Dear ISAAC colleagues and friends,

A warm welcome to you all to this - the very last ISAAC newsletter. The ISAAC programme started in 1991, and our story has been told by ourselves in The ISAAC Story. New ISAAC worldwide publications are still appearing, often accompanied by editorials. The ISAAC Executive, Steering Committee and IIDC, join me in thanking you for your important and excellent contributions to the ISAAC programme over the past 21 years. We have had a wonderful association with you all and sincerely hope that this may be continued with the start of the new Global Asthma Network launched last month. We include an expression of interest form (EOI) for this new network on page 7 for those of you who would like to connect to this new network and who have not already done so. The EOI form is now also conveniently available for you on line at www.globalasthmanetwork.org/surveillance/expression.php

Sadly, this year we have seen the death of two of our treasured ISAAC Steering Committee members. Professor Michael Burr, who died in June in Cardiff, in the UK and Professor Joseph Odhiambo who was killed at his home on the outskirts of Nairobi in October. Both have given enormous contributions to ISAAC and will be sorely missed. We have tributes to both of these great and humble people in this newsletter.

Our ISAAC EQ publications continue and as you will be aware there has been a flurry of activity on these in the past couple of months with papers being sent to the particular Phase Three study groups for input. We continue to value your contributions on these publications before they are submitted to the journals.

Although we are sad that ISAAC is winding down, we are excited at the opportunity to develop the Global Asthma Network, information on which has been widely circulated to the ISAAC collaboration many of whom are becoming collaborating centres.

The ISAAC website will be maintained and publications added intermittently. ISAAC data is being prepared for archiving at the UK data archive (see item later in newsletter).

With all good wishes on behalf of the ISAAC Executive and IIDC for a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Innes
Professor Innes Asher ONZM
Chair of ISAAC
TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR MICHAEL BURR

Michael Burr, member of the ISAAC Steering Committee from 1991 to his retirement in 2002, died at the end of June 2012. A quiet but effective scientific investigator, he was universally popular with his research collaborators and his death represents a sad loss to the epidemiological community, both within ISAAC and beyond.

After an early clinical career in general practice and public health, Michael joined the British Medical Research Council’s Epidemiology Unit (based in South Wales) in 1970, under the directorship of Professor Archie Cochrane, and subsequently Professor Peter Ellwood. There he undertook a number of epidemiological surveys, mostly in relation to respiratory disease and nutrition. He also conducted randomized controlled trials on various topics, including mite eradication in the homes of mite-sensitive asthmatics and the effect of eating oily fish on risk of coronary heart disease.

Michael was one of the pioneers of asthma epidemiology and his early work using free-running exercise tests as an objective marker of asthma in population surveys laid the groundwork for the first standardised assessment of time trends in asthma prevalence (between 1973 and 1988 among 12-year-old children in South Wales). It also led to the first international comparison, which included an objective marker of asthma prevalence (involving four centres: South Wales, Sweden, New Zealand and South Africa), which was in many ways a precursor for ISAAC.

In addition to his valued contributions as a member of the ISAAC Steering Committee, Michael coordinated the Welsh sector of ISAAC UK during Phases One and Three. He also initiated the link with Alfred Priftanji and colleagues in Tirana, Albania, who completed all three phases of ISAAC.

Outside of work, Michael was interested in history and theology and was a lay preacher in his local church. Despite a period of ill-health, he was still active and playing the organ until a few months before his death. He will be greatly missed by his wife Sheila, four married daughters, and their children.
TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR JOSEPH ODHIAMBO
1954 – 2012

Dr. Joseph Odhiambo joined the ISAAC Steering Committee in 1999 following on from his position of Principal Investigator for ISAAC Phase One in Nairobi and was also Regional Coordinator for the ISAAC English speaking Africa region, and Principal Investigator for ISAAC Phase One in Nairobi. His death will be a huge loss to both his home country and the international community.

He was a board certified internist and specialist in respiratory diseases, serving previously as senior medical officer, and regional consultant physician (Provincial Physician) at the Rift Valley Provincial General Hospital in Nakuru, Kenya and as guest lecturer on respiratory medicine for both under-graduates and post-graduate medical students at the University of Nairobi, Kenyatta National Hospital. He worked for more than 2 decades in medical research, serving as senior medical research officer at the Centre for Respiratory Disease Research (CRDR) at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) where he rose through the ranks to position of principal research officer & director, CRDR. During his tenure as centre director, he offered leadership to over 50 members of staff (technical, administrative and support staff) and was responsible to the KEMRI director for the conduct of research in priority lung diseases in Kenya, which witnessed remarkable growth in research capacity and out-put. He also served as the senior technical advisor on TB/HIV for the CDC/GAP program (US Centres for Disease Control & Prevention-Kenya / Global AIDS Program) and as Chair of the National TB/HIV steering committee at the Ministries of Health headquarters in Kenya since 2004, and member of the Tuberculosis Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (TB-ICC) for the Kenyan Ministry of Health.

Joseph was an enthusiastic member of the ISAAC programme and his scientific and personal contributions to ISAAC will long be remembered. He was a humble and gentle man with a delightful sense of humour and was held in high regard by all members of the Steering Committee. In November 2003 he hosted the highly successful Fourteenth ISAAC Steering Committee meeting at Lake Naivasha Country Club in Kenya, where he introduced the members to his country and acted as a wonderful ambassador. We last spent time with him when he came to Auckland in January 2011 for the last ISAAC Steering Committee meeting (see photo) and ISAAC symposium. Joseph was a much loved friend and colleague of the ISAAC community. He will be greatly missed by us all.
Congratulations to:

All of YOU!

To all our wonderful ISAAC Phases One Two and Three collaborators and associates, who have made ISAAC the success it has been. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you all.

Best wishes from the ISAAC Steering Committee and the IIDC.
Congratulations to:

Professor Gary Wong
ISAAC Steering Committee
ISAAC Phase Two Study Group
ISAAC Phase Three Principal Investigator for Hong Kong

for an outstanding abstract presentation
has been awarded to

Gary WK Wong
162 – Relationship of cooking fuels and symptoms of asthma and allergic
diseases: a global analysis in international study of asthma and allergies in
childhood phase 3

at the
EAACI Congress 2012
16 – 20 June, Geneva, Switzerland

Philippe Eigenmann
EAACI Congress 2012 Chair

Cezmi Akdis
EAACI President
The International Study of Apples and Alcohol in Cider

If you have been fortunate to visit the ISAAC International Data Centre in Auckland, you may have noticed that they share their acronym with a local brand of cider...!

We named it after Sir ISAAC Newton, a man who had all his best ideas sitting under apple trees

(when he did not have a cold or the ‘flu)

If you think that ISAAC has gone a bit pear-shaped recently ...

... then you would be absolutely right!

Thanks to David Strachan for the above - he has revealed his talents as a humourist!
# Global Asthma Network – Expression of Interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My centre is interested in the Global Asthma Network</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Centre name: |                      |
| Country: |                      |
| Lead Investigator Name: | (one per centre) |
| Designation: | (Professor, Dr (PhD), Dr (Medical), Medical Professional, Researcher, Other eg Mr) Please list all that are relevant to your position. |
| Institution: | (University/Hospital etc) |
| Phone: |                      |
| Fax: |                      |
| Email: |                      |
| Postal Address: | (Street address for courier deliveries) |

**COMMENTS:**

Date: ________________________________

Name of person completing this form. ________________________________

Signature ________________________________

Thank you very much, your reply will be acknowledged.

Philippa Ellwood
For the Global Asthma Network
p.ellwood@auckland.ac.nz or by fax +64 9 3737602
Data archiving and data sharing

David Strachan is liaising on behalf of ISAAC with the UK Data Archive (UKDA) about depositing with them the data from ISAAC Phases One, Two and Three there during 2013. There has been a positive response from the UKDA to our preliminary enquiry. The UKDA were complimentary about the level of ISAAC documentation already available (thanks to Tadd), so we envisage the deposit process will be relatively straightforward. David met with Tadd Clayton in Auckland recently to discuss practical aspects of the data archiving. The deposit forms were reviewed briefly and David will liaise further with Innes Asher and Gudrun Weinmayr about the formalities.

A provisional target is to complete the UKDA deposit by mid-2013. From that time, all the ISAAC data (except for exact dates of birth and the Phase Two genetic data, to avoid confidentiality issues) will be accessible to bona fide scientists for non-commercial research and teaching purposes. We will explore whether the ISAAC Executive can be routinely informed when the data are used, so that we can monitor usage and possible overlaps.

ISAAC website

The ISAAC website is still being updated with the publications. These are added to the database as they are published along with a brief news item. The website is still seeing steady usage of 2000-3000 visitors per month. The final item to complete on the site is to modify the content to indicate its status as an archive site.

Eamon Ellwood will provide a link from the ISAAC website to the Global Asthma Network website. Innes will draft an explanatory note for inclusion on the ISAAC home page, concerning the “end of ISAAC”, and the relationship of ISAAC to GAN.

Eamon will continue to service the ISAAC website on an occasional basis from next year.
The main ISAAC website

The ISAAC website has seen consistent usage and growth since its re-launch in 2009. It is designed to be a repository of all ISAAC information.

Although ISAAC is winding down, the ISAAC website will still be maintained. It continues to be a resource for you, the collaborators. The website will continue to host the Phase One and Three data pages and the ISAAC Story, a 20 year history of ISAAC. Much of the information on the ISAAC website will be available on the Global Asthma Network website (www.globalasthmanetwork.org). This information will be updated as new data comes to hand.

We will continue to update the publications section with new papers as they are published. We had 18 papers published in 2012 and more remain to be published. When you publish a new article could you please send me (e.ellwood@auckland.ac.nz) the details, and preferably a pdf so that it can be added to the database. Currently we have over 550 articles in the database (as well as various manuals and other publications) and full text access for most of these. All other articles are linked to the abstract on the journals website (where the journal has a website). The ISAAC publications can be found at http://isaac.auckland.ac.nz/publications/publicationsintro.html.

The ISAAC Story

The ISAAC Story website is now complete. This includes a modified print layout that can be viewed using the print preview function in your web browser, and an accompanying pdf version of the website. This can be downloaded in sections or complete, and is available in low resolution and high resolution versions from http://isaac.auckland.ac.nz/story/print.php.

The ISAAC Story website has seen consistent use since its launch and will continue to be a lasting testament to ISAAC.
To view your centre, go to http://isaac.auckland.ac.nz/story/centres/centres.html and select it from the menu. To add your contribution, please send a word document with your information and any photographs you may have to Eamon Ellwood (e.ellwood@auckland.ac.nz). While these contributions can still be added to the website, it is unfortunately too late to add them to the pdf version.

Kind regards

Eamon Ellwood

ISAAC Webmaster

e.ellwood@auckland.ac.nz
1.0 Preliminary Papers


2.0 Main Findings


3.0 Other Overview Papers


4.0 Ecological Analyses


5.0 Other Papers


1.0 Preliminary Papers


2 Main Findings


3 Environmental Questionnaire Analyses


4 Other papers


4.3 Flohr C. What can we learn about eczema from the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC)? Allergologie 2010; 33(6): 242–250 [1 citations]


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