



australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy



Annual Report 2018

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

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This report is based on the ASCIA Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 6 September 2018 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra.

ASCIA President's Report – Dr William Smith

Welcome to the ASCIA 2018 Annual General Meeting. As we approach the 30th anniversary for ASCIA I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the recent significant achievements of ASCIA.

ASCIA ANNUAL CONFERENCES

On behalf of ASCIA, congratulations and thank you to the co-chairs of the 29th ASCIA Annual Conference (A/Prof Katrina Randall and Dr Elizabeth da Silva, their organising committee, the CFAR Symposium team (led by Prof Katie Allen), the inaugural Dietitians Course team (led by Ingrid Roche), speakers and chairs.

We are extremely grateful to these and other ASCIA members who volunteer their time and expertise.

ASCIA annual conferences provide an international standard of continuing professional development and an opportunity to interact with colleagues working in these areas. ASCIA conferences are therefore a highlight of the year for ASCIA members and other health professionals who work in allergy and clinical immunology.

OTHER ASCIA MEETINGS

As well as the ASCIA 2018 Conference, ASCIA has hosted other meetings in 2018 which have provided opportunities for collaborations and continuing professional development. These include:

- ASCIA TAPID face to face meeting (May 2018) and monthly teleconferences – Thank you to Theresa Cole and Jo Smart
- ASCIA SCIg (subcutaneous immunoglobulin) resources workshop (May 2018) – Thank you to this group who have developed extremely useful resources over the past two years.
- ASCIA WA Immunology Day (June 2018) - Thank you to Prof Michaela Lucas, Dr Chris Bundell and Monica Kemp.

ASCIA WEBSITE UPDATE

It is a pleasure to announce that after several months of work, the ASCIA website www.allergy.org.au has been redesigned to be more user and device friendly. The ASCIA website is a trusted and extremely popular source of information about allergy and other immune diseases, with more than 1.6 million annual visits. We have therefore not changed the content. However, the design has been substantially updated and some URLs (uniform resource locators) have been streamlined, to improve access. Thank you to our webmasters and Jill Smith for their work on this.

ASCIA ETRAINING COURSES

ASCIA currently hosts a total of 18 e-training courses, comprising:

- 6 ASCIA anaphylaxis e-training courses for non-health professionals; and
- 12 ASCIA e-training courses for health professionals.

With over 88,000 registrations for ASCIA training courses in the past year (2017-2018) it is important that ASCIA regularly reviews, updates, accredits and manages the courses to be sustainable. All of this work is time consuming and I thank ASCIA staff, webmasters for their work, as well as the ASCIA committee chairs and members who volunteer their time and expertise to the content of ASCIA courses.

AIFA

In 2013 ASCIA established AIFA, the Allergy and Immunology Foundation of Australasia, to fund allergy and immunology research and raise awareness. To date AIFA has funded \$160,000 in grants and the latest grant recipient will be awarded their grant at the ASCIA 2018 Conference Closing function on Friday 7th September.

Donations to AIFA increased by 45% in 2017-2018 and more than quadrupled in 2016-2017, despite a challenging fundraising environment. As a result of increased donations from generous ASCIA members and other donors, we intend to expand AIFA grants, with at least \$100,000 of grants to be awarded in 2018-2019.

Thank you to Melanie Wong and the AIFA grant selection panel members who volunteer their time to AIFA, Michelle Haskard for coordinating the grant selection process and Christa Bayer for her fundraising achievements over the past two years. We are intending to utilise Christa's skills to further develop ASCIA sponsorship, as well as fundraising for AIFA over the next year.

NATIONAL ALLERGY STRATEGY

The National Allergy Strategy (NAS) continues to be the most significant recent collaboration for ASCIA in partnership with Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia, working together with other stakeholders since 2014.

The following NAS projects that were completed in 2017 have provided important new resources and work will continue on these projects as a result of further government funding:

- **250K** website for young people with severe allergies www.250K.org.au
- **All about Allergens** food allergy training for food service www.foodallergytraining.org.au

On Monday 27 August 2018 the NAS food allergy prevention project, ***Nip Allergies in the Bub*** was launched in Western Australia where it will be piloted for a year, before it is launched throughout Australia. This project is the first in the world to promote feeding children the common allergy causing foods by one year of age, to help prevent food allergy from developing. The website www.preventallergies.org.au contains information for parents, carers and health professionals. It is important to note that the websites and other resources developed for NAS projects can also be utilised in New Zealand.

I had the pleasure and privilege to attend the NAS event at Parliament House Canberra on Thursday 16 August 2018, along with Dr Brynn Wainstein. This event was a great achievement in advocacy for all Australians living with allergic disease, with the government announcing 5 years of funding for NAS initiatives.

The acknowledgment of allergic disease and its impact on so many Australians was evident by the bipartisan support from Greg Hunt MP, Ken Wyatt MP, Senator Richard Di Natale and Catherine King MP, who all spoke at the event. Thank you to A/Prof Richard Loh, Maria Said, Barry Hickey and Jaclyn Jauhiainen, who also spoke at the event, to Sandra Vale for coordinating the NAS, Rikki Dunstall for providing support, and all the supporters who attended the event and/or have contributed to the outstanding success of the NAS.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate A/Prof Richard Loh, Maria Said and Sandra Vale for their work on implementing the NAS, and their continued advocacy to government for support.

OTHER COLLABORATIONS

We also value the other collaborations that involve ASCIA, including new and ongoing relationships with:

- Other professional organisations, including:
 - ASI (Australasian Society for Immunology)
 - DAA (Dietitians Association of Australia) - in 2018 we have worked together to develop the ASCIA-DAA Dietitians Course, which will be held for the first time in conjunction with the ASCIA 2018 Conference.
- Research groups, including AusPollen and CFAR (Centre for Food & Allergy Research)
- TAPID (Transplantation and PID) project.

SUBMISSIONS

Over the past year ASCIA has made several submissions to government and other organisations, including:

1. **ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) Census consultation**
 - ASCIA made a submission to request the inclusion of a simple question that aims to capture data on allergic diseases and other immune system disorders in Australia in the 2021 Census – submitted 29 June 2018.
2. **Australian Breastfeeding Strategy consultation**
 - ASCIA made a submission to request the inclusion of information from the ASCIA Guidelines for infant feeding and allergy prevention in Section 1 of the Australian Breastfeeding Strategy – submitted 18 June 2018.
3. **ACF (Australian Consensus Framework)**

- ASCIA provided feedback to the development of the ACF which was recently launched.
- 4. IHPA (Independent Hospital Pricing Authority)**
 - ASCIA made a submission in response to the IHPA public consultation paper regarding the Australian Non-Admitted Care Classification (ANACC) – to request inclusion of relevant clinical immunology and allergy services, particularly for immunoglobulin replacement therapy for immunodeficiency, allergen challenges and allergen immunotherapy – submitted 19 April 2018.
 - 5. MBS Review of Skin Testing**
 - In July 2017 ASCIA wrote a detailed letter in response to the proposed changes to allergy skin testing as a result of the MBS review process.
 - In July 2018 ASCIA wrote another letter requesting clarification of changes after receiving incorrect information.
 - The MBS will confirm changes to allergy skin testing as a result of the MBS review process and this will be communicated to ASCIA members.
 - 6. NSW State Scope of Clinical Practice Unit – Paediatric Scope of Clinical Practice**
 - Feedback from ASCIA was sent on 23 February 2018.
 - 7. PBAC (Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee)**
 - ASCIA submitted a letter supporting the Adrenaject application on 7 February 2018
 - ASCIA submitted a letter in support of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of Dupixent® (Dupilumab) injections for severe eczema in adults on 6 June 2018.
 - 8. RCPA - Request for authorised prescriber endorsement letter**
 - Letter was received on 31 January 2018 and circulated to ASCIA Full (Ordinary) members who are fellows of the RCPA.
 - An updated letter was circulated on 23 May 2018.
 - 9. TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration)**
 - ASCIA made a submission regarding mandatory reporting of medicines shortages consultation to request inclusion of relevant allergy and immunology treatments - submitted 30 April 2018.
 - ASCIA also responded to the TGA Latex allergy labelling in medicines consultation on 26 February 2018. The updated document was been published on the TGA website in May 2018: www.tga.gov.au/medicine-labels-guidance-tgo-91-and-tgo-92

ASCIA INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS 2018

Food Allergy / Anaphylaxis projects

- New ASCIA food allergen challenge register <https://facregister.ascia.org.au>.
- New ASCIA parent information FAQ - How to introduce solid foods for allergy prevention www.allergy.org.au/patients/allergy-prevention/ascia-how-to-introduce-solid-foods-to-babies
- New ASCIA patient information – Oral Immunotherapy (OIT) for food allergy www.allergy.org.au/patients/allergy-treatment/oral-immunotherapy-for-food-allergy
- Updated and new ASCIA Action Plans for Anaphylaxis and Allergic Reactions www.allergy.org.au/anaphylaxis
- Updated ASCIA anaphylaxis e-training courses www.allergy.org.au/anaphylaxis
- New ASCIA allergy prevention e-training for health professionals <https://etraininghp.ascia.org.au/food-allergy-prevention>
- New ASCIA website quick link to food allergy information www.allergy.org.au/foodallergy
- Development of new ASCIA - DAA course for dietitians - in final stage of development
- Updated ASCIA cow's milk allergy patient information - under review
- Updated ASCIA food allergy clinical updates - under review
- Updated ASCIA food allergy e-training courses - under review
- New anaphylaxis emergency medication bag nametags and wallet cards - to be printed

Respiratory / Insect Allergy projects

- Updated tick allergy information www.allergy.org.au/patients/insect-allergy-bites-and-stings/tick-allergy
- Updated webpages on allergen immunotherapy www.allergy.org.au/members/allergen-immunotherapy-information
- New ASCIA website quick link to respiratory allergy information on new ASCIA website www.allergy.org.au/allergic-rhinitis
- Updated ASCIA allergen immunotherapy e-training - under review

- Updated ASCIA allergen immunotherapy practical guide - under review

Drug (Medication) Allergy projects

- New ASCIA website quick link to drug allergy information on new ASCIA website www.allergy.org.au/drug-allergy
- New ASCIA penicillin allergy e-training for health professionals - in final stage of development
- New ASCIA drug allergy (cephalosporin) consensus statement for clinical immunology/allergy specialists - under review

Skin projects

- New Guide for eczema management www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/ascia-guide-to-eczema-management
- New ASCIA website quick link to eczema information on new ASCIA website www.allergy.org.au/patients/skin-allergy
- National Allergy Strategy/ASCIA paediatric atopic dermatitis (eczema) e-training for health professionals <https://etraininghp.ascia.org.au/atopic-dermatitis>
- Updated ASCIA chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU) Guidelines - under review

Primary Immunodeficiency (PID) / Autoimmunity projects

- New SCIg travel plan and IRT transfer care plan www.allergy.org.au/immunodeficiency
- Updated general SCIg information, SCIg position statement, information on how to set up a SCIg service and Guidelines for standardised IVIg infusion rates www.allergy.org.au/immunodeficiency
- New ASCIA TAPID project publication
- New ASCIA immunodeficiency register - in final stage of development
- New ASCIA PID newborn screening position statement - under review

MAIN CHALLENGES FOR ASCIA

- Funding to promote existing and new resources – we will try to achieve this by implementing the new ASCIA Education project and the continued implementation of the ASCIA Strategic plan (see Mission and Objectives below).
- Responding to multiple product supply issues – these have escalated in the past two years and are likely to continue with EpiPen and allergen shortages.
- Managing and prioritising updates and new projects – whilst maintaining current staffing levels and not overloading ASCIA members who volunteer their time and expertise.

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank:

ASCIA staff

- ASCIA/AIFA team; Jill Smith, Rikki Dunstall, Michelle Haskard and Christa Bayer
- NAS team; Jill Smith, Sandra Vale, Rikki Dunstall and our newest member Tristan Schwartzkopff

Long term ASCIA contractors

- Impagination - ASCIA webmasters since 2007
- ICMSA – ASCIA conference secretariat since 2006
- Rachael Hopkins – ASCIA graphic designer since 2003

ASCIA members

Currently there are 652 ASCIA members, including:

- 234 Clinical Immunology/Allergy specialists (~36% of members)
- 63 Trainee Clinical immunology/Allergy specialists (~10% of members)
- 137 Other medical practitioners (~21% of members)
- 104 Nurses (~16% of members)
- 38 Dietitians (~6% of members)
- 45 Scientists (~7% of members)
- ASCIA Directors and other Council members
- ASCIA committee and working party chairs and members
- Past ASCIA presidents who have established such a strong foundation for ASCIA.

ASCIA Financial Report – Jill Smith

The figures presented in this report are based on the audited ASCIA financial reports as of 30 June 2018.

Table 1.

OPERATING STATEMENT	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015
Total Income	\$1,563,349	\$1,648,836	\$913,988	\$960,849
Total Expenses	\$1,525,704	\$1,616,218	\$923,490	\$995,193
Net Surplus/Loss	\$37,645	\$32,618	-\$9,502	-\$34,344

Table 2.

FINANCIAL POSITION	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015
Total Assets	\$2,965,699	\$2,474,403	\$2,085,947	\$1,766,897
Total Liabilities	\$1,351,027	\$897,067	\$541,538	\$214,300
Equity (retained surplus)	\$1,614,672	\$1,577,027	\$1,544,409	\$1,552,597

Table 3.

INCOME	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015
Sponsorship	\$631,200	\$766,238	\$282,424	\$303,805
Membership Fees	\$162,290	\$124,068	\$129,351	\$113,859
Donations	\$94,011	\$82,888	\$14,993	\$13,374
Conference Income	\$626,542	\$641,235	\$452,565	\$480,172
Interest	\$24,085	\$32,352	\$31,633	\$45,749
Other Income	\$25,221	\$2,055	\$3,022	\$3,890
Total Income	\$1,563,349	\$1,648,836	\$913,988	\$960,849

Table 4.

CASH FLOW	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015
Cash (start of year)	\$2,132,105	\$1,761,444	\$1,468,172	\$1,469,988
Cash (end of year)	\$2,562,514	\$2,132,105	\$1,761,444	\$1,468,172

- The tables above compare the past 4 financial years, which have been relatively strong for ASCIA.
- ASCIA has made a small surplus in 2017-2018 (table 1).
- The figures in tables 1-4 include \$500,000 of National Allergy Strategy funding. A separate budget and report for this funding for the federal government funded projects is submitted upon completion of the projects. These funds are allocated and spent each year, so the surplus is not due to this funding.
- ASCIA's risk management plan includes having retained earnings of ~\$1.5 million in reserve, to allow for income fluctuations and fixed office costs. This goal has now been achieved for the last 7 years (table 2).
- ASCIA uses accrual based accounting which shows a more accurate financial position of the organisation. This means that all income for the ASCIA 2018 conference and the National Allergy Strategy projects for 2018-2019 are assigned to the Balance Sheet as income in advance in Liabilities. Prepayments for the ASCIA 2018 conference are assigned to the Balance Sheet as prepayments in Assets (table 2).
- The ASCIA Annual Conference income is the most important and consistent source of funding (table 3). Exhibition and sponsorship income continues to increase each year. We are keeping records that compares income and expenses for each conference, which will assist in negotiating rates for future conferences and with budget planning.
- Donations to AIFA increased by 45% in 2017-2018 and more than quadrupled in 2016-2017, despite a challenging environment. As a result of increased donations, we intend to expand the number of grants provided in 2018-2019.

This report was accepted by Dr Karl Baumgart and Prof Jo Douglass.

Other Business

Motion to convert ASCIA Drug Allergy Working Party to ASCIA Drug Allergy Committee was accepted.

ASCIA Council Elections

We thank Dr William Smith (outgoing ASCIA President) and Jan Sinclair (outgoing ASCIA Director) who will both remain on ASCIA Council in other roles, for their greatly appreciated contributions as ASCIA Directors.

We also thank the following ASCIA Council members who will be stepping down after this ASCIA AGM:

- Dr Mark Taylor – Trainee representative for past 2 years
- Dr Jeremy McComish – Victoria representative for past 6 years
- Ingrid Roche – Dietitians representative for the past 6 years and coordinator of the ASCIA-DAA Dietitians Course

The following nominations have been received for ASCIA Council positions:

- President Elect – Prof Michaela Lucas (nominated by Dr Brynn Wainstein, Dr Andrew McLean-Tookey)
- Director – A/Prof Jane Peake (nominated by Dr David Gillis, Dr Daman Langguth)
- Area representative VIC – Dr Stephanie Richards (nominated by Dr Jeremy McComish, Dr Sam Mehr)
- Dietitians representative – Kathy Beck (nominated by Ingrid Roche, Dr Merryn Netting)
- Dr Hannah Hu (nominated by Dr Catherine Toong, Dr Alisa Kane) – this position was voted on after the AGM, as there were 2 nominations.

All of the above Council members were accepted and will be listed on the ASCIA website as follows:

ASCIA COUNCIL 2018-2020

DIRECTORS (EXECUTIVE)

PRESIDENT	Dr Brynn Wainstein (NSW)
PRESIDENT ELECT:	Prof Michaela Lucas (WA)
DIRECTOR	A/Prof Jane Peake (QLD)
DIRECTOR	Dr Michael O'Sullivan (WA)

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

QUEENSLAND	Dr Susan Perel
NEW SOUTH WALES	Dr Narinder Kaur
VICTORIA	Dr Stephanie Richards
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Dr Pravin Hissaria
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	Prof Michaela Lucas
NEW ZEALAND	Dr Andrew Baker

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

Anaphylaxis committee Chair	Dr Lara Ford (NSW)
Drug Allergy committee Chair	Prof Michaela Lucas (WA)
Education committee Chair	Dr Kathryn Patchett (NSW)
Laboratory Practice committee Chair	Dr Karl Baumgart (NSW)
Paediatric committee Chair	Dr Preeti Joshi (NSW)
Immunodeficiency committee Chair	Dr Jo Smart (VIC)
Associate (Dietitian) Representative	Kathy Beck (QLD)
Associate (Nurse) Representative	Sacha Palmer (SA)
Associate (Medical) Representative	Dr Victoria Smith (TAS)
Associate (Trainee) Representative	Dr Hannah Hu (NSW)*
Immediate Past ASCIA President	Dr William Smith (SA)
Joint College Training Committee	Dr Jan Sinclair (NZ) - from 1 October 2018
AIFA Chair	Dr Melanie Wong (NSW)
National Allergy Strategy co-chair	A/Prof Richard Loh (WA)

Incoming ASCIA President's Message - Dr Brynn Wainstein

I am extremely honoured and proud to lead ASCIA into its 30th year. ASCIA is in a fortunate position today due to the leadership of Presidents who have served before me, many who are at this conference, the active participation of ASCIA members and the support and guidance from ASCIA staff.

Since 1990 ASCIA has grown into a world leading, innovative and active professional society with strong and progressive leadership.

From 1990 to 2000, ASCIA built a strong foundation for the future, including:

- Hosting of ASCIA Annual Scientific Meetings.
- Successful bidding and hosting of the World Allergy Congress in 2000.
- Development of a new Strategic Plan in 1999-2000, with a focus on web based education.

From 2000 to 2010 ASCIA established an education focus, including:

- Implementation of a new **Strategic Plan** with an emphasis on open access web based educational resources for patients and health professionals.
- Development of the first versions of **ASCIA Action Plans for Anaphylaxis** in 2003, that are now recognised as world leading resources.
- Development of the first version of **ASCIA infant feeding advice** in 2008.
- Management of its own Annual Scientific Meetings since 2006 (now called Annual Conferences).
- Development of the first free of charge **ASCIA anaphylaxis e-training courses** (for schools and childcare services) in 2010.

From 2010 to 2017 ASCIA significantly expanded its education, training, advocacy and strategic planning, including:

- Development of a wide range of free of charge **ASCIA e-training courses** for health professionals, schools, childcare and the public.
- **New and updated ASCIA action plans, guidelines and other resources** that promote high standards, available open access from ASCIA website.
- **Collaborations** to improve patient care, including TAPID (transplantation and PID) and AusPollen projects.
- **Establishment of AIFA** (Allergy and Immunology Foundation of Australasia) in 2013, to fund research and raise awareness.
- Management of **ASCIA Annual Conferences** since 2014 (replacing the ASCIA Annual Scientific Meetings).
- Development of **new ASCIA guidelines for infant feeding and allergy prevention** in 2016.
- Comprehensive review and updating of **ASCIA website** information in 2017.
- Development and implementation of the first **National Allergy Strategy** for Australia, in partnership with Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia and key stakeholders.
- **250K for young people will severe allergies** was the 1st NAS project launched in 2017
- **All About Allergens training for food service** was the 2nd NAS project launched in 2017

In 2018-2020 the main priorities for ASCIA include:

1. **ASCIA Annual Conference** (2018-Canberra, 2019-Perth, 2020-Melbourne)
2. **Promoting the redesigned ASCIA website**
3. **ASCIA Education Project 2018-2020** which aims to expand influence and reach by promoting increased use of ASCIA resources by health professionals, to improve patient care.
4. **Expansion of AIFA research grant programs and AIFA awareness initiatives** to increase funding for allergy and immunology research and raise awareness.
5. **National Allergy Strategy (NAS) projects** - ASCIA is involved in the NAS food allergy prevention project. ASCIA will also continue to promote 250K and All about Allergens
6. **Continued advocacy for patients with allergy and other immune diseases** - through development of education resources, submissions and collaborations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr William Smith for his strong leadership as ASCIA President over the past 2 years, from 2016 to 2018. As outlined in the President's Report there have been significant developments over the past 2 years, with significant projects initiated and completed.

Thank you also to:

- ASCIA staff, led by Jill Smith for their work on ASCIA, AIFA and NAS.
- A/Prof Katrina Randall, Dr Elizabeth da Silva and their committee for organising another successful ASCIA Annual Conference.
- ASCIA members who participate in a wide range of initiatives.
- ASCIA Council members who are leaving the Council after this ASCIA AGM:
 1. Dr Mark Taylor – Trainee rep for past 2 years
 2. Dr Jeremy McComish – Victoria rep for past 6 years
 3. Ingrid Roche – Dietitians representative for the past 6 years

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

In September 2019 I look forward to seeing you at the 30th ASCIA Annual Conference in Perth www.ascia2019.com which is being organised by Professor Michaela Lucas and her committee.