Dear Colleagues

This mid-year issue of the journal coincides with our Combined Congress at Sun City. I really hope to see you all during this week. We have a fabulous programme and my sincere gratitude goes to the overall Congress Chair and ALLSA Excom Member Dr André van Niekerk and ALLSA Congress Chair Prof Sam Risenga. Both of you have worked really hard to get this Congress to look so good and please accept my heartfelt thanks.

This issue of the journal is probably the last in this old format. Profs Matt Haus and Eugene Weinberg (CACI Editors) have a very exciting new look and feel up their sleeves. We should have that ready from late in 2013. That new look will certainly enhance the value of our flagship journal.

I trust you are enjoying the newsletters and case studies on the website. I am trying to keep you, our most valuable member, up to date with allergology and allergology news.

Let me also take this opportunity to invite you to the next ALLSA Focus Group Meeting in Gauteng.

At this Congress ALLSA is celebrating 25 years in existence and we would like to invite you to join us for a piece of cake and a drink in the exhibition hall to mark this historical milestone.

ALLSA has become one of South Africa’s leading medical societies and this has not happened by accident. We have been led by doctors who have brought a sense of organisational and scientific excellence to this organisation. I am listing our previous chairmen but I want to pay special homage to Prof Cas Motala. Cas was a legend in allergology and he brought so much to medicine in South Africa. Cas was an outstanding human being and paediatrician and it is at times like these that we miss him so much. Cas, be at peace, our special friend.

Robin J Green

**List of past chairs of ALLSA**

1989 – 1992 Prof Eugene Weinberg
1992 – 1995 Prof Paul Potter
1995 – 1998 Prof Cas Motala
1998 – 2001 Prof Matt Haus
2001 – 2004 Dr Ahmed Manjra
2004 – 2006 Prof Cas Motala
2006 – 2009 Prof Sharon Kling
2009 – 2012 Dr Ahmed Manjra