

Introduction

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The Quaeritur initiative brings together experts in various aspects of asthma and allergy and other selected specialists to discuss particular topics in respiratory medicine. The eleventh meeting of the Quaeritur programme was held in June 1999 and addressed the theme of unmet clinical needs in asthma. The programme deliberately included a heterogeneous menu of items to try and expose the various facets of asthma from different viewpoints. This ranged from basic cellular mechanisms that may translate into symptoms and responses to treatment on the one hand, to the patients

perspectives of their disease and where there may be problems in terms of delivering effective treatments on the other. By bringing together these two types of approach to asthma, it is likely that we will all learn something about the disease, where the shortcomings are and where we should be focusing our attention in a more multidisciplinary way rather than thinking about asthma in a single paradigm.

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