



**For immediate release**

**Asthma Society of Canada Announces 1<sup>st</sup> Recipient of the Bastable-Potts Asthma Research Prize**

TORONTO, ON (8 May 2014)—Dr. Michael Brauer, a Professor at the School of Population and Public Health, The University of British Columbia, and a Principal Investigator in the Allergy, Genes and Environment Network (AllerGen NCE), has been named as the first recipient of the Asthma Society of Canada's Bastable-Potts Asthma Research Prize. The award, valued this year at \$10,000, recognizes innovative Canadian research that adds to the body of knowledge on asthma and its relationship to environmental exposures.

The Asthma Society of Canada (ASC) established the Bastable-Potts Asthma Research Fund in 2014, following the receipt of a bequest from the estate of Gail Suzanne Potts, who died in 2012. Mrs. Potts's mother suffered from adult onset asthma and her desire was to advance research into the multiple factors that contribute to its development.

The cause of asthma is not fully known, but both genetics and the environment appear to be at play. The causes of asthma exacerbations are better known, but still not fully understood. Dr. Brauer's ground-breaking research into traffic-related air pollution and its relationship to asthma in both adults and children is recognized by the ASC as a significant contribution toward improving the lives of Canadians suffering from allergies and asthma.

The Bastable-Potts Asthma Research Prize was presented in Toronto on April 30, 2014, by Dr. Robert Oliphant, President and CEO of the ASC, Dr. Susan Wasserman, Chair of the ASC Medical and Scientific Committee, Neil Maisel, Honorary Director of the ASC, and Dr. Diana Royce, Managing Director and COO of AllerGen NCE, as part of the ASC's **For Life and Breath** Conference focusing on Allergy, Asthma and the Environment.

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