

Our Mission

We strive to promote excellence in the treatment and study of asthma and airway disease. We emphasize outstanding clinical care, innovative clinical and basic research, and education for patients, community members and health care providers.

UI Asthma Center News

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UI Asthma Center Update

The UI Asthma Center was founded in 2004 to promote clinical, translational, and basic research in asthma and related disorders, and to enhance medical care of asthma at the University of Iowa and throughout the state. We are working to increase our visibility in the University community and to the general public. Two projects in development are:

- *UI Asthma Center website.* The new website will soon be online; it will provide information for the general public and physicians about asthma, asthma care at the University of Iowa, current research studies, and links to other asthma-related and UI websites.
- *UI Asthma Center Brochure.* The new brochure will focus on 'who we are' at the UI Asthma Center and our research. It will provide educational information about asthma and the services we provide.

We will also be participating in the **UI Student Health Fair** March 1, 2006 on the Main Deck of the UI Field House. The Fair features over 50 displays provided educational information on multiple wellness issues, health screenings and interactive activities for close to 2500 students, faculty and staff. The UI Asthma Center will offer free Pulmonary Function Tests as part of our display.

The first annual **UI Asthma Center Conference**, "Asthma and the Environment: Translating Science into Patient Care" is scheduled for May 5, 2006. Guest faculty will include: **Robert Lemanske** (University of Wisconsin) and **Tom Casale** (Creighton University). Save the date!!

Recent Publications

- Casale TB, Busse WW, Kline JN, Ballas ZK, Moss MH, Townley RG, Mokhtarani M, Seyfert-Margolis V, Asare A, Bateman K, Deniz Y, The Immune Tolerance Network Group. Omalizumab pretreatment decreases acute reactions after rush immunotherapy for ragweed-induced seasonal allergic rhinitis. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 2006 Jan; 117(1):134-40

Study Updates/Recruitment

- **We are always eager to discuss current studies with interested health care providers as well as potential research subjects. Please contact us! Below are listed some of our current studies:**

Severe Asthma Study [Anti-TNF- α]

- >18 yrs old
- Non-smoker for past year; < 10 pack-yr history
- Asthma for > 3 yrs; severe persistent diagnosis >1 yr.
- Continuous medication for past 3 months
- Exclusion: Worsening symptoms requiring increased doses of corticosteroids, Diagnosis of COPD, cystic fibrosis or any other significant respiratory disorder, clinically significant infection.
- Duration: 1 year

Allergic Asthma Registry

- We are establishing a registry and biologic sample repository for asthma

Epidemiologic Study of Atopic Asthma

- >12 yrs old
- Physician diagnosis of moderate to severe persistent asthma
- Positive skin test or *in vitro* reactivity to an aeroallergen
- Exclusion: Contraindication to omalizumab (anti-IgE antibody) therapy, acute asthma exacerbation within previous 2 wks., acute flare of significant systemic disease

Echinacea and Ragweed Allergen Cross-Reactivity

- 18-50 yrs old
- Must have allergic symptoms during ragweed season
- Must not have 'year round' allergic symptoms
- Exclusion: Must not have used Echinacea or have a diagnosis of asthma.

Severe COPD Study [Advair™]

- >40 yrs old, diagnosis of COPD
- 10 pack-year smoking history (current or past)
- At least 1 exacerbation in the past year requiring oral corticosteroids, antibiotics, or hospitalization
- Exclusion: Asthma, lung cancer, lung resection surgery
- Duration: 1 year

Diesel Exhaust/Endotoxin Study

- 18-55 yrs old, healthy volunteers
- Non-smoker
- Exposure to diesel exhaust fumes and aerosolized endotoxin
- Duration: 3-5 visits