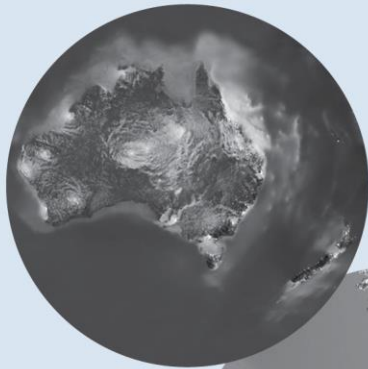




australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

Annual Report 2024

ASCIA MEMBER SERVICES



Website and Communications

AIFA Research Grants

Sustainability

Advocacy and Submissions



ASCIA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual Conferences

Committees and Meetings

Education and Training

Online Resources



ASCIA COLLABORATIONS

National Allergy Council

ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy

Research Groups

Professional and Patient Organisations



www.allergy.org.au

ASCIA is the peak professional body for allergy and clinical immunology in Australia and New Zealand since 1990

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This report is based on the ASCIA Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024 presentations, held on Thursday 5 September 2024, 13.30-14.20 at the Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia.

ASCIA acknowledges and pays respect to past, present and emerging traditional custodians and elders of the lands on which we live and work, and recognises the continuing connection to land, sea and culture of all first nations people.

ASCIA Membership Overview

ASCIA members are health professionals who work in the areas of allergy, clinical immunology and immunopathology. As at August 2024, there are 760 ASCIA members, comprising:

- **295 Full ASCIA members** who include clinical immunology/allergy specialists who are listed on the ASCIA website www.allergy.org.au/patients/locate-a-specialist
- **79 Associate (Trainee) members** (10%) who are completing their advanced training to become clinical immunology/allergy specialists.
- **140 Associate (Medical) members** (18%), who are medical practitioners who manage some patients with allergic conditions, but are not clinical immunology/allergy specialists. These include paediatricians and GPs with additional training in allergy.
- **179 Associate (Other Health Professional) members** (24%), including 116 nurses, 49 dietitians and 14 "other".
- **42 Associate (Scientist/Researcher) members** (6%).
- **25 Retired ASCIA members** (3%).



ASCIA President's Report: A/Prof Theresa Cole

It is a pleasure to present the highlights over the past year, including several important milestones for ASCIA in 2024.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge that ASCIA initiatives highlighted in this report depend on voluntary contributions from ASCIA members of their clinical and academic expertise, as well as project coordination by ASCIA staff, working with other organisations.

New ASCIA Strategic Plan for 2024-2028

In 2024 a new ASCIA Strategic Plan was developed based on:

- ASCIA's Purpose, Strategic Areas of Focus and Priorities within these areas
- Findings from the ASCIA Priorities Report 2022-2023 including areas for improvement
- National Allergy Council initiatives assigned to ASCIA including the Shared Care for Allergy and Schools/Childcare projects
- ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy priorities

This plan is available open access on the ASCIA website

<https://www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports>



It is now 10 years since:

• The first ASCIA Annual Conference

In 2014 ASCIA renamed its Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) to ASCIA Annual Conference to reflect the comprehensive program.

The ASCIA Annual Conference continues to be the leading source of allergy and clinical immunology CPD in Australia and New Zealand.

Thank you and congratulations to Dr Jovanka King for chairing the successful ASCIA 2024 Conference.

• ASCIA expanded its operations

ASCIA expanded operations and moved into an office in Brookvale, Sydney in November 2013 and ASCIA staff has increased from 4 (in 2013) to 7 (in 2024).

It is 5 years since ASCIA purchased its own office in 2019 to provide a stable and productive workplace for its expanded team.

• ASCIA established AIFA

Generous donors and sponsors have enabled the Allergy and Immunology Foundation of Australasia (AIFA) to award over \$700,000 to 40 research projects since 2014.

The lead investigators of 27 research projects who received AIFA grants have presented at the ASCIA Annual Conference AIFA Symposium since 2021.

• ASCIA established TAPID

The first Transplantation and Primary Immune Deficiency (TAPID) collaboration meeting was held in 2014 to address issues regarding transplantation and primary immunodeficiency. Monthly online and annual in-person TAPID meetings have continued since then.

• ASCIA started developing a National Allergy Strategy for Australia

This has since developed into the National Allergy Council in partnership with Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia and in collaboration with other stakeholders. Funding has been received from the Australian government for implementation of several projects, as outlined in this report.

ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy Progress

Two of the Strategy goals have been achieved in 2024:

- Newborn Screening for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID) is now available throughout Australia and New Zealand
- A new ASCIA Inborn Errors of Immunity (IEI)/Primary Immune Deficiency (PID) Clinical Care Standard has been developed



ASCIA Adult Practice committee

This has replaced the ASCIA Education committee to increase focus on:

- Adult allergy and immunology issues
- Developing more autoimmunity resources



ASCIA Online Meetings

ASCIA expanded its online meetings in 2023 to include:

- PIAIG - Paediatric Immunology and Allergy Interest Group
- TAILS - Trainees In Allergy and Immunology Lecture Series
- Regular online meetings for ASCIA nurses and dietitians
www.allergy.org.au/conferences/online-meetings



ASCIA Reports and Submissions 2023-2024

ASCIA continues to prioritise advocacy on behalf of ASCIA members:

- More than 10 reports developed including ASCIA workforce survey reports
www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports
- More than 15 submissions lodged including ASCIA MSAC application for supervised oral food challenges MBS item number
www.allergy.org.au/ascia-submissions



ASCIA Communications 2023-2024

- ASCIA monthly e-newsletters are sent to 760 ASCIA members and ~5,500 community subscribers
- ASCIA members are sent interim updates by email
- More than 40 ASCIA news items issued on website
- ASCIA social media posts and reach continue to increase



ASCIA Website 2023-2024

Annual ASCIA website visits continue to increase with more than:

- 3 million pageviews (~250,000 per month)
- 2 million sessions (visits)
- 1.9 million users (unique visitors)

The ASCIA website is regularly reviewed and updated



Highlights from National Allergy Council Shared Care and Schools/Childcare projects assigned to ASCIA

ASCIA Support for Health Professional Education and Training Initiatives

ASCIA received 18 EOIs and 5 have been selected for funding:

- Associateship of Clinical Allergy (ACA) and Rural and Regional Clinical Allergy Network (R2CAN)
- Virtual Immunology Clinic for General Practice Rural Initiative for Practice Education (VIC-GP RIPE)
- Comprehensive Mental Health Training Program for Allergy Health Professionals
- Regional and Rural Maternal Child Health Nurses Allergy Education Program
- ASCIA Food Allergy Dietitian Recognition Program and Certification Model

More details are on the ASCIA website:

www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/info-updates/call-for-eois-from-ascia-members-for-allergy-education-and-training-initiatives



Evaluation of ASCIA Anaphylaxis e-training Courses

Reports based on mandatory feedback surveys have been developed for the first time since ASCIA e-training courses were introduced in 2010:

- Feedback from **1,730** health professionals in 2023 indicated that learning needs were met by more than **90%** of participants
- Feedback from **43,945** participants in the Australasian versions of the schools, childcare and community courses in 2023 found that more than **94%** thought the content covered all relevant information.

Updates will be made as a result of feedback, including development of **animated video versions** of ASCIA anaphylaxis refresher courses to increase access to training.



Plan to Develop ASCIA Referral Toolkit

In August 2024 ASCIA held an inaugural meeting for heads of public hospital allergy/immunology departments in Australia and New Zealand:

- Whilst workforce issues need further advocacy, discussions indicated that improvements to the referral process could be helpful
- An ASCIA Referral Toolkit will be developed to assist this process
- Other resources have been requested to support the toolkit

An overview of meeting outcomes is on the ASCIA website:

www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/info-updates/inaugural-ascia-meeting-for-heads-of-allergy-immunology-departments



New ASCIA Quicklinks Improve Access to Resources

More than 100 topics for patients and carers have been updated on the ASCIA website www.allergy.org.au/patients to:

- Simplify language and improve format into FAQ
- Include links to patient/carers organisations at the start of each FAQ

To improve access and promote updated ASCIA resources:

- QR codes have been added to ASCIA webpages
- New ASCIA Quicklinks brochures with QR codes have been developed

www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/quick-links



CONCLUDING COMMENTS

ASCIA remains in a very strong position, with significant milestones and achievements over the past year:

- Through collaborations such as the National Allergy Council and the ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy, we believe that ASCIA has an even stronger foundation for future growth.
- It is a very exciting time and ASCIA is at the forefront to lead allergy and clinical immunology initiatives in Australia and New Zealand. Implementing these initiatives enables us to work towards improving access and clinical care for patients with allergies, immunodeficiencies and other immune disorders.

I take this opportunity to thank:

- Other ASCIA Directors - Dr Michael O'Sullivan, A/Prof Jane Peake and Dr Kathryn Patchett, and ASCIA Council members for their valued advice and support.
- ASCIA team - Jill Smith, Michelle Haskard, Rikki Dunstall, Nadene Dorling, Emily Mamo, Georgina Egan and Lara Martin for working together with our main suppliers (including Impagination and ICMSA) to ensure that ASCIA provides members with services, whilst keeping ASCIA operations sustainable.
- Dr Jovanka King and her committee on organising the successful ASCIA 2024 Conference, which has attracted over 600 delegates and a sold out exhibition.



We believe that the hybrid model will be useful into the future, to increase participation when travel isn't possible or feasible for all delegates, and to provide CPD on demand for 6 months after the event.

In September 2025 we look forward to seeing you at the ASCIA Conference in Brisbane which is being organised by Dr Alberto Pinzon-Charry and his organising committee.

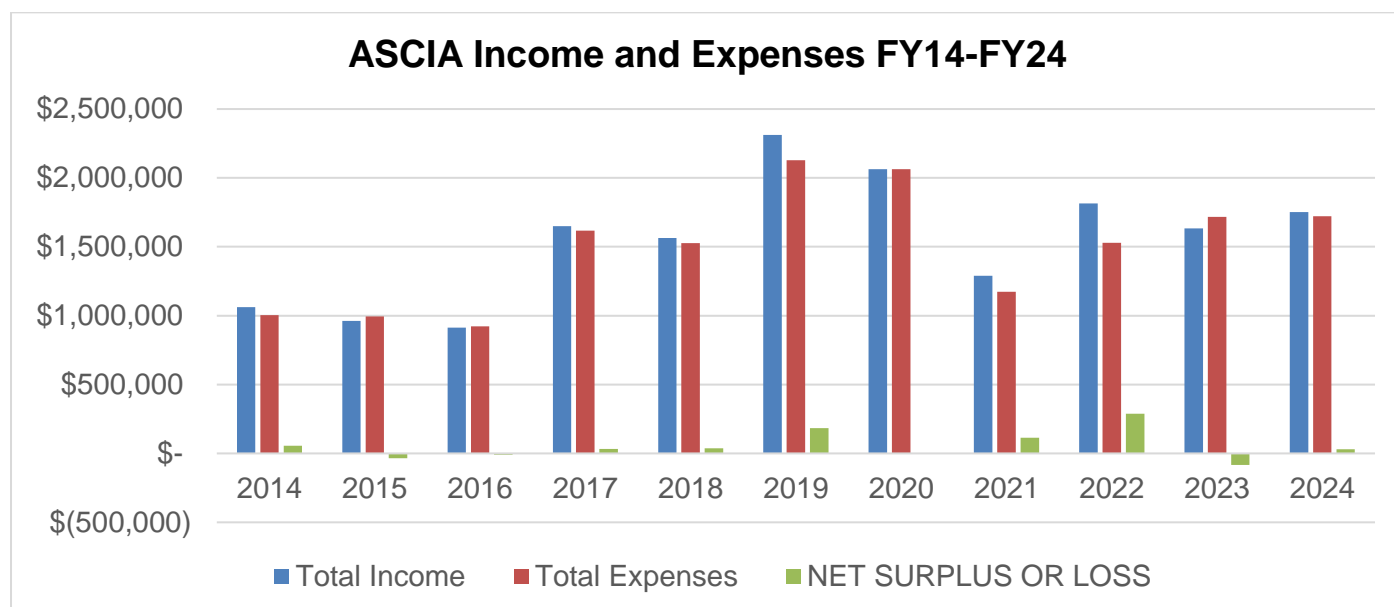


ASCIA Finance Report: Dr Michael O'Sullivan

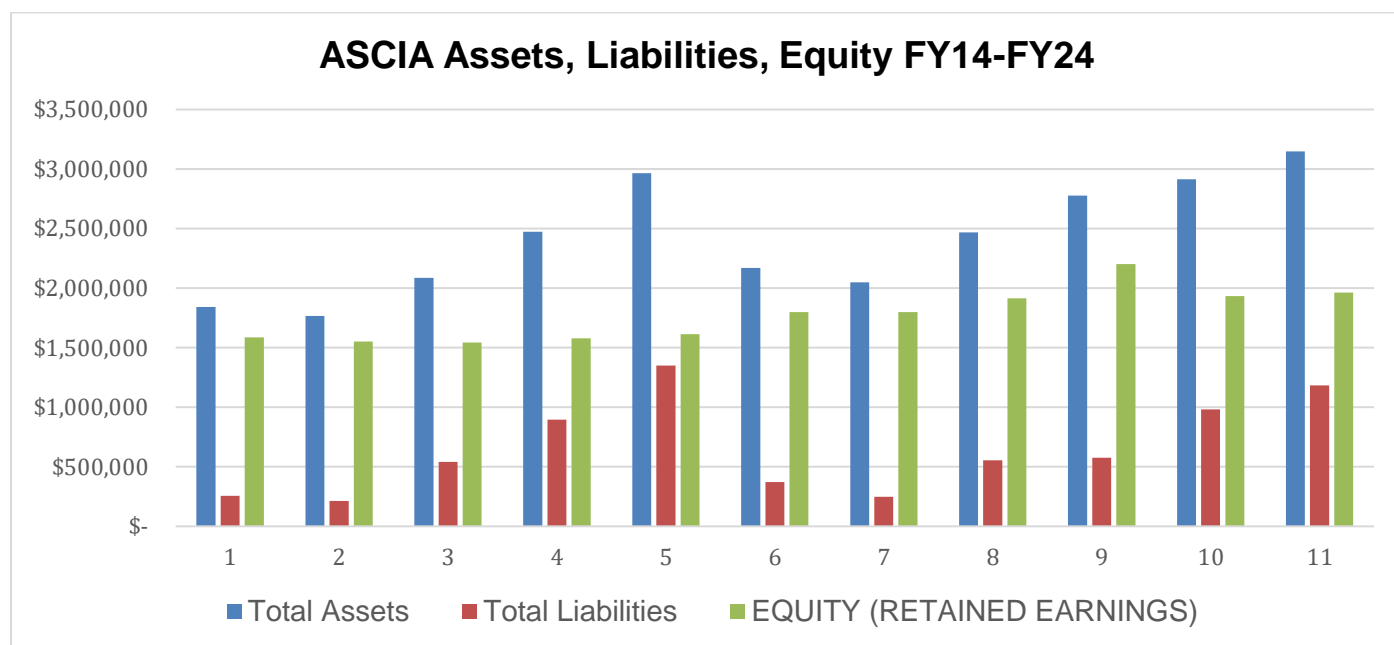
This report is based on the audited ASCIA financial report which covers the 2024 financial year (FY24) from 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024.

Once accepted at the ASCIA 2024 AGM, this financial report will be submitted by ASCIA to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and will be available on the [ACNC website](#).

ASCIA FINANCIAL POSITION FY24

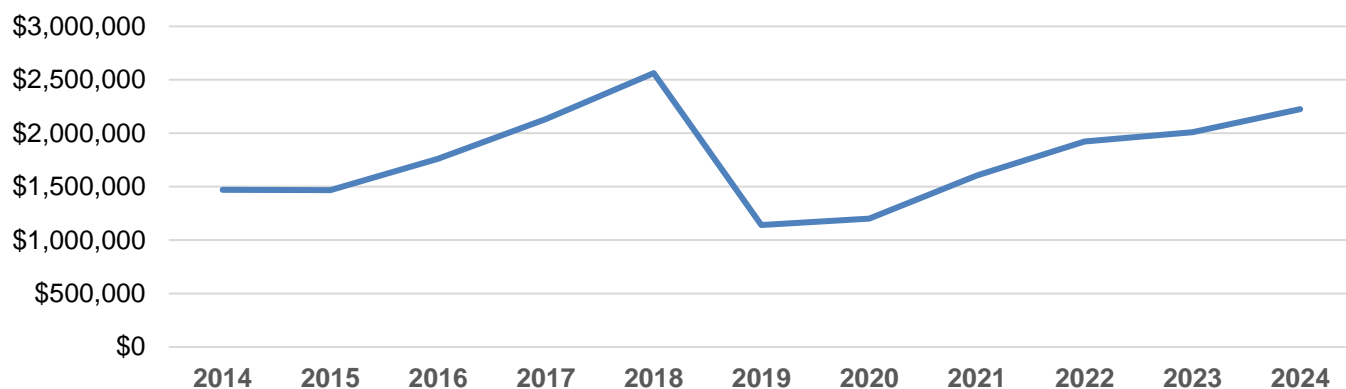


- ASCIA's income and expenditure has been relatively stable from FY22 to FY24.
- ASCIA made a surplus of **\$30,026** in FY24.
- ASCIA is a not for profit charity so we aim to operate close to break even, whilst retaining equity for long term financial sustainability.



- ASCIA has retained earnings (equity) of **\$1,963,379** in FY24.
- This buffer is important for long term financial sustainability, and to enable ASCIA to provide some member services that are not funded by grants from government or industry.
- ASCIA's liabilities are mainly due to income received in advance, including the ASCIA Conference and National Allergy Council contract liabilities, which includes funds that are committed and rolled over.

Cash (end of year) FY14-FY24



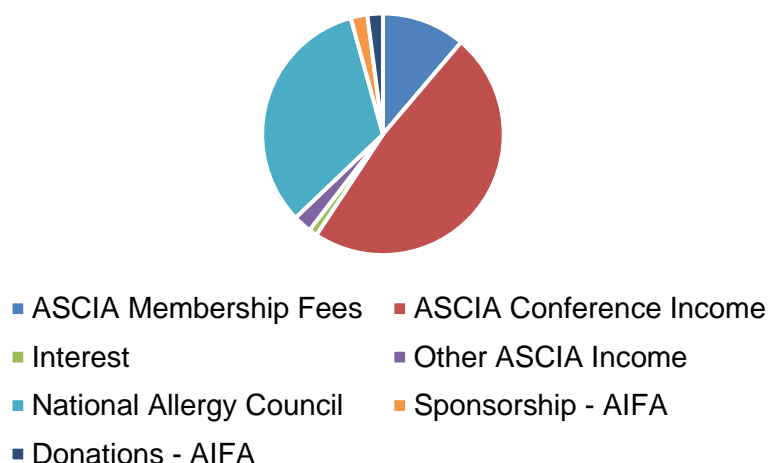
- ASCIA's cash flow was affected by the purchase of the ASCIA office in 2019.
- It was also affected by not being able to host an ASCIA 2020 Conference due to COVID-19 lockdowns.
- Following these events ASCIA's cash flow has recovered in FY24.

ASCIA INCOME SOURCES

In FY24 the three main income sources for ASCIA were:

- **ASCIA Annual Conference**
Income \$842,521 (48%) remains the main source of funds for ASCIA.
- **National Allergy Council (NAC) Projects** assigned to ASCIA
\$575,079 (33%) is funding from the federal government that has been spent in FY24 on specific projects and includes staff allocations.
- **ASCIA Annual Membership Fees** \$196,140 (11%) is an important income source for ASCIA.

ASCIA Income Sources FY24



SUMMARY

ASCIA has continued to improve its financial sustainability:

- ASCIA has multiple income sources, no debt, a fixed asset (office) and steady cash flow.
- ASCIA Annual Conferences remain the main source of income for ASCIA and changing to the hybrid model has had many positive effects including financial benefits.
- Federal government funding for National Allergy Council projects has enabled ASCIA to expand capacity, develop resources and support initiatives, which should make a significant impact.

Significant, ongoing voluntary involvement of members in ASCIA initiatives is greatly appreciated. When combined with increased ASCIA staff capacity and funding, this enables ASCIA to continue providing world leading resources that are of benefit to ASCIA members, which should ultimately improve the care of patients with allergic conditions, immune deficiencies and other immune system disorders.

ASCIA Council Nominations 2024-2025

The following nominations for the positions highlighted below (in blue) were received by the due date:

- **ASCIA President Elect - A/Prof Jane Peake**
Nominated by Dr Michael O'Sullivan, Dr Alberto Pinzon-Charry
- **ASCIA Director - A/Prof Patrick Quinn**
Nominated by Dr Jovanka King, Dr Abigail Cheung
- **ASCIA South Australia representative - Dr Syed Ali**
Nominated by Dr Jovanka King, Dr Phillippa Pucar
- **ASCIA Immunodeficiency committee chair - Dr Jovanka King**
Nominated by A/Prof Patrick Quinn, Dr Syed Ali

DIRECTORS (EXECUTIVE)

President	Dr Michael O'Sullivan (WA)
President Elect	A/Prof Jane Peake (QLD)
Director	Dr Kathryn Patchett (NSW)
Director	A/Prof Dr Patrick Quinn (SA)

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Australian Capital Territory	A/Prof Katrina Randall
New South Wales	Dr Jessica Lai
New Zealand	Dr Shannon Brothers
Queensland	Dr Alberto Pinzon-Charry
South Australia	Dr Syed Ali
Victoria	Dr Samantha Chan
Western Australia	A/Prof Kristina Rueter

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Anaphylaxis	Dr Katie Frith (NSW)
Drug Allergy	Dr James Yun (NSW)
Immunodeficiency	Dr Jovanka King (SA)
Adult Practice	Dr Joseph De Luca (VIC)
Laboratory Practice	Dr Chris Bundell (WA)
Paediatric Practice	Dr Lara Ford (NSW)

ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES

Associate (Dietitians)	Caroline South (VIC)
Associate (Nurses)	Jan Belcher (NSW)
Associate (Medical)	Dr Kathryn Heyworth (QLD)
Associate (Trainees)	Dr Aimee Huynh (QLD) and Dr Liam Beiglari (NSW)

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS

Immediate Past ASCIA President	AProf Theresa Cole (VIC)
Chair of the Committee for Joint College Training in Immunology/Allergy	Dr Kahn Preece (NSW)
Allergy and Immunology Foundation of Australasia (AIFA) Chair	Dr Melanie Wong (NSW)
National Allergy Council co-chair (ASCIA)	Prof Michaela Lucas (WA)

ASCIA Staff and Main Suppliers 2024-2025

The ASCIA team of 7 staff work with ASCIA members, suppliers and other organisations.

Australian government funding for National Allergy Council projects has enabled ASCIA to expand its staff in 2023-2024 to increase capacity.

STAFF

	Current Position
Jill Smith (since 1999)	ASCIA Chief Executive Officer
Michelle Haskard (since 2007)	ASCIA/AIFA Senior Project Officer
Rikki Dunstall (since 2013)	ASCIA Finance and Operations Officer
Nadene Dorling (since 2018)	ASCIA Senior Project Officer
Emily Mamo (since March 2023)	ASCIA Senior Project Officer
Georgina Egan (since March 2023)	ASCIA Project Officer
Lara Martin (since May 2024)	ASCIA Project Officer

MAIN SUPPLIERS

ICMSA	Conference Management
Impagination	Website and e-Training Management
Rachael Hopkins Design	Graphic Design
Allan Hall	Accountants
Allan Hall HR	Human Resources

Incoming President's Message: Dr Michael O'Sullivan

I would like to take this opportunity to thank A/Professor Theresa Cole for the wonderful contribution that she has made over the past two years as the ASCIA President. It is a testament to Theresa, an expert clinician who we all respect, that she was willing to take on this additional role for the benefit of ASCIA, the community and patients more broadly.

I am sure that ASCIA members would agree that Theresa has provided us with remarkable service over that time, and we look forward to your continued involvement in whatever capacity you're willing to provide in the future.

I am honoured to contribute to ASCIA in the role of President for the next two years, and I will try to do my best to continue the excellent work of Theresa.

ASCIA's strong foundations

In the 2024 Basten Oration, Professor Mike Gold mentioned that you cannot really know where you are heading until you know where you have been. I believe that the strong foundations that previous ASCIA Presidents, many ASCIA members and the team of ASCIA staff have created, since ASCIA was formerly established 34 years ago, has provided us with opportunities to move forward in the next 34 years and beyond.

I would like to acknowledge the passing of former ASCIA President, A/Professor Dan Czarny in 2024, who is the first ASCIA President to have passed away. On behalf of ASCIA, we express our condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

The willingness of experts (ASCIA members) to volunteer their time to ASCIA's activities, and facilitation of activities by the ASCIA team is what makes ASCIA unique and successful:

- There have been 34 years of ASCIA and 17 ASCIA Presidents who provided us with the opportunity, along with other ASCIA members who have contributed to the work of ASCIA over that time, to make ASCIA what it is today.
- Many previous ASCIA Presidents continue to contribute to ASCIA after their presidency, and an exponentially larger pool of ASCIA members have all donated their time and expertise to rescue over a number of years.
- The team of ASCIA staff facilitates the voluntary contributions to ASCIA's activities, collaborations and services, which provide benefits back to ASCIA members.

ASCIA's purpose

ASCIA's purpose, *to advance the science and practice of allergy and clinical immunology, by promoting the highest standard of medical practice, training, education and research*, according to the constitution and website, probably encapsulates what we're trying to do:

- ASCIA's main role is to facilitate activities to support members (clinicians, scientists and researchers), and other health professionals who work alongside you, to ensure that we can continue to improve the science and practice of our specialty.
- ASCIA's educational resources are developed to meet the needs of the clinicians and other health professionals who are providing high quality care for patients of all ages with allergic and immune diseases.

Whilst we can debate the best way to provide care, I believe that we all share a similar motivation that every patient with an allergic or an immune disease deserves the best care available for that person. For example:

- A baby with SCID detected by newborn screening (now available throughout Australia and New Zealand) can be managed using a TAPID protocol.
- A baby with peanut allergy can now have treatment options in the future.
- Teenagers and young adults have better management options for their food allergy.

Looking forward

There will be opportunities for evolution of clinical immunology and allergy, and we don't expect to be our specialty to practice in the same way as 34 years ago. If we haven't changed the way we do things then we're clearly not meeting the needs and the opportunities that are presented to us. Whilst there will be different solutions for individual patients, the underlying principle is that we need to aspire for the best care that we can provide.

I look forward to contributing over the next two years to the ongoing effort to see ASCIA into its next 34 years. Thank you all very much in advance for your ongoing support of ASCIA's really important and core work, including the team of ASCIA staff, who really are the glue that holds it together. I think it is amazing that we have retained the number of staff for certainly much longer than most of us have ever served on ASCIA Council, which contributes greatly to the quality and consistency of ASCIA services.

Thank you to Dr Jovanka King and her committee for organising an excellent ASCIA 2024 Conference. I recommend that you save the dates for the ASCIA 2025 Conference, chaired by A/Professor Alberto Pinzon-Charry, and I look forward to seeing you in Brisbane next September.

