

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



The major ALLSA activity since my last report was the Combined SATS-ALLSA-CF Congress at the CTICC at the beginning of March. I am extremely proud of the quality of the presentations from our local speakers and researchers, and we more than held our own in the company of our international faculty. As SATS were our partners in this venture asthma constituted a

large part of the programme, but other aspects of allergy were not neglected. My sincere thanks to Heather Zar and the Organising and Scientific Committees for all their hard work. Thank you too to those ALLSA members who took the trouble to make our visitors feel welcome and to show them the sights of Cape Town – Paul Potter, Allan Puterman and Mike Levin. Our invited international speakers Adnan Custovic, Andrea Apter and Hugo Neffen contributed greatly to the programme and proved to be charming guests as well. They, together with the other international speakers Charlie Obihara and Monika Raulf-Heimsoth, were awarded Honorary Membership of ALLSA at the congress dinner. At this congress Professor Eugene Weinberg was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Allergy Society of SA for his remarkable contribution to allergy in SA – congratulations Eugene, and thanks for all you have done for us!

Dr Unati Mahlati of the University of Cape Town won the ALLSA award for the best presentation at the congress – congratulations to her and her co-researchers!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends in the pharmaceutical industry for your support during the two congresses that were held less than 6 months apart, and also for supporting our research activities. The quality of the research presented at the congresses augurs well for the future of allergy in South Africa.

Thank you to those ALLSA members who submitted their names for inclusion in the Childhood Asthma Guidelines Working Group – we will be in touch with you later this year.

As I write we are one week away from the Dip Allerg clinical and oral examinations in Durban (thanks to Ahmed Manjra for convening), and the interest in the Diploma remains high. World Asthma Day is also upon us, and I would like to thank Mike Levin for once again co-ordinating the events in South Africa. Thank you too to all our members who have been involved in the WAD activities.

Finally, I would like to appeal to all our members for contributions to this journal. I would like to congratulate Heather, Eugene and Anne for the continuing high standard of *Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology*. The future issues promise to be both interesting and exciting. Please also make use of the online CPD facility of the journal, as a great deal of effort has gone into this aspect of the journal.

Sharon Kling
Chairman

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