



NEWSLETTER

EIGHTEENTH EDITION – MARCH 2014

ALLSA REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Colleagues

If you were wondering about the concept of climate change I suggest you consider the amount of rain we have had in Gauteng during March this year. Phew, it feels like it would never stop raining. Welcome to our March edition of the Newsletter.

In this Edition of the Newsletter I would like to take the opportunity to Introduce Dr Alan Puterman. Alan has been a keen Allergologist for many years and he has represented South Africa on the Board of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology for some time.

Because of Alan's involvement with AAAAI our Focus this month is on the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI). A few South African doctors attend one of their annual Congresses and they are an important partner organisation.

May I urge all of you to read the March issue of our Journal, Current Allergy and Clinical Immunology. This issue is edited by Dr Adele Pentz and is set to be a classic in the history of the journal. I have included here the tribute, in the journal, to Professor Matt Haus. I do believe that Matt has been our greatest allergy ambassador over many years and I do hope you join me in paying tribute to him.

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INTRODUCING: DR ALAN PUTERMAN



After matriculating Alan studied Medicine at UCT and qualified in 1985. Internship at Somerset Hospital and SHO in Paediatrics at Red Cross Children's Hospital.

This was followed by two years Army service, mostly done at 2 Mil Hospital, Cape Town. He married Cheryl in 1987 and has two girls who are now studying overseas. Alan then started Paediatric registrar training at Red Cross in 1989 and obtained his FCP in 1993. His mentors were Prof Harrison at Mowbray Maternity where he 'parked' whilst waiting his time having passed the FCP, and Prof Weinberg in the Asthma and Allergy clinic where he did a two year fellowship.

The Allergy Clinic days, between 1994 and 1996, are very fondly remembered and included working with Prof Weinberg, Paul Potter and Cas Motala. There was a lot of camaraderie in the Clinic with additional input from Jan Vermuelen, Roy Leaver, Adrian Morris and Matt Haus. It was at this time that Alan participated in the South African trials of Fluticasone and a bit later the Leukotriene Antagonists. Support staff including Dylis Berman and Anne Toerien was instrumental in making the clinic such an enjoyable environment.

The cytokine pathway was the new concept on the block during his Allergy clinic stint and Barbra Nurse did much of the lab work on a number of papers published on cytokine ratios in allergic Xhosa children. Prof Weinberg certainly instilled a love for research and this included working on the ISAAC surveys and some of the first spacer work with Heather Zar. His last poster presentation at an International conference was on the reduction in Rotavirus admissions at Constantiaberg following the introduction of the Rotavirus vaccine. In 1996 Alan went into Private Practice at the Kingsbury Hospital.

Alan's main interests remain Neonatology and Asthma/Allergy. He has continued to conduct clinical trials as learnt in the Allergy Clinic and current trials include working with some novel Anti-interleukin monoclonal antibodies. Alan has also become quite involved in medical politics. The Paediatric Management Group has been instrumental in promoting and safe guarding Private Paediatrics in South Africa. Being on the founder executive has been a fulfilling experience. So too has been the executive position with the South African Paediatric Association. He remains amazed at how Private and State Paediatricians think that they are very different yet in reality they are totally similar.

Bringing the Vermont Oxford Network Neonatal ICU accreditation Program to South Africa through the PMG has been a very positive experience and now most Private NICU's and the major State NICU's are reporting outcomes to VON. Another achievement has been working with PMG colleagues on a Paediatric Governance Project that may become a prototype for future Medical Scheme interactions. Alan became a member of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. He joined their international assembly and after heading the Mideast Africa committee went on to head the International Assembly. The AAAAI is open to membership from overseas and awards travel grants to Fellows in Training who are presenting posters at their Annual meeting.

Alan has also worked on Current Allergy and Clinical Immunology as a contributor and on the Editorial Board.

FOCUS ON: THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ALLERGY, ASTHMA AND IMMUNOLOGY

Historical Perspective

An Academy at the Forefront

The evolution of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) dates back to the early 1920s with the founding of two professional organizations: the Society for the Study of Asthma and Allied Conditions (on the East Coast) and the American Association for the Study of Allergy (on the West Coast). In 1943, these two entities joined forces to become one stronger, integrated professional society called the American Academy of Allergy. Although its name has changed, the Academy's mission has remained the same: **the advancement of the knowledge of allergy, asthma and immunology for optimal patient care.**

Publishing Cutting-Edge Research

The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, (JACI) the official publication of the AAAAI, took root in 1929 with the first edition of *The Journal of Allergy*. Eight decades later, this journal is the most cited journal in the allergy / immunology specialty.

The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice (launched in January 2013) covers the spectrum of diseases in the allergy / immunology specialty, with an emphasis on practical clinical research and the latest recommendations for diagnosis and treatment.

Funding Research and Training

The AAAAI has long recognized the need for development of academic leaders to attract and train future allergist / immunologists. In 1948, the Academy offered its first funding for four fellows-in-training with an annual stipend of \$3,000 each. To date, the AAAAI has funded awards totaling more than \$4 million, much of this through the Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Education and Research Organization, Inc. (ARTrust™).

Presenting the Latest Advances

The Academy's first Annual Meeting in 1944 was a two day event with four sessions and 23 presentations. Now more than 7,000 delegates gather annually from around the globe for hundreds of sessions presented throughout five days of learning and networking. Travel grants are awarded to International Fellows in Training presenting posters at this meeting.

Meeting High Standards

Setting requirements and standardizations for training and practice, as well as certification in allergy and clinical immunology dates back to the 1930s. Today, the American Board of Allergy and Immunology (ABAI) establishes qualifications and examines physicians to become recognized specialists in allergy and immunology.

A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR MATTHIAS HAUS



A Remarkable man, friend mentor and colleague.

The journal, *Current Allergy and Clinical Immunology* is now in its 27th edition. At the helm Professor Matt Haus, together with Professor Eugene Weinberg, have completely overhauled the format and feel of this, most important mouthpiece, of the Allergy Society of South Africa. What is seldom spoken about is that Matt was part of the first Executive Committee of the Society and then has served on every EXCOM since. The only person to have done so. He has actively served ALLSA for every one of its 26 years in existence.

Matt has been selfless servant of Allergology in South Africa and his reputation and contribution has been recognised around the world. It seems opportune now, as this journal takes on a new look and feel, to honour a man of incredible ability, humility and insight.

This is a brief summary of the career of the man who has been the most important influence in ALLSA throughout its history.

After graduating from the University of Cape Town in 1974, Professor Haus spent seven years in private general practice and five years in Paediatrics at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, during which time he obtained a research doctorate (M.D.) from U.C.T. In addition, he now has 7 other degrees in medicine.

He holds two post-graduate Diplomas from the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa, in Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and is a Fellow of both Royal College of Physicians (UK) and the College of Medicine of South Africa. Professor Haus has been awarded the Claude Harris Leon Medal the Colleges. He has served the CMSA with distinction as a Senate Member, Examiner and Editor of Transactions, the Colleges' Journal. Matt has been awarded a number of very significant distinctions in his life. He was awarded the Financial Mail Rare Achievers Award for Science and Technology in 1989, and also awarded the 2003 FARMOVS prize for his contribution to Medical Research in South Africa (from the South African Academy of Science and Technology). In 2005 he was honored with the National Wits University Award for his contribution to 'Cancer Research and Patient Care'.

His academic research has been widely published and he has managed collaborative research projects with the NIH (Atlanta), the University of Cape Town, the British Medical Research Council's Epidemiology Unit and the Karolinska Institute at the University of Stockholm. He has a special interest in the epidemiology and immunology of the Allergic Response, and has published and lectured widely both nationally and internationally on academic, pharmaceutical and philosophic related topics

He has expertise as an Allergologist of international standing and is considered a world expert in Allergy Prevention. His list of publications is heavily weighted in this domain. He has over 200 original scientific publications, reviews, published abstracts and presentations at international scientific meetings. Included are 8 high impact factor international journal publications and 3 'Classic citations'. He is a regular invited scientist to international congresses and chairs a number of international scientific boards.

He has examined PhD projects, and enjoys the highest status and gravitas in the scientific community in South Africa and internationally.

He also has expertise as and academic leader in Medicine, Business and Research. Over the past 25 years, he has directed clinical pharmaceutical research in South Africa, the Asia Pacific region and in Latin America with more than 100 new chemical entities being brought to the fore. In addition he has been director of 300 international multicenter pharmaceutical entity clinical trials and been Vice-President of Research and Development for AstraZeneca, International. In 2004, he was seconded to the People's Republic of China as Vice President for Research and Development for AstraZeneca, China.

Apart from his academic and business career, Professor Haus has been active in many areas of commerce, industry and the financial services sector. He was a non-executive Director of the Professional Provident Society for ten years, Deputy Chairman of the PPS holding Company, and Chairman of both the PPS Insurance Company.

Professor Haus is past Chairman of the Allergy Society of South Africa, a director and trustee of various other companies, was appointed Adjunct Professor (Faculty of Health Sciences, UCT) in 2000, and served on a World Health Organisation Task Force compiling guidelines for the Prevention of Asthma and Allergic Diseases. He has worked closely with the Singapore based INSEAD Business School on the steering committee of an Asian initiative to introduce best business practice in medical R and D to the AstraZeneca group of companies in the Region, and has lectured at INSEAD on consumer branding, and at Cambridge University on Clinical Immunology

Prof Matt Haus has retained his professorial duties at the University of Cape Town. Currently he is a Trustee of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa and Past Chairman of the Moments in Time Charitable Trust. He is a Senior Consultant at Gateways Consulting. He was appointed Editor of this Journal in 2012.

At the meeting of the Recruitment and Selection Committee of the University of Pretoria in 2012, there was unanimous approval, from all members, that Dr Matt Haus should be awarded the status of Extraordinary Professor. His appointment to the University of Pretoria is intended to strengthen under- and post-graduate teaching in Allergology and to bring his significant experience in research to the Department of Peadiatrics and the Faculty of Health Sciences. The University of Pretoria is strengthened by this appointment of a giant in academic medicine.

But more importantly than all of Matt's academic, business and financial contributions to South Africa and the world, Matt has given us the unconditional support and love that has allowed many of us to grow and thrive in our own lives.



Thank you dear friend and mentor.

Your life has been extraordinary and we appreciate

all you have done for all of us!