an announcement from the editors

The journal and mouthpiece of the Allergy Society of South Africa, *Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology*, has been published 4 times every year for the last 26 years. From relatively humble and small beginnings, initially under the guidance of the Founding Editor, Professor Paul Potter, it has evolved into a publication that has been carefully nurtured by succeeding editors over the years to ensure that it remains relevant and true to its mission. The objectives for the journal have always been to serve as a medium to reflect current local and global practices, publish guidelines and review specific subjects in the field of allergology. In this regard, it has remained, first and foremost, a publication to educate and equip practitioners in our emerging and developing geographical region to keep up to date and to be aware of the very latest current thinking and changes in our multidisciplinary field. It has consequently become a publication which functions elegantly as a continuing medical education offering, and is especially tailored to be relevant and appropriate to the needs and practicalities of our own geographic priorities within the realities of our developing medical system. Our practice of appointing guest editors in their respective areas of expertise has ensured that each issue contains a set of topics and guidelines in one or other discipline, which can serve as a practical reference point for referral in any clinical situation.

While the journal has remained true to its mission in this regard, the recent ASSAf (Academy of Science of South Africa) working group on academic publications has urged us to begin including also articles of original research and basic science. We are receiving an increasing number of such articles from areas outside of our borders, many from the Middle East and elsewhere, which we will publish as recommended by our stringent review process. Nevertheless, we will remain true to our primary objective, to function as a review and continuing medical education resource. Also of interest is that we have narrowed our publication policy for clinical immunology to include only articles where the clinical immunology is related in some way to the allergic response. We have increasingly been receiving submissions of esoteric aspects of pure immunology which would deviate from our core objectives. We continue to examine the possibilities and imperatives brought about by the electronic revolution, and we predict that our journal will also evolve and embrace new instruments and formats which will incorporate the best in electronic media, and will keep abreast in making sure that our offering will optimally reach as many of our readers as modern technology allows.

Finally, our readers will have noted that the format and presentation of the journal has gone through a number of iterations regarding the style, print fonts, size, layout and design during the past 6 months. The Editors have become acutely aware that, as user-friendly as the old format was, the world is changing rapidly, as are the newer styles of print publications. Through a very well-defined and structured process, a working group has created a totally new-look journal, which you now have in your hands. It will take time to get used to, we are sure, but we are confident that the new look now embodies the very best elements in design and presentation which is the hallmark of other current scientific journals. Our sincere thanks go to all of our colleagues who have contributed to this process this year, especially to our Production Editor, Anne Hahn, who has tirelessly embraced our many suggestions for change, and who has then effectively implemented new processes to create what we believe is a huge step forward. We are similarly indebted to Phoenix Design, who have been the creative force behind the changes, presenting us with innumerable options during the course of this adventure.

We believe that the journal has entered a new era. The interest for authors to submit articles for critical review and publication has reached an unprecedented level, the articles which are published are of the highest academic value and the journal can look with confidence and pride at its sister publications, knowing that it can take its place among the best in its genre. We continue to be enormously grateful to all of our sponsors and advertisers from the pharmaceutical and other allergy-related industries, without whose support, the journal would not exist.

We hope that you will continue to enjoy receiving your copy every quarter!

**Professor Eugene Weinberg**  
**Professor Matthias Haus**  
Co-Editors: *Current Allergy & Clinical Immunology*