

# Washington State Asthma Program Email Newsletter

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[American Lung Association of WA](#)

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[Department of Health Asthma Program](#)

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## Committee Meetings

WAI Community-Based Activities, Feb 21, 4-5:30

WAI Data & Surveillance Committee, March 24, 3-4:30

WAI Steering Committee, May 13, 9:30-11:30

Clean Air for Kids (Pierce Cty), April 3, 7:30-9am

SW WA Asthma Coalition, April 2, 8-9am

**WAI Planning Retreat:**  
March 21, 9:30-3:00

## Medscape CMEs

*(may require setting up a free account to view):*

[Nutritional Options Guidelines for Early Life May Affect Development of Atopic Disease](#)

[Ciclesonide May Not Affect Growth Velocity in Children With Asthma](#)

[Management of Asthma and Comorbidities](#)

[Assuring Quality Care for People With Limited Health Literacy](#)

[Understanding Pediatric Asthma: Dana's Case](#)

## NEWS

### Washington State Legislative Updates:

- **HB 2481**, "Establishing a project to improve asthma care for Medicaid-eligible children." Referred to Health Care & Wellness Committee 1/14.
- **HB 1601**, "Creating the children's environmental health and protection advisory council." 3<sup>rd</sup> substitute bill passed; referred to Appropriations 1/21.
- **HB 3167** creates a work group to evaluate environmental health conditions in state office buildings. 1<sup>st</sup> substitute bill passed Environmental Health Committee; referred to Rules Committee for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 2/6.
- **SB 6919** requires establishment of a burning permit program in areas where burning is currently prohibited. Includes residential, land clearing, and agricultural burning. Read 2/5; referred to Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee.
- **HB 3017** would allow outdoor burning on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays in November in urban growth areas where burning is currently prohibited. Public hearing held in Environmental Health Committee 1/29.
- **SB 6852** requires the Department of Health to create a task force to study mold and toxins in homes and workplaces. Passed Consumer Protection & Housing Committee; referred to Ways & Means 2/8.

## LOCAL HIGHLIGHT

### *Southwest Washington Asthma Coalition*

The new Asthma Education Center of the Northwest opened January 31, 2008 in Vancouver, Washington. Cindy Cooper, RN, AE-C, Director of the new Education Center, believes in a community partnership in the care of the asthmatic patient. She shares this passion with the providers who are supporting the Center: Carolyn Comer, MD, Michael Noonan MD, and Jason Friesen, MD from Allergy & Asthma Center of SW Washington.

The Asthma Education Center of the Northwest, renamed from "Southwest Washington" to "Northwest" to reflect expanded outreach, is the only freestanding asthma education center in Washington. They are excited about this innovative approach to asthma education. The Center will be conducting a collaborative pilot study with a local health plan to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of services and examine various methods of reimbursement. More information to follow as plans evolve.

The Center's Open House is set for Thursday, March 20, 2008 from 5:30-8:30PM at Town Center Two, 16821 SE McGillivray Blvd., Suite 112, Vancouver, WA. We hope to see you there!

Please contact Cindy Cooper at (360) 567-3984 or [ccooper@aecnorthwest.com](mailto:ccooper@aecnorthwest.com) if you have any questions.

## FUNDING AND AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

**Aetna Healthy Community Outreach Program Grants** Awards are made throughout the year to nonprofit organizations for grassroots efforts which increase awareness on critical health initiatives through health walks, health fairs and health education outreach. Grants up to \$25,000 will be considered. [Link](#)

## RESOURCES

**Wood Stove Replacement** The American Lung Association of Washington has compiled a comprehensive list of wood stove replacement programs available around the state. Click [here](#) for more information.

## RESEARCH

**The Burden of Illness in Young Children with Asthma** A Canadian study using national healthcare data, published in the January *Journal of Asthma*, found that children with asthma cost over \$100 more per child per year than the general population, and contributed to over 1/3 of the total Ontario Health Insurance Plan expenditures. Findings of this study revealed an enormous burden of illness to children with asthma and the healthcare system. [Abstract](#)

**Diagnosing Occupational Asthma** Although most adult patients seen by a clinician are employed, healthcare providers rarely receive training in occupational exposures and resultant diseases. This primer on occupational asthma is intended for the primary care clinician to provide the essential tools to diagnose and treat airways disease in the workplace. [Link](#)

**House Dust Mitigation and its Effect on the Development and Severity of Asthma** This review, published in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, examined 14 studies on house dust interventions and their effect on asthma symptoms and new diagnoses. The results showed insufficient evidence to support hygiene measures to improve outcomes in existing atopic disease, but interventions from birth in those at high risk of atopy significantly reduced physician-diagnosed asthma. [Full text](#)

**Influenza Burden for Children With Asthma** A prospective review of children hospitalized or receiving urgent/emergent care for influenza showed significantly higher hospitalization rates for children 6-23 months with asthma. The study, published in the January *Pediatrics*, showed higher outpatient visit rates among children with asthma age 6-59 months. Fewer than 30% of the children with asthma received flu vaccination. [Abstract](#)

**Race/Ethnicity, Language, and Asthma Care** A survey of children from 4 states, intended to evaluate the association of race/ethnicity and language with the quality of asthma care, found that differences in asthma care quality and controller use persist among racial/ethnic and language groups despite similar rates of planned encounters for asthma. Latino children with Spanish-speaking parents experienced lower rates of education regarding what to do during asthma exacerbations and addressing the home environment. Authors concluded that improving use of controller medications and counseling on environmental modifications are important for reducing asthma disparities. [Abstract](#)

**Effect of Cost on Children's Use of Asthma Medications** A Canadian study examining children's asthma medication claims found significantly lower use of asthma medication among those with higher cost-sharing. Families with no out-of-pocket expenses for medications were compared to families with low (<20%) and high (>20%) costs. The highest cost-sharing level negatively impacted use of maintenance medications and newer dual agents. *Arch of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine*. [Abstract](#)

### Other Select Articles:

[Assessment of Inhalation Technique in Children in GP: ↑ Risk of Incorrect Performance with New Device](#) *J Asthma* 2008; 45: 67-71.

[Bronchial Thermoplasty Promising for Patients With Severe Asthma](#) *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2007; 176: 1185-1191.

[Formoterol fumarate inh powder vs albuterol nebulizer for tx of asthma in acute care](#) *Ann Al Asthma Imm* 2008; 100(2): 146-152.

[Nitrate stress in refractory asthma](#) *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2008; 121: 355-360

[Recombinant human deoxyribonuclease for the treatment of acute asthma in children](#) *Thorax* 2008; 63: 141-146

[Lung function in adults w/ severe asthma: air trapping & inc reversal of obstr w/ bronchodilation](#) *J Appl Phys* 2008; 104: 394-403

[Near-Fatal Asthma: Recognition and Management](#) *Curr Opin Pulm Med* 2008; 14(1): 13-23.

[Asthma and Food Allergy](#) *Curr Opin Pulm Med* 2008; 14(1): 9-12.

[Cont Exp to Maternal Distress in Early Life Associated w/ Risk of Childhood Asthma](#) *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2008; 177: 142-147.

[Effect of different txs on exercise-induced bronchoconstriction in children w/ asthma](#) *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2008; 121: 383-389.

## EVENTS

### **Environmental Health Lecture – March 12, 2008, Seattle, WA**

The Institute for Children's Environmental Health continues their 2008 lecture series on March 12, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., with "The Future of Energy: Applying Ecological Economics to Global Issues". Click [here](#) for more information about this lecture & the series.

### **ALAW Asthma Walks –May 4, 2008, Seattle & May 17, 2008, Spokane**

The American Lung Association of Washington is holding their annual Asthma Walks on Sunday, May 4, at University of Washington in Seattle, and Saturday, May 17, at the Spokane Valley YMCA. Join the WAI team, or form your own! [Click here](#) for more information.

### **ALAW Asthma Walk Kickoff Luncheon – March 6, 2008, Seattle, WA**

Join the excitement of being involved in something really big! This is your opportunity to hear from leaders in the fight against asthma and why your involvement is vital to saving lives. Mark your calendar today for Thursday, March 6, 2008 at the Washington Athletic Club in downtown Seattle. [Click here](#) to register.

### **National Air Quality Conferences – April 6-9, 2008, Portland, OR – [Link](#)**

### **EPA National Asthma Forum – May 1-2, 2008, Washington DC – [Link](#)**