Correspondence

Reply

Alan P. Knutsen, MD[a]
Robert K. Bush, MD[b]

To the Editor:

Ogawa et al[1] describe 2 additional basidiomycetous fungi that we omitted from our review of fungal sensitivity and allergic lower respiratory tract diseases.[2] We thank Professor Ogawa and colleagues for bringing this to our attention. Basidiomycetous fungi have been implicated in respiratory allergy including asthma and allergic bronchopulmonary mycosis. Ogawa et al[3] reported IgE sensitivity to *Schizophyllum commune* associated with the severity of asthma. In addition, Kamei et al[4] reported the case of a 57-year-old Japanese woman who developed allergic bronchopulmonary mycosis caused by *S commune*. Ogawa et al[5] also reported IgE sensitivity to *Bjerkandera adjusta* as a possible cause of chronic cough. In studies examining IgE sensitivity to basidiomycetous fungi, investigators have developed their own reagents for allergy skin testing and *in vitro* specific allergen IgE testing. Undoubtedly, IgE sensitivity to basidiomycetous fungi is associated with respiratory allergic disorders. However, the systematic evaluation of IgE sensitivity is hampered by the lack of standardized commercial extracts. Future studies would be greatly enhanced if commercially available extracts were available.

From [a]the Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, Saint Louis University, St Louis, Mo, and [b]the Section of Allergy, Immunolgy, Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wis. E-mail: knutsenm@slu.edu.

Disclosure of potential conflict of interest: The authors declare that they have no relevant conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES

1. Ogawa H, Fujimura M, Takeuchi Y, Makimura K. Possible roles of 2 basidiomycetous fungi in allergic respiratory disease. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2012;130:XXX-XXX.
2. Knutsen AP, Bush RK, Demain JG, Denning DW, Dixit A, Fairs A, et al. Fungi and allergic lower respiratory tract diseases. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2012;129:280-91.
3. Ogawa H, Fujimura M, Takeuchi Y, Makimura K. The influence of *Schizophyllum commune* on asthma severity. Lung 2011;189:485-92.
4. Kamei K, Unno H, Hagao K, Kuriyama T, Nishimura K, Miyaji M. Allergic bronchopulmonary mycosis caused by the basidiomycetous fungus *Schizophyllum commune*. Clin Infect Dis 1994;18:305-9.
5. Ogawa H, Fujimura M, Takeuchi Y, Makimura K. Is *Bjerkandera adjusta* important to fungus-associated chronic cough as an allergen? Eight cases' reports. J Asthma 2009;46:849-55.

doi:10.1016/j.jaci.2012.03.052