 4 Kids Congress in September at Sun City, and I feel extremely honoured to have been elected to succeed Cas Motala as chairman. For those of us who served on Excom with Cas during his term as chairman, it has been a singular privilege. His wise head and firm hand guided ALLSA into a new era, and his restructuring of the committee has led to improved functioning of the Society. We will continue to reap the rewards of his leadership for many years to come. Cas, we thank you and salute you!

The Excom office bearers for the next triennium are Prof Mohamed Jeebhay (Hon Secretary) and Dr Di Hawarden (Treasurer). The portfolio leaders will be introduced in the first edition of the journal in 2007.

The Sun City congress was a resounding success! The venue, the scientific programme and the organisation were of the highest standard. We saw once more that allergy and paediatrics are synergistic, and Cas was a wonderful MC at the Boma dinner! Thanks and congratulations to Andre van Niekerk (co-chair) and Robin Green for the wonderful allergy programme, to the organising committee and Sue McGuinness and associates, and to all the speakers and delegates. Our next congress is a combined one with SATS in Cape Town in March 2007, and from what I have seen of the programme, delegates will enjoy another top-class programme. Some of the invited overseas faculty are Jean Bousquet, Andrew Bush, Adnan Custovic, Hugo Neffen, Soren Pedersen and Andrea Apter. Diarise the dates now: 2-5 March 2007 at the Cape Town ICC.

Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology continues to deliver articles of a high standard, and has even attracted international attention as a result! The journal awards for the past year were announced at the congress: congratulations to Drs ME 'Doc' Docrat and Nicola Freeman – joint award for the best photographs on the cover of the June 2006 issue and to Dr Ari Ziskind for the best article – Allergic conjunctivitis – in the same issue. Adjudicating the winners is never easy because of the high quality of contributions. Congratulations and thanks to Heather Zar

and Eugene Weinberg, Editors, to Anne Hahn, Production Editor, who just quietly goes about getting the job done, and to Ruwayda Adams for essential administrative assistance.

Congratulations to Dr Shirani Naidoo, our latest Diploma in Allergology graduate! At this exam we blooded two new examiners – Drs Pierre Goussard and Mike Levin. Thanks for your assistance and preparedness to help, and to Prof Robin Green for his unstinting enthusiasm and support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to officially welcome a new working group to our society – Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases SA (PIDSA). At the Sun City congress Prof Dave Beatty proposed the group's intention to apply to join ALLSA and Prof Paul Potter's presentation at the AGM was unanimously accepted with acclaim. We look forward to a long and harmonious working relationship with PIDSA!

What do I see as the challenges for ALLSA over the next three years? I believe that we must pursue our goal to get allergy registered as a subspecialty, if only for paediatrics initially. In that respect we will have a great deal of support from the World Allergy Organisation, of which Cas Motala is a Board member.

One of the areas in which I believe we will have to become more involved, is in advocating for our patients in respect of unconventional tests and therapies for allergic disease. I believe it is our duty to keep the public informed; the question is how best to do this while avoiding becoming embroiled in acrimonious arguments with powerful companies.

Within our society we have to take cognisance of international trends to recognise and declare conflicts of interest. The executive committee have all had to sign declarations of interest, and we will insist on similar declarations in the journal and at congresses. We are also looking at processes within our society to ensure that everything we do is defensible and open to scrutiny.

Thank you to all our members for your loyal support; I look forward to seeing many of you at the March congress in Cape Town. I also want to reiterate my thanks to Ruwayda Adams and Anne Hahn, and add

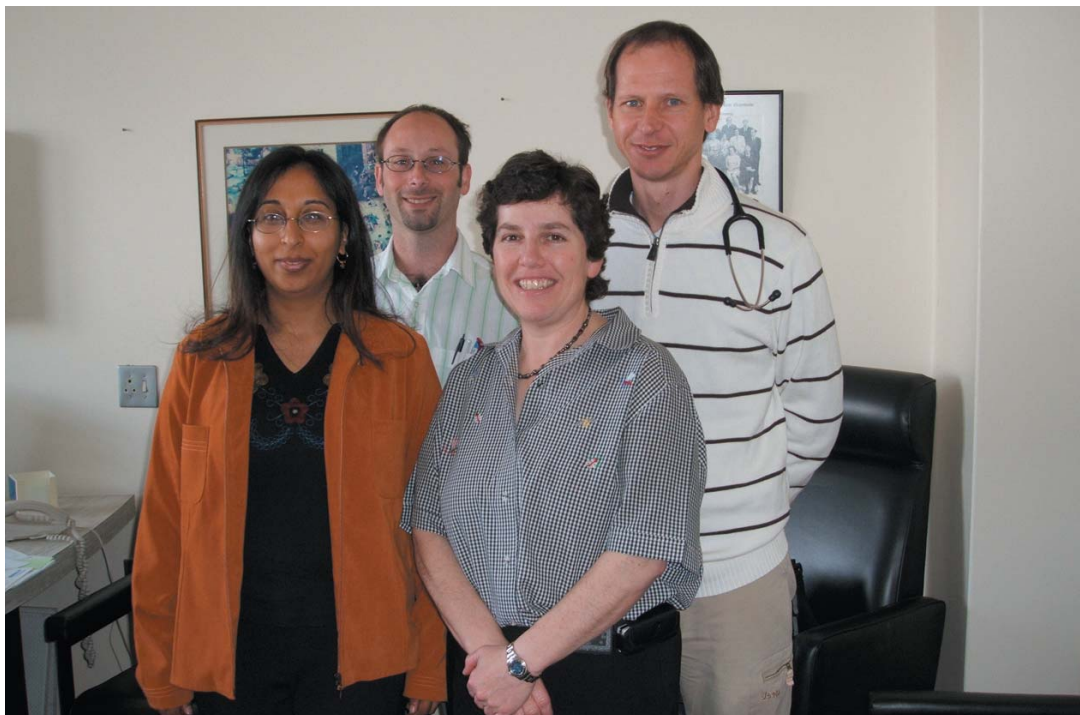
thanks to Jean Aprill for her work in the Cape Town office. Thank you to our friends in the pharmaceutical industry for our excellent working relationship; may we be able to continue to work together in the best interests of our patients.

I wish all of you a peaceful, safe and enjoyable holiday season!

Sharon Kling
Chairman



Left to right: Dr Sharon Kling, ALLSA Chairman, presented the Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology journal awards to Dr Ari Ziskind (Best Article) and Dr Nicola Freeman (Best Photograph). The Best Photograph Award was shared with Dr ME Docrat. Prof. David Meyer, head of the Department of Ophthalmology, Tygerberg Academic Hospital, was Guest Editor of the June 2006 issue. (Photograph courtesy of Dr Derrick Smit).



Shirani Naidoo (successful Dip Allerg candidate), Mike Levin, Sharon Kling, Pierre Goussard (examiners).