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A Message from the President editorial



Professor Constance Katelaris

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to update you on the activities of your Organisation as we commence a New Year and a new term for the Executive and Board of APAAACI.

I welcome our new Board members and look forward to a collaborative and productive three-year term as we prepare for our next APAAACI Congress in Taiwan. There will be a number of changes taking place and we are looking for our members to participate at all levels. Remember that every member country has a Board representative (see list) and we welcome ideas and contributions made through your representative. In this term we will form a number of working groups whose task it will be to develop strategies for progress in educational outreach for all our member nations, to promote and grow our communications (Newsletter and Journal) and to work on the development of our Congress. As the working parties progress, we will feature their work and achievements in the Newsletter.

For all those who attended the APCAACI in Singapore you know what a wonderful event it was - socially, scientifically and politically! Congratulations to the hard-working team from Singapore who ensured we had a record attendance with so many of our colleagues attending from Europe as well as from within our region. The scientific content was of a very high standard allowing us all to learn from the experience and research efforts of world leaders. Our meeting was a collaborative one with APAPARI and one goal in this term is to strengthen our ties and collaborations with this important regional group. Our resources are limited and the need for region-appropriate education and research is great so we must join our efforts to ensure success - this process was successfully commenced in Singapore.

One of the highlights of the Singapore meeting was the launch of our very own regional journal - *Asia Pacific Allergy - AP Journal* - under the editorship of Prof. Sang Il Lee. This is a very exciting but daunting project and to succeed, will need your contributions. Please visit the website <http://www.apallergy.org/> to learn how you may contribute.

editorial *(continued)*

On a very sad note, we learnt of the death of our dear friend and colleague Prof. Cas Motala (South Africa) who tragically died in Singapore at the end of the Congress. His contributions, friendship and support to APAAACI were acknowledged in a Letter of Condolence to his wife and son on your behalf (see Obituary).

To strengthen the bonds between our member countries, the APAAACI Executive and Board will endeavour to have at least one representative of the Organisation at most of the member country annual meetings over the next three years – please ensure that we have your meeting listed in our calendar so planning for this may commence.

I thank the editorial team, Dr. Fred Lee and Prof. Frank Thien for their dedicated efforts in preparing our Newsletter. We welcome your contributions such as descriptions of any meetings you have hosted, pictorial memories of colleagues and events and in particular, the views on training and the specialty from our younger members!

Enjoy reading and keeping in touch with your APAAACI colleagues!

Connie Katelaris

President, APAAACI

Events Notices - Late 2010

16th National Conference of Aerobiology

November 19 to 21, 2010, Davanagere, India

Dr. A. B. Singh

The 16th National Conference of Indian Aerobiological Society was organised at the Bapuji Institute of Engineering and Technology (BIET) campus in Davangere, India.

More than 400 delegates from India and from abroad attended. The conference was both scientifically and socially very successful.



Thank you to Dr. A. B. Singh of the Indian Aerobiological Society for this information

Photo Gallery - APCAACI 2010, Singapore



Professor Cas Motala 1947 - 2010



Professor Motala (far left) at APCAACI 2010

It is with a great sense of loss, that we informed our colleagues of the sudden passing of our dear colleague, Professor Cassim Motala just after the APCAACI in Singapore. Cas was internationally respected as an Allergologist and was a regular speaker at many international and regional congresses.

He was the first South African to be awarded the International Distinguished Fellowship in Allergy and Clinical Immunology from the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) in 1998, in recognition of his outstanding achievements and contributions to Allergy and Clinical Immunology. Cas was also an International Fellow of the American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Clinical Immunology. He was also the first South African to be elected to the board of the World Allergy Organization (WAO), where he served from 2000-2007 and was awarded the Distinguished Services Award in 2007 for his outstanding contribution to Allergy at a global level.

From a disadvantaged background, Cas worked through difficult circumstances, graduating from the University of Natal, whereupon he practised for many years as a General Practitioner in the small town of Vryburg.

He trained under Professor Eugene Weinberg in Allergy, becoming the head of the unit upon Professor Weinberg's retirement in 2004. Here he trained many doctors, as well as publishing extensively in both local and international journals. Cas always maintained a link to primary practice, allowing GPs to benefit from his vast knowledge and experience.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Cas was recently promoted to full Professor at the University of Cape Town. He had recently edited a new edition of a *Handbook of Paediatric Allergy*, copies of which he distributed to close friends and colleagues in Singapore.

Professor Cassim Motala delivered his final lecture in Singapore on November 9, just 2 days before his passing. He was present as a guest of APAAACI, doing what he enjoyed most - travelling and promoting the study of Allergy. He will be greatly missed by his many international friends and colleagues.

His friends and colleagues in APAAACI extend sincere condolences to his wife, Dr. Farieda Desai, his son Mikhail and to the rest of his family.

(Biographical data adapted from tributes published in Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology, November 2010 Vol. 23, No. 4)

Upcoming Asia-Pacific Events in 2011

MARCH 11 - 13, 2011

12th Malaysian Congress & Exhibition on Allergy & Immunology
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

JUNE 24 - 25, 2011

Mongolian Society of Allergology Meeting
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

DECEMBER 16 - 18, 2011

Indian College of Allergy, Asthma and Applied Immunology Meeting
Aurangabad, India

SEPTEMBER 6 - 10, 2011

Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology & Allergy (ASCIA) Annual Scientific Meeting
Sydney, Australia

Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology & Allergy (ASCIA) featured society



The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) is a professional medical society, which was established in 1990-1991 through the amalgamation of the Australian College of Allergy (ACA) with the Clinical Immunology Group (CIG) of the Australasian Society of Immunology (ASI). ASCIA is affiliated with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and is a member society of the Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APAAACI) and the World Allergy Organisation (WAO).

ASCIA is now the peak professional body of clinical immunology and allergy in Australia and New Zealand. In the past decade the membership of ASCIA has more than doubled, and as at January 2010 there are 437 ASCIA members. The membership is comprised predominantly of physicians and other health professionals specialising in Clinical Immunology and Allergy, as well as scientists in Immunopathology.

Since 1990 ASCIA has held 21 Annual Scientific Meetings, mostly in September, with venues rotating between the different Australian states and New Zealand on approximately a seven-year cycle. In recent times these meetings have attracted more than 400 delegates per year. In 2000 the ASCIA Annual Scientific Meeting and Asia Pacific Congress of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APCAACI) were held as part of the World Allergy Congress in Sydney, which attracted approximately 3,000 delegates from around the world.

The mission of ASCIA is to advance the science and practice of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, by promoting education and the highest standard of ethical medical practice. To help to fulfil this mission ASCIA has several committees and working parties which develop position papers, guidelines and other educational resources that are used throughout Australasia.

ASCIA also provides a wide range of freely available peer-reviewed educational information, allowing ASCIA members, their patients, the general public and the media ready access to up-to-date and easy-to-understand information on allergy, asthma and a variety of immune diseases.

More information can be found at the ASCIA webpage:

<http://www.allergy.org.au/>

Seeking Research Collaborators?

The editorial staff would like to invite researchers in Allergy & Clinical Immunology within the Asia-Pacific region to seek collaborators by advertising their areas of interest in this newsletter.

It's an ideal opportunity to foster multi-centre collaborations across our region; contact the editors (*see next page*), and provide appropriate contact details (e-mail/telephone/facsimile) as well as a description of the area of your research interest.

Future Issues contributions welcome!

Another three issues are planned for this year..

Editorial questions may be sent to either:

president@apaaaci.org (Prof. Katelaris)

or

secretary-general@apaaaci.org (Prof. Thien)

Submissions may be forwarded to:

f.lee.immunology@gmail.com

where they will be considered by the editorial staff

Want to contact your local APAAACI representative? A list of member organisations and incumbent representatives can be found at:

<http://www.apaaaci.org/members.htm>

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