

INTERNATIONAL
STUDY OF
ASTHMA AND
ALLERGIES IN
CHILDHOOD

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2007

Dear ISAAC Colleagues and friends,

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the unexpected sudden death of one of our ISAAC family, Professor Stephan Weiland, earlier this week.

Stephan was one of the founding members of the ISAAC Steering Committee. Many of you will know Stephan in his capacity of the ISAAC Phase Two Coordinator.

Stephan has been Head of the Department of Epidemiology at Ulm University since 2003. In this issue of the newsletter we include the programme of the 18th International Summer School of Epidemiology which he led, to be held at his University.

Stephan was a vibrant person and a wonderful scientist and he possessed a great sense of humour. To many of us he was a friend and cherished colleague.

We want to honour him and his distinguished work appropriately, but it will take time to adjust to the news of his untimely death.

In the mean time, we want to share with you this recent photo, and the profile of Stephan from a 2003 issue of the ISAAC newsletter

Our hearts go out to his family, his friends and colleagues at this incredibly sad time.



November 2006, Santiago Chile. Stephan at the Seventeenth ISAAC Steering Committee meeting

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Warm wishes
Innes Asher

On behalf of the ISAAC International Data Centre and Steering Committee



Prof Dr med Stephan Weiland (2003)

Dr med Stephan Weiland recently moved with his wife and two children to Ulm, Germany where he has taken up the position of Professor of Epidemiology and Head of the Department of Epidemiology. Ulm, a cosy city of about 115.000 inhabitants, is located on the border of the river Danube in the South of Germany and has a modern university with a big medical faculty.

Stephan Weiland was born and had grown up in the North-West of Germany. He went to medical school in Cologne (1978-1985) and later worked there as a resident in the surgery clinics of the university hospital. During this period, while serving as emergency doctor on the helicopter, he realized that even the fastest helicopter and the best emergency and surgery team would eventually come too late, i.e. after the damage was done. Prevention, although less spectacular (but not less exciting), was the way to go !

He went for two years of training in Epidemiology to McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and returned to Germany in 1989 where he joined the department of Epidemiology at the University of Bochum, headed by Prof. Ulrich Keil. He developed an interest in environmental and occupational epidemiology and started several studies this area. Together with Prof. Ulrich Keil he was one of the initiators of ISAAC. He is currently Coordinator of ISAAC Phase Two, member of the Executive of the ISAAC Steering Committee, and Director of the ISAAC Two Data Centre in Ulm.

Stephan Weiland is a great lover of mountains and has been an active hiker, climber, and skier since childhood. Now living in the South of Germany he's much closer to the mountains and gets to go there quite frequently. On special days during the year, when the meteorologic conditions are right, he can even see them - while riding his bike to work.

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Ulm University, Germany

*18th International Summer
School of Epidemiology
at Ulm University*



Institute of Epidemiology
July 23 – July 27, 2007

The program is geared to persons with interest in the fields of epidemiology and public health. Professionals, scientists and students working in clinical medicine, epidemiology, public health, social insurance, health policy or health administration are welcome. All courses will be held in English.

Course Outline

Morning sessions:

1. Introduction to Epidemiology

Wayne Rosamond

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, USA

2. Advanced Methods of Epidemiologic Analysis

Jay Kaufman

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Afternoon sessions:

3. Clinical Epidemiology

Bill Miller

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, USA

4. Reproductive Epidemiology

Allen Wilcox

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Participants may choose one course from the morning sessions and one course from the afternoon sessions. Participants will receive a certificate after successful completion of a course.

Course Descriptions

1. Introduction to Epidemiology

Instructor:
Wayne Rosamond

This course covers a broad range of basic principles related to conducting and interpreting epidemiologic studies. Topics include study design issues, measuring disease occurrence, evaluating and controlling for bias, controlling confounding by stratification, measuring interaction and making causal inferences. Students will also be refining their skills in critical evaluation of epidemiologic literature. Class sessions will be part lecture and part group discussion of published works from a variety of topical areas.

2. Advanced Methods of Epidemiologic Analysis

Instructor:
Jay Kaufman

This course focuses on analytic techniques for estimation of treatment effects in observation studies. Topics to be covered include directed acyclic graphs, propensity scores, instrumental variables and marginal structural models. Class sessions will include lectures, discussions of published applications of these methods and demonstration of application of these methods using the Stata statistical software package.

3. Clinical Epidemiology

Instructor:
Bill Miller

This course will provide an overview of important methods in clinical research. Topics to be covered include epidemiological measures, observational study design, clinical trials, regression analyses in clinical research, diagnostic tests and meta-analysis. Practical examples and applications from the current literature will be reviewed. Attendees will increase their skills in the use and critique of the medical literature and gain a basic understanding of epidemiologic concepts and their use in medical research.

4. Reproductive Epidemiology

Instructor:
Allen Wilcox

Few stories in biology are as fascinating as the development of an infant from a single fertilized cell – and no period of life is more crucial in laying the groundwork for long-term health. This course covers the gamut from fertility and conception to fetal development, birth defects, diseases of pregnancy, birth weight and the long-term effects of pregnancy events on adult diseases. The importance of evolution and genetics in perinatal studies is a theme. We also discuss an array of deceptive analytic traps that ensnare researchers in this field.

Dates:	July 23 – July 27, 2007 Monday – Friday: 9.00 am – 12.00 am 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm
Location:	Ulm University Helmholtzstraße 22 89081 Ulm
Fees:	€300.00 per course € 250.00 per course for members of the German Epidemiological Association (DGEpi) € 100.00 per course for employees of Ulm University and students
Fellowships:	A limited number of fellowships is available for participants from low income countries. Deadline for fellowship applications: April 30, 2007 For further information please contact Nicole Schubert
Number of Participants:	Limited to a maximum of 30 participants per course
Application:	Please use the enclosed application form
Deadline:	May 30, 2007
Program Director:	Prof. Dr. med. Stephan Weiland
Coordinator at the School of Public Health University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:	Prof. Gerardo Heiss, PhD
For further information please contact:	Nicole Schubert Institute of Epidemiology / Ulm University Helmholtzstraße 22 / D - 89081 Ulm Phone: ++49 731 50 31076 (7.30 am - 3.30 pm) Fax: ++49 731 50 31069 E-mail: nicole.schubert@uni-ulm.de Website: www.uni-ulm.de/epidemiologie

In cooperation with
the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA
and
the International Center for Advanced Studies in Health Sciences and Services (ICAS)
at Ulm University
and
with support of the Pharmacia-Foundation for Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology

Application form

18th International Summer School of Epidemiology at Ulm University July 23 – July 27, 2007

Male: ____ Female: ____ Nationality: _____
Family name, degree: _____
First name: _____
Present occupation: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____

Status:

Regular application
Member of the German
Epidemiological Association (DGEpi)

Employee of Ulm University
Student

I would like to register for the following course(s):

Morning, 9:00 - 12:00 am
(select one course)

Course 1: Introduction to Epidemiology
Course 2: Adv. Methods of Epidemiologic Analysis

Afternoon, 1:30 – 4:30 pm
(select one course)

Course 3: Clinical Epidemiology
Course 4: Reproductive Epidemiology

Place and Date

Signature

Deadline for application:

May 30, 2007

Please return to:

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