

NEWS

EMERGENT RESEARCHERS PRESENT THEIR FINDINGS AT THE WORLD ALLERGY CONGRESS IN MUNICH

Two young researchers from the University of Cape Town had the opportunity to present their research findings at the XIX World Allergy Organisation Congress and XXIV Congress of the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology held in Munich, Germany, in June 2005. Natalie Niewenhuizen based in the Immunology Section of the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine is currently completing her PhD research on *Anisakis*-related allergy using mouse models. Her findings demonstrated that *Anisakis pegreffii* contains potent sensitising allergens resulting in IgE-mediated cytokine release. She collaborated with other UCT researchers including Andreas Lopata, Mohamed Jeebhay and Frank Brombacher. Roslynn Baatjies from the Occupational and Environmental Health Research Unit presented results from her masters thesis on occupational allergy and asthma in small bakeries of a supermarket chain store in South Africa. She reported a high prevalence of occupational allergy and asthma among these bakers despite flour dust levels being relatively low. She collaborated with local researchers including Mohamed Jeebhay, Andreas Lopata and Eric Bateman from UCT, as well as international researchers Ingrid Sander and Monika Raulf-Heimsoth from Germany and Tim Meijster and Dick Heederik from The Netherlands. Roslynn is a previous recipient of the ALLSA-GSK research award (2004).



Natalie Niewenhuizen



Roslynn Baatjies

ALLSA ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 2005 ALLSA RESEARCH AWARDS

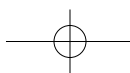
The successful recipients of the 2005 ALLSA research awards were announced at the ALLSA Congress in Durban. Another emergent researcher, Onnicah Mabe from the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) received the ALLSA-UCB research award of R25 000 for pursuing her master's research project on 'Detection of latex aeroallergens in dental schools'. Tanusha Singh, senior researcher, also based at the NIOH, received the ALLSA-GSK award of R25 000 to

pursue her doctoral research on 'Work-related asthma associated with endotoxin exposure in dental workers in South Africa'. The other two ALLSA-GSK awards were made to senior researchers, Dr Emmerentia van Schalkwyk from the University of Stellenbosch who was awarded R25 000 for her study on 'The prevalence, distribution and correlates of total and specific IgE in young adults in an urban area of the Western Cape' and Dr Andreas Lopata from the University of Cape Town, who received R50 000 for his application for 'Identification and characterisation of allergens from pilchard (*Sardinops sagax*), causing occupational allergy among seafood processors.'

ROLAND SCHOEMAN TALKS ON TOTAL CONTROL OF ASTHMA

Olympic gold medalist Roland Schoeman, who had also recently picked up two gold and one silver medal at the World Swimming Championships in Montreal, including a new world record for the men's 50 m butterfly, chatted to medical professionals and the media at the annual ALLSA congress in Durban in August. Although many people may not know it, Roland has suffered from asthma since the age of 6. 'When I was a child, treatment was not where it is today, so I always had my reliever pump with me,' he says. 'I was fortunate in that my doctor recommended I take up swimming to help with my condition, where many other healthcare practitioners advised their patients to steer clear of sport.' Even as a young athlete he found he tired easily, had difficulty running up and down stairs, had asthma attacks and was dependent on his pump.

It's only in the last year that Roland feels he has been managing his asthma effectively. Although inhaled cor-



ticosteroids are allowed drugs for asthmatics, the sporting authorities require athletes to obtain permission for using them. The lung function test required by the International Olympic Committee alerted Roland to the seriousness of his situation. 'The test showed I'd lost 16% of the capacity of my lungs. I honestly didn't understand how asthma was affecting me. Once I realised how bad my asthma was, I decided to do something about it.' He consulted a pulmonologist who put him on regular preventer medication and he has been free of asthma attacks for the past year. 'It's not just that it protects me during the actual race, but what is significant is that my asthma doesn't interfere with my training programme.'

Prof Elvis Irusen of Tygerberg Hospital comments that many asthmatics are underassessed and undertreated. 'Roland was a classic example. If not adequately treated, asthmatics can lose 50% of their lung capacity without the doctor or patient realising it. The problem is with asthma assessment - it's subtle in that you can't see it.' He mentions a report of asthmatics in Finland where

50% of the group studied were on disability, but once their medication was changed, only 1% remained unable to work. 'With uncontrolled asthma, every attack that is not treated is potentially lethal. It's like pumping up a flat tyre,' he adds. 'You have to fix the puncture or it'll keep happening.'

GlaxoSmithKline are assisting Roland to create awareness and promote education about asthma control countrywide. He is keen to make a difference in the lives of young people with asthma, to inspire them to reach for their goals and not let asthma stop them. 'I believe that all people should educate themselves about asthma and its treatments so they can be a part of their treatment and improve their quality of life,' says Roland. 'In the past, people with asthma could not participate in sport or even live a normal life without their asthma pump handy. Asthma controlled your life and there was very little you could do about it. Today people can pretty much do anything despite their condition. With appropriate treatment and monitoring, total control of asthma symptoms has become a reality.'

Hurwitz Clinical Pediatric Dermatology 3/e A Textbook of Skin Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence

Amy S. Paller and Anthony J. Mancini

November 2005, ISBN 0721604986, hardback, 752 pp, 1025 illustrations, Saunders, R1 790

This thoroughly updated classic text covers the full range of paediatric diseases, with special emphasis on management and which methods work best. Maintains the steadfast tradition of Sid Hurwitz's groundbreaking work.

Features

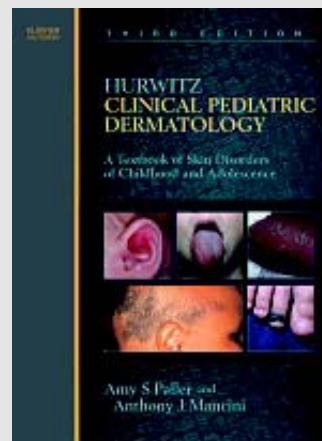
- Management focus - Focuses on management options, pros and cons of treatment options.
- Comprehensive - Covers every paediatric disease in enough detail for the non-specialist.
- Clinical - Focuses on patient diagnosis and management.
- Annotated references for additional reading.
- Format makes it easy to use and to understand.

What's New

- Now in FULL COLOUR! High quality, updated clinical full colour photographs of skin disorders help in quick diagnosis.
- Tables allow for quick reference for differential diagnoses, clinical features, treatments, etc.
- Molecular bases of diseases has been updated to keep reader current.

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