

SECRETARY'S REPORT



A brief update of ALLSA Excom activities during the past few months:

A considerable amount of time has been spent on updating the membership database so as to ensure effective communication with members.

Preparations for the congress to be held between 29 May and 1 June 2008 at Sun City are at an advanced stage. ALLSA is honoured to have three international faculty who will be delivering state-of-the-art presentations this year – Prof T Platts-Mills (USA), Prof S Prescott (Australia) and Prof N Papadopoulos (Greece).

On the research front, a total of four ALLSA research awards to the value of R125 000 were announced at the end of last year. The successful applicants were Dr Anita van der Walt, Dr Didintle Motsepe, Dr Barbara Nurse and Ms Gina Stear. It is anticipated that a similar amount of funding will be made this year too, thanks to our sponsors, GlaxoSmithKline, AHR Pharma (formerly UCB Pharma), MSD and Cipla Medpro.

ALLSA hosted a successful symposium on 'Allergy and asthma to seafood: A paradigm model for developing countries' at the WAO Congress in Thailand in December last year (see report elsewhere in this issue). A number of South African researchers also presented their scientific communications in various other sessions of the congress.

On the advocacy front, ALLSA has written a letter to the SAMJ on its position with regard to ALCAT/IgG testing, which will be published in March 2008. ALLSA Excom continues its work on developing the ALLSA governance charter.

We would like to extend special thanks to Ruwayda Adams, Anne Hahn and Jean Aprill for their support work in the Cape Town office and production of the ALLSA journal.

Mohamed Jeebhay
Honorary Secretary

ALLSA INTER-CITY MEETINGS 2008 GAUTENG

VENUE: MSD offices Midrand
Date: Wednesday evening 19h00 for 19h30

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| 12 MARCH | Dr Omolemo Kitchin/Dr Teshni Moodley
Some fascinating cases in allergy practice |
| 7 MAY | World Asthma Day Speaker to be confirmed |
| 16 JULY | Dr Sharon Kling Ethics of Allergy Practice |
| 22 OCTOBER | Dr Mike Levin New Thoughts on Allergy Diagnostic Testing |

Each meeting also includes local speakers who will prepare case studies

Dr T Moodley
Dr R Masekela
Dr O Kitchin
Dr H Lewis
Dr A Halkas