

October 2014

October

It is only October and already I heard rumors that those nasty white flakes were spotted in this morning's sky. We are just ending the allergy season here in the Midwest and now we have to start thinking about that white horror of winter knocking on our doors and taking our breath away. Let's face it, cold air-induced bronchospasm is just not that much fun. It sometimes seems that for every trigger there is a season and a seasonal challenge to every purposeful asthma educator. If outdoor pollen and mold spore concentrations drop off after the first frost, we can always turn more of our attention to those indoor triggers like mold, dust mites, cockroaches, second-hand smoke and on and on.

Hang in there, we'll get through this together. Dedication and knowledgeable asthma management will only make us stronger, and healthier. Working in the field of asthma education is not for sissies. If you weren't smart enough, or tough enough, or determined enough, you wouldn't be here in the first place. There is no doubt that you are up to the challenges that asthma education thrusts upon you. Now it is time for us as the asthma community to take on the challenge of reimbursement for home visits and asthma education. Instead of worrying about a winter of our discontent, we need focus on the glorious spring of asthma education.

NAECB Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our latest scholarship winners! This group of scholarship recipients represents a wide range of medical and health care professions. We are excited about this excellent crop of candidates, and look forward to welcoming new additions to the certified asthma educator family.

Kristen Allen RRT LA

Beatriz Cornelius MD TX

Lynne Valente RN NJ

Suzan Warford RRT MA

Haley Grogg RRT WV

Wendy Carter RRT FL

Malinda Collins RN NY

Amanda Odom LPN FL

Sandi Roberts RRT MS

Kathleen MacLean RN NY

Sheila Schuety RRT IA

Sara Hodgen RN CA

Penny Lewis RN RI

Melissa Lo ARNP WA

Asthma Risk in Health Workers

Researchers at the University of Texas Health Science Center at the School of Public Health found that though asthma prevalence is growing across the United States, certain occupational groups are more affected than others, including those in the health care field. Approximately 7.3% of nurses developed asthma after entering the health care field. Between 4.2% and 5.6 % of doctors, respiratory therapists and occupational therapists developed asthma after they began careers. The researchers determined that the use of certain liquid medical disinfections may significantly increase asthma risk in the health care professionals. Aerosolized medications and the powder from latex gloves also increase asthma risk. More information is available at:

<http://www.Uhouston.edu>

Links Between Unventilated Gas Stoves and Childhood Asthma

Researchers at Oregon State University have found an association between the use of gas stoves without venting and asthma symptoms and chronic bronchitis. The study showed that children who lived in homes where ventilation was used when cooking with gas stoves were 32% less likely to have asthma than children who lived in homes where mechanical ventilation was not used. Bronchitis and wheezing rates were also much higher in homes without ventilated gas stoves. Researchers suggested that future health surveys include questions about gas stoves and ventilation use.

<https://www.oregonstate.edu>

Time Magazine: The Link Between Asthma and This Chemical

Bisphenol A, or BPA, lurks in the plastics of all kinds of consumer goods, from can linings to plastic bottles - but its influence doesn't end with the product. BPA is an endocrine disruptor that can leach into food and is linked to all kinds of health problems from aggression to obesity. Now, a

new study published in JAMA Pediatrics finds that prenatal exposure to BPA is also linked to lower lung capacity in some young children.

<http://time.com/3475859/bpa-lung-function-children/>

JAMA Pediatrics article is at:

<http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1913573>

Note: Lead author Adam Spanier used to be with the EPA Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit satellite in Cincinnati

Asthma in the News

Asthma Risk Varies With Ethnic Ancestry Among Latinos

Native American ancestry is associated with a lower asthma risk, but African ancestry is associated with a higher risk, according to the largest-ever study of how genetic variation influences asthma risk in Latinos, in whom both African and Native American ancestry is common.

<http://tinyurl.com/mldenef>

ED Acute Asthma Care Quality Differed by Guideline Recommendation

Researchers analyzed data from three multicenter observational studies of 4,039 adult patients aged 18 to 54 years with asthma exacerbation in 48 emergency departments (EDs), investigating the changes in concordance of asthma exacerbation management in the EDs with 2007 NIH guidelines.

<http://tinyurl.com/qaa93ww>

Uncontrolled Asthma Linked with Negative ICS Beliefs in Urban Cohort

Researchers found that negative inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) beliefs and complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) endorsement were common and associated with uncontrolled asthma, and that their self-administered questionnaire might be a leveraging tool to change the content of communication during clinic visits.

<http://tinyurl.com/kwgr4vo>

EPA Burn Wise - Tools Encourage Best Burn Tips

To help reduce wood smoke in your area, share these tools with local media, partners and others to promote on social media, websites and newsletters.

<http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/>

Someone You Should Know: Rory Johnson, Pharm.D., AE-C

Rory Johnson, a pharmacist with the Veteran's Administration in Helena, Montana, won the "Excellence in Innovation Award" during the Montana Pharmacy Association's business meeting in May. This award, sponsored by Upsher-Smith Laboratories, recognizes and honors a qualified pharmacist who has demonstrated significant innovation in their respective practice to improve patient care in their state. Rory is a Certified Asthma Educator (AE-C) and has the distinction of serving as a pharmacist on the National Asthma Education Certification Board (NAECB). In all, Rory is and always has been, a tremendous patient advocate and an ambassador for the pharmacy profession. Rory was born and raised in Helena, Montana, and attended Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, and Carroll College in Helena, MT, for undergraduate work. He went on to the University of Montana where he received his Pharm.D. in 2006.

He initially became interested in asthma in 2010 when a colleague from the University of Montana approached him with a grant she had received from The Montana Asthma Control Program. She proposed they use the independent retail pharmacy where he was working as a site for the grant. He states "Retail pharmacies are ideal locations for identifying patients overusing quick-relief medications, underusing inhaled corticosteroids (ICS), and those with poor inhalation technique." He found a critical need was to identify patients with poorly controlled asthma,

but who did not have the tools/programs in place to properly address their needs, and also to educate patients about their asthma. The grant provided the perfect opportunity to do so. Since becoming an AE-C, he has worked with the University of Montana to develop and expand the "Pharmacist Managed Asthma Program." Rory strongly feels that every retail pharmacy should have at least one pharmacist on staff who holds the AE-C credential.

Rory is active in his local community working as a volunteer for Camp Huff N Puff as well as The Student Advocated for Valuing the Environmental Foundation. He takes full advantage of the beautiful Montana outdoors by rafting, fly fishing, playing soccer, downhill skiing, and gardening.

NAECB Newsletter Editors:

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Helpful Links

[Exam Info And Registration](#)

[Review Classes](#)

[Candidate Handbook](#)

[FAQ's](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

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Promoting Excellence in Asthma Education

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