



australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy



Annual Report 2017

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

Contents

ASCIA President's Report	1
ASCIA 2018 Conference	3
ASCIA Financial Report	4

This report is based on presentations at the ASCIA Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 14 September 2017 at the Viaduct Events Centre in Auckland.

ASCIA President's Report – Dr William Smith

Kia Ora. Welcome to the ASCIA 2017 Annual General Meeting. On behalf of ASCIA, congratulations and thank you to the ASCIA 2017 Conference:

- Co-chairs (Dr Maia Brewerton and Dr Anthony Jordan)
- Organising committee (Dr Andy Baker, Dr Jan Sinclair, Dr Pete Storey)
- Nurse and Dietitian Update coordinators (Pauline Brown, Anna Richards, Simone Stephens)
- CFAR Symposium team (led by Prof Katie Allen)
- International Speakers
- All other conference participants

There have been significant achievements for ASCIA (more than anticipated) over the past year and this report aims to highlight some of these achievements.

MEETINGS / CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As well as the **ASCIA 2017 Conference**, ASCIA has hosted several meetings in 2017 which have provided opportunities for collaborations and continuing professional development. These include:

- **ASCIA Advanced Training Environmental Allergy and Private Practice Workshops (29-30 July 2017)** Thank you to the training meeting faculty: Prof Connie Katelaris and Prof Bob Heddle.
- **ASCIA WA Immunology Day (10 June 2017)** Thank you to the organisers: Dr Chris Bundell, Monica Kemp and A/Prof Michaela Lucas
- **ASCIA TAPID face to face meeting (20-21 May 2017) monthly teleconferences and ASCIA SCIg (subcutaneous immunoglobulin) resources workshop (19 May 2017)**. Thank you to Dr Theresa Cole, Dr Jo Smart and Dr Andy McLean-Tooke.

WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Due to the development of new awareness raising programs in 2017, it was realised that a **comprehensive review of the ASCIA website** was required.

In 2017 there was also a substantial increase in ASCIA website visits, increased frequency of ASCIA member e-newsletters, expansion of the ASCIA community newsletter and more news items on the ASCIA website and on social media.

The most recent update made to the ASCIA website are the new listings for Full (Ordinary) ASCIA members working in private and/or public clinical practice. These have been significantly updated, to provide additional information in a more mobile/tablet responsive format.

Over the past year ASCIA has made submissions to several organisations, including the National Blood Authority (NBA), Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS), World Allergy Organisation (WAO), Victorian and South Australian governments.

COLLABORATIONS

The most significant recent collaboration for ASCIA is the **National Allergy Strategy**, in partnership with Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia, working together with other stakeholders since 2014. Three government funded projects were completed in 2017 and these have provided the following important new resources:

- 250K website for young people with severe allergies www.250K.org.au
- Food allergy training for food service www.foodallergytraining.org.au

Thank you in particular to A/Prof Richard Loh, Maria Said and Sandra Vale for their work on implementing the National Allergy Strategy, which will continue.

We also value the many collaborations that ASCIA has, including new and ongoing relationships with:

- Other professional organisations, including the Australian & New Zealand Anaesthetic Allergy Group (ANZAAG), Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) and National Asthma Council (NAC).

- Research groups, including AusPollen and CFAR (Centre for Food & Allergy Research)
- ASCIA initiatives, including TAPID (Transplantation and PID).

ASCIA PAEDIATRIC COMMITTEE

Under the leadership of the Chair, Dr Preeti Joshi, the **ASCIA Paediatric committee** has developed and/or reviewed several resources in 2017, including:

- New ASCIA guide for introduction of peanut to infants with severe eczema and/or food allergy
- Updated ASCIA information on how to introduce solid food to babies for allergy prevention
- Updated ASCIA cow's milk allergy information for patients, consumers and carers

ASCIA ANAPHYLAXIS COMMITTEE

Under the leadership of the Chair, Dr Brynn Wainstein, the **ASCIA Anaphylaxis committee** has developed and/or reviewed several resources in 2017, including:

- Updated ASCIA Action Plans for Anaphylaxis, e-training and other resources with revised adrenaline autoinjector information
- New ASCIA anaphylaxis resources quick link webpage

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brynn, who will now step down for the role of ASCIA Anaphylaxis Committee chair. Dr Lara Ford will now take on this role.

ASCIA EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Under the leadership of the Chair, Dr Kathryn Patchett, the **ASCIA Education committee** has developed and/or reviewed a substantial number of resources in 2017, including:

- New ASCIA allergic rhinitis e-training for pharmacists
- Updated ASCIA allergic rhinitis e-training for health professionals
- Comprehensive review and updating of ASCIA information for patients,
- Updated ASCIA allergic rhinitis treatment plan which now includes thunderstorm asthma information
- New ASCIA allergic rhinitis clinical update for health professionals

ASCIA IMMUNODEFICIENCY COMMITTEE

Under the leadership of the Chair, **Dr Andy McLean-Tooke**, the **ASCIA SCIg project group and ASCIA Immunodeficiency committee** have developed and/or reviewed a substantial number of resources in 2017, including:

- New ASCIA PID clinical update for health professionals
- Updated SCIg position statement and information for patients
- New SCIg treatment plan and information to set up a SCIg service
- New Guidelines for standardised IVIg infusion rates
- New ASCIA immunodeficiency resources quick link webpage

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy, who will now step down for the role of ASCIA Immunodeficiency Committee chair. Dr Jo Smart (Deputy Chair) will now take on this role.

THANK YOU ALSO TO:

- **Dr Karl Baumgart, Chair of the ASCIA Laboratory committee**, who have been working on descriptors for item number submissions.
- **A/Prof Michaela Lucas, Chair of the ASCIA Drug Allergy Working Party** (there are several projects underway in 2017) and for her work on the National Allergy Strategy Drug Allergy scoping project.
- **Prof Connie Katelaris, Chair of the ASCIA HAE and CSU Working Parties** for her work on the revised ASCIA HAE position paper and upcoming work on the revised ASCIA CSU Guidelines.
- **Dr Victoria Smith, GP representative on ASCIA Council**, who has been actively consulting with other ASCIA Associate Medical members. One result of this will be a Medical Associates Update at next year's ASCIA Conference, run in parallel with the Nurse and Dietitian Updates on the Friday.

- **Other ASCIA Associate representatives, Val Noble, Ingrid Roche and Mark Taylor**, who all actively represent ASCIA Associates who are Nurses, Dietitians and Advanced Trainees.

ASCIA STAFF:

- Jill Smith - CEO (~1.0 FTE), who has worked with her team on the ASCIA 2017 conference, to ensure that it was such a success, whilst managing all the other ASCIA business throughout the year.
- Michelle Haskard - ASCIA Project Officer (~0.5 FTE)
- Rikki Dunstall – ASCIA (0.6 FTE) and NAS (0.2 FTE) Administration Officer
- Christa Bayer - AIFA Fundraising Consultant. (0.5 FTE)
- Sandra Vale - National Allergy Strategy (NAS) coordinator (1.0 FTE)

ASCIA'S long term contractors:

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

ASCIA's risk management plan includes having consistent yet flexible staffing agreements, and use of the businesses mentioned above, as required, to allow for income fluctuations and fixed office costs.

ASCIA members:

- ASCIA directors and other council members
- ASCIA committee and working party members
- Past ASCIA presidents who have established such a strong foundation for ASCIA. Many are present at this conference, including A/Prof Dan Czarny, Prof Connie Katelaris, Prof Dom Mallon, Prof Jo Douglass, A/Prof Richard Loh and Dr Melanie Wong. A/Prof Bob Heddle was intending to be here. However, unfortunately he is recovering from a sudden illness and we hope he gets well soon.

MAIN CHALLENGES

- Develop strategies and obtain funding to promote existing and new resources
- Continue to respond to multiple product regulatory and supply issues
- Manage and prioritise updates and new projects
- Increase fundraising for AIFA research grants
- Complete final amendments to ASCIA food allergen challenge and immunodeficiency registers

ASCIA 2018 Conference – Dr William Smith

On behalf of the ASCIA 2018 Co-Chairs, Dr Katrina Randall and Dr Elizabeth da Silva, we look forward to your participation in the ASCIA 2018 conference, the 29th annual conference of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA). This conference will be held at the National Conference Centre in Canberra, from Tuesday 4th to Saturday 8th September 2018, with concurrent sessions for Associate Medical members, Nurses and Dietitians on Friday 7 September.

The ASCIA 2018 conference will be held in conjunction with:

- Centre for Food and Allergy Research (CFAR) Symposium 2017 on Tuesday 4 September
- ASCIA Autoimmunity Update on Saturday 8 September.

In addition to international speakers (3 confirmed to date), we expect that there will be more than 50 speakers and chairs from New Zealand and Australia and over 400 delegates participating in this conference.

The ASCIA annual conference is always a highlight of the year for ASCIA members and other health professionals with an interest in allergy and clinical immunology. They provide an international standard of continuing professional development and an opportunity to interact with colleagues working in these areas.

ASCIA Financial Report – Jill Smith

The figures presented in this report are based on the audited ASCIA financial reports as of 30 June 2017. The tables compare the past 4 financial years, which have been relatively strong and stable for ASCIA.

Table 1.

OPERATING STATEMENT	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014
Total Income	\$1,648,836	\$913,988	\$960,849	\$1,061,782
Total Expenses	\$1,616,218	\$923,490	\$995,193	\$1,004,893
Net Surplus/Loss	\$32,618	-\$9,502	-\$34,344	\$56,889

Table 2.

FINANCIAL POSITION	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014
Total Assets	\$2,474,403	\$2,085,947	\$1,766,897	\$1,842,392
Total Liabilities	\$897,067	\$541,538	\$214,300	\$255,451
Equity (retained surplus)	\$1,577,027	\$1,544,409	\$1,552,597	\$1,586,941

Table 3.

INCOME	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014
Sponsorship	\$766,238	\$282,424	\$303,805	\$314,085
Membership Fees	\$124,068	\$129,351	\$113,859	\$112,384
Donations	\$82,888	\$14,993	\$13,374	\$129,609
Conference Income	\$641,235	\$452,565	\$480,172	\$458,251
Interest	\$32,352	\$31,633	\$45,749	\$47,421
Other Income	\$2,055	\$3,022	\$3,890	\$32
Total Income	\$1,648,836	\$913,988	\$960,849	\$1,061,782

Table 4.

CASH FLOW	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014
Cash (start of year)	\$1,761,444	\$1,468,172	\$1,469,988	\$1,539,879
Cash (end of year)	\$2,132,105	\$1,761,444	\$1,468,172	\$1,469,988

Notes:

- ASCIA is a not for profit company, and it is a pleasure to report that we have made a small surplus in 2017-2018, of \$32,618 (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 was submitted upon completion of the projects. All of the income received was spent over 3 financial years, from 2016-2018.
- 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 6 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 2017 conference and the National Allergy Strategy projects for 2017-2018 are assigned to the Balance Sheet as income in advance in Liabilities. Prepayments for the ASCIA 2017 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). Whilst registration income for the ASCIA 2017 Conference is slightly less than in 2016, exhibition and sponsorship income has increased. 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 have more than quadrupled and the fundraising budget for 2016-2017 was exceeded (Table 3). In 2017-2018 we aim to at least double the fundraising for AIFA, which we believe is feasible, with a dedicated fundraising consultant and awareness strategies, despite a challenging environment.
- This financial report was accepted by Dr Melanie Wong and Dr Anthony Jordan.