

## 5. Managing the Emerging Epidemic of Food Allergy

### Presenter Biographies

#### **Alison Lang, BSc Dietetics Post Grad Dip Dietetics**

Alison has practiced almost exclusively in clinical paediatric dietetics for the last 20 years in both the UK and South Africa. She has been involved in a number of research projects in paediatric allergy including the initial phases of LEAP study at Imperial College, enteral nutrition for Crohns disease at Chelsea and Westminster in London, formulas for necrotizing enterocolitis in preterm infants and carbohydrate loads in diabetic children at Wits Donald Gordon. Alison was part of the working group compiling Paediatric food allergy guidelines for South Africa and has been on the advisory group for Paediatric TPN in our country. She is currently practicing at Wits DGMC where she offers a service to the paediatric gastroenterology, oncology and liver transplant team. She also consults to the neonatal unit at Parklane hospital.

#### **Marion Groetch MS, RD**

Marion Groetch, MS, RD is the Director of Nutrition Services at the Jaffe Food Allergy Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. As a recognized authority on the dietary and nutritional management of food allergy, Marion is a frequent invited lecturer at major allergy and immunology national and international conferences, has contributed significantly to academic research, and has developed and chaired numerous online courses and multiday food allergy conferences with the goal of educating dietitians and other health care professionals in the management of food allergy. Marion serves on the Medical Advisory Board of the International Association for Food Protein Enterocolitis (IAFFE), is the Chair of the International Network of Dietitians and Nutritionists in Allergy (INDANA), and plays an active role in both the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the European Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology where for almost 15 years she has collaborated with other health care professionals and patient advocacy groups in her quest to improve the lives of families living with food allergy.

#### **Carina Venter PhD, RD**

Dr. Venter is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Section of Allergy/Immunology at the Children's Hospital Colorado and University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, where she is conducting research in allergy prevention and working with children with food allergies. She is the past chair of the International Network of Dietitians and Nutritionists in Allergy, and a member of the American Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (AAAAI), American College of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (ACAAI), European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and the British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI). She is a registered dietitian in the United Kingdom, United States and South Africa. She has had publications in international journals, book chapters and edited a book on Food Hypersensitivity. She moved from the UK in 2015 where she had been performing research into allergy prevention and prevention. She is a member of the EAACI food allergy guidelines on Allergy Prevention and was a member of the as Diagnosis and Management of Food Allergy guidelines. She was also a member of the NICE (UK) food allergy guidelines. She was appointed to the expert panel of the National Institutes for Allergy and Infectious Diseases Peanut Allergy Prevention Guidelines.

#### **Vicki McWilliams**

Dr Vicki McWilliam is a clinical dietitian and researcher at the Royal Children's Hospital/Murdoch Children Research Institute in Melbourne Australia. Vicki is a member of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and a past chair of the Dietitians Committee. She is a member of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical immunology (EAACI) and an Advanced Accredited Practising Dietitian member of the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA).

Vicki's expertise in food allergy sees her involved in clinical management of families with food allergy, teaching and training, resource development and food allergy management within foodservice. She has presented her work at several national and international conferences and has numerous peer reviewed publications. Her research interest is

Vicki's research interest is developing and initiating clinical trials that aim to improve food allergy management and treatment for patients and families.

### **Rosan Meyer PhD, RD**

Rosan completed her degree in Dietetics in South Africa and specialised in paediatric nutrition in the UK. In 2004, she finished her Masters in Paediatric Nutrition and in 2008 her PhD at Imperial College London. She has a busy paediatric dietetic practice specialising in food allergy, feeding difficulties and growth in London.

She is currently module leader for the MSc Module on Food Hypersensitivity at Imperial College London, and is honorary senior lecturer in paediatrics at the same university. She is also visiting Professor at KU Leuven, Belgium, on their MSc on Swallow Disorders. She is the chair of the European Section of the International Network for Diet and Allergy, secretary of the Allied Health and Primary Care Interest Group of EAACI and member of several EAACI task forces on food allergy.

### **Merryn Netting BSc BND PhD AdvAPD**

Merryn is an Advanced Accredited Practising Dietitian and NHMRC Early Career Health Practitioner Fellow based at Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute. Merryn serves on the Australian National Allergy Strategy Steering Committee. Her research is focused on improving dietary management of food allergy management and infant feeding for allergy prevention.

### **Dr Isabel Skypala PhD, RD**

Isabel qualified as a dietitian in 1979, gained a post-graduate diploma in Allergy in 2003 and a PhD from Kings College London in 2009. In 2014, Isabel became the first consultant allergy dietitian in the UK, responsible for running adult food allergy clinics and the food challenge service. Isabel is also the Food Allergy module co-leader on the Allergy MSc at Imperial College, London. She lectures at international level, has authored many peer-reviewed papers and her current research interests include plant food allergy, food allergy diagnostics, and allergic gastrointestinal disorders. Isabel was the founder and first chair of the Food Allergy Specialist Group of the British Dietetic Association and first dietetic representative on the Council of the British Society of Allergy & Clinical Immunology (BSACI). She was also a founder member of the International Network for Diet and Nutrition in Allergy (INDANA), and the Allied Health Interest Group of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI). Her promotion of the allergy speciality led to Isabel being the first allied health professional to receive the William Frankland award from the BSACI, in recognition of her services to clinical allergy.

### **Berber Vlieg-Boerstra, RD, PhD**

Berber is an allergy specialist dietitian who has been working in her own private practice in the field of food allergy since 1987, managing patients of all ages and with IgE mediated and non-IgE mediated food allergies. Her scientific career started in 2001 at the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG), where she did her PhD on double-blind, placebo-controlled food challenges in children. Since then she has been working as a senior research dietitian. Currently she is affiliated to at the Paediatric Department of the Onze Lieve Vrouwe Gasthuis (OLVG) in Amsterdam and the Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Groningen, The Netherlands.

Topics of research include:

- food challenges in children and adults
- diet and nutrition in Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE)

- the efficacy of healthy, immune-enhancing diet in allergic disease
- food-derived microbes
- diet and the composition of breast milk in allergic mothers,

Berber is one of the founder members of the international Network for Diet and Nutrition in Allergy, INDANA.

She has given numerous national and international invited lectures and has more than 65 scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals.

**Raquel Durban MS, RD, CSP, LD/N**

Raquel is a registered dietitian at Asthma & Allergy Specialists, PA. She is board certificated in pediatric nutrition. In addition to ensuring her patient's quality of life through practical and appropriate nutrition, Raquel serves on the steering committee for the International Network for Diet and Nutrition in Allergy (INDANA) and is an active member of the American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology (AAAAI) as a member of the Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disorders and Adverse Reactions to Foods committees. Through these committees, she participates in education, research initiatives and academic publications. Additionally, Raquel is a medical advisor to the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Connection Team (FAACT) and the International FPIES Association (I-FPIES). To further her dedication and support to the food allergic community, she facilitates a support group for patients/caregivers with eosinophilic disorders, Charlotte Supports EOS. Raquel also has a love for teaching nutrition and is an adjunct professor for Winthrop University and co-creator of the INDANA mentor program helping to provide coursework and hands on education to budding dietitians.