

SECRETARY'S REPORT



In this report I would like to focus on two of ALLSA's key educational activities since the last issue of *Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology*.

The first is the Allergy Update, which was held at the UCT Lung Institute over the weekend of 8 and 9 May. Eighteen delegates from all over South Africa, many from the northern provinces of the

country, attended and participated with great enthusiasm. Many were 'old' friends – I have to be very careful here! – but there were also people whom we met for the first time. With the exception of Ahmed Manjra, all speakers and workshop presenters were Cape Town based, hence the decision to hold the Update here again. Eugene Weinberg even came all the way from his lavender farm in Barrydale to share his expertise with the participants! Topics covered included food allergens and allergy, urticaria, drug allergy, occupational allergy, anaphylaxis and immunotherapy. The workshops were particularly well received and included asthma drug delivery devices, skin-prick tests, *in vitro* testing, nasal smears and aerobiology. But the highlight was undoubtedly Lucia Volkwyn demonstrating the wet wrap technique on a wonderful model with the able assistance of his mother!

We discussed the Update extensively with the participants and plan to hold the next course in Johannesburg. ALLSA's greatest member support is in Gauteng and such a course will be well attended there. I have no doubt that the way to improve the practice of allergology in South Africa and to broaden our membership base is through the Update and the Diploma in Allergology. Once again I feel that I have made a whole new group of friends in the allergy field. The delegates may have gained a great deal from the course, but we also benefited from their experiences and feedback. Sincere thanks to Ruwayda Adams who was in charge of all the logistics, and who handled everything most ably as usual.

The third Diploma in Allergology examination was held in Johannesburg on 12 May. There were two candidates and both were successful – congratulations to Marinda McDonald and Essop Moosa! The practicals were held in the Department of Family Medicine,



Fig. 1. Lucia Volkwyn and wet-wrapped model.

Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand. We are grateful for the assistance received from Prof. Bruce Sparks and Joan Strachan. Gloria Davis very kindly assisted with recruiting patients for the clinical examinations. The Diploma is aimed primarily at the general practitioner and district hospital medical officer, but there is currently tremendous interest from specialists. We will have to try to broaden the examining panel to include general practitioners and not only paediatricians!

The next big event on the ALLSA calendar is the Kidz 'n All congress at the CTICC in Cape Town in August. Prof. Susan Prescott, an outstanding Australian allergologist, is our main guest, but we are also privileged to host Prof. Ronald Dahl from Denmark as the GLO-RIA-sponsored speaker. The provisional ALLSA programme is summarised elsewhere in this journal, and the full congress programme is on the website at paediatrician.co.za. Come and join us for another memorable ALLSA meeting!

Sharon Kling



Fig. 2. Gerry Brown and baby demonstrating devices.



Fig. 3. Some of the delegates at the Allergy Update.