



australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy



# Annual Report 2016

ASCIA is the peak professional body of clinical immunology and allergy specialists in Australia and New Zealand and is a member society of the World Allergy Organisation (WAO).

The mission of ASCIA is to promote the highest standard of medical practice, training, education and research, to prevent and control allergic diseases, immunodeficiencies and other immune diseases, and therefore improve the health and quality of life of people with these conditions.

[www.allergy.org.au](http://www.allergy.org.au)

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This report is based on presentations at the ASCIA Annual General Meeting held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre on Thursday 15 September 2016.

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## President's Report - Dr Melanie Wong

On behalf of ASCIA thank you and congratulations to the ASCIA 2016 Conference committee (Dr Susan Perel, A/Prof Jane Peake and Dr David Gillis) for organising a highly successful conference, with a record high number of delegates. Thank you also to Kathy Beck and Anna Sullivan for coordinating the Nurses' and Dietitians' Update on Friday and Professor Katie Allen for another successful CFAR Symposium.

This conference provides an international standard of continuing professional development and is an opportunity to interact with colleagues working in the areas of allergy and clinical immunology.

Whilst there have been significant challenges over the last year, particularly the prolonged supply problems with allergens), there have also been significant achievements for ASCIA and this report aims to highlight these.

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### **DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ALLERGY STRATEGY AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING CONFIRMED FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> STAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION**

The National Allergy Strategy was launched in August 2015 and was developed in partnership by ASCIA and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA), in consultation with more than 60 other key stakeholder organisations. On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 the federal government's funding of \$500k for National Allergy Strategy implementation was announced at the launch of Food Allergy Week in Sydney on 16 May 2016, by the Minister for Health, the Hon Sussan Ley MP.

Thank you in particular to the National Allergy Strategy co-chairs, A/Prof Richard Loh and Maria Said, and coordinator of the Allergy Summits and National Allergy Strategy development, Sandra Vale. For over 2 years they have devoted so much of their time, energy, drive and expertise to the National Allergy Strategy.

This funding will provide support for the implementation of the following 3 National Allergy Strategy projects:

- Standardising drug allergy management,
- Improving allergy management for teens and young adults, and
- Allergy management in food service including in the hospital setting.

Progress to date with these projects is as follows.

#### **Standardising drug allergy management project:**

- Several meetings with key stakeholders have taken place.
  - ASCIA penicillin allergy e-training meeting engaged GPs, paediatricians, specialists, pharmacists and consumers.
  - Planning to meet with the Australian Digital Health Agency.
  - Review of coronial enquiries relating to drug allergy deaths has been undertaken.
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**Improving allergy management for teens and young adults project:**

- Online survey for 12-24 year olds with severe allergy developed and ethics approval received.
- Survey questions currently being validated.
- Survey will go live from 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and will be promoted.

**Allergy management in food service including in the hospital setting project:**

- Food service forum for food allergy will be held in Sydney in late October this year.
- Program currently being finalised.
- Good response rate to invitations to stakeholders.
- Facilitator will assist with the forum.

We are very excited about these developments and take this opportunity to thank all those involved, the federal government and other organisations that have provided support.

Further information is available at [www.nationalallergystrategy.org.au/](http://www.nationalallergystrategy.org.au/)

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**NEW ASCIA GUIDELINES FOR INFANT FEEDING AND ALLERGY PREVENTION**



In May 2016 ASCIA Guidelines for infant feeding and allergy prevention, as well as information on how to introduce solid foods to infants were released on the ASCIA website:

[www.allergy.org.au/patients/allergy-prevention](http://www.allergy.org.au/patients/allergy-prevention)

The Guidelines also include the following 3 revised recommendations, based on a consensus agreement by participants in the Centre for Food & Allergy Research (CFAR) Infant Feeding Guidelines Summit, hosted by Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) on Friday 13th May 2016:

- When your infant is ready, at around 6 months, but not before 4 months, start to introduce a variety of solid foods, starting with iron rich foods, while continuing breastfeeding.
- All infants should be given allergenic solid foods including peanut butter, cooked egg and dairy and wheat products in the first year of life. This includes infants at high risk of allergy.
- Hydrolysed (partially and extensively) infant formula are not recommended for prevention of allergic disease.

ASCIA Food Allergy e-training, ASCIA Food Allergy Clinical Updates and other resources have been updated to include the 3 revised recommendations.

Thank you to Professor Dianne Campbell for her great leadership on this important project, as well as many others, in her role as Chair of the ASCIA Paediatric committee for the last 6 years.

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**IMPLEMENTATION OF ASCIA ANAPHYLAXIS E-TRAINING FOR VICTORIAN SCHOOLS**



ASCIA has worked with the Victorian Education Department over the past 18 months to develop ASCIA anaphylaxis e-training for Victorian schools. This course has been available since February 2016 at <https://etrainingvic.allergy.org.au/>

With most Australian states using ASCIA e-training as the recommended training, the majority of schools and childcare staff in Australia are now being trained using ASCIA anaphylaxis e-training courses. For links to the courses go to [www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/about-ascia-e-training](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/about-ascia-e-training)

Thank you to Sandra Vale for leading this project.

### SIGNIFICANT UPDATING OF ASCIA ACTION PLANS FOR ANAPHYLAXIS IN RESPONSE TO THE VICTORIAN CORONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS



In August 2016 ASCIA released updated Action Plans for Anaphylaxis and Allergic Reactions that were developed in response to the Victorian coroner's recommendations: [www.allergy.org.au/health-professionals/anaphylaxis-resources/ascia-action-plan-for-anaphylaxis](http://www.allergy.org.au/health-professionals/anaphylaxis-resources/ascia-action-plan-for-anaphylaxis)

The main changes are an increased emphasis of key messages, inclusion of images to show how to position a person with anaphylaxis and revised wording regarding the importance of giving the adrenaline (epinephrine) autoinjector first, then asthma medication in a person with severe allergy and asthma. All ASCIA anaphylaxis resources and e-training courses have been updated with the changes that have been made to the ASCIA action plans.

Thank you to Dr Brynn Wainstein for leading this project.

### ASCIA PID (APID) 2016 MEETINGS FOR CONSULTANTS AND TRAINEES



APID 2016 consultants and training meetings were held in Melbourne (23-28 July) and involved a total of 44 delegates and 7 faculty members, including Dr Graham Davies and Dr Andrew Gennery, both from the UK. Feedback from delegates has been extremely positive. APID resources will soon be available in the postgraduate education section of the ASCIA website

These meetings were supported by unrestricted education grants from CSL Behring, Grifols and Shire.



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## DEVELOPMENT OF A RANGE OF PID RESOURCES INCLUDING E-TRAINING AND SCIG EDUCATION AND CONTINUATION OF THE TRANSPLANTATION AND PID (TAPID) PROJECT



New ASCIA Primary Immunodeficiency (PID) e-training for health professionals was released in early 2016 and is available at <https://immunodeficiency.ascia.org.au/> An ASCIA PID clinical update for health professionals based on the e-training course is in development and close to finalisation.

New SCIG patient education resources were also released in early 2016 and are available on the ASCIA website members section: [www.allergy.org.au/members/scig-patient-education-package](http://www.allergy.org.au/members/scig-patient-education-package)

Thank you to Dr Andy McLean-Tooke for leading these projects.

ASCIA Transplantation and PID meetings have been held each month over the past year. Thank you to Dr Jo Smart and Dr Theresa Cole for leading this collaborative initiative.

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## **2ND ROUND OF AIFA GRANTS AWARDED, ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AIFA SEED FUNDING HAS LED TO NHMRC GRANT AND NEW AIFA STRUCTURE**

In November 2015 AIFA announced its support of the following two research projects:

- Understanding Food Protein Induced Enterocolitis Syndrome (FPIES)
- Development of the Immune System and Allergy in Childhood



### **AIFA SEED FUNDING HAS LED TO NHMRC GRANT**

The AusPollen project has been awarded \$626,442 in the latest round of NHMRC Partnership Project grants with a further \$653,129 in partner organisation in kind and cash support. The AusPollen project was one of the first projects to receive a seed grant from the Allergy and Immunology Foundation of Australasia (AIFA) in 2015. Seed funding for projects like this enable researchers to progress their work and apply for larger grants. For more information go to:

[www.pollenforecast.com.au](http://www.pollenforecast.com.au)

### **NEW AIFA STRUCTURE**

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 Christa Bayer was employed by ASCIA (part time) as the AIFA Fundraising Consultant. Christa has extensive experience from her most recent role as Philanthropy Manager for a national health and education charity. An AIFA Strategic Plan and Fundraising Business Plan have been developed and are now being implemented.

Events planned for the rest of 2016 include:

- AIFA Silent Auction at ASCIA 2016 Gala Dinner
- AIFA Advisory Panel meetings (November and December)

A calendar of AIFA events will be published for 2017 and it is anticipated that some of these events may be held in conjunction with patient organisations.

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Ray Mullins for his leadership as the inaugural Chair of AIFA for the last 3 years. Dr Melanie Wong has agreed to take on this role.**

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### **ASCIA STAFF**

- Jill Smith - CEO
- Sandra Vale - National Allergy Strategy (NAS) coordinator
- Christa Bayer - AIFA Fundraising Consultant. (part time)
- Michelle Haskard - ASCIA / AIFA Project Officer (part time)
- Rikki Dunstall - ASCIA Administration Officer (part time)
- Jessica Metcalfe - National Allergy Strategy Project Officer (part time)

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### **FUTURE CHALLENGES**

ASCIA is a relatively small medical society (with just over 600 members) and only 3.5 FTE staff. Therefore, the main challenges for ASCIA are to:

- Manage multiple new projects, and prioritise these appropriately
- Respond to multiple product regulatory and supply issues
- Obtain unrestricted educational grants from industry and support from government
- Maintain, update and promote existing resources
- Fundraise for AIFA research grants

**THANK YOU**

- Past ASCIA Presidents for building a strong foundation
- ASCIA conference organising committee
- ASCIA members and particularly the fellow Directors, Council members and Working Party Chairs
- ASCIA staff, Impagination and ICMSA (our professional conference organisers since 2006)
- All participants in the ASCIA 2016 conference and in particular the international speakers
- Patient support organisations
- Sponsors and exhibitors

**Financial Report - Dr Sam Mehr**

The tables below compare the past 4 financial years which have been strong for ASCIA with significant retained earnings of more than \$1.5 million. This was a goal that was set several years ago and have achieved for 5 consecutive years.

It is important to note that ASCIA is a not for profit company and that the strong financial performance over the past 4 years is dependent on recurrent income.

ASCIA uses accrual based accounting which shows a more accurate financial position of the organisation. This means that all income and expenses for the ASCIA 2016 conference are assigned to the balance sheet as Income in Advance for 2015-2016. The relatively large assets and liabilities in the 2015 to 2016 financial year is mostly due to increased income in advance from this conference and some of the National Allergy Strategy funding from the federal government.

A budget has been developed for the National Allergy Strategy funding from the federal government will be set up in a separate account once new Directors are appointed after the 2016 Annual General Meeting.

As we have now used most convention centres at least once, ASCIA will keep a record that compares income and expenses for each conference. This may assist us when negotiating rates for future conferences and assist with budget planning.

The following figures are based on the audited ASCIA financial reports as of 30 June 2016.

<b>CASH FLOW</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>
Cash (start of year)	\$1,468,172	\$1,469,988	\$1,539,879	\$1,551,384
Cash (end of year)	\$1,761,444	\$1,468,172	\$1,469,988	\$1,539,879

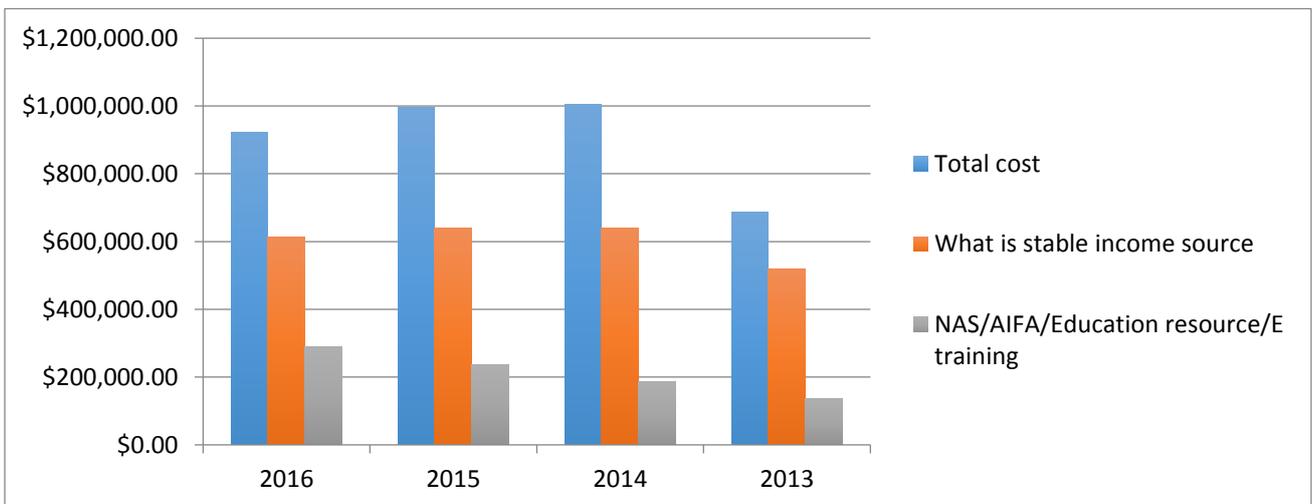
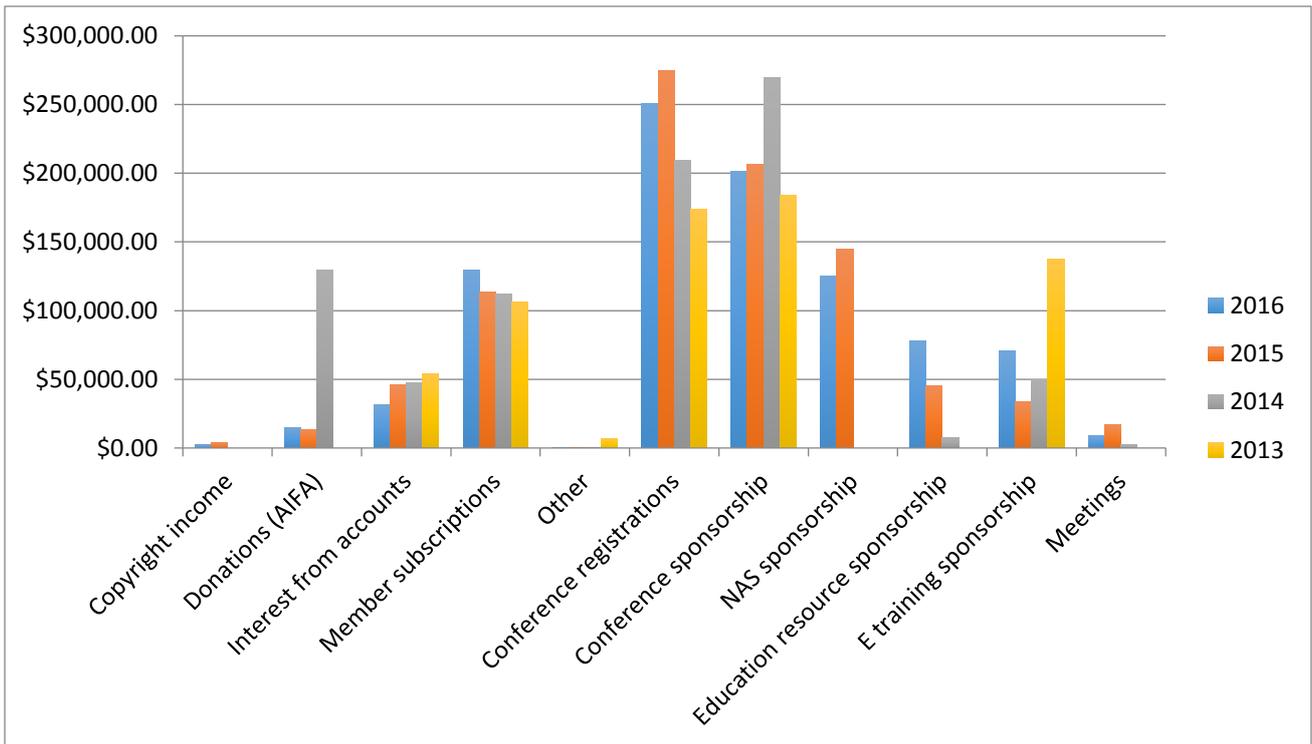
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>
Total Assets	\$2,085,947	\$1,766,897	\$1,842,392	\$1,751,391
Total Liabilities	\$541,538	\$214,300	\$255,451	\$221,339
<b>Equity (retained surplus)</b>	<b>\$1,544,409</b>	<b>\$1,552,597</b>	<b>\$1,586,941</b>	<b>\$1,530,052</b>

<b>OPERATING STATEMENT</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>
Total Income	\$913,988	\$960,849	\$1,061,782	\$776,380
Total Expenses	\$923,490	\$995,193	\$1,004,893	\$687,135
<b>Net Surplus/Loss *</b>	<b>-\$9,502</b>	<b>-\$34,344</b>	<b>\$56,889</b>	<b>\$88,324</b>

## ASCIA ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Income	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013
Sponsorship	\$282,424	\$303,805	\$314,085	NA
Membership Fees	\$129,351	\$113,859	\$112,384	\$106,352
Donations	\$14,993	\$13,374	\$129,609	\$100,000
Conference Income	\$452,565	\$480,172	\$458,251	NA
Interest	\$31,633	\$45,749	\$47,421	\$54,089
Other Income	\$3,022	\$3,890	\$32	\$6,910
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$913,988</b>	<b>\$960,849</b>	<b>\$1,061,782</b>	<b>\$776,380</b>

NA denotes where comparable figures are not available, as XERO accounting was not used by ASCIA prior to 2013-2014



## CEO's Report - Jill Smith

The past year has been exceptionally productive and sustainable for ASCIA, as documented in the President's Report and the Financial Report. This report focuses on the main ASCIA educational initiatives that are still in development for 2016-2017, in addition to the ASCIA Annual Conference.

### **National Allergy Strategy projects**

(as detailed in the President's Report)

#### **ASCIA Food Allergy / Anaphylaxis projects**

- New ASCIA and A&AA food allergy e-training for community
- New ASCIA food allergen challenge register

#### **ASCIA Respiratory Allergy projects**

- New ASCIA allergic rhinitis e-training for pharmacists
- New ASCIA allergic rhinitis clinical update for health professionals

#### **ASCIA Drug (Medication) Allergy projects**

- New ASCIA drug allergy (cephalosporin) consensus statement for clinical immunology/allergy specialists
- New ASCIA penicillin allergy e-training module for health professionals

#### **ASCIA Primary Immunodeficiency (PID) and Autoimmunity projects**

- New ASCIA PID clinical update for health professionals
- ASCIA PID e-training advanced modules
- ASCIA PID newborn screening position paper
- New ASCIA immunodeficiency register
- New and updated information on autoimmunity

### **ASCIA 2017 Conference – Viaduct Events Centre Auckland NZ 12–15 September 2017**

- Organising committee: Dr Anthony Jordan (co-chair), Dr Maia Brewerton (co-chair), Dr Andy Baker, Dr Jan Sinclair.
- ANZAAG meeting will be run on the weekend after the ASCIA conference.
- Confirmed International speakers: Prof Carsten Bindslev-Jensen, Dr Lene Heise Garvey, Prof Jonathan Hourihane, Prof Werner Pichler, Prof Jennifer Puck.

ASCIA conference reports are available at [www.allergy.org.au/conferences/ascia-annual-conference](http://www.allergy.org.au/conferences/ascia-annual-conference)

### **Thank you:**

- ASCIA staff (Rikki Dunstall, Michelle Haskard and Sandra Vale) for their tremendous commitment and enthusiasm for their work;
- Welcome to the new ASCIA staff members, Christa Bayer and Jessica Metcalfe
- ASCIA members, particularly the Conference organising committee, Directors, Council, committee and working party members who generously donate their time and expertise to ASCIA issues and projects;
- Impagination, who develop and support the ASCIA website and e-training courses, which continue to increase in popularity;
- ICMSA, who have provided logistics support for ASCIA conferences since 2006;
- Patient support organisations for collaborations that focus on patient health outcomes;
- Sponsors and exhibitors for their continued support of ASCIA educational initiatives.

## Council Elections

### DIRECTORS (EXECUTIVE)

PRESIDENT (CHAIR of Board of Directors)	Dr William Smith (SA) – replacing Dr Melanie Wong (NSW)
PRESIDENT ELECT (DEPUTY CHAIR of Board of Directors)	Dr Brynn Wainstein (NSW) – replacing Dr William Smith (SA)
DIRECTOR	Dr Jan Sinclair (NZ) - continuing
DIRECTOR	Dr Michael O’Sullivan (WA) – replacing Dr Sam Mehr (NSW)

### AREA REPRESENTATIVES

QUEENSLAND	Dr Susan Perel (continuing)
NEW SOUTH WALES	Dr Lara Ford (replacing Dr Alisa Kane)
VICTORIA	Dr Jeremy McComish (continuing)
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Dr Pravin Hissaria (replacing Dr Anthony Smith)
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	A/Prof Michaela Lucas (replacing Dr Michael O’Sullivan)
NEW ZEALAND	Dr Andrew Baker (continuing)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Anaphylaxis committee Chair	Dr Brynn Wainstein (continuing)
Education committee Chair	Dr Kathryn Patchett (continuing)
Laboratory Practice committee Chair	Dr Karl Baumgart (continuing)
Paediatric committee Chair	Dr Preeti Joshi (replacing Prof Dianne Campbell)
Immunodeficiency committee Chair	Dr Andrew McLean-Tooke (continuing)

### ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES

Associate (Dietitian) Representative	Ingrid Roche (continuing)
Associate (Nurse) Representative	Val Noble (continuing)
Associate (Trainee) Representative	Dr Mark Taylor replacing Dr Annaliese Blincoe

### ASSOCIATE (GP) REPRESENTATIVE

Dr Victoria Smith  
(nominated by A/Prof Janet Rimmer and Dr Velencia Soutter)

Dr Smith is replacing Dr Diamond Hira, as decided by a majority vote at the AGM election.

For a list of the new ASCIA Council members go to <http://allergy.org.au/members/committees#council>

## Incoming President's Message - Dr William Smith

Thank you to Dr Melanie Wong for her great leadership as ASCIA President over the past 2 years, from 2014 to 2016. As outlined in the President's Report there has been significant expansion of ASCIA over the past 2 years, with significant projects (including the National Allergy Strategy) developed during Dr Melanie Wong's term.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the ASCIA Presidents who have served before me. Together with ASCIA members and staff they have helped lead ASCIA over the past 26 years to develop into the productive, sustainable and respected organisation that it is today.

Thank you also to Susan Perel and her committee for organising another successful ASCIA Annual Conference, with record high delegate numbers.

We appreciate the contributions to ASCIA that the following ASCIA Council members have made, who will be stepping down after this ASCIA AGM:

- Dr Annaliese Blincoe – Trainee rep for past 2 years
- Prof Dianne Campbell – Chair of Paediatric committee for the past 6 years
- Dr Diamond Hira – GP representative for the past 2 years
- Dr Tiffany Hughes – Joint College Training Committee (JCTC) – previously known as Joint Specialist Advisory Committee (JSAC) rep for last 2 years
- Dr Alisa Kane – NSW rep for past 4 years
- Dr Sam Mehr – ASCIA Director for the past 4 years (including implementation of the sustainability plan) and other roles
- Dr Ray Mullins – AIFA Chair for past 3 years and other roles including President
- Dr Anthony Smith - SA rep for past 6 years

Welcome to new ASCIA Council members, who I look forward to working with over the next two years.

In September 2017 I look forward to seeing you at the 28<sup>th</sup> ASCIA Annual Conference in Auckland which is being organised by Maia Brewerton, Anthony Jordan and their committee.

