

Press Release

Is Europe overcoming childhood asthma?

Berlin, Germany, 07 September 2015 – Astonishing good news for the European health affairs came out from Rotterdam, The Netherlands, where scientists in Erasmus MC recently observed that childhood asthma rate is declining.

“We have carefully screened the medical records of 176,516 children in The Netherlands over a time period 2000-2012. Our work shows that asthma incidence rates increased until 2008 and declined thereafter. Further research is needed to explain and confirm this trend” stated Marjolein Engelkes, author of the article, published in the *Pediatric Allergy and Immunology Journal* (Engelkes M et al. *Pediatr Allergy Immunol.* 2015;26:367–374).

Since asthma is the most common chronic disease in children in the western world, replication of the same results in other European countries would be vital for the future medical researches, preventions, and medications regarding this disease and will definitely affect the expectancy of the patients.

By contrast, asthma prevalence is still on the increase in developing countries. Therefore this study may also encourage scientists to find methods to prevent escalation of asthma incidence in those countries.

About PAI:

Pediatric Allergy and Immunology is the world's leading journal in pediatric allergy, publishing original contributions and comprehensive reviews related to the understanding and treatment of immune deficiency and allergic inflammatory and infectious diseases in children.

About EAACI:

The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, EAACI, is a non-profit organisation active in the field of allergic and immunologic diseases such as asthma, rhinitis, eczema, occupational allergy, food and drug allergy and anaphylaxis. EAACI was founded in 1956 in Florence and has become the largest medical association in Europe in the field of allergy and clinical immunology. It includes over 9,000 members from 121 countries, as well as 49 National Allergy Societies.

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“We definitely need similar studies to be conducted in the near future and to focus on other European and Western countries, so we recognize which of the current preventive measures are responsible for producing this declining trend of this disease” stated PAI Editor-in-Chief Prof. Ulrich Wahn.

The President of The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, EAACI, Prof. Antonella Muraro commented that “It is still early to say that Europe is overcoming childhood asthma in the near future, but this study could point out, that we are on the right path and could insure better future for children”.

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