



Asthma Research

May 2010, Volume 1

❖ Asthma

is one of the most common chronic diseases world wide and its incidence is increasing. In the US, the disease particularly affects urban areas.

-Boston Urban Asthma Coalition
www.buac.org



❖ In Our Community

Massachusetts asthma rates are highest in households that are located in Roxbury, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and Mission Hill.

-www.childrenshospital.org

Dear Asthma Research Supporter,

Everyday in America 40,000 people miss school or work due to asthma (Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, www.aafa.org). With collaborations from Boston area communities, schools and families, research in childhood asthma is developing treatments that make a difference. **Thank you for your support!**

Results from research studies aren't ready until all participants for a study are recruited and all the data is collected. This takes a long time—often many years. Although we don't have results ready to share yet, please read on to learn about research highlights.

Sincerely,

Wanda Phipatanakul, MD, MS
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Children's Hospital Boston
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Channing Laboratory

About Dr. Phipatanakul's asthma research...

Dr. Phipatanakul's current research projects are investigating the environmental and non-environmental factors that contribute to asthma and the progression of the disease. The research looks at the environments where children with asthma spend most of their time: home and school. Dr. Phipatanakul is also a lead doctor of a national network running clinical trials for new treatments for pediatric asthma.

Read on for an overview of current research projects.

SCHOOL INNER-CITY ASTHMA STUDY (SICAS)

Children spend 6-10 hours per day in school. They also spend a lot of time in home and other environments. Asthma is the number one cause of school absences in America.

- ❖ The goal is to determine the role of the environment and allergens in schools, homes, and other environments and to evaluate the relationship between allergens and students' asthma. If we find a meaningful relationship, interventions targeted to school classrooms and home environments could help many students with asthma.
- ❖ This is a 5 year project enrolling 600 children with asthma from 30-40 schools.
- ❖ 16 schools with 139 children are enrolled so far.
- ❖ Students and families may receive classroom pizza parties, movie tickets, and monetary compensation for their participation.

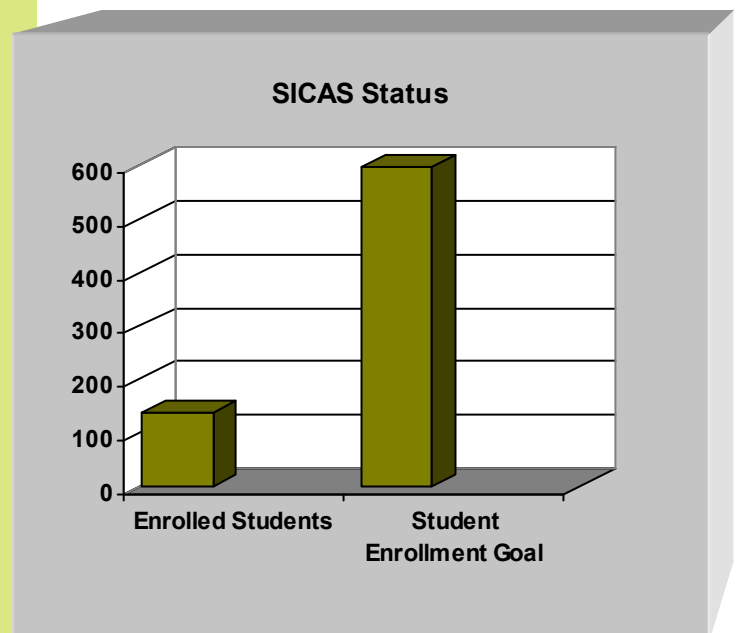
Contact us!

- ❖ Study Coordinator: Ann Bailey
phone: 617-525-0876
email: ann.bailey@channing.harvard.edu
- ❖ Study Assistants:
Jennifer Burg
Karina Cabanillas
Asmerom Adhanom
Elizabeth Yiu



WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

We are currently recruiting new participants! Please let us know if any schools or families are interested in participating. (The number of schools per year is limited based on staffing capacities.)



Exercise Induced Asthma

Exercise is a frequent cause of asthma symptoms in people who have asthma. Up to 80% of asthmatics report exercise as a trigger for their breathing difficulties. Exercising outdoors during allergy season and/or breathing cold, dry air can trigger an asthma attack.

- ❖ The goal is to enroll 40 participants, 12-50 years old, who have had asthma for at least 6 months, experience asthma symptoms with exercise, and are currently prescribed a daily inhaled steroid medication.
- ❖ The research study compares two FDA approved medicines in treating exercise induced asthma.
- ❖ The study involves health questions, breathing tests, and an exercise test.
- ❖ Study Coordinator: Dr. Jonathan Gaffin
phone: 857-218-4803
email: jonathan.gaffin@childrens.harvard.edu



WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

We are currently recruiting new participants! Eligible participants complete 5 visits and receive \$50 for each visit.



MAAIT MOUSE ALLERGEN & ASTHMA INTERVENTION TRIAL

Asthma is a major public health problem, particularly among urban children. Prior studies have shown cockroach in homes can be an asthma trigger. New research suggests mouse exposure is also important to investigate.

- ❖ The goal is to determine if a mouse-targeted integrated pest management intervention is helpful in reducing the effects of asthma and mouse allergy in children.
- ❖ Two sites: Children's Hospital Boston and Johns Hopkins Medical School (Baltimore).
- ❖ Each site will enroll 150 participants over 5 years.
- ❖ Participants will be 6-17 years old with moderate to severe asthma who live in homes with high levels of mouse allergen.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

We are currently hiring research staff. Future newsletters will keep you posted when patient recruitment begins.

AsthmaNet

For many years, the National Institute of Health (NIH) funded a clinical trials research network for adults and a separate network for children. The two networks are now joined together in AsthmaNet to better share resources and expertise.

- ❖ AsthmaNet is a 9-center national project funded for 7 years.
- ❖ Each site has a child and adult component.
- ❖ The Boston site includes Children's Hospital Boston (child) and Brigham and Women's Hospital (adult).
- ❖ Children's Hospital Boston Study Coordinator:
Wendy Gordon
phone: 857-218-5138
email: wendy.gordon@childrens.harvard.edu
- ❖ Study Assistant: Elizabeth Cunningham

What's happening now?

AsthmaNet is currently developing clinical trial protocols, purchasing equipment, and hiring and training research staff. Future newsletters will keep you posted when patient recruitment begins.

Thank you for your participation, interest, and support in pediatric asthma research. Your efforts help an extremely worthy cause: helping children with asthma!

