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NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2007

Dear ISAAC Colleagues and friends,

Warmest greetings from the IIDC. We apologise that the usual Christmas newsletter did not eventuate - we were caught up with the final data and methodology checking process for the Phase Three B centres and then Philippa broke her arm! (now healed). The IIDC has now completed Three B checks and would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and support throughout this time.

We did promise you in the August 2006 newsletter that we would bring you highlights from the seventeenth annual Steering Committee meeting which was held in Santiago, Chile, and hosted by our Regional Coordinator from Latin America, Professor Javier Mallol. Although we missed the December edition of the newsletter, we bring photos to you in this issue. We are grateful to Professor Mallol for his superb coordination of yet another highly successful ISAAC Steering Committee meeting. At this meeting we decided to steer the direction of ISAAC into education, advocacy, and clinical trials, while bringing to fruition all the work from ISAAC Phase Three and planning further epidemiological studies.

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This year, the European Respiratory meeting (ERS) meeting is being held in Stockholm, Sweden starting on 15th September 2007. Instead of having our annual ERS/Collaborators meeting at the ERS, our Regional Coordinator for Northern and Eastern Europe has kindly offered to host the event at his home in Stockholm on the Monday evening (please see invitation on page 3). As the ISAAC Steering Committee meeting is to be held in Münster, Germany, 3 days prior to the ERS we are expecting that this year more members of the Steering Committee will attend the ERS and will be present at the ISAAC social gathering. We hope to see you there.

We are still reeling from the news of Professor Stephan Weiland's tragic death on March 19, and have difficulty believing he is no longer with us. The ISAAC Steering Committee is exploring ways of honouring him. The first results of ISAAC Phase Two analysis have been accepted for publication: Weinmayr G, Weiland SK, Björkstén B, et al. Atopic sensitisation and the international variation of asthma symptom prevalence in children. *American Journal of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine*. In press. Congratulations to all involved.

This year's ISAAC Steering Committee meeting in Münster, Germany will be the eighteenth annual Steering Committee meeting and we expect, from the outcome of last year's meeting in Chile that there will be many more annual meetings to come. The ISAAC Steering Committee have expressed a wish for ISAAC to continue to develop and ideas raised will be explored further in this year's meeting. I am delighted to report that the worldwide Phase Three Asthma Time Trends and Rhinitis Time Trends papers have been accepted for publication.

On behalf of the ISAAC Steering Committee and the ISAAC International Data Centre I wish you well.

Warm wishes
Innes Asher
Professor Innes Asher ONZM

Congratulations to Professor Mohammad Masjedi

Professor .Mohammad Reza Masjedi was appointed as the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease(IUATLD) Secretary General for the 3rd consistent 2-year priority during the board of directors meeting of 37th IUATLD conference through election

Our heartiest congratulations Professor Masjedi
ISAAC Principal Investigator for Tehran, Rasht, Birjan and Zanjan and National Coordinator for Iran.

STOP PRESS!

PLEASE REMEMBER THE IIDC VALUES YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER AND WE WELCOME ITEMS THAT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO THE ISAAC FAMILY.

We plan the next newsletter to be issued in AUGUST 2007

Please send contributions to Philippa at the IIDC

p.ellwood@auckland.ac.nz



ISAAC International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood



ERS/ISAAC Social Gathering

Stockholm, Sweden

Monday 17th September 2007

You are warmly invited to an ISAAC social gathering on Monday 17th September 2007 in Stockholm, Sweden.

This year our Steering Committee member and Regional Coordinator for Northern and Eastern Europe, Professor Bengt Björkstén, will host the Collaborators Function at his home in Stockholm. He and other members of the Steering Committee 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. We will circulate further details to those attending.

Kind regards

Innes Asher, Chair of ISAAC

ISAAC COLLABORATORS RECEPTION

Monday 17th September 2007, 17.00 – 19.00

Stockholm, Sweden

RSVP Philippa Ellwood: p.ellwood@auckland.ac.nz

Photo Gallery
ISAAC Steering Committee meeting Santiago Chile 2007
Philippa and Innes on the first day in Santiago, getting over jet lag



The view over Santiago was gorgeous



We had loads of fun (who would recognise Innes?)



Philippa and Tadd (I IDC) with Sunia Foliaki, Regional Coordinator for Oceania



.....we were well looked after



and escorted by two good drivers (centre). The National Coordinator for Mexico, Dr Manuel Baeza-Bacab is on the left and our host, Professor Javier Mallol on the right.



However we worked very hard to get the work done



And the lunches were hard work too!



then some participated in an ISAAC Symposium



Followed up by a panel discussion



Ably assisted by Interpreters Sylvana Espindola on the left and Vivienne Bachelet on the right.



Which was sponsored by Schering Plough, Chile (our host Javier Mallol Centre)



THANK YOU JAVIER!

Advertisement

Ulm University, Germany is holding the 18th International Summer School of Epidemiology at the Institute of Epidemiology on July 23 – July 27, 2007

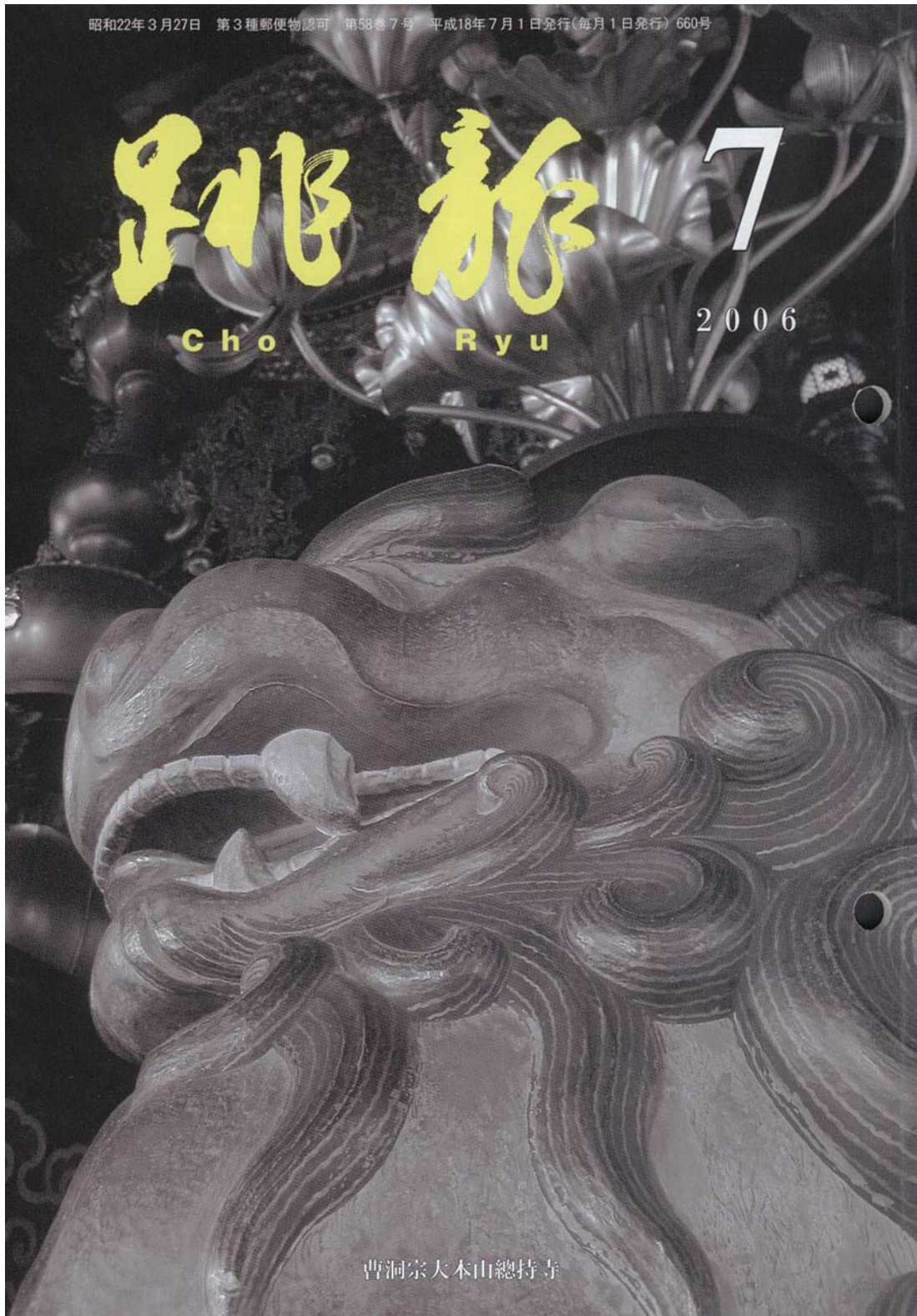
The program is geared to persons with interest in the fields of epidemiology and public health. Professionals, scientists and students working in clinical medicine, epidemiology, public health, social insurance, health policy or health administration are welcome. All courses will be held in English.

Location: Ulm University, Helmholtzstraße 22, 89081 Ulm.

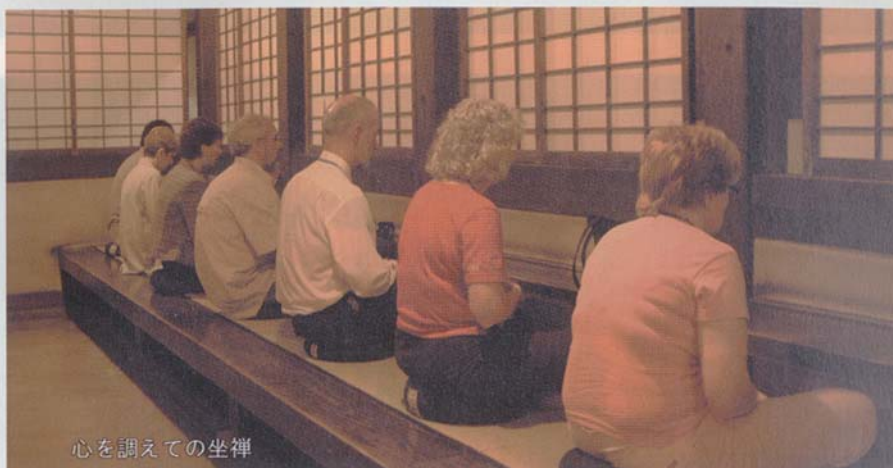
For further information on course cost and program outline please contact:

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The photo on the next page, taken from this magazine shows our Steering Committee member Professor Ed Mitchell hard at work in Korea – maybe!



SIDS 本山参拝



心を調えての坐禅

第九回SIDS国際会議が、NPO法人SIDS家族の会、日本SIDS学会共催で六月一日から四日にかけて、パシフィコ横浜を会場にして行われた。その中にメモリアルサービスとして總持寺参拝の予定が生まれ六月一日、会議に参加した方々のうち一七五人が上山された。

到着すると大祖堂へ向かい国際会議の無事終了を願うとともに、また幼くして亡くなった精霊に供養の香を手向けた。その後精進料理を楽しみ、坐禅を体験、水子地藏尊をお参りし、總持寺を後にした。

SIDS...sudden infant death syndrome(乳幼児突然死症候群)。健康な乳幼児が原因不明で突然死亡し、しかも死因となるほどの特定の所見のないもの

Poem from the book titled “Sing Song”

Author Anne Kennedy, New Zealand.

Pacific

In the morning, the light upon them
they drop the boy at the bilingual
unit and wheel along to K Rd
to the Chinese doctor. It's not cold

it's warm because this is the Pacific
there's no fog and no bells
and the Chinese doctor has no
queue outside his door, only

models, human hearts, lungs and livers
only shiny porcelain figurines
demi-gods and warriors line up
in the window clasping their swords

and their eczema-babies to them.
Inside it's plain, no eighties pink and grey
furniture or paintings from the doctors'
art-buying syndicate. Simple.

The doctor speaks little English, thank
God, no end-of-your-tether, colour-therapy
don't-forget-the-aqueous-cream
more-incidence-among-half-Polynesian-

children-unfortunately crap.
Just three words. *Heat no good*

Comment from Professor Hywel Williams

The reason I have chosen this poem is because it summarises the despair of an experienced mother of a child with eczema who is fed up at hearing the usual patter and ritual of seeing someone about her child's eczema "no end-of-your-tether, colour therapy: don't-forget-the-aqueous cream: more -incidence-among-half-Polynesian-children" - advice which may be untrue and which has not really helped in the past. This mother and child needs simple clear advice and action. She is pleasantly surprised to find a Chinese doctor who speaks little English in a simple building who offers just the three words of "Heat no good".

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<http://www.nzbookcouncil.org.nz/writers/kennedyanne.htm>
<http://www2.auckland.ac.nz/aup/books/kennedy-singsong.html>

ISAAC Phase One Publications

Professor Neil Pearce

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1.0 Preliminary Papers

- 1.1 ISAAC Phase One Manual. 2nd 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.

ISAAC Phase One Publications continued

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]

Other Papers continued

- 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.

ISAAC Phase Two Publications

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]

2.0 Main Findings

- 2.1 Weinmayr G, Weiland SK, Björkstén B, et al. Atopic sensitisation and the international variation of asthma symptom prevalence in children. *American Journal of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine*. In press.

ISAAC Phase Three Publications

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, Björkstén B, Lai CKW, Strachan DP, Weiland SK, Williams H, and the ISAAC Phase Three Study Group. 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. *The Lancet* 2006; 368(9537): 733-743.
- 2.2 Pearce N, Ait-Khaled N, Beasley R, Mallol J, Mitchell E, Robertson C, and the ISAAC Phase Three Study group. Worldwide trends in the prevalence of asthma symptoms: Phase Three of the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC). *Thorax*. In press.
- 2.3 Björkstén B, Clayton T, Ellwood P, Stewart AW, Strachan D, and the ISAAC Phase Three Study Group. Worldwide time trends for symptoms of rhinoconjunctivitis: Phase Three of the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood. *Pediatric Allergy & Immunology*. In press.

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