

July 2008



Upcoming PAP Events:

- * October 1-3
PACHC clinical conference
- * October—Fall full
Partnership meeting

Know of any upcoming events? Send them to us! Contact Sara at SLewis@lunginfo.org

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Partners Sharing

Featured Partner...

Pennsylvania Alliance to Control Tobacco

The Pennsylvania Alliance to Control Tobacco (PACT) is a statewide coalition dedicated to strengthening tobacco control laws across the Commonwealth. PACT was founded in 2001 by the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and the American Lung Association to provide advocacy and education about tobacco control issues to all Pennsylvanians. Today, PACT works with local coalitions and national health organizations to educate the public and elected officials about clean indoor air, tobacco taxes, and other tobacco control issues critical to the Commonwealth.

PACT is currently focused on implementing the new clean indoor air legislation protecting all Pennsylvanians from the dangerous effects of secondhand smoke. PACT provides the most up-to-date information and resources to tobacco control advocates and policy makers; and continues to educate the public and elected officials about this public health issue.

Recently, PACT was charged with developing an implementation plan for clean indoor air in Pennsylvania. In conjunction with the American Lung Association of the Mid-Atlantic, PACT has written a comprehensive plan that will be applied immediately following the passage of clean indoor air legislation.

Secondhand smoke and tobacco have been proven for some individuals to trigger asthma attacks. According to the American Lung Association, "Smoke should not be allowed in the home of someone with asthma or allergies. Ask family members and friends to smoke outdoors. Suggest that they quit smoking." (<http://www.lungusa.org/site/pp.asp?c=dvLUK900E&b=22591>)

Fact sheets and other resources re-

garding secondhand smoke, clean indoor air, and other tobacco control issues are available on PACT's website, www.pactonline.org.

Join PACT now to become a vital part in making Pennsylvania a healthier place for all those who live and breathe in our beautiful state. To join go to www.pactonline.org/join.aspx or contact Jennifer Kulaga at JKulaga@LungInfo.org or 717-541-5864 ext 51.

Study Finds Asthma is Increasing in the U.S.

JOHN SULLIVAN
Philadelphia Inquirer

The number of Americans with asthma is on the rise, according to a new statistical analysis released this month by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

The study looked at data between 2000 and 2005 and found that the number of adults who were hospitalized and found to have asthma as a secondary condition increased by 113 percent, from about 753,800 to 1,609,200 people.

The number of people admitted to a hospital when asthma is the principal reason stayed about the same at 1.9 million.

Those in the Northeast were about 60 percent more likely to be hospitalized for asthma - or for another condition while also found to have asthma - than did those in the West.

And adults from poor communities were 63 percent more likely to be hospitalized for asthma than those from wealthier communities, according to the study.

In the United States, about 22.5 million people have been diagnosed with asthma, according to the AHRQ, with almost half being children. Most people with asthma also have allergies, according to the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute.

Upcoming Trainings...

- ◆ Open Airways for Schools (OAS) and Communities facilitator training SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!
- ◆ Nurse Asthma Care Education Seminar: A free program that trains nurses to provide the most up-to-date asthma care, Wednesday, July 9, 2008 1pm to 6pm at Philadelphia Health Management Corporation. Contact Erin McCarville at 215-731-6195 or mccarville@phmc.org
- ◆ Interactive HealthySEAT v2 Webinar: Learn how to download, install, customize, and use EPA's free Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool, Thursday, July 10, 2008 1:30pm to 3pm, register for Webinar at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/681806881>, for more information on HealthySEAT visit <http://www.epa.gov/schools/healthyseat>
- ◆ Nemacolin Asthma Conference: A Comprehensive Clinical and Research Review, September 19-21, 2008 at Nemacolin Woodlands Conference Center in Farmington, PA An online brochure will be available soon at www.aghcme.org
- ◆ The 6th Annual Conference on Children's Health and the Environment, September 18-19, 2008 at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman Quad, visit <http://www.gwu.edu/%7Emacche/philadelphiaconference08/> or email pehsu@gwu.edu for more information
- ◆ Asthma Camps 2008
 - ◆ July 12 at Bethlehem Township Community Center, contact Rachel at ratwood@lunginfo.org
 - ◆ July 16 9am to 4pm at Riverview Pavilion on City Island, contact Brandi at bdavenport@lunginfo.org
- ◆ For Your Good Health Asthma Camp Series
 - ◆ Bat For Your Good Health, July 12, contact Tim at (412) 359-4043
 - ◆ Shoot For Your Good Health, September 27, contact Tim at (412) 359-4043
 - ◆ SFU Asthma Basketball Camp, October 4 at Saint Francis University, Loretta PA, contact Tim at (412) 359-4043
 - ◆ Kick For Your Good Health, December 2008
- ◆ Walks For Life and Breath
 - ◆ Scranton Walk for Life and Breath kick-off, August 13, contact Donna at dreifler@lunginfo.org
 - ◆ Scranton Walk for Life and Breath October 4, contact Donna at dreifler@lunginfo.org
 - ◆ York Walk for Life and Breath Kick-Off Dinner – Friday, August 22nd at the York Revolution's Sovereign Stadium, beginning at 5:30 pm (reservations required), contact Amy at aczech@lunginfo.org
 - ◆ York Walk for Life and Breath – Saturday, October 4th at John Rudy County Park, 9:00 am registration-10:00 am walk begins, contact Amy at aczech@lunginfo.org
 - ◆ Harrisburg Walk for Life and Breath Kick-Off Luncheon— Wednesday, August 6th at Harrisburg Area Community College, 12pm to 1pm, contact Susan at seaton@lunginfo.org
 - ◆ Harrisburg Walk for Life and Breath—Saturday, October 12th on City Island, 12pm registration-1pm walk begins, contact Susan at seaton@lunginfo.org

Want your program announced here? Send it as you would like it printed to Sara at SLewis@lunginfo.org

Workgroup Update...

Executive Committee: On June 16th the Executive Committee met to discuss edits on the PAP Guidelines, the future direction of PAP and ideas for our next PAP meeting. Overall it is believed that choosing one overarching priority for all committees will help PAP to achieve more results within one year (mimicking PAC-NJ's Red Dot method).

Awareness/Education:

School Programs— This group has decided to contact colleges and universities across the state to see if education majors are taught how to handle an asthma attack in the classroom. The idea is to go into colleges and teach them how to administer medications and handle asthmatics within the classroom. Subcommittee will also contact local schools to offer any assistance school nurses may want (includes asthma 101 trainings, how to talk with parents, giving them materials, or in-service days as school). Presentations and/or marketing materials will be developed soon.

World Asthma Day — Completed and submitted listing of 2008 WAD programs to the EPA for additional publicity. Would like to complete public service announcements surrounding asthma issues. This will require either one state-wide spokesperson or smaller more local spokespeople. If you have any input into an individual willing to share their story or help our cause, please let Myka Diller know at mdiller@lunginfo.org.

Programs — Will continue to gather programs from around the state to add onto the program listing within www.PAasthma.org. Subcommittee is also debating the pros and cons of each direction which the group could take. Option 1 is to contact WIC program staff on a state-wide level to begin educating staff on asthma; so that they can teach and apply techniques in their daily client activities. Option 2 is to hold capacity building conferences, teaching areas of the state how to improve their work on asthma through networking and collaboration

Disparities: Fact sheet centered on disparities in asthma across PA has been approved. A press release was also developed for World Asthma Day. Both items were distributed to legislators through the Public policy workgroup. The PA Pediatric Asthma Toolkit is now being distributed slowly through the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers (PACHC). PACHC will try to include the toolkit within their fall clinical conference.

Environment/Workplace: An environmental fact sheet on asthma has been approved for use. Partnering with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to encourage proper pest control for asthmatics. A conference on Children's Health and the Environment will occur on September 18th in Philadelphia.

Providers: PAP's first ever Asthma Champion Conference was held June 19th. Six AMA PRA Category 1 CME credits were offered with this activity. The conference engaged medical professionals in quality asthma management per the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) and introduced successful asthma treatment and education techniques.

Public Policy: Completed a packet of educational information and hand-delivered the information to all Senators and Representatives within Pennsylvania. Workgroup also was able to get proclamations read in the Senate, the House of Representatives and a separate proclamation read by the Governor. All these tasks were completed on World Asthma Day to educate our legislators on asthma.

Surveillance: Continuing relationship with EPA and DOH data sharing and working on a hospitalization focus report which should be published sometime in July or August.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is inviting the public to submit written testimony to recommend health research priorities for the CURE Program for fiscal year '09-'10. Email ra-healthresearch@state.pa.us for a form to submit your opinions before July 18, 2008.

High Asthma Rates in Turtle Creek

By: The Tribune Review

Doctors at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh are discussing a new program to address high asthma rates among children in Turtle Creek.

The hospital's Division of General Academic Pediatrics -- using a \$10,000 grant obtained with the help of state Rep. Paul Costa, D-Wilkins -- has developed the Asthma Quality Improvement Program.

The first phase of the program included a study that found the prevalence of asthma in children served by Children's in Turtle Creek is 13 percent, twice the national average.

Children's physicians are creating and testing an asthma action plan aimed at improving the diagnosis and treatment of asthma, helping families meet National Institutes of Health guidelines to control asthma, and lessen the frequency and severity of exacerbations.

The EPA's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) established the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program (EJSG) in fiscal year (FY) 1994. The purpose of this grant program is to support and empower communities that are working on local solutions to local environmental and/or public health issues. The EJSG Program is designed to assist recipients in building collaborative partnerships that will help them understand and address the environmental and/or public health issues in their communities. Successful collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders involve well-designed strategic plans to build, maintain and sustain the partnerships, and to work towards addressing the local environmental and/or public health issues.

The American Respiratory Alliance launched *Asthma Answers at a Click* on May 6, 2008. It is an interactive web-based education program. *Asthma Answers at a Click* can be accessed by logging on to the American Respiratory Alliance website at www.healthylungs.org and clicking on the Asthma Answers logo located on the left side of the home page.



On May 28, 2008, the American Lung Association launched the **Expose Big Tobacco Photo Contest** in conjunction with the Lung Association's new application on Facebook -- <http://apps.facebook.com/healthylungs/>. The **Expose Big Tobacco Photo Contest** seeks the public's assistance in highlighting examples of how the tobacco companies target youth in this country. Preventing tobacco industry marketing to youth is one of the central tenets of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, the pending legislation that would give FDA authority to regulate the manufacture, distribution and marketing of tobacco products in this country.

Share the pictures you take of tobacco product advertisements by uploading your pictures via the **Healthy Lungs Application on Facebook**. The American Lung Association will choose the best photos and highlight them on Facebook and on our website at www.lungusa.org. The most egregious examples from the submitted photos will be picked and shared with Senators and House Members in making the case for FDA legislation to become law this spring. Winners will receive prizes from the American Lung Association.

To support schools and communities in creating asthma-friendly schools, CDC has released *Initiating Change: Creating an Asthma-Friendly School*, a toolkit developed to help advocates at the district and school levels persuade people in their schools and communities of the importance of asthma-friendly schools. The cornerstone of the toolkit is a 13-minute, inspirational video on *Creating an Asthma-Friendly School*. The toolkit also includes materials to help people plan and facilitate a showing of the video in their community or school, as well as science-based suggestions and tools for making their schools more asthma-friendly.

The toolkit and a link to a podcast of the video are now available on the CDC/DASH website at www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/asthma/creatingaifs. A link to an on-demand webinar on *Marketing Asthma-Friendly Schools* is also available at this site. The webinar provides information on how asthma advocates can use the video and toolkit to encourage people to make their schools more asthma-friendly.

You can order the video (in DVD format), a CD-ROM of all toolkit materials, or a hard copy of the toolkit (which includes the DVD and CD-ROM) by e-mailing cdcinfo@cdc.gov or by calling 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).



Join a Featured Online Discussion Today through the Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments Online Network

Featured Discussions are available to members of the Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments Online Network. This Network is offered at no cost and is open to all communities delivering quality asthma care.

Once you are a registered member of the Online Network, contributing to this online conversation is easy:

1. Log into the Network via the "Member Login" box at the top of any Network web page.
2. Access the Featured Discussion Forum from the Home Page or Left Navigation Bar.
3. Post your thoughts, strategies, or questions on the Forum.

CDC's Division of Adult and Community Health recently unveiled the "Community Health Resources Web site," a new database that can help you plan, implement, and evaluate community health initiatives that address chronic diseases and health disparities. The Web site serves as a single source for finding CDC's best web-based materials. The Web site features direct links to hundreds of resources, including program guidelines and recommendations, campaign materials, handbooks, fact sheets, evaluation frameworks, and behavioral and risk factor data, among other topics. To visit this website, go to www.cdc.gov/communityhealthresources.

ASTHMA IQ

An evidence-based online system for improving the way clinicians care for asthma patients was launched by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology.

Called ASTHMA IQ, the system is designed to walk physicians through the key components of new asthma management guidelines, said Thomas Casale, M.D., of Creighton in Omaha, the president of AAAAI. ASTHMA IQ is an acronym for Asthma Specialist Tool to Help Manage Asthma and Improve Quality.

Last November, the academy issued the Expert Panel Report-3, a wholesale revision of its official guidelines on asthma management derived from a blue-ribbon review of the evidence-based literature.

"If you develop guidelines and nobody implements them, you're not getting anywhere," Dr. Casale said. "I think this is the tool that will clearly help clinicians implement the recommendations from the guidelines, and ultimately result in greater cost efficiency and, most importantly, enhanced patient care."

The expert panel guidelines call for a six-step approach to assessing symptoms, reducing risk factors, selecting the most appropriate treatments, and educating patients.

ASTHMA IQ has essentially computerized the assessment and educational aspects of the expert panel guidelines. It helps physicians select target severity or control levels and initiate or adjust therapies based on the stepwise approach.

The system also provides graphical overviews of a patient's status and asthma history.

There is no fee for members to use the system, but registration requires a passcode provided by AAAAI. Dr. Casale said the academy was working with the American Thoracic Society and other groups, whose members frequently treat asthma patients to access ASTHMA IQ.

Physicians using ASTHMA IQ are guided through the guidelines' six steps as they input individual patient data in a series of on-screen forms.

After completing the forms, the system will provide feedback on whether a patient's disease is adequately controlled according to the AAAAI guidelines.

In addition, ASTHMA IQ provides online links to additional resources on asthma, such as patient education materials and the official guidelines.

Patient data entered into the system is housed in a secure, HIPAA-compliant centralized computer. It can therefore serve as a repository for highly detailed clinical data that researchers can use, after patient-identifying information is removed. AAAAI will own rights to aggregated data in the system.

ASTHMA IQ can be accessed at www.asthmaiq.org. Although registration and full access are currently available only to AAAAI members, information on how the system works and links to the revised asthma management guidelines is free to visitors.

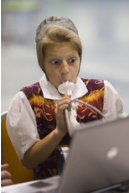
For the full article go to: <http://glclk.about.com/?zi=8/525g>

For more information on Asthma IQ you may contact Lauri Sweetman from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology at lsweetman@aaaai.org

New Asthma Gene Discovered

A tiny variation in a gene known as CHI3L1 increases susceptibility to asthma, bronchial hyperresponsiveness and decline in lung function, researchers report early online in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. (The printed version appeared in the April 17 issue). The gene variant causes increased blood levels of YKL-40, a biomarker for asthma. A slightly different version of the genetic variation lowers YKL-40 levels and protects against asthma.

Although the original discovery came from a study of a genetically isolated population, the Hutterites of South Dakota, the researchers were able to confirm the same connections between the CHI3L1 variations, YKL-40 levels and asthma susceptibility in three genetically diverse Caucasian populations from Chicago; Madison, Wisconsin; and Freiberg, Germany.



This gene, "may have important implications in the early identification of, susceptibility to, and prevention and treatment of asthma," said Elizabeth G. Nabel, M.D., director, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Ober and colleagues at the University of Chicago had long been searching for genetic factors that could influence the risk of common diseases, such as asthma. To simplify this quest, they have focused since 1994 on the Hutterites, a genetically isolated U.S. religious community descended from about 90 people. The Hutterites came to the United States in 1874 and settled in small communal farming colonies in what is now South Dakota. Today Hutterite communities are present in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Montana, Washington and Canada.

To read more on this topic go to: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=37211>

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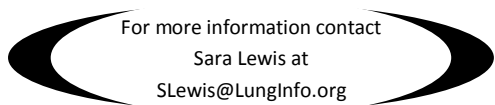
New Resources

- ◆ ATSDR Case Studies in Environmental Medicine: Environmental Triggers of Asthma, <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/asthma/>
- ◆ Video of new way to teach children to use their asthma medication, <http://www.webmd.com/video/asthma-medication-tips>
- ◆ How asthma affects your airways, <http://glck.about.com/?zi=8/506p>
- ◆ A new DVD entitled "Attack Asthma at Home: A Practical Approach to Asthma 'Trigger' Source Control and Prevention" has just been released by the Northwest Clean Air Agency. The video is 26 minutes in length and is currently downloadable from the Northwest Clean Air Agency website at <http://www.nwcleanair.org/>. Also available at the same link is the "Mold in Your Home: Causes, Prevention, Cleanup" DVD. Both DVD's will be available for download in Spanish very soon.
- ◆ Environmental Justice Grants, <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>
- ◆ To help allergy sufferers better understand and manage the condition, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America is offering a free educational brochure entitled "Eye Health and Allergies." The brochure can be viewed or downloaded www.aafa.org.
- ◆ Children's Environmental Health Disparities Fact Sheets from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (Found at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/publications2.htm#2>)
 - Children's Environmental Health Disparities: Black and African American Children and Asthma
 - Children's Environmental Health Disparities: Black and African American Children and Secondhand Smoke
 - Children's Environmental Health Disparities: Hispanic and Latino American Children and Asthma
 - Children's Environmental Health Disparities: Hispanic and Latino American Children and Secondhand Smoke

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The Pennsylvania Asthma Partnership (PAP) is the joining together of all individuals interested in reducing the asthma burden throughout Pennsylvania. Partners work on short, medium and long-term outcomes, that when implemented can be measured. The ultimate goal is to decrease asthma morbidity, mortality, and costs to increase the quality of life for those with asthma. Partners participate in workgroups such as: Surveillance/Evaluation; Environment/Workplace; Awareness/Education; Provider; Disparities; and Public Policy. Workgroups move towards achieving the goals within the 2006 Pennsylvania Asthma Action Plan. Membership is free and open to anyone.

The Pennsylvania Asthma Partnership is a collaboration between the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the American Lung Association. This collaboration is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For your own copy of the 2006 Pennsylvania Asthma Action Plan please visit www.health.state.pa.us.

Have an interesting article you'd like featured in the newsletter? Let us know! Send a copy to Sara at SLewis@lunginfo.org

A publication resulting from the 2006 workshop on children's inhalation dosimetry and health effects for risk assessment, is now available online. The purpose of the workshop was to 1) review existing and emerging information on issues related to children's inhalation dosimetry and health effects for risk assessment, and 2) explore and discuss new approaches for children's inhalation risk assessment practice.

This special issue of the Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health (volume 71, number 3) is available at <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=g788765199~db=all>

The American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) is pleased to invite members of asthma and COPD coalitions to attend the 10th Annual ACCP Community Asthma and COPD Coalitions Symposium, Wednesday and Thursday, October 29 and 30, 2008, during CHEST 2008 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This year's highlights:

- **Asthma in American Cities Project**
- **Environmental Tobacco Smoke: How to Reduce Exposure**
- **Developing State Plans and Coalitions for COPD**
- **How to Reach Local Media**

For more information on the conference or scholarships available email Beth Corey at bcorey@chestnet.org

The NEW PAP website has been launched!!!

It can be found at www.PAasthma.org

Featured within the site are partnership activities, consumer education, practitioner tools, and MUCH MORE!!!!

BE SURE TO CHECK IT OUT!!!