

# INTERNATIONAL STUDY OF ASTHMA AND ALLERGIES IN CHILDHOOD

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## NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2006

Dear ISAAC Colleagues and friends,

The year is galloping along at a fast pace and although this newsletter was planned for July, it is now an August issue. It is shorter than some have been and we always welcome contributions to this newsletter from any ISAAC collaborator.

The European Respiratory Society ERS/ISAAC Collaborators Function will be on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2006 in Munich, Germany. We are very grateful to Stephan Weiland and Erika von Mutius who will host this Collaborators Function. Please see page 4 for further details.

The data checks for the last remaining Phase Three B centres are nearly completed with only a few to finalise. Philippa has completed all the Centre Report methodology checks (and is celebrating). Both Philippa and Tadd would like to extend their grateful thanks to everyone who has assisted them in their task. Your co-operation has been very much appreciated! For the few centres that are yet to finish the data checks, we would really like to get these completed. Urgent communication with the IIDC is vital if these centres are to be included in the worldwide papers.

Talking of which, the Phase Three worldwide timetrends publications are in preparation and are being circulated to all the Phase Three collaborators for comment, prior to submission for publication. The worldmap papers will follow soon after. We are delighted to have such an enthusiastic and high calibre group of ISAAC collaborators.

In the December edition of the ISAAC newsletter we will bring you the highlights from the seventeenth annual Steering Committee meeting which will be held in Santiago, Chile, hosted by our Regional Coordinator from Latin America, Professor Javier Mallol.

On behalf of the ISAAC Steering Committee I wish you well.

Warm wishes

*Innes Asher*

Professor Innes Asher ONZM

On behalf of the ISAAC International Data Centre and Steering Committee

**STOP PRESS:** The first of these publications is In Press in the Lancet, 26 August. Note that all PI's and National Coordinators of the Phase Three A centres are co-authors in this publication.

“Worldwide time trends in the prevalence of symptoms of asthma, allergic rhinoconjunctivitis, and eczema in childhood: ISAAC Phases One and Three repeat multicountry cross-sectional surveys”  
Innes Asher, Stephen Montefort, Bengt Björkstén, Christopher Lai, David Strachan, Stephan Weiland, Hywel Williams, and the ISAAC Phase Three Study Group.

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## ISAAC Profile

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Professor Ross Anderson  
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**Professor Ross Anderson**



Ross Anderson is Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at St George's, University of London. After qualifying in Medicine in Melbourne he worked as a doctor and in medical research in Papua New Guinea for a number of years. It during this time that he became interested in asthma, which at that time in Papua New Guinea was notable for its rarity in children. He then went to the UK where he first worked at the Medical Research Council Pneumoconiosis Unit and then went on to complete a masters in epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In 1976 he was appointed to an academic post at St George's where he has remained ever since with a research interest in respiratory diseases and the health effects of air pollution. He is a founding member of the ISAAC Steering Committee and has been national coordinator for the UK ISAAC studies for all Phases.

# Congratulation's to David Barry QSO



David Barry QSO seen here on the right receiving in 2005 the “Asthma and Respiratory Foundation of New Zealand's 40th anniversary medal” for services to children with asthma, and for services to the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation of New Zealand.

*We now congratulate you on your Queens Service Order received in the 2006 New Zealand Queens Birthday Honours awards.*

# Congratulation's to our very own ISAAC Lancet paper

The International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) Steering Committee. Worldwide variation in the prevalence of symptoms of asthma, allergic rhinoconjunctivitis, and atopic eczema: ISAAC. [Lancet](#) 1998; 351(9111): 1225-32.

This paper has had 1020 citations to July 2006 (see publications list)



Munich - Germany

# ISAAC International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood

## European Respiratory Society

### Munich, Germany 2-6 September 2006

You are warmly invited to an ISAAC social gathering on Monday 4th September 2006. Please see the details below.

This year two of our Steering Committee members, Professor Stephan Weiland, (also Phase Two coordinator) and Professor Erika von Mutius, will host the Collaborators Function in Munich. They look forward to meeting as many of you who are able to attend this function.

For catering purposes, we would be grateful if you could contact Philippa Ellwood from the IIDC if you intend to attend this Function.

Kind regards

Innes Asher, Chair of ISAAC

#### ISAAC COLLABORATORS RECEPTION

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2006, 17.00 – 19.00**

#### **Congress Room 22A**

The International Congress Centre, Munich (ICM)  
Messegelände, Munich, Germany D-81823

**Munich, Germany**

RSVP Philippa Ellwood: [p.ellwood@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:p.ellwood@auckland.ac.nz)

## Poem from the book titled “Sing Song”

Author Anne Kennedy, New Zealand.

This poem follows **I am (1)**, published with kind permission from the author in the  
ISAAC March 2006 Newsletter

### **I Am (2)**

For the first couple of hours she doesn't  
cry, she scratches a certain place  
as if her life depended on it  
then seizes on a new place that was itchy before but she didn't  
have time to scratch it  
she was too busy with the first place.  
Her life didn't depend on it, she just  
knows how to prioritise, she's a good  
manager, has a tight schedule, an electronic  
diary, she's in demand, new branches  
springing up all over the show.  
See, there's a place that's even more itchy  
and she tears into it with her amazing energy.  
She will give it her all. And so it goes on  
and she scratches herself into existence  
and her little body is wracked.  
After two hours she cries.  
She's had it. She's had it.

They're all squashed in there  
baby scratching and crying  
mother smoothing and cooing  
father sleeping, holy family.

One night the mother cries too  
and the tears fall on the two-year-old  
who looks up and says, Don't cry  
Mummy, so the mother quickly dries her tears  
which were cried for the girl, of course  
but the girl doesn't need them  
they sting.

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## ISAAC Phase One Publications

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### **Professor Neil Pearce**

ISAAC Phase One Publications Coordinator  
ISAAC Executive and Steering Committee  
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#### **1.0 Preliminary Papers**

- 1.1 ISAAC Phase One Manual. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Auckland and Münster: ISAAC Steering Committee, 1993.
- 1.2 Pearce NE, Weiland S, Keil U, Langridge P, Anderson HR, Strachan D, Bauman A, Young L, Gluyas P, Ruffin D, Crane J, Beasley R. Self-reported prevalence of asthma symptoms in children in Australia, England, Germany and New Zealand: an international comparison using the ISAAC written and video questionnaires. *Eur Resp J* 1993; 6: 1455-61. [207 citations to July 2006]
- 1.3 Asher I, Keil U, Anderson HR, Beasley R, Crane J, Martinez F, Mitchell EA, Pearce N, Sibbald B, Stewart AW, Strachan D, Weiland SK, Williams HC. International study of asthma and allergies in childhood (ISAAC): rationale and methods. *Eur Resp J* 1995; 8: 483-91. [578 citations to July 2006]

#### **2.0 Main Findings**

- 2.1 Strachan D, Sibbald B, Weiland S, Ait-Khaled N, Anabwani G, Anderson HR, Asher MI, Beasley R, Björkstén B, Burr M, Clayton T, Crane J, Ellwood P, Keil U, Lai C, Mallol J, Martinez F, Mitchell E, Montefort S, Pearce N, Robertson C, Shah J, Stewart A, Von Mutius E, Williams H. Worldwide variations in prevalence of symptoms of allergic rhinoconjunctivitis in children: The International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC). *Paediatric Allergy Immunology* 1997; 8: 161-76. [147 citations to July 2006]
- 2.2 ISAAC Steering Committee (Writing Committee: Beasley R, Keil U, Von Mutius E, Pearce N). Worldwide variation in prevalence of symptoms of asthma, allergic rhinoconjunctivitis and atopic eczema: ISAAC. *Lancet* 1998; 351: 1225-32. [1020 citations to July 2006]
- 2.3 Williams H, Robertson C, Stewart A, Ait-Khaled N, Anabwani G, Anderson HR, Asher MI, Beasley R, Björkstén B, Burr M, Clayton T, Crane J, Ellwood P, Keil U, Lai C, Mallol J, Martinez F, Mitchell E, Montefort S, Pearce N, Shah J, Sibbald B, Strachan D, von Mutius E, Weiland S. Worldwide variations in the prevalence of symptoms of atopic eczema in the international study of asthma and allergies in childhood. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 1999; 103: 125-38. [179 citations to July 2006]
- 2.4 ISAAC Steering Committee (Writing Committee: Asher MI, Anderson HR, Stewart AW, Crane J). Worldwide variations in the prevalence of asthma symptoms: International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC). *Eur Respir J* 1998; 12: 315-35. [306 citations to July 2006]

#### **3.0 Other Overview Papers**

- 3.1 Asher MI, Weiland SK, on behalf of the ISAAC Steering Committee. The International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood. *Clin Exper Allergy* 1998; 28 (suppl 5): 52-66. [53 citations to July 2006]
- 3.2 Beasley R, Ellwood P, Asher I. International patterns of the prevalence of pediatric asthma the ISAAC program. *Pediatric Clinics of North America* 2003; 50(3):539-53. [10 citations to July 2006]
- 3.3 Lai C, Pearce N. The contribution of ISAAC to the understanding of asthma. *Leukotriene Res & Clin Rev* 2001; 2: 1-4.
- 3.4 Mallol J, Asher MI, Williams H, Clayton T, Beasley R. ISAAC Findings in children aged 14 years: an overview. *Allergy Clin Immunol Int* 1999; 11: 176-82.
- 3.5 von Mutius E. Epidemiology of asthma: ISAAC--International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood. *Pediatr Allergy Immunol* 1996; 7(9 Suppl): 54-6.

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## ISAAC Phase One Publications

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### 4.0 Ecologic Analyses

- 4.1 Anderson R, Beasley R, David Strachan, Colin Robertson C, and the ISAAC Phase I Study Group. Mortality and hospitalisation rates. In preparation.
- 4.2 Anderson HR, Poloniecki JD, Strachan DP, Beasley R, Björkstén B, Asher MI. ISAAC Phase I Study Group. Immunization and symptoms of atopic disease in children: results from the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood. *Am J Publ Health* 2001; 91: 1126-9. [39 citations to July 2006]
- 4.3 Anderson HR and the ISAAC Phase I Study Group. Air pollution and asthma prevalence. In preparation.
- 4.4 Asher I, et al. Overview of findings of ISAAC Phase I ecologic analyses. In preparation.
- 4.5 Burr ML, Emberlin JC, Treu R, Cheng S, Pearce N, and the ISAAC Phase I Study Group. Pollen counts in relation to the prevalence of rhinitis and asthma in the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC). *Clin Exper Allergy* 2003; 33: 1675-80. [7 citations to July 2006]
- 4.6 Ellwood P, Asher MI, Björkstén B, Burr M, Pearce N, Robertson CF and the ISAAC Phase One Study Group. Diet and asthma, allergic rhinoconjunctivitis and atopic eczema symptom prevalence: an ecological analysis of the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) data. *Eur Respir J* 2001; 17: 436-43. [35 citations to July 2006]
- 4.7 Foliaki S, Björkstén B, Kildegaard-Nielsen S, von Mutius E, Cheng S, Pearce N. Antibiotic sales and the prevalence of symptoms of asthma, rhinitis and eczema in 13-14 year old children: The International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC). *Int J Epidemiol* 2004; 33: 558-63. [9 citations to July 2006]
- 4.8 Mitchell EA, Stewart AW, on behalf of the ISAAC Phase One Study Group. The ecological relationship of tobacco smoking to the prevalence of symptoms of asthma and other atopic diseases in children: The International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC). *Eur J Epidemiol* 2001; 17: 667-73. [5 citations to July 2006]
- 4.9 Shirtcliffe P, Weatherall M, Beasley R, on behalf of the ISAAC Phase I Study Group. An inverse correlation between estimated tuberculosis notification rates and asthma symptoms. *Respirology* 2002; 7: 153-5. [9 citations to July 2006]
- 4.10 Stewart AW, Mitchell EA, Pearce N, Strachan DP, Weiland SK, on behalf of the ISAAC Steering Committee. The relationship of per capita gross national product to the prevalence of symptoms of asthma and other atopic diseases in children (ISAAC). *Int J Epidemiol* 2001; 30: 173-9. [29 citations to July 2006]
- 4.11 von Mutius E, Pearce N, Beasley R, Cheng S, von Ehrenstein O, Björkstén B, Weiland S, on behalf of the ISAAC Steering Committee. International patterns of tuberculosis and the prevalence of symptoms of asthma, rhinitis and eczema. *Thorax* 2000; 55(6): 449-453. [72 citations to July 2006]
- 4.12 Weiland SK, von Mutius E, Hüsing A, Asher MI on behalf of the ISAAC Steering Committee. Intake of trans fatty acids and prevalence of childhood asthma and allergies in Europe. *Lancet* 1999; 353: 2040-41. [51 citations to July 2006]
- 4.13 Weiland S, Hüsing A, Strachan DP, Pearce N, on behalf of the ISAAC Study Group and ISAAC Europe. Climate and the prevalence of symptoms of asthma, allergic rhinoconjunctivitis and atopic eczema in children. *Occup Environ Med* 2004; 61: 609-15. [6 citations to July 2006]

### Other Papers

- 5.1 Anderson R, Robertson C, Montefort S. World-wide variations in asthma in children: association with severity, evidence of other atopic diagnosis and sex ratio. In preparation.

- 5.2 Crane J, Mallol J, Beasley R, Stewart A, Asher MI, on behalf of the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) Phase I study group. Agreement between written and video questions for comparing asthma symptoms in ISAAC. *Eur Respir J* 2003; 21: 455-61. [13 citations to July 2006]
- 5.3 Pearce N, Sunyer J, Cheng S, Chinn S, Bjorksten B, Burr M, Keil U, Anderson HR, Burney P, on behalf of the ISAAC Steering Committee and the European Community Respiratory Health Survey. Comparison on asthma prevalence in the ISAAC and the ECRHS. *Eur Resp J* 2000; 16: 420-6. [35 citations to July 2006]
- 5.4 Stewart AW, Mitchell EA. Month of birth and childhood atopic diseases: the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC). Submitted.

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## **ISAAC Phase Two Publications**

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### **1.0 Preliminary Papers**

- 1.1 Weiland SK, Björkstén B, Brunekreef B, Cookson WOC, von Mutius E, Strachan DP, and the ISAAC Phase II Study Group. Phase II of the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC II): rationale and methods. *Eur Respir J* 2004; 24: 406-412. [11 citations to July 2006]

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## **ISAAC Phase Three Publications**

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### **1.0 Preliminary Papers**

- 1.1 Ellwood P, Asher MI, Beasley R, Clayton TO, Stewart AW and the ISAAC Steering Committee. International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC): Phase Three rationale and methods. *Int J Tuberculosis Lung Dis* 2005; 9: 10-6. [7 citations to July 2006]

### **2.0 Main Findings**

- 2.1 Asher MI, Montefort S, Bjorksten B, Lai CKW, Strachan D, Weiland SK, Williams H, and the ISAAC Phase Three Study Group. Worldwide trends in the prevalence of symptoms of asthma, allergic rhinoconjunctivitis and eczema in childhood: ISAAC Phases One and Three repeat multicountry cross-sectional surveys. *Lancet*, in press.

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