

# ASCIA2018 Bios - other speakers

**Professor Katie Allen** MBBS BMedSc PhD FRACP  
VIC, Australia

Professor Katrina (Katie) Allen is a Paediatric Allergist and Gastroenterologist practising in the field of Food Allergy at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. She is also Theme Director of Population Health at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne, and Professor of Food Allergy at the University of Manchester. She is an inaugural fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science, and Director of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funded Australian Centre for Food and Allergy Research (CFAR). CFAR aims to translate research findings into clinical practice and public health policy to ensure the best outcomes for children regarding food allergy.

Katie Allen is on five NHMRC funded studies which all seek to answer questions about population health and evolution of the new allergy epidemic including gene-environment, immunologic and epigenetic associations with food allergy. One of such studies, the HealthNuts study, includes 5,300 infants followed over the first 10 years of life. In 2010, her research was recognised in the NHMRC '10 of the Best' nationally and she has published extensively with more than 210 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters. She also sits on a variety of committees for the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (including the food allergy section Board), American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, World Allergy Organisation, the ASCIA Paediatric Committee and the National Allergy Strategy.

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**Dr Anthea Anantharajah** MBBS FRACP FRCPA  
ACT, Australia

Dr Anthea Anantharajah graduated from the University of New South Wales in 2009 and has recently completed her immunology and immunopathology training in Sydney and Canberra. She is currently working as a clinical immunologist and immunopathologist at the Canberra Hospital, where her clinical interests are sarcoidosis and inflammatory eye disease.

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**Kathy Beck** RN BSc GDNut&Diet MHSc  
QLD, Australia

Kathy Beck has almost 35 years working as a registered nurse and a dietitian in clinical dietetics, across all types of home and hospital settings, both in Australia and the UK. Kathy is an Accredited Practising Dietitian and in the last 9 years has specialised in paediatric clinical dietetics across a diverse range of specialty areas but specifically within paediatric food allergy. Kathy was the lead senior dietitian for the Queensland Paediatric Allergy and Immunology Service (QPIAS) at the Royal Children's Hospital and has continued in this role at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. She is the recognised paediatric allergy dietitian across Queensland and lectures in the area of paediatric food allergy to dietetic students.

Kathy is Deputy Chair of the Dietitian Subcommittee of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunologists and Allergists (ASCIA) which aims to provide up-to-date educational resources for dietitians and families living with food allergy. Kathy regularly attends National and International conferences including the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) conferences to broaden and update her skills. Kathy has worked with other colleagues to prepare the ASCIA DAA Food Allergy and Intolerance course.

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**Jan Belcher** DipHSc(Nurs)  
NSW, Australia

Jan has worked in various roles in Paediatric Nursing for the past 25 years. Her passion for Paediatric Allergy and Immunology commenced when she started in her role as Clinical Nurse Consultant nearly 10 years ago. She has been a member of ASCIA since then and currently Chairs the ASCIA Nurses Special Interest Group for Dermatology. One of her other interests is the NSW Anaphylaxis Training program for NSW schools.

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**Professor Dianne Campbell** MBBS PhD FRACP  
NSW Australia

Prof Dianne Campbell is the Chair and Co-Head of Department, Allergy and Clinical Immunology at Children's Hospital Westmead, Sydney, Australia and conjoint Professor in the Discipline of Paediatrics and Adolescent Health, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney. She is the current Chair of the Paediatric committee for the Australasian Society of Clinical Allergy and Immunology (ASCIA). She is the immediate past Head of Discipline, Paediatrics and Child health, Sydney Medical School.

Prof Campbell completed undergraduate education at Sydney University, a PhD at Melbourne University and a postdoctoral position at Stanford University, researching in the field of childhood atopic disease (atopic dermatitis, food allergy and asthma). She has over 20 years of experience in clinical allergy and immunology and has published more than 70 peer reviewed papers to date.

Prof Campbell has active roles in allergy research and is currently a chief investigator on several NHMRC funded clinical trials and cohort studies. Current research areas include: the primary prevention and induction of tolerance in food allergy (including oral immunotherapy), the role of regulatory T and B cells in allergic disease; the immuno-biology of FPIES and potential therapeutic modulation of T regulatory cell dysfunction in children atopic dermatitis.

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**Dr Gary Chew** BSc(Med) MBBS PhD FRACP FRCPA  
ACT, Australia

Dr Gary Chew is a clinical immunology and allergy specialist treating adult patients at The Canberra Hospital.

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**Professor Matthew Cook** MBBS (Hons) PhD FRACP FRCPA FFSc(RCPA)  
ACT Australia

Prof Matthew Cook is Professor of Medicine at Australian National University, and a practising clinical immunologist. His principal area of research aims at a better understanding of the pathogenesis of immunological disease. He is Director of the Centre for Personalised Immunology, an NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence, and clinical director of Canberra Clinical Genomics. He is chair of the Genetic Immunology flagship of the Australian Genome Health Alliance.

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**Dr Nick Cooling** BSc(Hons) Dip ND BMBS DRACOG FRACGP  
TAS, Australia

Dr Nick Cooling is the Director of Internationalisation and Global Health & Senior Lecturer in Medical Practice at the School of Medicine, University of Tasmania. He has worked in medical education for over 15 years, including as Director of Training of the GP Training Program in Tasmania for 8 yrs.

His work career has included pharmacology research (metabolism of drugs by the cytochrome P450 system) clinical dietetics, general practice in both international, rural and urban settings and clinical allergy practice. Dr Cooling's research interests include allergy (especially aeroallergens and food), global health, internationalisation of the curriculum, student mobility, academic detailing, clinical reasoning, behaviour change for doctors and their patients, intercultural communication and consulting skills. He has published 25 papers in a range of disciplines.

His clinical work has entirely been in adult and paediatric allergy in private practice in Hobart over the past 8 years. Prior to this he worked in general practice with a specific interest in allergy over 28 yrs. He is a member of the Allergy & Immunology Clinical Advisory Group for the Tasmanian Health Service. He is also an Associate member of ASCIA, a foundation member of the RACGP Specific Interest Group in Allergy. He is on the Board of the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania.

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**Dr Thanh Dang** PhD  
VIC, Australia

Dr Thanh Dang is an NHMRC Early Career Research Fellow who completed his PhD at the University of Melbourne in 2013. He is currently based at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute working on a number of food allergy studies including population cohorts HealthNuts, ShoolNuts, as well as the Vitality Clinical Trial. His main research focuses on identifying novel biomarkers such as the use of component resolved diagnostics for the detection of food allergy with a goal to improve diagnosis and clinical care of patients.

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**Dr Lara Ford** MBBS MPH BSc FRACP  
NSW, Australia

Dr Lara Ford is a staff specialist in Allergy and Clinical Immunology at the Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney, Australia (CHW); Clinical Lead with the NSW Anaphylaxis Education Program; and Conjoint Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Child and Adolescent Health, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney. She is the current chair of ASCIA's Anaphylaxis subcommittee.

After completing her medical degree at the University of Sydney, Lara undertook her paediatric training at the University of Massachusetts, a Masters of Public Health at Harvard University and training in Allergy and Immunology at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. There she performed research into baked milk tolerance in milk-allergic children, and in Food Protein Induced Enterocolitis Syndrome. Since her return to Australia she has been involved with research into the role of Vitamin D in Eczema, immunotherapy as a treatment for food allergies, and Anaphylaxis Education.

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**Professor David Fulcher** MBBS(Hons) PhD FRACP FRCPA  
NSW, Australia

Prof David Fulcher is a specialist Clinical Immunologist and Immunopathologist with clinical interests centring on immunodeficiency and autoimmune disease.

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He graduated in medicine from the University of Sydney in 1984, trained in Clinical Immunology & Immunopathology, with Fellowships of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and Royal Australasian College of Pathologists (RCPA). He completed a PhD in the field of B-cell lifespan and tolerance then worked as a senior specialist in the public hospital for over 20 years. In 2015, he established specialist consulting rooms in Sydney (Hills Immunology, Sydney Oral Immunology) and Canberra (National Capital Medical Suites), and works as Immunopathologist for 4Cyte laboratories in Sydney. He currently works as Professor of Immunology at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU, where he co-ordinates the Advanced and Applied Immunology undergraduate course, as well as being a Chief Investigator in the Centre for Personalised Immunology, currently a Centre of Research Excellence.

He has a national reputation in teaching immunology at all levels, having held positions as Co-ordinator of Advanced Training in Immunology, Chair of the Joint Specialist Advisory Committee in Immunology (RACP), Chief Examiner in Immunopathology (RCPA), Director of Physician Training and Network Director of Physician Training, and continues to teach Immunology to specialist trainees in medicine (immunology4bpts weekend courses, Sydney and Melbourne).

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**Professor Johan Garssen PhD**  
Utrecht, The Netherlands

Johan Garssen is Full Professor of Immunopharmacology at Utrecht University, where he's also Head of the Division Pharmacology at the Utrecht Institute for Pharmaceutical Sciences. At Danone/Nutricia Research, after several functions as from 2002, Johan is currently R&I Director Immune in the Global ELN Centre of Excellence Utrecht.

He studied medicine and biology at the Free University, Amsterdam, Netherlands. He specialised in immunology, pharmacology and biochemistry and finished both studies in 1987 cum laude. He finished his PhD thesis at the University of Utrecht in 1991 on the role of T cells in respiratory allergy, an immunopharmacological approach. This PhD programme and a postdoc period was partly performed at Yale University, New Haven, USA.

After the postdoc period he became senior scientist at the National Institute of Public Health in the Netherlands. There he coached many research projects, both preclinical as well as clinical research, in the field of immunomodulation induced by nutritional ingredients, drugs and environmental agents.

Johan Garssen has published over 700 peer reviewed papers in the field of "immunomodulation".

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**Professor Paul Gatenby AM MBBS PhD FRACP FRCPA**  
ACT, Australia

Paul Gatenby graduated in Medicine from the University of Tasmania in 1971. He moved to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1973 and obtained FRACP and FRCPA in Immunology and Immunopathology. A PhD in tumour immunology was obtained at Sydney University under Tony Basten's supervision. Two years post-doctoral research at Stanford University started a lifelong interest in chronic inflammatory human diseases such as lupus and vasculitis. After 22 years at RPAH he moved to Canberra to successively develop a clinical school for Sydney University and a medical school for ANU. His research and clinical interest continued in the same conditions. He retired in 2016 and is an emeritus professor at ANU and Chair of the ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee.

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**Dr Nitin Gupta** MBBS FRACP  
NSW, Australia

Dr Nitin Gupta has been working as a Paediatric Gastroenterologist at the Sydney Children's Hospital Network (Randwick) since 2011. He looks after infants and children with complex medical and nutritional issues in diseases of the gastrointestinal tract and liver. His clinical interests include general gastroenterology, Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN) as well as Cystic Fibrosis.

During his training years, Dr Gupta took opportunities to move between various gastroenterology departments in tertiary hospitals in South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland. Each of these centres have specialized clinical and academic interests that allowed me a thorough education into the broader gastroenterological disorders of Motility (Adelaide), Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (Sydney Children's Hospital) and Liver diseases (Brisbane).

His family moved from India to Australia when he was five years of age. Dr Gupta grew up in regional South Australia before moving to Adelaide for his medical degree and the start of my paediatric training. Current positions include Staff Specialist, Sydney Children's Hospital Network (Randwick), Visiting Medical Officer (Honorary), Canberra Hospital and Clinical Lecturer, UNSW.

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**Dr Caroline Hawkins** BSc MBBS MSc FRACP FRCPA  
ACT, Australia

Carolyn Hawkins is the Director of Laboratory Immunology at ACT Pathology and works as a Clinical Immunologist at The Canberra Hospital. She completed training for the FRACP/FRCPA at Westmead, St Vincent's, Kings College, London and the Canberra hospitals and undertook a Masters of Medical Immunology at the University of London. Her main clinical interests are in the areas of paediatric food allergy, eosinophilic oesophagitis and drug allergy. She has been involved in the ANU Medical School since its inception and is involved in teaching, curriculum development, pastoral care and the examination process.

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**Dr Preeti Joshi** MBBS DCH PhD FRACP  
NSW, Australia

Dr Preeti Joshi is a clinical allergist/ immunologist based in Sydney. She is the chair of the ASCIA paediatric committee and deputy lead of the National Allergy Strategy (NAS) infant feeding and allergy prevention committee. Her research interests include immunotherapy for food allergy and primary prevention of food allergy.

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**Dr Narinder Kaur** MBBS FRACP  
VIC, Australia

Dr Narinder Kaur is a Paediatric Allergist and Immunologist. Her interests includes paediatric food allergy, drug allergies, eczema, asthma, allergic rhinitis and immunotherapy.

Dr Kaur is currently involved in a multicentre peanut CRD (Component Resolved Diagnosis) study, hoping to be able to differentiate peanut allergic patients from peanut sensitisers through a blood test. She has a teaching appointment with the Sydney Child Health Program (previously known as Diploma in Child Health). She has presented at various National and International conferences.

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**Professor Richard Kitching** MBChB FRACP FASN PhD  
VIC, Australia

Professor Richard Kitching is an academic nephrologist-scientist whose research is focussed on autoimmune kidney disease, from basic mechanisms of loss of tolerance to effector responses, with a view to using more targeted therapies for these diseases. He holds Monash University and Monash Health appointments and is the director of the Monash University Centre for Inflammatory Diseases. He heads the Monash Health Vasculitis Clinic and is Co-Chair of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Research Advisory Committee.

His research is funded by NHMRC Project Grants, an NHMRC grant within a European Union Horizon 2020 Consortium and an NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence. His publications include papers in Nature, Nature Medicine, PNAS, The Journal of Clinical Investigation, The Journal of Experimental Medicine, Nature Communications, Blood, The Journal of the American Society of Nephrology and Kidney International.

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**Dr Jennifer Koplin** PhD  
VIC, Australia

Dr Jennifer Koplin is a National Health and Medical Research Fellow-funded early career fellow with the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute and the University of Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. She completed her PhD on the epidemiology of food allergy in childhood in 2011 at the University of Melbourne.

Dr Koplin has supervised six honours students in the past three years and is currently co-supervisor for two PhD students. She is a committee member for Early to Mid Career Researchers Association (EMCRA) at Murdoch Childrens Research Institute. Dr Koplin has published 29 peer-reviewed papers and two book chapters in the six years since commencing her PhD in 2007.

Dr Koplin currently works across multiple studies which aim to understand the progression from food allergy and eczema in childhood to asthma and allergic rhinitis in later life (the HealthNuts cohort); risk factors for anaphylaxis and adverse reactions to food in schoolchildren (SchoolNuts); the development of allergic disease in the first year of life (the Barwon Infant Study); and asthma and lung health throughout the lifespan (Respiratory Health In Northern Europe, Switzerland, Spain and Australia study – RHINESSA).

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**Associate Professor Daniel Lemberg** BSc(Med) MBBS Dip. Paed FRACP  
NSW, Australia

Dr Daniel (Avi) Lemberg is Head of Paediatric Gastroenterology at Sydney Children's Hospital and conjoint Associate Professor of the School of Women's & Children's Health, UNSW Medicine. A/Prof Lemberg has extensive clinical and research experience in paediatric inflammatory bowel conditions. He was appointed Head of Paediatric Gastroenterology at Sydney Children's Hospital (SCH) in 2010. He is also Director of the Children's Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Clinic (IBD) at SCH.

A/Prof Lemberg is committed to translational and clinical research together with teaching and was appointed as Conjoint Associate Professor at UNSW Australia in 2013. Through his research studies and clinical work, A/Prof Lemberg has a strong understanding of the pathogenetic mechanisms that underlie the current theories of the causes of the progression of the inflammatory response that results in the phenotypic expression defined as Crohn's Disease

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In the field of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and intestinal microbiota research, A/Prof Lemberg has made significant contributions in the management of children and adolescents with IBD. In particular, he has expert knowledge in the evaluation of treatments such as exclusive enteral nutrition and probiotics in children with IBD, both at the research and clinical application levels.

With the invention of next-generation sequencing, A/Prof Lemberg has been involved with projects utilising this technology to further investigate the intestinal microbiota composition in IBD and how this is altered from normal health individuals. He also has clinical research interest in Coeliac disease and Eosinophilic Oesophagitis (EoE).

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**Associate Professor Richard Loh** MBBS FRACP FAAAAI FACAAI  
WA, Australia

A/Prof Richard Loh is the Head of the Immunology Department at Perth Children's Hospital and Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Western Australia. Richard is a graduate of the University of Queensland and trained in Immunology and Allergy at the Children's Hospital in Boston and Harvard Medical School.

Richard Loh is a past President of ASCIA and a member of the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) Anaphylaxis Committee. Richard is actively involved in anaphylaxis management and chaired the ASCIA Anaphylaxis Working Party for 4 years during which time, ASCIA commenced the development of its online anaphylaxis training. Richard was the chair of the Anaphylaxis Expert Committee who developed an anaphylaxis model of care in Western Australia.

Richard Loh is currently co-chair of the National Allergy Strategy, which was launched in August 2015 and is currently being implemented.

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**Dr Adrian Lowe** BBSoc(Hons) MPH PhD  
VIC, Australia

Dr Adrian Lowe is an allergic disease epidemiologist and Deputy Head of the Allergy and Lung Health Unit, University of Melbourne. His research focuses on understanding the causes for the increase in prevalence of allergic disease in Westernised countries over recent decades, and testing strategies to prevent these conditions in future generations. He is an investigator on a range of projects in this field, including the Melbourne Atopy Cohort study and HealthNuts. He is also the principle investigator of the NHMRC funded PEBBLES trial, which aims to use a skin barrier intervention to prevent eczema and food allergy.

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**Vicki McWilliam** BAppSc MNutrDiet CertPND APD  
VIC, Australia

Vicki McWilliam's key area of expertise is paediatric food allergy. She has worked at the Royal Children's Hospital for 18 years and has been the dietitian for the Department of Allergy and Immunology for the past 14 years. Her role involves patient care, teaching, training, resource development and research. She also has a private practice specialising in paediatric food allergy based at MACCS (Melbourne Allergy Centre and Children's Specialists).

Vicki's expertise in food allergy sees her involved in food allergy training of dietitians, nurses and doctors and she is a frequently invited to participate in conferences, training sessions, and resource development in the area of food allergy. She has also contributed a chapter to a textbook on food

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allergy and has been involved in food allergy research. Vicki is currently undertaking a PhD in food allergy with the Centre for Food and Allergy Research based at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the University of Melbourne. Her PhD is exploring the prevalence, natural history and adverse events related to tree nut allergy in Australian children.

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**Dr Raymond Mullins** MBBS(Hons1) PhD FRACP FRCPA  
ACT, Australia

Dr Mullins has worked as a Consultant Physician in Clinical Immunology and Allergy in private practice in Canberra since 1995. He has studied and published on the epidemiology of food allergy and anaphylaxis in Australia, tracking increasing incidence over the last 20 years, and on the potential role of socio-economic factors and vitamin D as possible contributing factors.

He has filled various roles in ASCIA over the last 20 years including past President of ASCIA and Chair of the ASCIA Clinical Practice, Education and Anaphylaxis committees. He is the outgoing inaugural chair of the Allergy and Immunology Foundation of Australasia (AIFA).

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**Dr Merryn Netting** BSc BND AdvAPD PhD  
SA, Australia

For the past 25 years Merryn Netting has worked as a clinical paediatric dietitian at the Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide. In 2011 Merryn was awarded status as an Advanced Accredited Practising Dietitian by the Dietitians Association of Australia. As well as general paediatric nutrition, Merryn specialises in working with families of children with food allergies. She was the inaugural chairperson of the ASCIA Dietitians Subcommittee, and is a member of ASCIA and the National Allergy Strategy Steering Committee.

Merryn enjoys translating the science of nutrition into the practical aspects of the food that we place on our plates. Her postdoctoral work with the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children Theme and the Centre for Food and Allergy Research (CFAR) focuses on the influence of early life nutrition on long-term health.

Merryn's PhD (awarded in 2015) investigated nutritional strategies for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of allergy, with a specific focus on egg allergy.

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**Valerie Noble** RN  
WA, Australia

Val Noble is currently the Clinical Nurse Specialist in Allergy at the Perth Children's Hospital in WA working with children. She was the Nurse Representative on the ASCIA council for the previous 2 years and is currently the Chair of the ASCIA Allergy Nurses sub group. Val is working on the Shared Care Model for the National Allergy Strategy.

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**Sacha Palmer** BN  
SA, Australia

Sacha Palmer is a Paediatric Nurse Practitioner who has worked in Allergy for 20 years. Her particular interests are food allergy, immunotherapy and food challenges. She is the current ASCIA Nurses Representative.

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**Dr Kathryn Patchett** MBChB BMedSc FRACP FRCPA  
NSW, Australia

Dr Kathryn Patchett is a Clinical Immunologist, Allergist and Immunopathologist based in Newcastle. She is currently employed as a Staff Specialist at NSW Health Pathology, has private rooms locally and is a Conjoint Lecturer at the University of Newcastle. Dr Patchett graduated from the University of Otago and completed her early postgraduate training in New Zealand before moving to Australia to pursue specialist training in Immunology. She has a particular interest in the management of allergic conditions including allergic rhinitis, eczema, food and drug allergies.

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**Dr Geoffrey Peters** MBBS FRACP  
ACT, Australia

Dr Geoffrey Peters is a medical oncologist at The Canberra Hospital. He has completed a clinical fellowship in lung cancer and melanoma at the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute. His main areas of research include immunotherapy, targeted therapies and blood-based biomarkers and quality improvement. He is an active member of the Australasian Lung Trials Group and Australian and New Zealand Melanoma Trials Group.

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**Dr Robert Puy** MBBS FRACP FRCPA  
VIC, Australia

Dr Robert Puy trained in Allergy at the Alfred Hospital Melbourne. He is now in private practice and at The Alfred Hospital. He has a special interest in Drug Allergy.

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**Associate Professor Katrina Randall** BSc(Hons) MBBS(Hons) FRACP FRCPA  
ACT, Australia

Katrina Randall is a clinical immunologist and immunopathologist at Canberra Hospital. She is an associate professor in the ANU Medical School and her research activities include investigation of primary immunodeficiencies, in particular the mouse model of DOCK8 deficiency.

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**Anna Richards** DHlthSc NZPD  
New Zealand

Anna is in Private Practise as a consultant Dietitian with a specialist interest in allergy, adverse food reactions and gastroenterology at all life stages, and general paediatrics. Anna is passionate about an accurate diagnosis uncomplcating lives. Her current passion is writing a series of books with her coeliac daughter to uncomplcate coeliac disease.

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**Ingrid Roche** BSc GDDiet APD  
WA, Australia

Ingrid graduated from the dietetics program at Curtin University in 1995 and has worked in various public, community health and hospital positions in Western Australia and the northern Territory, including Clinical Dietetics Manager at Royal Darwin Hospital. She has worked at the Perth Children's Hospital since 2009 in the area of Allergy and Immunology and has chaired the ASCIA Dietitians Committee for the past six years and is excited to bring to fruition the Professional Certificate for dietitians in food allergy and food intolerance. Ingrid also has a private practice in Perth with special interests in nutrition services for maternal health, paediatrics and gastroenterology.

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**Maria Said RN**  
NSW, Australia

Maria Said is the CEO of Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA). As a volunteer since 1993, she became national President of the organisation in 1999 and then in 2004 she became a paid employee. Maria is also a registered nurse with experience in emergency and paediatric nursing.

As an advocate for individuals who live with the risk of anaphylaxis, Maria has presented on the recognition, management and emergency treatment of anaphylaxis. She shares information on the mission of the organisation, the consumer perspective and, allergic disease including food allergy and anaphylaxis, to teaching and health professionals, the food industry, federal and state government departments and the Australian community.

Maria is a member of ASCIA and is involved in several ASCIA committees. She has co-authored several publications in medical and food industry journals. Maria is a member of the International Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Alliance Committee and a committee member of the European Academy of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Patient Organisation Committee. Maria has presented at several international meetings.

As CEO of A&AA, Maria forwarded statements to Australian Coroners after the deaths of young people from food anaphylaxis. Maria has been called to assist State Coroners as an expert witness in five of the 6 inquests. The unfolding of these investigations has resulted in change throughout Australia.

Maria is co-chair of the National Allergy Strategy which was launched in Sydney in August 2015.

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**Dr Stuart Schembri MBBS FRACP**  
ACT, Australia

Dr Stuart Schembri is Director of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine at The Canberra Hospital. Stuart joined the Canberra Hospital last year as the new Director for Respiratory and Sleep. He graduated in Malta and moved to the UK for respiratory training. In 2009 he was appointed a respiratory consultant with NHS Tayside and honorary senior lecturer at the University of Dundee. His clinical interests are chronic infection and interstitial lung diseases.

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**Rebecca Sertori BAppSc(Nurs) PGCFH**  
NSW, Australia

Rebecca Sertori has been the Clinical Nurse Consultant in the Allergy & Immunology Department at The Children's Hospital at Westmead for the past 6 years. Rebecca is integral to the Allergy Department co-ordinating and managing the clinical nursing team, organising food and drug challenge clinics, and running the Paediatric Immunotherapy Program. Rebecca is currently studying Masters of Nurse Practitioner to further advance her sharing of food allergy knowledge with the increasing prevalence within the paediatric community.

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**Dr Jan Sinclair MBChB**  
New Zealand

Dr Jan Sinclair attended medical school at the University of Auckland, and completed most of her paediatric training in Auckland at Princess Mary Hospital. In the mid 1990s she undertook training in

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Paediatric Allergy and Clinical Immunology through the Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas. She became a fellow of the FRACP in 1996.

In 1997 Jan returned to Starship Children's Hospital in Auckland, initially as the sole sub specialist in the field. The department now has three specialist senior medical staff, providing care for children with primary immune deficiencies, but also playing a key role in development of services for children with allergy both in the greater Auckland area and throughout New Zealand. Jan is Head of the Paediatric Department and also works in private practice in Auckland.

Dr Sinclair has been a member of ASICA since 1998 and became a Director in 2015, having served on the ASCIA Anaphylaxis Committee and the ASCIA Immunodeficiency Committee.

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**Dr Elizabeth da Silva** MBBS BA FRACP FRCPA  
ACT, Australia

Dr Elizabeth da Silva is a specialist Clinical Immunologist and Immunopathologist, and is a fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. Dr da Silva treat all aspects of adult immunology, including allergy, autoimmune diseases and immunodeficiency diseases, from her private rooms at National Capital Private Hospital. She also conducts a paediatric allergy clinic at the Canberra Hospital.

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**Dr Victoria Smith** MBBS  
TAS, Australia

Dr Victoria Smith is currently Medical Associate Representative on ASCIA Council. She has worked in private practice in Launceston since the early 1990s. Her special interests are travel medicine and allergy, asthma, dermatitis, food allergies and intolerance. She has worked with other doctors to write the asthma handbook and was consulted in developing ASCIA's online resources for GPs.

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**Dr William Smith** MBBS (Hons) PhD FRACP FRCPA  
SA, Australia

William has more than 20 years of experience as a specialist Immunology and Allergy physician. He currently works in private practice as well as being a senior staff specialist in the Department of Allergy and Immunology at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. His clinical and research interests include allergic rhinitis, allergen immunotherapy, drug allergy, urticaria and angioedema. He has published many studies in allergy and immunology.

William completed his medical degree from Adelaide University in 1985 and completed his advanced training in immunology and allergy in 1993. He has been a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians (RACP) and Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) since 1994. From 1994 until 1996 William gained experience as an Associate Physician and Research Fellow at St Mary's and Charing Cross Hospitals in London, and from 1996 until 1998 at Princess Margaret Hospital (now Perth Children's Hospital).

Joining ASCIA in 1996, William has been a valued member of the Executive since 2009. He is now President. He has also been Chair of the ASCIA Skin Prick Testing and Chair of the Immunotherapy Working Parties. In these roles he has been responsible for developing important manuals and guidelines for medical practitioners and other health professionals.

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**Associate Professor Kymble Spriggs** MBBS MPH (Harvard) MRCP(UK) DTMH(Lon) FRACP  
VIC, Australia

Dr Kymble Spriggs is a Consultant Physician, Specialist Allergist & Immunologist and a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne. Dr Spriggs graduated from the University of Melbourne Medical School in 2000 and commenced specialist training in London. There he attained Membership of the Royal College of Physicians and completed a Diploma of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Upon returning to Australia in 2009 Dr Spriggs completed his Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians at both the Alfred & Royal Melbourne Hospitals sub-specialising in Allergy and Clinical Immunology. He completed his Master of Public Health (MPH) at the Harvard School of Public Health, in the United States, with focus on Clinical Trial Design, Epidemiology, and research into determinants of allergic disease.

Kymble is especially interested in hayfever, and bee venom immunotherapy, as well as the diagnosis & management of food allergy. He is a member of ASCIA and is actively involved in developments in international practice and is a member of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) and the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (EACCI). He has been elected to the European Academy's Board for Insect Venom Hypersensitivity.

Dr Spriggs has an ongoing involvement in clinical education as a clinical skills coach at the University of Melbourne and is Clinical Lead for the State Centre for Insect Venom Immunotherapy at Monash Health. He has active research collaborations with the Melbourne Pollen Count, and is a principal investigator in Allergic Rhinitis/Hay Fever and Asthma research at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

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**Caroline South** BND  
SA, Australia

Caroline South has been working at the Women's & Children's Hospital, Adelaide, SA since January 2011. She is currently working in the areas of allergy & intolerance, enteral feeding and diet therapy for epilepsy (Ketogenic & Modified Atkins Diet (MAD)). She is part of a multi-disciplinary allergy/gastro clinic seeing patients with conditions such as Eosinophilic Oesophagitis and involved in phase 3 of the Probiotic and Peanut Oral Immunotherapy (PPOIT) trial.

Caroline recently began her own private work in 2018 practising at Allergy SA.

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**Dr Doug Taupin** MBBS PhD  
ACT, Australia

Dr Doug Taupin is senior staff specialist in Gastroenterology and Hepatology at The Canberra Hospital. He trained in gastroenterology at Canberra Hospital and Western Hospital then was the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation Research Fellow at the centre for study of inflammatory bowel disease, Massachusetts General Hospital. His clinical research interests are in the genetics of colorectal cancer and management of inflammatory sarcopenia.

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**Prof Frank Thien** MD FRACP FCCP  
VIC, Australia

Professor Frank Thien is Director of the Department of Respiratory Medicine at Eastern Health, Box Hill Hospital, Monash University, Eastern Health Clinical School, Melbourne. He has research interests in severe asthma, drug allergy, interstitial lung disease, and functional lung imaging. He is

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# ASCIA2018 Bios - other speakers

the current President of the Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APAAACI).

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**Deryn Thompson** SRN BN MNg MBNDG MADNA  
SA, Australia

Deryn Thompson is a registered nurse and lecturer at University of South Australia (UniSA). She has been involved with Allergy nursing for nearly 30 years and has a special interest in Eczema and patient education, with her current PhD project focussing in this area.

Deryn developed and teaches the Professional Certificate of Allergy Nursing at UniSA and has a nurse-directed eczema clinic at the Women's and Children's Health Network. She is an associate member of ASCIA (since 2001), and a member of the Australian Dermatology Nurses Association and British Dermatology Nurses Group. She has local and international publications related to eczema management and patient education.

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**Sandra Vale** BSc Cert IV TAE  
WA, Australia

Sandra Vale was the ASCIA Education Officer from 2010 up until mid-2016. In this role, Sandra worked with ASCIA members, ASCIA staff and stakeholder organisations to develop ASCIA e-training resources and information for health professionals, patients, consumers and carers. Previous to 2010 Sandra worked as a public health nutritionist.

Since 2014 Sandra also worked on the development of the first National Allergy Strategy for Australia, a collaboration between ASCIA, Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia and key stakeholders.

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**Carolina Valerio** BANurs BAHlthSc  
NSW, Australia

Carolina Valerio has been working in the field of Allergy & Immunology for 8 years. She is the Research Clinical Nurse Consultant at The Children's Hospital at Westmead where she oversees and coordinates numerous clinical trials.

Carolina has a special interest in Eosinophilic Oesophagitis and adolescents with food allergy.

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**Associate Professor Sheryl van Nunen** MBBS MM FRACP  
NSW, Australia

Sheryl van Nunen is Senior Staff Specialist, Department of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, Royal North Shore Hospital and Clinical Associate Professor, Northern Clinical School, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney. She first described the association between mammalian meat anaphylaxis after tick bites (2007).

A/Prof van Nunen has over 150 publications (78% as first author) and has been the Principal Investigator in clinical trials of 75% of all therapies introduced to Australia for allergic diseases during her 40 year career. In 2013, she convened the TiARA (Tick-induced Allergies Research and Awareness) Committee. Her research interests comprise mammalian meat anaphylaxis after tick bite, tick-induced anaphylaxis and pharmacogenetic risk factors in severe cutaneous drug reactions in Vietnamese.

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# ASCIA2018 Bios - other speakers

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## **Professor Versshelt PhD**

WA, Australia

Prof V. Verhasselt, Chair in Human Lactology, is a full time academic in the School of Molecular Science at University of Western Australia (UWA). She trained as a Medical Doctor (1992), pursued a specialisation in Internal Medicine (2000) and gained a PhD in Immunology (1999), from the Universite Libre de Bruxelles, ULB, Belgium. In 2008, she obtained a tenured researcher position at Institut National de la Santé Et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM, France) and founded a team on Immune Tolerance at the Hopital de l'Archet (Nice, France) in 2012. In 2017, she was appointed the Larsson-Rosenquist Chair in Human Lactology at UWA, the first in the world, in recognition of her leading role in research on breastfeeding.

The focus of the translational and multi-disciplinary research of V. Verhasselt's group is the understanding of mechanisms driving immune ontogeny and long-term health. She is internationally renowned for her pioneering works on the induction of immune tolerance through breastmilk for allergy prevention including publication in Nature Medicine in 2008. Her contributions in this area have already fed the rationale for testing novel concepts of allergy prevention in human birth cohorts such as intervention trials assessing whether maternal allergen consumption during breastfeeding could prevent allergy.

She is the author of 45 peer-reviewed original research and review publications that have been cited 2400 times and published in highly ranked peer-reviewed international journals including Nature Medicine, Lancet Infectious Disease, Gut, Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. The French Académie Nationale de Médecine (2012) and Académie des Sciences (2008) have acknowledged her major contribution in the field of prevention of allergy through maternal milk.

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## **Dr Brynn Wainstein MBChB PhD FRACP**

NSW, Australia

Dr Wainstein is a paediatric immunologist and allergist. He is a staff specialist at Sydney Children's Hospital and in private practice in Sydney. He gained fellowship of the RACP in 2005 and undertook training in clinical immunology at Sydney Children's Hospital. He cares for children with allergic disease, immune deficiency and inflammatory disorders. His main research interests are in the area of food allergy and anaphylaxis.

Dr Wainstein holds a PhD from UNSW on the diagnosis and prediction of peanut anaphylaxis. He has authored or co-authored over 20 peer reviewed articles. Dr Wainstein is a Senior Conjoint Lecturer at UNSW, the past Chair of the MAB of Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia and current president elect of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy. He has served as the paediatric representative on the Immunology and Allergy JSAC of the RACP. Dr Wainstein is also a member of the steering committee for the National Allergy Strategy (NAS) and is co-chair of the NAS Care Working Group. He is a co-investigator on the NHMRC funded Centre for Food Allergy Research (CFAR).

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## **Anastasia Wilson RN**

ACT, Australia

Anastasia Wilson works at the Centre for Personalised Immunology, ANU, and Immunology and Translational Research, The Canberra Hospital. She has been working as a research nurse for Professor Matthew Cook's "discovery" program since 2005. In 2013, she was seconded to develop and implement the SCIg program for ACT Health, the first in Australia under the NBA's framework. In

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# ASCIA2018 Bios - other speakers

between her research role and clinical practice as SCIg coordinator, she has been the meat in the sandwich.

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**Dr Melanie Wong** MBBS(Hons) PhD FRACP FRCPA  
NSW, Australia

Dr Melanie Wong is a Paediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy Specialist, co-Head of Department, Allergy and Clinical Immunology at the Children's Hospital Westmead.

Her clinical and research interests include all aspects of primary immunodeficiencies (PIDs), including newborn screening, genetic testing, collecting data on a register and transplantation and she has published many studies in this area.

Joining ASCIA in 2001, Dr Wong has been a member of the ASCIA Council since 2006 and is an active member of the ASCIA Immunodeficiency committee. She is the immediate past ASCIA President (2014-2016), Chair of advanced training in Clinical Immunology and Allergy for the RACP and Chair of the Allergy and Immunology Foundation of Australasia (AIFA).

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**Dr Giovanni Zurzolo** BSc (Hons) PhD  
VIC, Australia

Dr Giovanni Zurzolo is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Chronic Disease, College of Health and Biomedicine, Victoria University.

Dr Giovanni Zurzolo gained his Bachelor of Biomedical Science from Victoria University. He then did a year of honours with the University, based at Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI). During his honours year he investigated the prevalence of sesame allergy. Giovanni then went on to examine the benefit of precautionary food labels to complete his PhD.