

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

Years of work by many Excoms have led to allergology now being recognised as a subspecialty by the Health Professionals Council and the Colleges of Medicine; the subspecialty awaits final approval from the Minister of Health. The background work is under way in preparation for training the first fellows in allergology.

The Diploma has been run successfully over a number of years. The Education committee headed by Robin Green are looking at various ways to make the diploma more accessible to practitioners out in the field. In an effort to increase awareness of the need for broader allergy training the WAO guidelines will be sent to undergraduate education committees at medical faculties where allergy training is not included in the curriculum.

The journal, under the auspices of Heather Zar and Eugene Weinberg, continues to provide quality allergy education relevant to the South African setting.

Appropriate Allergy Testing and Childhood Asthma guidelines have recently been published in the *SAMJ*. ALLSA will take the implementation of guidelines to a new level in 2010 but measuring their effectiveness using a major funder's database. ALLSA will implement appropriate interventions to increase the quality of aller-

gy care in South Africa. The first of these interventions will involve two workshops to be held in Johannesburg and Cape Town respectively.

The Childhood Asthma guideline has been presented to the Council of Medical Schemes to be used as a basis for the Chronic Disease List guidelines.

The Research portfolio under Mohamed Jeebhay is looking at various other ways of funding research such as research fellowships. We encourage you to apply for the research grants, details of which appear on pp. 12, 36 and 41.

The website has been revamped and will include a lot more functionality. Your feedback is important and would be appreciated. Let us know what you would like to see included on the website.

This year's congress will be held in Limpopo from 23-25 April. It promises to cover all the important aspects of allergology pertinent to allergy practice – hoping to see you all there!

**Andrew Halkas**  
*Secretary*

## Asthma limits the full potential of millions of South Africans



As a long term condition, asthma affects people of all ages and all walks of life. The provision of good asthma care provided by highly motivated professionals eases what many consider to be a burden. The right care changes lives and makes it possible for people with asthma to live a normal, healthy and active life.

*The NAEP is striving to improve the health and well being of people living with asthma and is here to help you with:*

- Dissemination and Interpretation of accredited Asthma Treatment Guidelines
  - Free asthma information
- Accredited education programmes for health professionals

*Become a professional member today. Encourage your patients to become members.*