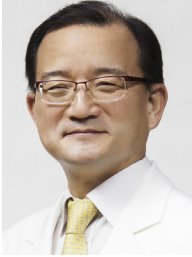


Preface

The Impact of Climate Change on Allergy in a Changing World



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Editor

Most of the observed increase in recently global average temperatures is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations. Moreover, changes are also occurring in the amount, intensity, frequency, and type of precipitation as well as the increase of extreme weather events, such as droughts, thunderstorms, floods, and hurricanes.

The major changes to our world involve the atmosphere and its associated climate, including global warming induced by human activity, and are causing an impact on the biosphere, biodiversity, and the human environment. Observational evidence indicates that recent regional changes in climate, particularly increases in temperature, have already affected a diverse set of physical and biological systems in many parts of the world.

Climate change represents a massive threat to global health that could affect many disease factors in the twenty-first century. Among others, climate change influences the development of asthma and allergic respiratory diseases and also pollen and mold productions that induce allergic manifestations.

The influence of a changing climate on allergic disease has generated interest from the public and the scientific community. Climate change is a constant process that affects allergy. The climate is constantly changing and variable over time and is dependent on incoming solar radiation, outgoing thermal radiation, and the composition of the atmosphere on earth. There are multiple interrelated, potential consequences of climatic change on respiratory allergic disease. Therefore, the change can subsequently influence the occurrence of allergic diseases, such as asthma, allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, and even atopic dermatitis.

The exact future consequences of these trends are speculative, but the allergy community should be knowledgeable about the issues, understand the effect on allergy and asthma, and be well versed in possible means to mitigate adverse health

consequences. Ultimately, the approach to climate change should be integrated and anticipatory to protect and treat our patients with asthma and other allergic and climate-sensitive diseases from constituents that are likely driving this phenomenon.

This special issue was designed not only to review the clinical aspect of multifaceted allergy with diverse information of climate change in the world but also to discuss the mechanism of those phenomena.

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