

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome to Cape Town and the Combined SATS-ALLSA-CF Congress! It is unusual for ALLSA to have a congress at this time of the year, but the attraction of sharing with SATS was too great an opportunity to miss! Sincere thanks to Heather Zar and the Organising and Scientific Committees for all their hard work. The excellent

scientific programme bears testimony to their efforts. Enjoy the presentations and the social programme; the weather at this time of the year is guaranteed to be wonderful! Welcome in particular to ALLSA's invited international speakers: Adnan Custovic, Hugo Neffen and Andrea Apter. We look forward to getting to know them and the other invited speakers over the next few days, and to participate in some of the initiatives to promote respiratory health globally.

The new ALLSA Excom had its first meeting on 20 January, and I would like to announce the portfolio holders and subcommittees. The Hon Secretary for the next triennium is Prof Mohamed Jeebhay and Dr Di Hawarden is the Treasurer. The portfolio leaders are as follows: *Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology* – Prof Heather Zar; Membership Services – Dr Di Hawarden together with Ruwayda Adams; Education and Training – Prof Robin Green; Research – Prof Mohamed Jeebhay; Policy/advocacy – Dr Andrew Halkas; International Liaison – Prof Cas Motala (Past Chairman).

All the Excom members serve on one or more of the subcommittees. In addition, we have a new standing committee in the Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases SA (PIDSA) – Dr Monika Esser (Chairman).

The current Excom's major long-term strategic objective is to initiate the process of achieving subspecialist status for Allergy and Clinical Immunology in South Africa. We will also be revising the current asthma treatment guidelines this year in association with SATS, and I would like to invite everyone who feels s/he would like to be part of the Childhood Guidelines Working Group to submit your name and a short motivation to the ALLSA secretariat (see advertisement below).

Thanks again to Ruwayda Adams, Anne Hahn, and Jean Aprill. Thank you to our friends in the pharmaceutical industry for continuing to support our society: your contributions to allergy research in South Africa, to our journal, to our congresses and our other CME activities are sincerely appreciated. And last but not least, thanks to our members for your loyal support.

Don't forget to diarise next year's congress – combined with the SA Paediatric Association at Sun City from 29 May to 1 June 2008. I wish all of you an enjoyable and informative congress, and a safe and pleasant Cape Town stay!

Sharon Kling
Chairman

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO SACAWG

Dear ALLSA member

The South African Childhood Asthma Working Group (SACAWG) will be revising the current asthma treatment guidelines this year. In order to be as inclusive as possible, we call for members who are interested in participating in the process to submit their name, contact details, and a short motivation to support their nomination to Prof C Motala, SACAWG Chairman, ALLSA National Office, PO Box 88, Observatory 7935. Alternatively, please fax it to 021-448-0846 or email to mail@allergysa.org to reach us by **30 March 2007**.

Dr SHARON KLING
Chairman