

Foreword

Childhood Asthma

Recent Progress with Management and New Hope for Prevention



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Consulting Editor

We began appreciating the existence of a pediatric asthma epidemic more than 2 decades ago, and in the years since then, the available treatment alternatives and paradigms have changed dramatically, including impressive improvements in symptom and objective testing outcomes in clinical studies, and an overall stabilization of prevalence and exacerbation rates.¹ However, pediatric asthma continues to be an important public health problem, and the overall disease burden shows no objective signs of shrinking in the near term. Fortunately, we may be headed for dramatic and impactful changes in the future. Recent insights into the importance of the interactions between early life bacterial exposures, viral infections, exposure to passive smoke and other pollutants, and aeroallergen sensitization have led to novel approaches to intervention with the goal of disease modification and/or prevention of asthma.

In this issue of *Immunology and Allergy Clinics of North America*, Drs Guilbert and Bacharier have assembled an internationally prominent group of authors to address cutting-edge topics relevant to the pathophysiology, diagnosis, management, and prevention of pediatric asthma. The issue tackles an incredibly complicated topic, yet is both thorough and practical, and will therefore serve as an invaluable reference for

Dr Tilles' consultant work for this issue of *Immunology and Allergy Clinics of North America* was completed before he became an employee of Aimmune Therapeutics.

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practicing allergists, pulmonologists, pediatricians, family physicians, and other health care providers who see children with asthma.

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REFERENCE

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