



australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy



# Annual Report 2015

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)

## Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| President's Report* - Dr Melanie Wong    | pages 2-4 |
| Financial Report* - Dr Sam Mehr          | page 5    |
| Executive Officer's Report* – Jill Smith | page 6    |

\*These reports were presented at the ASCIA Annual General Meeting held at the Adelaide Convention Centre on Thursday 10 September 2015.

## President's Report - Dr Melanie Wong

Congratulations and thank you to the ASCIA 2015 Conference committee, led by William and Anthony Smith, for organising an outstanding program.

This report aims to highlight other ASCIA achievements over the past year, which include:

- Change in ASCIA structure to a not-for-profit company
- Allergy Summits and development of the National Allergy Strategy
- First round of AIFA grants awarded
- Participation in the Choosing Wisely Australia
- Several new educational resources, including:
  - First edition of the ASCIA allergen immunotherapy manual
  - New ASCIA FPIES action plan, letter and feeding information
  - New ASCIA Guidelines for chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU)
  - New resources for Primary Immunodeficiency (PID) and TAPID collaborative project.

### CHANGE IN ASCIA STRUCTURE TO A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMPANY

During 2015 some important changes have been made to the structure of ASCIA, with a change from an Incorporated Association to a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. The background for these changes is as follows:

- In 1990 ASCIA was formed as an association incorporated in Victoria under Associations Incorporations Act 1981 (Vic)
- In 1999 the ASCIA office moved from Melbourne to Sydney
- In 2012 the Associations Incorporations Act 1981 (Vic) was replaced with Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)
- In 2013 ASCIA took a long term lease of a Sydney office, based in Brookvale.
- In 2014 ASCIA was advised that action was required to avoid being in breach of Corporations Act 2001(Cth) and Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, for the following reasons:
  - ASCIA operating outside Victoria
  - Changes to ASCIA constitution no longer possible whilst remaining as an association incorporated in Victoria.

The only feasible option for ASCIA was to change to a not-for-profit (NFP) company limited by guarantee as a charity registered with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). This structure allows national and international (including New Zealand) operations under a single set of laws (Corporations Act).

ASCIA contracted Prolegis, a legal firm specialising in NFP organisations, to amend the ASCIA Constitution and make submissions to enable the change in structure. Minimal amendments to the ASCIA constitution have ensured that operations are largely unchanged.

Voting on the changes occurred at a Special General Meeting on Saturday 8 August 2015 at the RACP Education Centre, Sydney. Electronic voting prior to this meeting allowed members to vote who were unable to attend in person. The following items were voted on and approved:

- Registration as public company limited by guarantee
- New constitution – [www.allergy.org.au/members/constitution](http://www.allergy.org.au/members/constitution)
- Amended name - Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Limited
- Appointment of Directors - current ASCIA Executive members were appointed as Directors
- Appointment of members – Full (Ordinary) ASCIA members to be members of the Company, subject to their written agreement.

In October 2015 ASCIA was confirmed as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee.

## ALLERGY SUMMITS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ALLERGY STRATEGY

In August 2014 and August 2015 ASCIA and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia hosted Allergy Summits. At the 1<sup>st</sup> Allergy Summit in 2014 the original National Allergy Strategy Steering committee was formed, comprising:

A/Prof Richard Loh (co-chair)  
Prof Dianne Campbell  
Dr Wendy Norton  
Sally Voukelatos

Maria Said (co-chair)  
Prof Jo Douglass  
Jill Smith  
Dr Brynn Wainstein

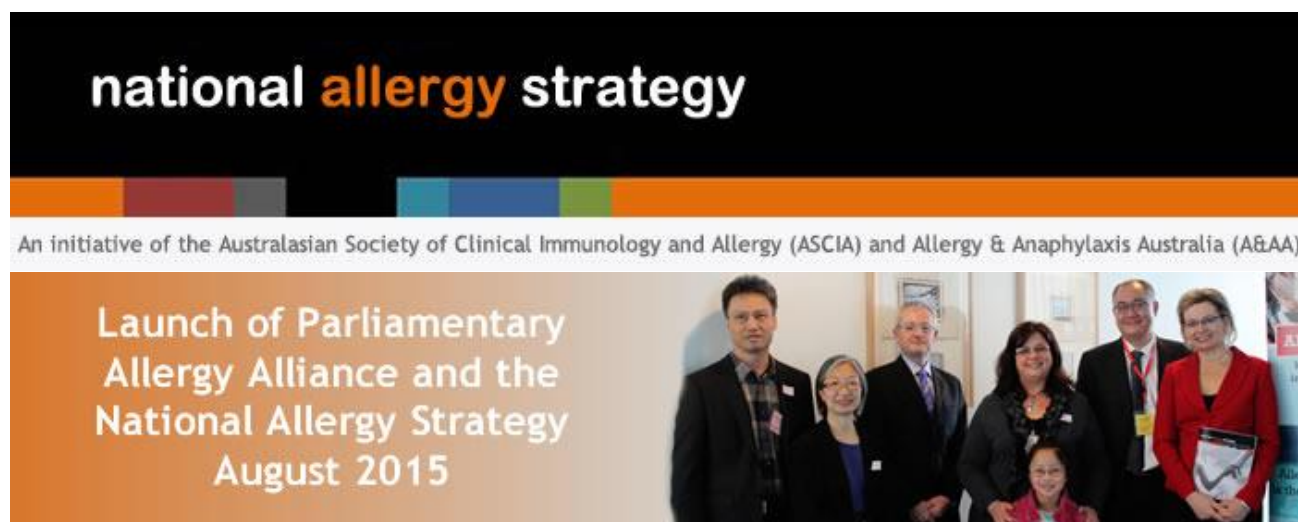
Prof Katie Allen  
Dr Merryn Netting  
Sandra Vale  
Dr Melanie Wong

A total of 5 Working Groups were established which included a wide range of stakeholders.

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Allergy Summit in 2015 the National Allergy Strategy and website [www.nationalallergystrategy.org.au/](http://www.nationalallergystrategy.org.au/) was launched and an implementation plan was developed.

Immediately following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Allergy Summit the Parliamentary Allergy Alliance was launched.

Thank you to all those involved, particularly Richard Loh, Maria Said and Sandra Vale.



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## FIRST ROUND OF AIFA GRANTS AWARDED

Congratulations to our first recipients of AIFA grants, Janet Davies and Sandip Kamath. For more information visit [www.allergyimmunology.org.au/projects](http://www.allergyimmunology.org.au/projects)



### PARTICIPATION IN THE CHOOSING WISELY AUSTRALIA

ASCIA is proud to have been the first Specialty Society affiliated with the RACP to participate in Choosing Wisely Australia, an initiative of the National Prescribing Service (NPS) MedicineWise program. [www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports](http://www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports)



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### NEW AND UPDATED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the significant number of ASCIA members who chair and participate in ASCIA committees and working parties.

New resources developed in 2015 include:

- First edition of the ASCIA allergen immunotherapy manual
- New ASCIA FPIES action plan, letter and feeding information
- New ASCIA Guidelines for chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU)
- New resources for Primary Immunodeficiency (PID) including the Transplantation and PID (TAPID) collaborative project

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### CHALLENGES FOR 2016

Whilst ASCIA develops a significant number of high quality educational resources and programs, ASCIA is a relatively small medical society (with around 600 members), Therefore there are challenges to:

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

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### THANK YOU

- ASCIA staff
- ASCIA members
- Conference organising committee
- Participants in the ASCIA 2015 conference
- Impagination - ASCIA webmasters
- ICMSA - our professional conference organisers since 2006
- Patient support organisations
- Sponsors and exhibitors

## Financial Report - Dr Sam Mehr

The following figures are based on the audited ASCIA financial reports as of 30 June 2015.

| <b>CASH FLOW</b>     | <b>2014-2015</b> | <b>2013-2014</b> | <b>2012-2013</b> | <b>2011-2012</b> |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cash (start of year) | \$1,469,988      | \$1,539,879      | \$1,551,384      | \$919,232        |
| Cash (end of year)   | \$1,468,172      | \$1,469,988      | \$1,539,879      | \$1,551,384      |

| <b>FINANCIAL POSITION</b>        | <b>2014-2015</b>   | <b>2013-2014</b>   | <b>2012-2013</b>   | <b>2011-2012</b>   |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total Assets                     | \$1,766,897        | \$1,842,392        | \$1,751,391        | \$1,598,048        |
| Total Liabilities                | \$214,300          | \$255,451          | \$221,339          | \$156,540          |
| <b>Equity (retained surplus)</b> | <b>\$1,552,597</b> | <b>\$1,586,941</b> | <b>\$1,530,052</b> | <b>\$1,441,508</b> |

| <b>OPERATING STATEMENT</b> | <b>2014-2015</b> | <b>2013-2014</b> | <b>2012-2013</b> | <b>2011-2012</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total Income               | \$960,849        | \$1,061,782      | \$776,380        | \$947,545        |
| Total Expenses             | \$995,193        | \$1,004,893      | \$687,135        | \$727,728        |
| <b>Net Surplus/Loss *</b>  | <b>-\$34,344</b> | <b>\$56,889</b>  | <b>\$88,324</b>  | <b>\$219,817</b> |

| <b>Income</b>       | <b>2014-2015</b> | <b>2013-2014</b>   | <b>2012-2013</b> | <b>2011-2012</b> |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Sponsorship         | \$303,805        | \$314,085          | NA               | NA               |
| Membership Fees     | \$113,859        | \$112,384          | \$106,352        | \$101,665        |
| Donations           | \$13,374         | \$129,609          | \$100,000        | NA               |
| Conference Income   | \$480,172        | \$458,251          | NA               | NA               |
| Interest            | \$45,749         | \$47,421           | \$54,089         | \$46,373         |
| Other Income        | \$3,890          | \$32               | \$6,910          | NA               |
| <b>Total Income</b> | <b>\$960,849</b> | <b>\$1,061,782</b> | <b>\$776,380</b> | <b>\$947,545</b> |

|                            | <b>ASCIA (inc AIFA)</b> | <b>ASCIA</b>     | <b>AIFA</b>       |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>OPERATING STATEMENT</b> | <b>2014-2015</b>        | <b>2014-2015</b> | <b>2014-2015</b>  |
| Total Income               | \$960,849               | \$ 942,854       | \$ 17,996         |
| Total Expenses             | \$995,193               | \$ 930,397       | \$ 64,796         |
| <b>Net Surplus/Loss *</b>  | <b>-\$34,344</b>        | <b>\$ 12,457</b> | <b>-\$ 46,801</b> |

The tables above compare the past 4 financial years which have been strong for ASCIA with significant retained earnings. The previous 4 financial years (2007-2011) incurred significant losses on investments due to the GFC. NA denotes where comparable figures are not available, as XERO accounting was not used by ASCIA prior to 2013-2014

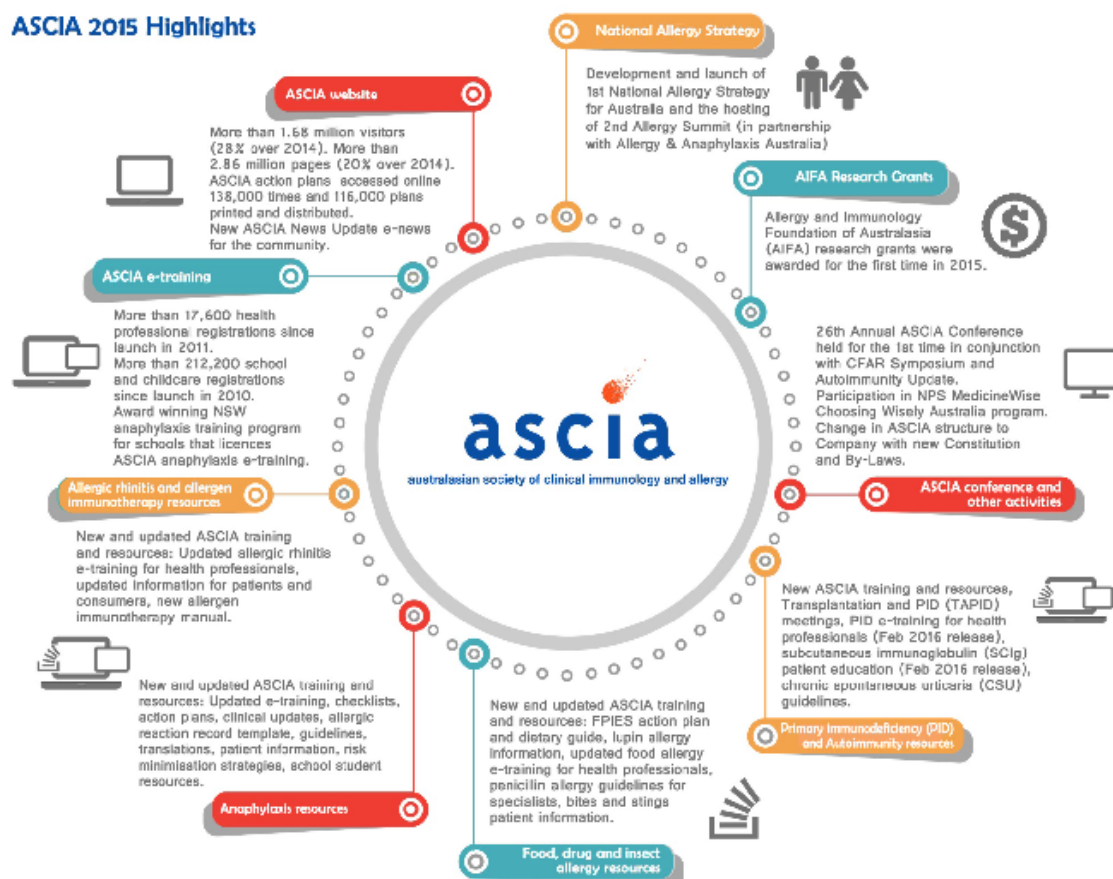
Although there was a loss of \$34,344 in 2014-2015, \$46,801 of this was due to AIFA. AIFA provided a total of \$37,760 in grants during 2014-2015. However, in 2013-2014 AIFA made a significant surplus and still has retained earnings of \$196,182. Taking into account the AIFA loss in 2014-2015, ASCIA made an actual surplus of \$12,457 in 2014-2015. ASCIA remains committed to investment in AIFA to provide grants for research into allergy and other immune diseases in Australasia.

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 2015 conference are assigned to the balance sheet in 2015-2016. It is challenging to set a budget for ASCIA as the conference expenses vary significant each year, depending on the venue costs.



# Executive Officer's Report – Jill Smith

The past year has been exceptionally productive, as illustrated by the following highlights from 2015 which are also available on the ASCIA website [www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/2015-highlights](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/2015-highlights)



Thank you to:

- ASCIA staff (Rikki Dunstall, Michelle Haskard and Sandra Vale) for their tremendous commitment and enthusiasm for their work;
- ASCIA members, particularly the Conference organising committee, Executive, 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.

There are several new initiatives and challenges for 2016 and these can be reviewed on the ASCIA website [www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/2016-ascia-initiatives](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/2016-ascia-initiatives)

For a report on the ASCIA 2015 Conference visit the ASCIA website: [www.allergy.org.au/conferences/ascia-annual-conference#s2015](http://www.allergy.org.au/conferences/ascia-annual-conference#s2015)