



**ascia**

australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

## Annual General Meeting 2021



ASCIA Member Services



ASCIA Sustainability



ASCIA Advocacy



ASCIA Conferences



ASCIA Online Resources



ASCIA Education  
and Training



National Allergy  
Strategy



AIFA Research Grants



ASCIA Immunodeficiency  
Strategy

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

ASCIA is the peak professional body for allergy and clinical immunology in Australia and New Zealand since 1990

## ASCIA Annual General Meeting

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Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021

7.30-8.30pm AEDST (4.30-5.30pm WST, 7-8pm ACST, 9.30-10.30 pm NZST).

Virtual meeting conducted via Zoom

### Agenda

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- ASCIA AGM 2020 Minutes were accepted by Prof Michaela Lucas and Dr Lara Ford
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  - 3. Advocacy on Behalf of ASCIA Members 4
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- ASCIA Finance Report 2020-2021 – Dr Michael O'Sullivan 13
  - ASCIA Finance Report 2020-2021 was accepted by Prof Michaela Lucas and A/Prof Roger Garsia
- ASCIA Council 2021-2022 15
- Concluding Comments – Prof Michaela Lucas 15

### Attendance

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Dr Andrew Baker (Full), Dr Richard Baker (Associate Medical), Dr Theresa Cole (Full), Nadene Dorling (Staff), Geraldine Dunne (Associate), Rikki Dunstall (Staff), Dr Arno Ebner (Associate Medical), Dr Lara Ford (Full), Dr Katie Frith (Full), A/Prof Roger Garsia (Full), Michelle Haskard (Staff), Dr Kathryn Heyworth (Associate Medical), Dr Preeti Joshi (Full), A/Prof Richard Loh OAM (Full), Dr Paxton Loke (Full), Prof Michaela Lucas (Full), Dr Vicki McWilliam (Associate), Dr Michael O'Sullivan (Full), Dr Kathryn Patchett (Full), Dr Alberto Pinzon (Full), A/Prof Katrina Randall (Full), Heather Roberts (Staff - NAS), Maria Said (Associate), Jill Smith (Staff), Sandra Vale (Staff - NAS), Dr Brynn Wainstein (Full), Dr Melanie Wong (Full).

# ASCIA President's Report – Prof Michaela Lucas

## INTRODUCTION

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Welcome everyone to the ASCIA Annual General Meeting for 2021.

I take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of ASCIA for your participation in this meeting.

I wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and sea in which we all live and work. I am currently in Perth, Western Australia and acknowledge the Noongar people as the traditional custodians of this land where I stand. We acknowledge this group today, as well as all other First Nations people, and recognise their continuing connection to land, sea and culture and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

**ASCIA reviewed its priorities in 2020 and 2021, mainly due to many challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of these reviews and a focus of key initiatives, ASCIA has adapted to changes and has become an even stronger organisation, as reflected in the:**

- **Hosting of the highly successful ASCIA 2021 Virtual Conference.**
- **Continuing large number of registrations for ASCIA e-training courses and visits to the ASCIA website to access online resources that are regularly reviewed and updated.**
- **Increased recognition of the importance of immunology/allergy and ASCIA's pivotal role in providing advice and information in these areas.**

ASCIA has continued to work on initiatives that support ASCIA members and **ASCIA's Purpose, to:**

- Advance the science and practice of allergy and clinical immunology.
- Promote the highest standard of medical practice, training, education and research.
- Improve the health and quality of life of people with immune system disorders.

To achieve its Purpose, ASCIA undertakes a wide range of initiatives that are prioritised as follows:

- [1. ASCIA Member Services and Benefits](#)
- [2. ASCIA Sustainability](#)
- [3. Advocacy on behalf of ASCIA members](#)
- [4. ASCIA Annual Conferences](#)
- [5. ASCIA Online Resources, Education and Training](#)
- [6. National Allergy Strategy](#)
- [7. AIFA Research Grants](#)
- [8. ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy](#)

ASCIA Objectives remain unchanged and are consistent with the priorities for ASCIA:

- **Standards** - Promote the highest standards of allergy and immunology medical training, practice and care.
- **Education and Training** - Provide high quality allergy and immunology education and training for ASCIA members, health professionals, patients, consumers and carers.
- **Expertise and Advice** - Utilise ASCIA and stakeholder expertise to address allergy and immunology issues, provide advice, representation and submissions to government and other organisations.
- **Advocacy and Collaborations** - Increase the profile of allergy, immunology and immunopathology, and advocate for patients.
- **Research** - Promote and fund research to improve the health and quality of life of people with allergy and other immune diseases.

## ASCIA PRIORITY 1: MEMBER SERVICES AND BENEFITS

### ASCIA member services and benefits include access to:

- Regular online communication, including monthly e-newsletters
- Advocacy on behalf of ASCIA members
- ASCIA Annual Conference discounted registration
- ASCIA online resources
- National Allergy Strategy resources
- AIFA research grants
- Collaborations, including TAPID
- ASCIA committee and working party membership
- ASCIA educational meetings
- Listing on the ASCIA website 'How to Locate a Specialist' section for Full ASCIA members

### As of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021, there were 669 ASCIA members, comprising:

- **264 Full ASCIA members**, who are mainly clinical immunology/allergy specialists and they are listed on the ASCIA website [www.allergy.org.au/patients/locate-a-specialist](http://www.allergy.org.au/patients/locate-a-specialist)
- **63 Associate (Trainee) members**, who are completing their advanced training to become clinical immunology/allergy specialists.
- **124 Associate (Medical) members**, who are medical practitioners with an interest in allergy, but are not clinical immunology/allergy specialists.
- **160 Associate (Other Health Professional) members**, including 112 nurses and 39 dietitians.
- **36 Associate (Scientist/Researcher) members**.
- **22 Retired** ASCIA members.

After the September 2021 Council meeting the membership increased to 688.



## ASCIA PRIORITY 2: SUSTAINABILITY

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ASCIA has continued to improve its sustainability, both environmentally and financially, whilst adapting its operations and priorities, to address global issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, by hosting the highly successful ASCIA 2021 Virtual Conference, ASCIA has demonstrated that it can adapt to challenging circumstances. This experience will enable ASCIA to host the ASCIA 2022 Hybrid conference, by combining the best of the Virtual with onsite, in person interaction.

ASCIA financial sustainability issues are covered in the Finance Report.

## ASCIA PRIORITY 3: ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF ASCIA MEMBERS

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In 2020-2021 ASCIA has continued to advocate on behalf of ASCIA members to government and other organisations by lodging 15 submissions, which are listed on [www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports#s1](http://www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports#s1) and by working in collaborations [www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/collaborations](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/collaborations)

The submissions include advice to ATAGI regarding third doses of COVID-19 vaccines, another Parliamentary Inquiry submission and a response to a VIC coroner's report into a death due to anaphylaxis.

To date there has not yet been a response to the Allergies and Anaphylaxis Parliamentary Inquiry Report.

It is our intention to make new applications for MBS item numbers for food and drug allergen challenges in 2022, which will combine data from the old workforce survey and new surveys that will be sent out in 2022.

## ASCIA PRIORITY 4: ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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The ASCIA 2021 Conference was a highly successful virtual event that was held from Wednesday 1st to Friday 3rd September 2021, and was the largest ASCIA Conference to date, with almost 700 registered delegates. Whilst we would prefer to have been together in person, our decision to host a Virtual Conference provided some much-needed certainty and change of routine during challenging times.

We are proud of what was achieved and have received a lot of positive feedback about the content and platform from delegates and sponsors. Sessions can be viewed on demand until 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.



The Conference provided an international standard of CPD/CME, with 58 speakers in the main program, including 12 international experts, 71 poster and 19 clinical grand rounds (CGR) presentations, 31 speakers in 17 sponsored sessions, and programs for Nurses, Dietitians and Associate Medical members.

In 2022 we will host a Hybrid ASCIA Conference by combining the best of the Virtual format with onsite interaction at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September.



## ASCIA PRIORITY 5: ONLINE RESOURCES, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ASCIA has continued to update and develop more online resources, education and training than in previous years. There are several projects underway that are due for completion by the end of 2021 and these projects are listed on the ASCIA website [www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/education-projects](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/education-projects)

We greatly appreciate:

- Contributions from the chairs and members of ASCIA committees and working parties.
- The team of ASCIA staff who draft, edit and manage projects.
- Unrestricted educational grants, which have enabled ASCIA to progress this work and to continue providing ASCIA online resources and e-training courses free of charge.



Allergy Testing



Allergy Treatments



Anaphylaxis



Asthma and Allergy



Autoimmunity



Drug (Medication) Allergy



Eczema (Atopic Dermatitis)



Food Allergy



Hay Fever (Allergic Rhinitis)



Immunodeficiency



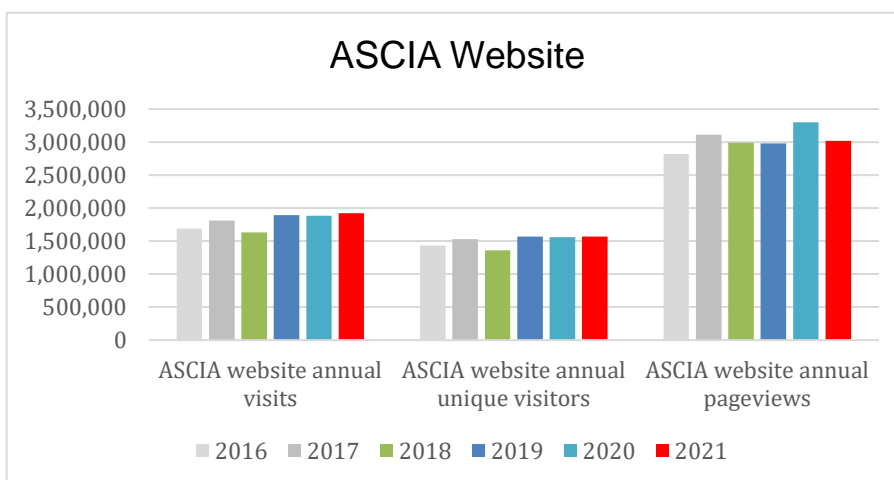
Insect and Tick Allergy



Introducing Foods and Allergy Prevention

Since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 ReadSpeaker has been available on the ASCIA webpages for patients and carers, to improve access for people with:

- Vision impairment, limited reading ability or learning disabilities, by allowing text to speech (TTS).
- Non-English speaking backgrounds - information can be translated into 20 different languages by highlighting the text and selecting 'translate'.



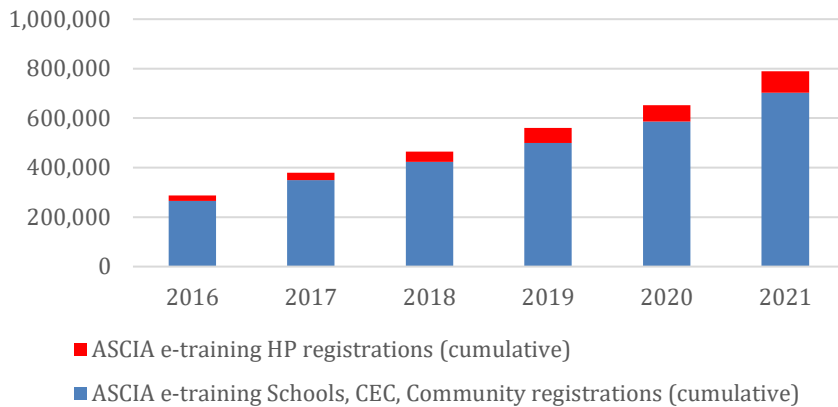
### ASCIA Website

The ASCIA website continues to attract a large number of visits.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 there were more than:

- 3 million pageviews.
- 1.9 million visits to access ASCIA online resources.
- 1.5 million unique visitors.

### ASCIA E-Training Courses



### ASCIA E-Training

ASCIA has continued to provide and subsidise world leading accessible, consistent and evidence based online training courses since 2010.

Usage of these courses is high, with more than:

- 780,000 registrations since 2010.
- 90,000 registrations from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

### New and updated ASCIA online resources

The ASCIA team works with ASCIA committees and working parties to review, update and develop accessible, consistent and evidence-based online resources. Significant developments or updates in 2020-2021 are listed below and on the ASCIA website [www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/education-projects](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/education-projects)



#### COVID-19

ASCIA has developed five new resources in 2021 to support COVID-19 vaccination programs in Australia and New Zealand.

[www.allergy.org.au/covid-19](http://www.allergy.org.au/covid-19)



#### Immunodeficiency

ASCIA has developed new information about Hereditary Angioedema (HAE) and Immunoglobulin Replacement Therapy (IRT) in 2021, as well as six updated immunodeficiency resources.

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



#### Anaphylaxis

ASCIA anaphylaxis resources are accessed more than 600,000 times each year. ASCIA has updated more than 24 online anaphylaxis resources and 10 e-training courses in 2021.

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



#### Food Allergy and other adverse reactions to foods

ASCIA has developed new and updated information about oral allergy syndrome (OAS), oral allergen immunotherapy (OIT) and eosinophilic oesophagitis (EoE) in 2020-2021.

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

[www.allergy.org.au/patients/food-other-adverse-reactions](http://www.allergy.org.au/patients/food-other-adverse-reactions)



### **Drug (Medication) Allergy**

ASCIA has developed and updated resources for drug allergy in 2020-2021, including an Action Plan, Drug Allergy Record, Terminology information and consensus statements.

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



### **Respiratory and Venom Allergy**

ASCIA has developed and updated treatment plans for allergic rhinitis and immunotherapy (subcutaneous and sublingual) in 2020-2021.

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



### **Eczema (Atopic Dermatitis)**

ASCIA eczema (atopic dermatitis) FAQ, action and management plans have been updated to include immune modulating treatments.

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



### **Allergy Testing**

ASCIA information about evidence-based versus non evidence-based allergy tests and treatments has been updated in 2021.

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

[www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers#p10](http://www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers#p10)

We will continue to develop and update ASCIA online resources in 2021 and 2022.

The following ASCIA online resources and courses are scheduled to be completed in 2021 or early 2022:

- New ASCIA Anaphylaxis Refresher e-training for health professionals
- Updated ASCIA Adrenaline Injectors FAQ
- Updated ASCIA Food Allergy e-training for health professionals
- New ASCIA Position Statement – Food Allergen Challenges
- New ASCIA Position Paper on Chronic Rhinosinusitis with Nasal Polyps
- Updated ASCIA Allergen Immunotherapy e-training for health professionals
- New ASCIA Atopic Dermatitis (Eczema) information for health professionals
- New ASCIA Immunoglobulin Replacement Therapy (IRT) e-training for health professionals

Together with the National Allergy Strategy resources (mentioned in the following priority), ASCIA online resources provide an important service to ASCIA members, patients and the community.



## ASCIA PRIORITY 6: NATIONAL ALLERGY STRATEGY

The following report provides a summary of National Allergy Strategy projects and activities.

[The National Allergy Strategy](#) is a partnership between [ASCIA](#) and [Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia](#) (A&AA), working in collaboration with other stakeholders.

Thank you to Dr Preeti Joshi (ASCIA co-chair), Maria Said (A&AA co-chair) and Sandra Vale (Manager) for their leadership, and to the staff and members who participate in, and contribute to projects.

As part of the National Allergy Strategy projects, a series of animated videos have been developed in 2020-2021, including some that can also be accessed on the ASCIA and A&AA websites:

- How to manage allergic rhinitis <https://nationalallergystrategy.org.au/resources/allergic-rhinitis>
- Anaphylaxis positioning <https://nationalallergystrategy.org.au/resources/anaphylaxis>
- How to safely remove ticks and prevent tick bites <https://nationalallergystrategy.org.au/resources/anaphylaxis>
- How to manage eczema <https://nationalallergystrategy.org.au/resources/eczema>
- Managing food allergy at parties and concerts and festivals <https://nationalallergystrategy.org.au/resources/food-allergy-videos>
- How to introduce common food allergens <https://nationalallergystrategy.org.au/projects/food-allergy-prevention/resources>



### School and CEC project

The National Allergy Strategy has worked with key stakeholders to develop Best Practice Guidelines and supporting resources for anaphylaxis prevention and management in schools and children's education and care (CEC) services, which were launched in October 2021.

The National Allergy Strategy will help support implementation of the Guidelines through engagement with key stakeholders, staff working in schools and CEC services and parents.

To help evaluate the effectiveness of the Guidelines, a baseline survey has been conducted. This survey will be repeated in June 2023. The new Allergy Aware website was created to support this project.

[www.allergyaware.org.au/schools/best-practice-guidelines-schools](http://www.allergyaware.org.au/schools/best-practice-guidelines-schools)

[www.allergyaware.org.au/childrens-education-and-care/best-practice-guidelines-cec](http://www.allergyaware.org.au/childrens-education-and-care/best-practice-guidelines-cec)

[www.allergyaware.org.au/childrens-education-and-care/anaphylaxis-risk-minimisation-strategies](http://www.allergyaware.org.au/childrens-education-and-care/anaphylaxis-risk-minimisation-strategies)



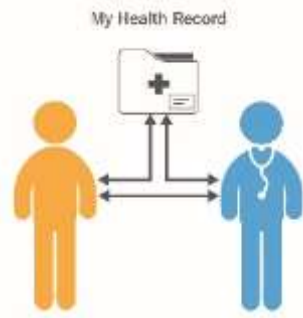
### Food service project

The National Allergy Strategy 'All about Allergens' training and supporting websites have been updated and promoted in 2021. The All about Allergens online training continues to be a successful training course with more than 1000 enrolments per month.

[www.foodallergyaware.org.au](http://www.foodallergyaware.org.au) (a food allergy resource hub)

[www.foodallergytraining.org.au](http://www.foodallergytraining.org.au) (All about Allergens online training)

[www.foodallergyeducation.org.au](http://www.foodallergyeducation.org.au) (for consumers with food allergy)



### Australian Digital Health Agency project

The National Allergy Strategy is working with the Australian Digital Health Agency to improve the quality of patient allergy information in My Health Record.

<https://nationalallergystrategy.org.au/projects/australian-digital-health-agency>



### 250K youth project

The National Allergy Strategy 250K project continues to progress despite border restrictions due to COVID-19. New animations have been developed and we continue to engage with teens and young adults via regular Zoom chats.

Teens - <https://teen.250k.org.au/>

Young adults - <https://ya.250k.org.au/>

250K project resources:

<https://nationalallergystrategy.org.au/projects/250k-youth-project/resources>



### Nip Allergies in the Bub food allergy prevention project

The National Allergy Strategy Nip Allergies in the Bib website has a major review in 2021. New information and resources have been developed for the website and social media campaigns.

<https://preventallergies.org.au/>

### Acute Anaphylaxis Clinical Care Standard project

- The National Allergy Strategy, ASCIA and A&AA have been represented on the expert working group run by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. The National Allergy Strategy has worked alongside the Commission to support the evidence review and development and launch of the Standard.
- The National Allergy Strategy positioning images and link to the animation have been included in the Standard along with a link to the National Allergy Strategy how to safely remove ticks animation.
- The Acute Anaphylaxis Clinical Care Standards are underpinned by the ASCIA Guidelines for acute management of anaphylaxis.
- The clinical care standard relates to the care that patients should receive when they are experiencing anaphylaxis, from initial presentation to a healthcare setting, or first clinical contact in the community, through to discharge from health care including planning for follow-up care. It also includes patients who experience anaphylaxis while in a health care facility.
- The National Allergy Strategy, ASCIA and A&AA were invited to provide a short video for the launch of the Standard and this video will also sit on the webpage where the Standard can be accessed.
- **The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care will launch the Acute Anaphylaxis Clinical Care Standards on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

Further information: <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/clinical-care-standards>

### National Allergy Strategy websites

The National Allergy Strategy websites are monitored and updated based on changes in the evidence base or as new information is required. All National Allergy Strategy websites have undergone a review in 2021 and the National Allergy Strategy websites now have ReadSpeaker.

The National Allergy Strategy has been recognised as an information partner with Healthdirect and this acknowledgement is now on all National Allergy Strategy websites.

## ASCIA PRIORITY 7: AIFA RESEARCH GRANTS

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The Allergy and Immunology Foundation of Australasia (AIFA) has awarded more than \$500,000 since the AIFA research grant program commenced in 2015. This includes **\$127,000** awarded to 5 research projects in 2021, which were announced at the end of the session in the ASCIA 2021 Virtual Conference that featured presentations from past AIFA grant recipients 2015-2019.



Thank you to our generous donors (including many ASCIA members), corporate supporters and our expert grant selection panel who volunteer their time, and to Dr Melanie Wong for chairing this panel.

All donations to AIFA directly fund allergy and immunology research grants. Significant donors (of \$10,000 or more) may request targeted research project funding in particular areas.

To be eligible for AIFA grants the Chief Investigator (CI) must be an ASCIA member and research needs to be carried out by the CI and designated team in a non-profit institution in Australia or New Zealand.

Congratulations to the 2021 AIFA Grant Recipients who are listed below and on the AIFA website.

[www.allergyimmunology.org.au/projects](http://www.allergyimmunology.org.au/projects)



The **AIFA Ann Kupa Food Allergy Research Grant of \$40,000** was awarded to Professor Mimi Tang to explore the “Immune mechanisms underpinning remission of allergy”. Professor Tang works at the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute (MCRI) in Melbourne. [Read more...](#)



The **AIFA Food Allergy Research Grant of \$15,000 (supported by DBV Technologies)** was awarded to Dr Peter Hsu, who works at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead in Sydney. His project is “Investigating impaired T cell activation in children with food allergy”. [Read more...](#)



The **AIFA Kohen and Sage Richards Food Allergy Grant of \$12,000** was awarded to A/Professor Katrina Randall at The Canberra Hospital/ANU Medical School. Her project will help improve the future management of allergy by “Investigating T follicular cell numbers and neuritin levels in patients with food allergy.” [Read more...](#)



The **AIFA Primary Immunodeficiencies Clinical Research Grant of \$30,000 (supported by CSL Behring)** was awarded to Professor Stuart Tangye, who works at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, for his project “SARS CoV2 infection and vaccination in inborn errors of immunity.” [Read more...](#)

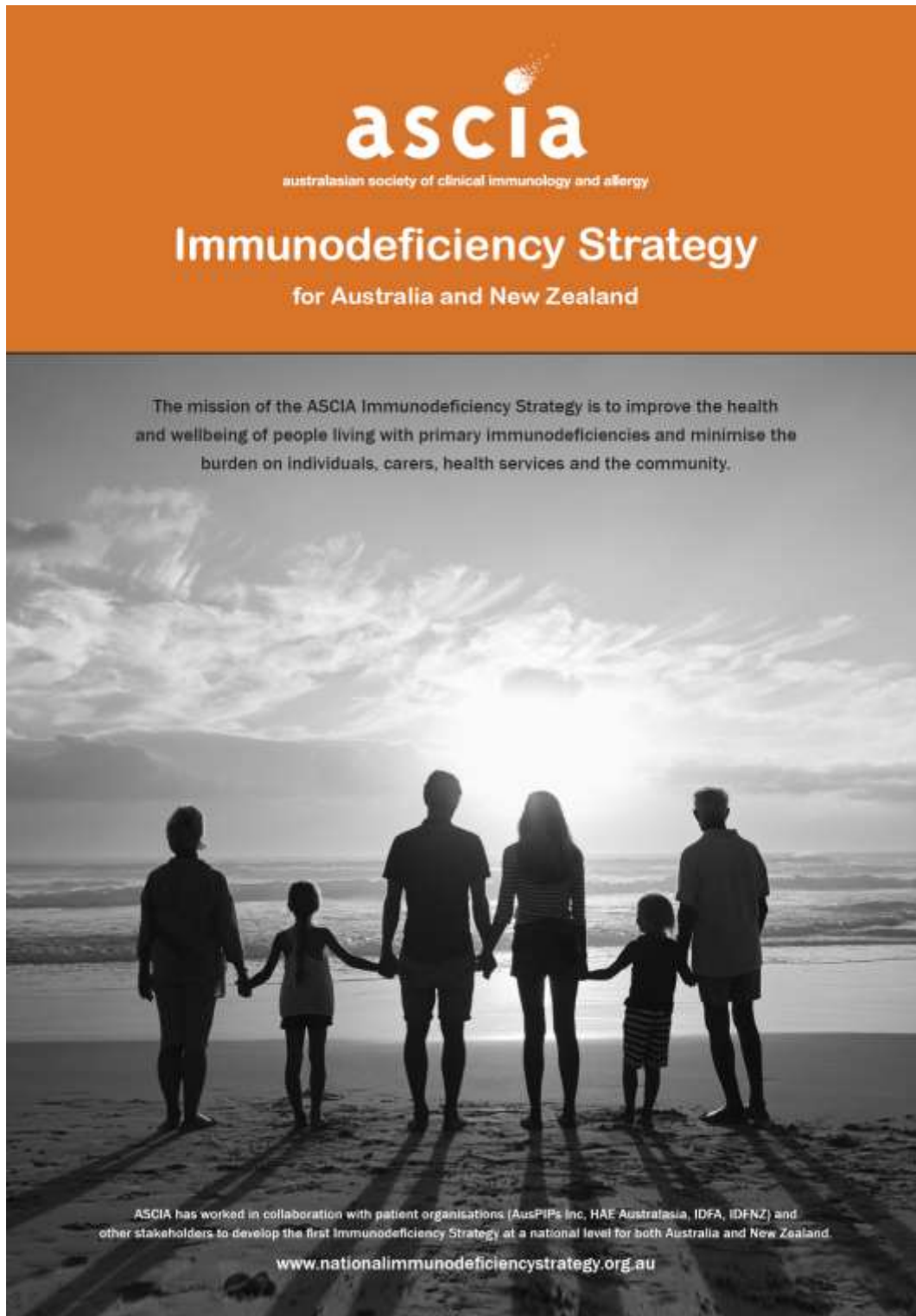


The **AIFA Immunology and Allergy Grant of \$30,000** was awarded to A/Professor Cindy Ma at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research to explore “Harnessing primary immunodeficiencies to understand and treat human allergic disease.” [Read more...](#)

## ASCIA PRIORITY 8: ASCIA IMMUNODEFICIENCY STRATEGY

The ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy for Australia and New Zealand aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people with primary immunodeficiencies (PID), also known as inborn errors of immunity (IEI), and minimise the burden on individuals, carers, healthcare services and community.

The ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy for Australia and New Zealand has been developed by ASCIA, in consultation with patient organisations (AusPIPs, HAE Australasia, IDFA and IDFNZ), and other stakeholders. Whilst the main content of the Strategy was completed in November 2020, the final version of the Strategy will be launched in February 2022.



### The ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy Goals are as follows:

Goal 1: Enable early diagnosis of PIDs, by SCID newborn screening of the population and recognition of early warning signs of PID.

Goal 2: Improve access to expert genetic testing for patients with suspected or recently diagnosed PID, or people with a family history.

Goal 3: Equitable access to specialist and multi-disciplinary care for patients with PID, including those living in regional, rural and remote areas.

Goal 4: Equitable access to treatments, that are appropriately supported and funded for patients with PID.

Goal 5: Support PID education and training for patients, carers and health professionals.

Goal 6: Support multi-disciplinary clinical and laboratory PID research and collaborations.

## ASCIA'S PLANS FOR 2021-2022

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- Hosting of ASCIA 2022 Hybrid Conference in September 2022.
- Hosting and promotion of other ASCIA educational events for ASCIA members.
- Expansion and promotion of ASCIA online resources, education and training, subject to funding. Some of the projects yet to be completed are listed on [www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/education-projects](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/education-projects)
- Further expansion of ASCIA member services, sustainability initiatives, advocacy on behalf of ASCIA members, AIFA research grants, collaborations and partnerships, including the National Allergy Strategy.
- Planning for a New Zealand Allergy Strategy.
- Launch of the ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy for Australia and New Zealand.

## THANK YOU

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ASCIA is a very special organisation and I feel privileged In my role as ASCIA President to have had first hand experience of the inner workings of the society.

Despite the challenge of not being able to travel and meet in person, I have enjoyed working closely with the other ASCIA Directors, Council members, the ASCIA CEO and the rest of the ASCIA team over the last year.

I take this opportunity to thank:

- ASCIA staff - Jill Smith, Rikki Dunstall, Michelle Haskard, Nadene Dorling, Sandra Vale (NAS) and Heather Roberts (NAS).
- ASCIA contractors - Impagination (ASCIA e-training and websites), ICMSA (ASCIA Conference) and Rachel Hopkins (graphic design).
- ASCIA Directors and other ASCIA Council members, including committee and working party chairs.
- Outgoing ASCIA Council members (since the last AGM) - Dr Jan Sinclair, Dr Elizabeth da Silva and Dr Karl Baumgart.
- All ASCIA members, many of whom are active members of ASCIA committees and working parties.
- Past ASCIA presidents who have established such a strong foundation for ASCIA, and particularly Brynn Wainstein, the immediate Past President.

## ASCIA Finance Report 2020-2021

This report is based on the audited ASCIA financial report which covers the 2021 financial year (FY) from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

ASCIA's financial report is consolidated to include ASCIA, AIFA and the National Allergy Strategy (NAS) government and non-government accounts, which are each held in separate bank accounts.

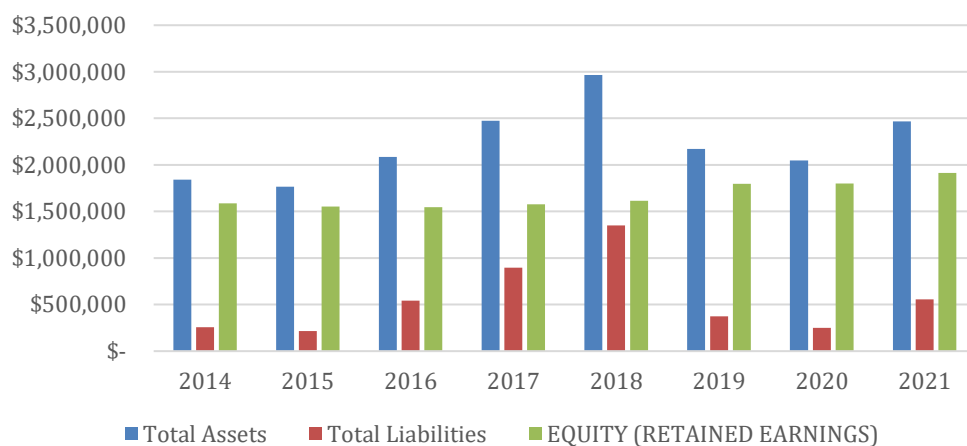
**Whilst the consolidated surplus was \$114,782 the actual ASCIA surplus was \$169,050.**

This result was achieved without any conference income, which is very positive, considering the global pandemic. ASCIA's strong financial position is a result of strategic planning and a lot of hard work to:

- Significantly adapt ASCIA's operations and priorities to address the changing situations.
- Seek additional and appropriate funding opportunities, and keep expenses as low as possible.

Whilst ASCIA is a not for profit company, ASCIA aims to have at least \$1,500,000 in retained earnings, to ensure ASCIA's long term sustainability, so it is important that ASCIA maintains a strong financial position.

**ASCIA FINANCIAL POSITION  
2014-2021**



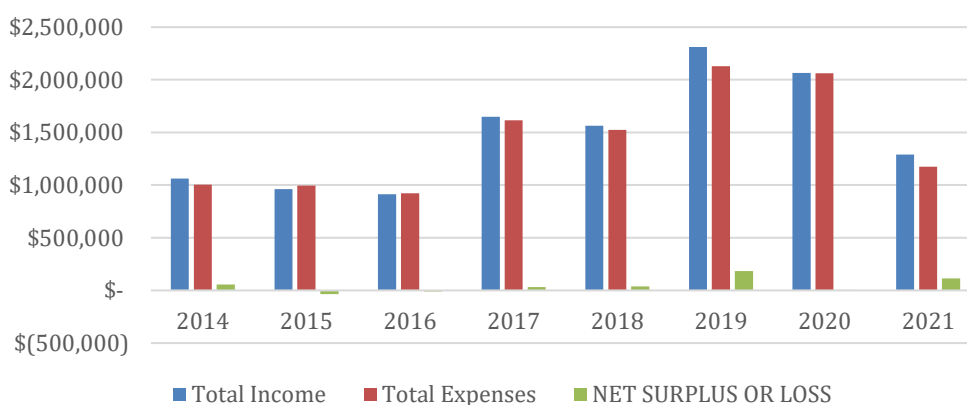
ASCIA's equity (retained earnings) of \$1,914,078 remains relatively stable and has been gradually increasing in recent years.

Assets include the ASCIA office (owned outright) and cash at bank (at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021) of approximately \$1,600,000, comprising:

- ASCIA: \$1,000,000
- AIFA: \$290,000
- NAS: \$310,000

ASCIA has no loans or any other debts, so liabilities are mainly due to payment of ASCIA 2021 Conference expenses in advance.

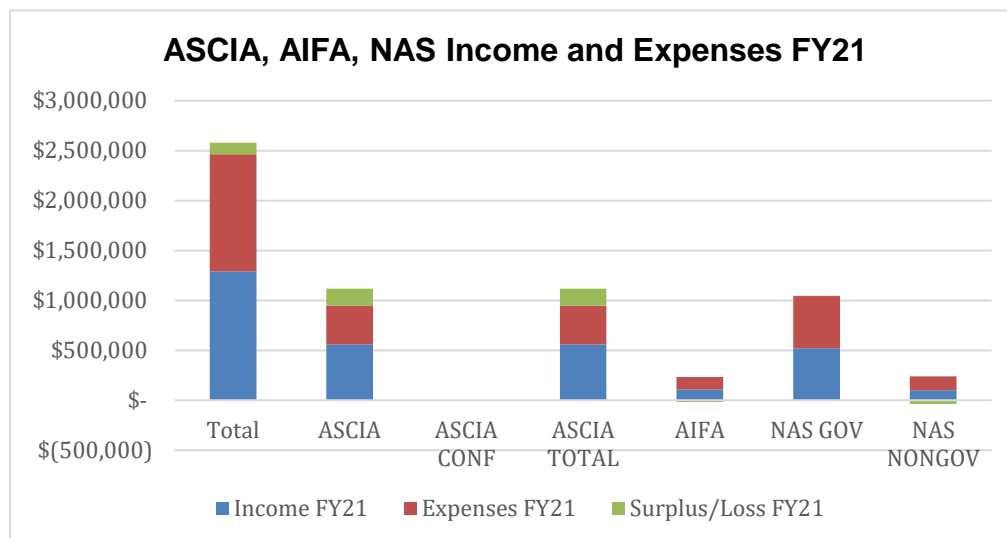
**ASCIA OPERATIONS  
2014-2021**



Without an ASCIA Conference in 2020, the main ASCIA income sources in the 2020-2021 financial year were ASCIA annual membership fees and support for resource development and updating.

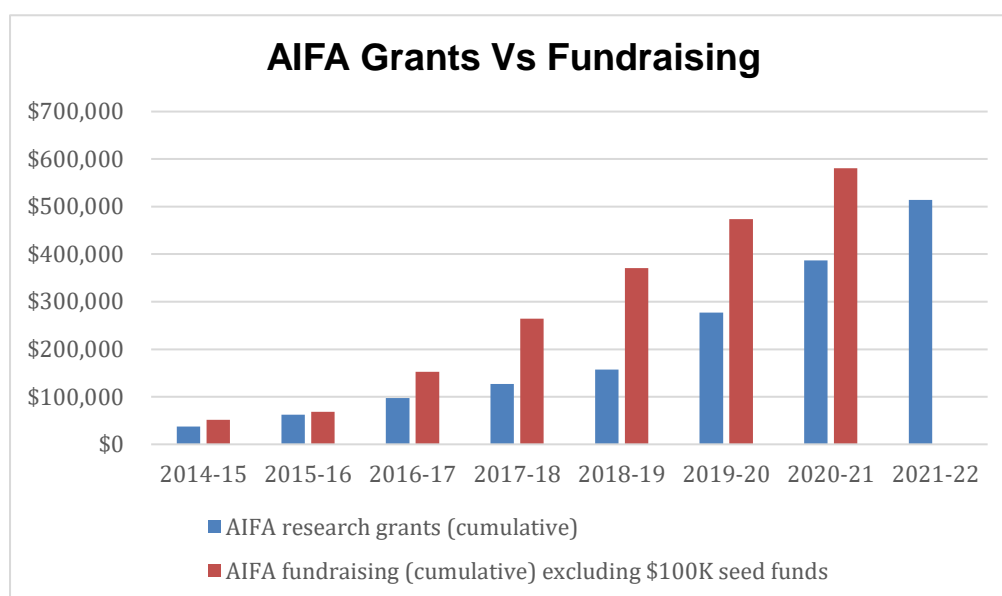
In the FY 2022 the highly successful ASCIA 2021 Virtual Conference will provide the main source of income for ASCIA.

ASCIA aims to make a surplus each year to ensure long term sustainability, whilst the NAS government and AIFA accounts aim to breakeven each year, as show in the graph below.



ASCIA, AIFA and National Allergy Strategy (NAS) government and non-government funds are held in separate bank accounts and the audited financial statements include separate profit and loss reports for each entity.

Whilst the consolidated surplus was \$114,782 the actual ASCIA surplus was \$169,050, even without any conference income.



AIFA has awarded more than \$500,000 in grants since the AIFA research grant program commenced in 2015. This includes:

**\$127,000** awarded to 5 research projects in 2021.

**\$110,000** awarded to 5 research projects in 2020.

**\$120,000** awarded to 5 research projects in 2019.

In 2022 AIFA aims to provide at least **\$110,000** in research grants, based on donations and sponsorship from the previous year.

**The financial outlook for ASCIA in 2021-2022 is very positive, due largely to ASCIA’s sound financial position.** This is major achievement and milestone for ASCIA after so much uncertainty in 2021 and 2020. This reflects:

- Careful monitoring of finances, particularly in the absence of ASCIA Annual Conference income.
- Revised focus on priorities for ASCIA, to strike a balance between funded and unfunded work.
- Increased follow up of ASCIA annual membership fees and removal of unpaid members after 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- Considerable cost savings due to no office rent or leasing payments, due to owning the ASCIA Office.
- Implementation of successful ASCIA education and training resource sponsorship programs, including diversification of funding from non-industry bodies.
- Successful new business model for the ASCIA 2021 Virtual Conference, with a focus on maximising registrations (694 in total), and increasing opportunities for sponsorship (\$372,000 in total). The total income was \$517,000 and the profit will be around \$260,000 which will be recorded in the 2021-2022 financial year. A lot of time has been spent on developing the new model so it important that the virtual format is incorporated into the ASCIA Hybrid Conference in September 2022.

## ASCIA Council 2021-2022

### DIRECTORS (EXECUTIVE)

PRESIDENT (CHAIR of Board of Directors)	Prof Michaela Lucas (WA)
PRESIDENT ELECT	Dr Theresa Cole (VIC)
DIRECTOR	A/Prof Jane Peake (QLD)
DIRECTOR	Dr Michael O'Sullivan (WA)

### AREA REPRESENTATIVES

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY	A/Prof Katrina Randall
NEW SOUTH WALES	Dr Narinder Kaur
NEW ZEALAND	Dr Andrew Baker
QUEENSLAND	Dr Alberto Pinzon
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Dr Jovanka King
VICTORIA	Dr Stephanie Richards
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	A/Prof Kristina Rueter

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Anaphylaxis committee Chair	Dr Katie Frith (NSW)
Drug Allergy committee Chair	Prof Connie Katelaris AM (NSW)
Education committee Chair	Dr Kathryn Patchett (NSW)
Laboratory Practice committee Chair	Dr Chris Bundell (WA) will replace Dr Karl Baumgart (NSW)
Paediatric committee Chair	Dr Lara Ford (NSW)
Immunodeficiency committee Chair	Dr Theresa Cole (VIC)

### ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES

Associate (Dietitian) Representative	Kathy Beck (QLD)
Associate (Nurse) Representative	Briony Tyquin (NSW)
Associate (Medical) Representative	Dr Kathryn Heyworth (QLD)
Associate (Trainee) Representative	Dr Hannah Hu (NSW)

### OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS

Immediate Past ASCIA President	Dr Brynn Wainstein (NSW)
Chair of the Committee for Joint College Training in Immunology/Allergy	Dr Frederick Lee (NSW)
AIFA Chair	Dr Melanie Wong (NSW)
National Allergy Strategy co-chair (ASCIA)	Dr Preeti Joshi (NSW)

## Concluding Comments – Prof Michaela Lucas

I am honoured and proud to lead ASCIA over the past year as President as well as Chair of the ASCIA 2021 Virtual Conference.

We all hope the year to come will be less challenging, and we will be able to meet in person again.

Despite recent challenges ASCIA has continued to grow even stronger, as a world leading, innovative and active professional society.

In September 2022 I look forward to seeing many of you at the 32<sup>nd</sup> ASCIA Conference in Melbourne which is being organised by Dr Dean Tey and his committee.

In the meantime I hope everyone stays safe and well.