

## Annual Report 2022

### 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 Strategy

ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy

Research Groups

Professional and Patient Organisations



[www.allergy.org.au](http://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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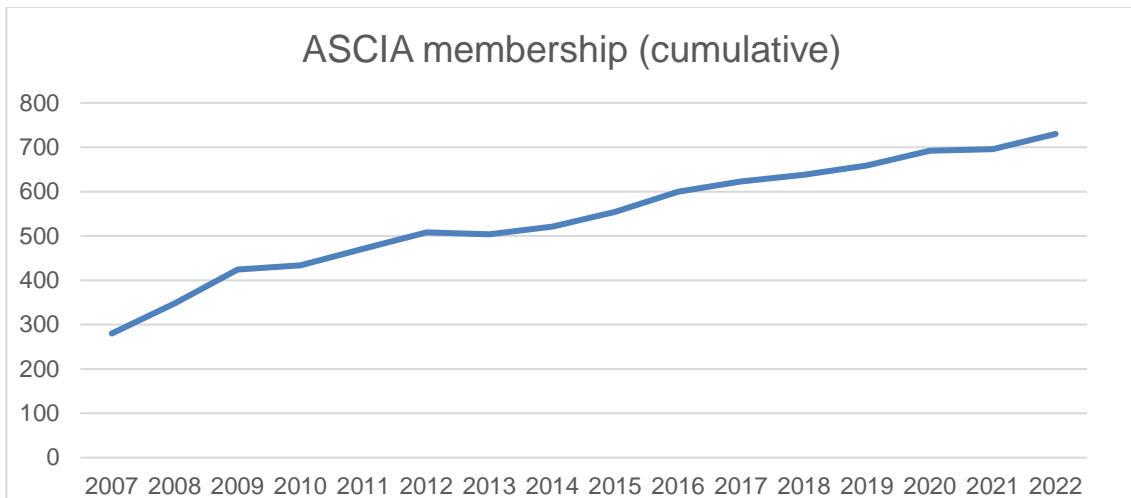
This Annual Report is based on the Minutes of the ASCIA Annual General Meeting, held on Friday 2 September 2022, 4.30-5pm AEST, at the Melbourne Convention Centre.



**australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy**

## ASCIA PRESIDENT’S REPORT - Prof Michaela Lucas

ASCIA members are health professionals who work in the areas of allergy, clinical immunology and immunopathology. There was a total of **730** ASCIA members as of 30 June 2022. This represents a 260% increase over the past 15 years since 2007 when there were 280 ASCIA members.



ASCIA membership comprises:

- **273 Full ASCIA members (37%)**, who are mostly clinical immunology/allergy specialists and they are listed on the ASCIA website [www.allergy.org.au/patients/locate-a-specialist](http://www.allergy.org.au/patients/locate-a-specialist)
- **71 Associate (Trainee) members (10%)**, who are completing their advanced training to become clinical immunology/allergy specialists.
- **141 Associate (Medical) members (19%)**, who are medical practitioners with an interest in allergy, but are not clinical immunology/allergy specialists.
- **180 Associate (Other Health Professional) members, including 124 nurses (17%), 47 dietitians (7%) and 8 other (1%).**
- **40 Associate (Scientist/Researcher) members (6%).**
- **26 Retired ASCIA members (3%).**



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## ASCIA HIGHLIGHTS 2021-2022

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The ASCIA team works with the Chairs of ASCIA member committees and working parties to review, update and develop world leading, accessible, consistent and evidence based resources, education and training, to support ASCIA members, other health professionals, patients, carers and the community.

The ASCIA team also works closely with ICMSA and the Chair of the organising committee to manage the ASCIA Annual Conference.

### ASCIA CONFERENCE

- Leading source of allergy and clinical immunology CPD in Australia and New Zealand
- ASCIA 2021 Conference - highly successful virtual event – 694 delegate registrations
- ASCIA 2022 Conference - first hybrid ASCIA Conference – more than 550 delegate registrations (60% in-person)



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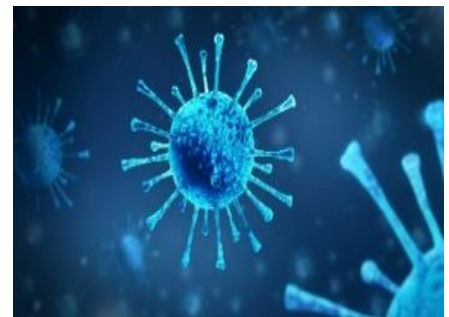
### ASCIA WEBSITE

ASCIA provides world leading, accessible, consistent and evidence-based online resources, education and training. From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 the ASCIA website attracted more than:

- 3.2 million pageviews
- 2.1 million visits
- 1.7 million unique visitors

COVID-19 resources contributed significantly to the high numbers of ASCIA website visits.

The ASCIA website continues to be reviewed and updated, and we welcome feedback. In the next website redesign there will be a section included for feedback.



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### ASCIA E-TRAINING COURSES

ASCIA has provided world leading online training since 2010, with more than:

- 110,950 registrations from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
- 898,000 registrations since March 2010

To access the courses go to:

[www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/about-ascia-e-training](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/about-ascia-e-training)



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### ASCIA ANAPHYLAXIS E-TRAINING

- Significant updates to all ASCIA anaphylaxis e-training courses for health professionals, schools, childcare and community
- Two new anaphylaxis refresher courses developed
- State specific courses updated for NSW, VIC, QLD and WA schools

To access the courses go to:

[www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/about-ascia-e-training](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/about-ascia-e-training)





### ASCIA ALLERGY E-TRAINING COURSES

The following courses for health professionals have been updated in 2022:

- Food Allergy
- Allergen Immunotherapy
- Allergic Rhinitis

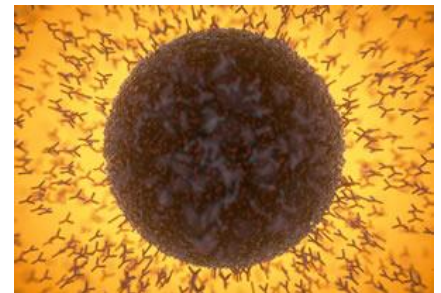
To access the courses go to <https://etraininghp.ascia.org.au/>



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### ASCIA IMMUNODEFICIENCY E-TRAINING

- New ASCIA IRT e-training for health professionals <https://immunodeficiency.ascia.org.au/>
- Developed in 2022 by ASCIA in conjunction with the National Prescribing Service (NPS) MedicineWise Value in Prescribing (ViP) Immunoglobulin (Ig) Project



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### ASCIA COMMUNICATION

New format of ASCIA e-newsletters has been introduced in 2022 to enhance the user experience.

Each month ASCIA e-newsletters are sent to:

- >700 ASCIA members
- >5,000 community subscribers



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### ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATIONS

- ASCIA lodged 15 submissions from 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022 [www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports#s1](http://www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports#s1)
- ASCIA collaborates with over 30 groups [www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/collaborations](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/collaborations)
- ASCIA collaborations include the National Allergy Council (NAC) and TAPID
- Government funding confirmed for NAC and National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE) from 2022-2026



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### AIFA RESEARCH GRANTS

- A total of \$629,000 awarded to 27 research projects since 2015
- The 18 research projects that received AIFA grants up to 2020 have been presented at ASCIA Conferences
- Thank you to our generous donors, sponsors and grant selection panel



For details go to [www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/aifa](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/aifa)

### ASCIA IMMUNODEFICIENCY STRATEGY

- Launched on World Immunology Day, 29 April and World HAE Day, 16 May 2022
- Extensive media coverage
- SCID NBS government announcements since launch
- Implementation of Strategy is a priority for ASCIA in 2022-2023

For details go to:

[www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/info-updates/scid-newborn-screening-update](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/info-updates/scid-newborn-screening-update)

[www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/info-updates/ascia-immunodeficiency-strategy-launch](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/info-updates/ascia-immunodeficiency-strategy-launch)



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### ASCIA SUSTAINABILITY

- ASCIA has continued to improve its sustainability, both environmentally and financially
- Changing the format of ASCIA Conferences to Virtual in 2021 and Hybrid in 2022 demonstrates that ASCIA can adapt its operations in response to challenges
- A working party may be set up to address sustainability issues, particularly as they impact allergy and other immune diseases

For details go to [www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/sustainability-2020-to-2022](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/sustainability-2020-to-2022)



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### ADVANCED TRAINING MEETING

- ASCIA hosted an in-person Advanced Training Meeting on 18 June 2022
- Allergy, immunodeficiency and autoimmunity cases were presented
- It has not been feasible to host training meetings for the past 2 ½ years
- It is our intention to host ASCIA Advanced Training Meetings in 2023 and 2024



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## ASCIA PRIORITIES 2022-2023

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**ASCIA's purpose is to advance the science and practice of allergy and clinical immunology.**

This is achieved by promoting the highest standard of medical practice, training, education and research, to improve the quality of life and health of people with immune system disorders. These include allergies, immunodeficiencies and other immune diseases.

To achieve its Purpose, ASCIA undertakes a wide range of initiatives that are prioritised to maximise benefits to ASCIA members.

ASCIA has reviewed priorities for 2022-2023, which are grouped into three areas. There are considerable synergies and overlap between these priority areas and this report focuses on the priorities that are highlighted below.

- **ASCIA Member Services**

- Communications
- Website
- AIFA Research Grants
- Sustainability
- Advocacy and Submissions

- **ASCIA Professional Development**

- ASCIA Annual Conference
- ASCIA Committees and Working Parties
- ASCIA Online Resources, Education and Training

- **ASCIA Collaborations**

- National Allergy Strategy
- Collaborations with Research Groups
- Professional and Patient Organisations
- ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy

For details go to [www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/ascia-initiatives](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/ascia-initiatives)

It is a very exciting time for allergy and clinical immunology.

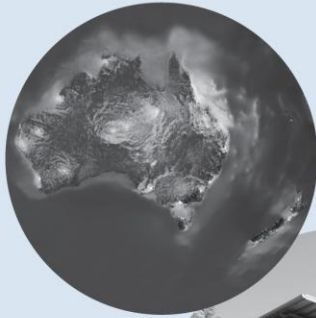
ASCIA is at the forefront to lead initiatives in Australia and New Zealand to improve access and standards of care for patients with allergies, immunodeficiencies and other immune system disorders.

# ascia

australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

## Priorities 2022 - 2023

### ASCIA MEMBER SERVICES



Website and Communications

AIFA Research Grants

Sustainability

Advocacy and Submissions



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## ASCIA WEBSITE – HEALTH PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

New webpages for health professionals have been developed to enhance the user experience and improve access to ASCIA website:

- Resources
- Allergy and anaphylaxis e-training
- Immunodeficiency e-training
- Pharmacist e-training



For details go to:

[www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/info-updates/improved-access-to-ascia-website-information](http://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/info-updates/improved-access-to-ascia-website-information)

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## ASCIA WEBSITE – PATIENT AND CARER INFORMATION

New webpages for patients and carers have been developed to enhance the user experience and improve access to ASCIA website information.

ReadSpeaker has been added, to allow translations and improve access for people with vision impairment, limited reading ability, or learning disabilities, by allowing text to speech (TTS).

To access this information go to [www.allergy.org.au/patients/information](http://www.allergy.org.au/patients/information)

A webpage to access ASCIA anaphylaxis translations will be added to the ASCIA homepage. Feedback on access will be requested in an ASCIA member survey.

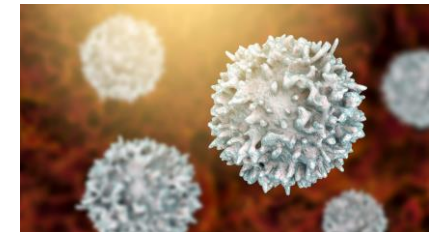


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## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASCIA IMMUNODEFICIENCY STRATEGY

The ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy for Australia and New Zealand has been developed in consultation with patient organisations and other stakeholders.

The Strategy was launched in April and May 2022, and implementation will be a priority for ASCIA in 2022-2023.



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## EXPANSION OF THE NATIONAL ALLERGY STRATEGY

Implementation of the National Allergy Strategy will continue by the new:

- **National Allergy Council (NAC)** - a natural progression of the highly valued and successful National Allergy Strategy. The NAC will continue to implement and expand the National Allergy Strategy as a partnership between the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA), the leading medical and patient support organisations for allergy in Australia.
- **National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE)** - The Centre for Food & Allergy Research (CFAR), hosted at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, will work alongside the new NACE. As Australia's peak allergy research body, it will develop hubs for allergy research, repository and discovery, evidence and translation, and training and innovation.

This will ensure Australia remains at the forefront of evidence-based management of allergic disease.

**The NAC and NACE are backed by a \$26.9 million Federal Government investment, in response to a Parliamentary Inquiry report:**

- The NAC and NACE, with support from ASCIA and A&AA, encompassing clinicians, researchers, \*policy-makers, patients and carers, look forward to working together to ensure efficient translation of the latest research into practice.
- These initiatives will help accelerate allergy research and clinical care, to improve the lives of five million Australians living with allergic disease and prevent anaphylaxis, including needless deaths.

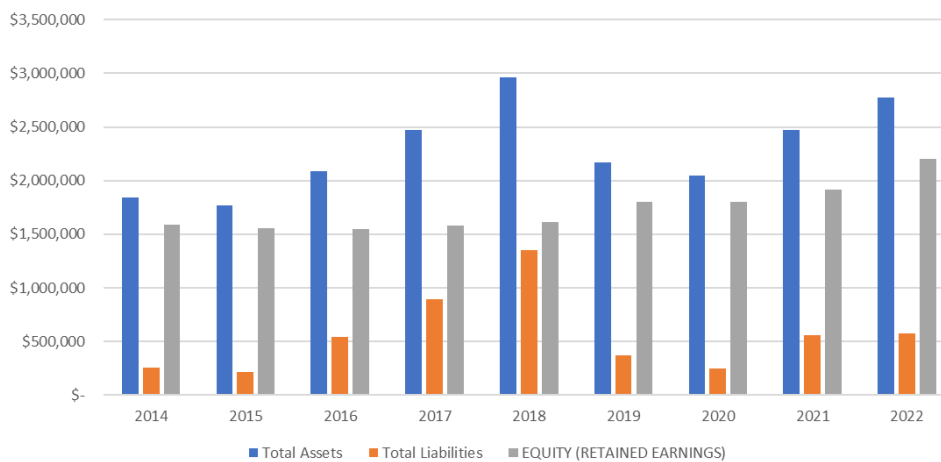
## ASCIA FINANCE REPORT: Dr Michael O’Sullivan

This report is based on the audited ASCIA financial report which covers the 2022 financial year (FY22) from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

ASCIA’s financial report is consolidated to include ASCIA, AIFA and the National Allergy Strategy (NAS), held in separate bank accounts.

The consolidated profit of \$287,306 for the FY22 is largely due to the highly successful ASCIA 2021 Virtual Conference.

### ASCIA Financial Position FY14-FY22

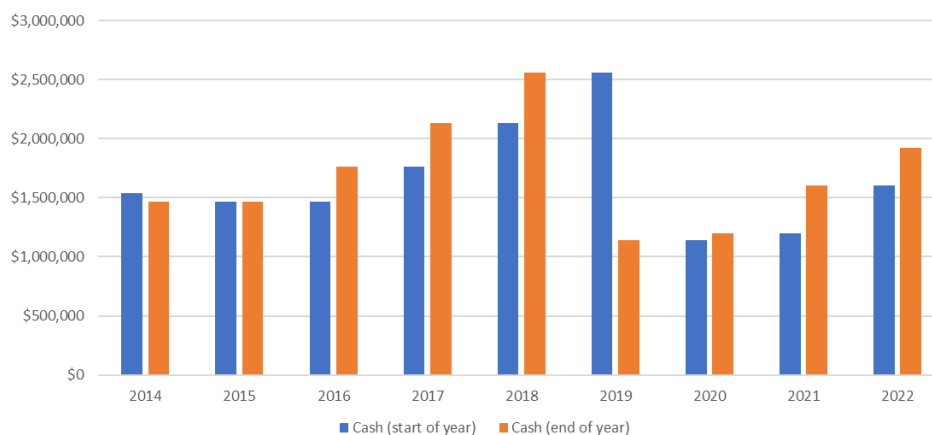


Despite significant growth and challenges, ASCIA has retained its earnings over the past 9 years.

Decreased assets in FY19 and FY20 reflect:

- ASCIA office purchase in 2019
- No ASCIA 2020 Conference, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ASCIA Cash at Bank FY14-FY22



ASCIA’s cash at bank reflects:

- Steady growth from FY14 to FY18
- ASCIA office purchase in FY19 and no ASCIA 2020 Conference
- A steady increase in FY21-FY22

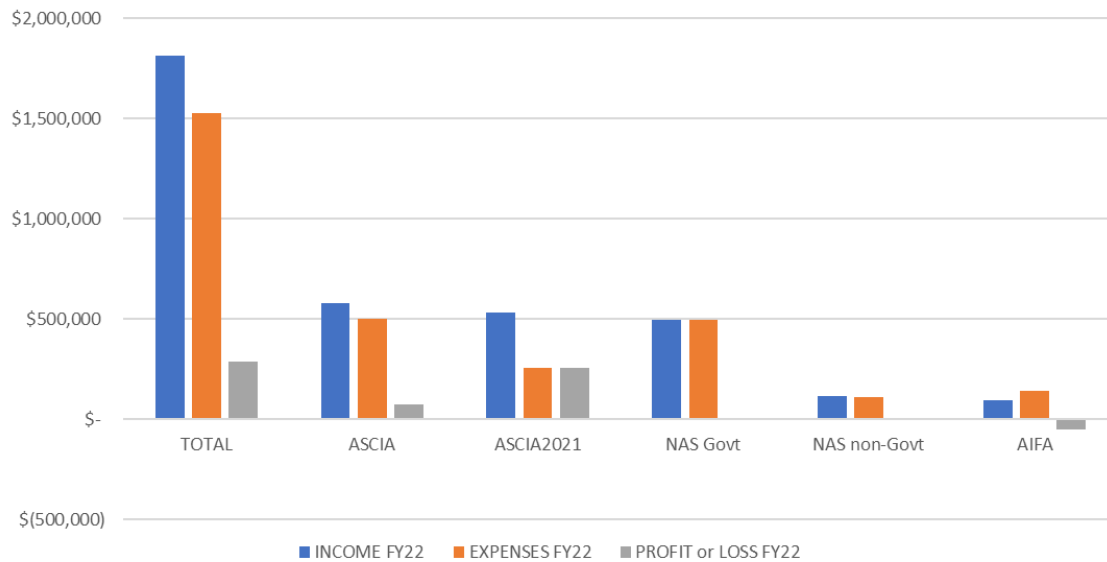
## ASCIA Annual Report 2022

Whilst ASCIA is a not for profit organisation, it is important that the ASCIA Annual Conference results in a profit, to ensure sustainability for ASCIA.

It is a requirement that all NAS govt funds are spent in the same FY as they are provided.

The intention of AIFA is to breakeven each year, to ensure that all donations to AIFA fund research.

### ASCIA, NAS, AIFA P&L FY22



ASCIA has continued to improve its financial sustainability:

- ASCIA has no debt, a considerable fixed asset (ASCIA Office) and cash flow
- Changing ASCIA Conferences to Virtual and Hybrid has had many positive effects including financial benefits
- Government funding for National Allergy Strategy projects via the new National Allergy Council over the next four years will provide an additional stable income source for ASCIA



The financial outlook for ASCIA in 2022-2023 is very positive, due largely to ASCIA's sound financial position, which reflects:

- Strategic planning
- Monitoring of finances
- Revised focus on ASCIA priorities to balance funded and unfunded work
- Successful new format for the ASCIA Annual Conferences
- Successful advocacy for expansion of the National Allergy Strategy

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## ASCIA COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

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The following nominations for Council positions have been received so no elections are required for those positions.

- **ASCIA President:** A/Prof Theresa Cole (VIC) – ASCIA President Elect 2020-2022
- **ASCIA President Elect:** Dr Michael O’Sullivan (WA) – ASCIA Director 2016-2022  
Nominated by: Prof Michaela Lucas  
Seconded by: Prof Dominic Mallon
- **ASCIA Director:** Dr Kathryn Patchett (NSW) – ASCIA Education Committee Chair 2016-2022  
Nominated by: A/Prof Jane Peake  
Seconded by: Dr Michael O’Sullivan
- **ASCIA Education Committee Chair:** Dr Joseph De Luca (VIC)  
Nominated by: Dr Jack Godsell  
Seconded by: Dr Samantha Chan
- **ASCIA Immunodeficiency Committee Chair:** Dr Patrick Quinn (SA) – previously Deputy Chair  
Nominated by: A/Prof Theresa Cole  
Seconded by: A/Prof Jane Peake
- **ASCIA Drug Allergy Committee Chair:** Dr James Yun (NSW) – previously Deputy Chair  
Nominated by: Prof Connie Katelaris AM  
Seconded by: Prof Michaela Lucas

A nomination has not yet been received for the role of ASCIA NSW Representative.

We welcome the new ASCIA Council members: Dr Joseph De Luca, Dr Patrick Quinn and Dr James Yun.

We also take this opportunity to thank the outgoing ASCIA Council members: Prof Connie Katelaris AM, and Dr Brynn Wainstein, for their tremendous contributions, which will be greatly missed. However, it is reassuring to know that they will still be involved in many ASCIA initiatives.



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## ASCIA INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – A/Prof Theresa Cole

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It is an honour to lead ASCIA as the President for the next two years, from 2022 to 2024.

ASCIA is in a very strong position today, despite the significant challenges over the past two years.

I would like to thank the other ASCIA Directors, Prof Michaela Lucas, Dr Michael O'Sullivan and A/Prof Jane Peake, ASCIA Council members, and the ASCIA team for working together to ensure that ASCIA provides members with important services, whilst keeping ASCIA operations sustainable.

Thank you to the departing ASCIA Council members for all their work over the past few years and welcome to new ASCIA Council members, who I look forward to working with.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented new challenges for everyone, including ASCIA. However, through collaborations such as the National Allergy Strategy and the ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy, ASCIA has an even stronger foundation for future growth. This is highlighted by two major recent achievements:

- Announcements by federal and state governments about newborn screening for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID), which is the first goal of the ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy.
- Confirmation of federal government funding for the National Allergy Council and National Allergy Centre of Excellence, which will enable ASCIA to help implement the Shared Care Model to improve access and standards of care.

Congratulations to Dr Dean Tey and the organising committee on the ASCIA 2022 Conference, our first Hybrid Conference, which has attracted over 570 delegates, including 60% in-person. We believe that the hybrid model will be useful into the future, to increase participation when travel isn't possible or feasible.

I take this opportunity to thank Prof Michaela Lucas for her excellent leadership as the ASCIA President and also as Chair of two very successful ASCIA Conferences in 2019 and 2021, which have contributed to ASCIA's positive situation. Michaela's leadership has been critical in challenging times.

In September 2023 I look forward to seeing you at the 32<sup>nd</sup> ASCIA Conference in Sydney which is being organised by Dr Katie Frith and her committee.



**australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy**

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## ASCIA COUNCIL 2022-2024

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### DIRECTORS (EXECUTIVE)

PRESIDENT	AProf Theresa Cole (VIC)
PRESIDENT ELECT	Dr Michael O'Sullivan (WA)
DIRECTOR	A/Prof Jane Peake (QLD)
DIRECTOR	Dr Kathryn Patchett (NSW)

### AREA REPRESENTATIVES

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY	A/Prof Katrina Randall
NEW SOUTH WALES	Dr Narinder Kaur
NEW ZEALAND	Dr Shannon Brothers
QUEENSLAND	Dr Alberto Pinzon
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Dr Jovanka King
VICTORIA	Dr Stephanie Richards
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	A/Prof Kristina Rueter

### OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

#### ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES

Associate (Dietitians)	Kathy Beck (QLD)
Associate (Nurses)	Briony Tyquin (NSW)
Associate (Medical)	Dr Kathryn Heyworth (QLD)
Associate (Trainees)	Dr Hannah Hu (NSW)

#### OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS

Immediate Past ASCIA President	Prof Michaela Lucas (WA)
Chair of the Committee for Joint College Training in Immunology/Allergy	Dr Frederick Lee (NSW)
Allergy and Immunology Foundation of Australasia (AIFA) Chair	Dr Melanie Wong (NSW)
National Allergy Strategy co-chair (ASCIA)	Dr Preeti Joshi (NSW)