ALLSA’s outreach congress at Euphoria, Limpopo, was a huge success. The congress was well attended and will be a model for future outreach congresses. Among the many highlights was a keynote speech by the Minister of Health, the Honourable Dr Aaron Motsoaledi.

The Allergology subspecialty registration awaits final approval from the Department of Health; we hope it will be attained in the near future.

The ALLSA Handbook has been revised by Robin Green, Cas Motala and Paul Potter. This excellent publication is an asset to ALLSA and will be invaluable to those practising allergology in South Africa and on the subcontinent. The handbook will soon be distributed to all ALLSA members at forthcoming Masterclasses and congresses. The ALLSA Handbook is essential reading for anyone interested in allergy in Southern Africa.

The ALLSA website is being improved on a daily basis. Please visit the site www.allergysa.org and send through your suggestions to Ruwayda Adams at mail@allergysa.org.

The Masterclasses began again in October, the first was held at Discovery Health, Johannesburg, on 16 October 2010. We hope to take the Masterclass to all regions. This Masterclass heralds the start of our new project ‘Appropriate and cost-effective allergy management’.

The Primary Immunodeficiency Society of South Africa (PIDS) has been a working group under the auspices of ALLSA since 2006. An initiative is under way to make PIDS a full subcommittee of ALLSA. ALLSA will support the group to promote early diagnosis and access to treatment for patients with genetic deficiencies of the immune system.

The Allergology Diploma has been modified in a number of ways. There will no longer be an oral component and there will be a greater emphasis on applied basic sciences instead of pure basic sciences. The logbook requirements are being reviewed.

Our next congress in October 2011 will be a combined congress with the Paediatric Management Group.

Andrew Halkas
Secretary