

1. ALLERGY/ASTHMA INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

The **Allergy/Asthma Information Association** is pleased to support the work of AllerGen. The many research projects that are underway are invaluable to Canadian patients and to Canadian allergy associations such as the AAIA. They do a great deal to increase our understanding of allergy, which is a complex and fascinating field of study. It is particularly helpful to have studies that enhance our knowledge about allergy in Canada as allergy affects up to 30% of Canadians.

Prior to the creation of AllerGen, there were a few Canadian researchers working on issues relevant to allergy and asthma patients, but now, with AllerGen's leadership, there is a great deal of significant new research being initiated in this area. For example, studies such as the one on peanut allergy incidence led by Dr. Ann Clarke of the MUHC provides an excellent foundation on which we can base the information provided to patients and the public and the results of this research will also help to inform our policy recommendations.

Mary Allen

Chief Executive Officer
Allergy/Asthma Information Association

2. ANAPHYLAXIS CANADA

As a patient association, **Anaphylaxis Canada** strives to align with other like-minded individuals and organizations whose work will help people with severe allergies live safely. Through our involvement in AllerGen initiatives – conferences, planning committees, and research projects – we have gained a better understanding of both the research world and how allergy issues are being addressed through science. In the past two years, we have provided both cash and in-kind support through the successful recruitment of thousands of study participants for AllerGen research teams. As a co-investigator on several AllerGen projects and as a conference speaker, we have helped researchers and scientists better understand the challenges faced by the lay community.

Only through a collaborative effort involving stakeholders from multiple disciplines will research translate into effective solutions for allergic individuals. The AllerGen network facilitates this “coming together” of individuals and groups who share a common goal

Laurie Harada

Executive Director
Anaphylaxis Canada

3. ASTHMA SOCIETY OF CANADA

The Asthma Society of Canada (ASC) is a relatively small organization with a large reach and even larger mandate. In order to be successful in achieving our mission and reaching our goals, it is necessary for us to enhance our capacity and resources by partnering with organizations with capacity that complements ours. AllerGen's research expertise and resources have enabled us to take on and have added significant value to four specific initiatives: Partnership in Lung Age Testing and Education (PLATE); the Asthma Worsening Tool Project; an asthma and allergy project with First Nations and Inuit; and, multimedia enhanced e-learning adaptations of our educational material. These projects could not be successful without the participation of AllerGen's researchers. Our vision at the ASC is to empower every adult and child in Canada with asthma to live an active and symptom-free life. Our flourishing partnership with AllerGen is an important and necessary condition for the ASC to achieve this vision on behalf of Canadians with asthma and I strongly support its continued public funding.

Christine Hampson, Ph.D.

President & CEO
Asthma Society of Canada

4. BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM

In 2006, **Boehringer Ingelheim** partnered with the AllerGen Clinical Investigator Collaborative to conduct a Phase IIa study evaluating the efficacy, safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics of single doses of the long-acting beta-agonist BI 1744 CL in patients with asthma. BI 1744 CL is a New Chemical Entity (NCE) being developed by Boehringer Ingelheim and Study 1222.4 represented the first time that BI 1744 CL was administered to patients with asthma.

The AllerGen Clinical Investigator Collaborative provided an ideal opportunity to address these concerns by allowing Boehringer Ingelheim to partner with a collaborative group of Investigators with extensive experience in the methodologies included in the study design, and offering the additional advantage of early discussions with all Investigators to ensure that a consistent methodological approach could be maintained across all sites.

The tremendous collaboration between Boehringer Ingelheim and the AllerGen Clinical Investigator Collaborative, under the exemplary leadership of Dr. Paul O'Byrne, was pivotal in ensuring that the development of the study protocol, the preparation of the investigational sites and the conduct of the study were all completed with the highest regard for quality and at the same time with a clear understanding of the need to complete the study within the very aggressive timelines proposed by Boehringer Ingelheim.

The study results are a testament to the quality of the preparation and conduct of the study. The study achieved its objective by providing initial proof of concept of the 24 hour bronchoprotective effect of BI 1744 CL in asthma patients, which allowed Boehringer Ingelheim to make the important decision to invest in the next phase of clinical development with the highest degree of confidence.

The results of the study were presented at the American Thoracic Society Conference in Toronto in May 2008 (Abstract 932: Single Doses of BI 1744 CL, a Novel Long-Acting Beta2-Agonist, Are Effective for up to 32 Hrs in Asthmatic Patients); a manuscript is currently in preparation.

Alan Hamilton, Ph.D.
Therapeutic Area Director
Clinical Research
Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd.

5. CANADIAN ALLERGY AND ASTHMA AND IMMUNOLOGY FOUNDATION

As Chair of **CAAIF** and past president of **CSACI**, I have observed AllerGen become one of the most outstanding developments to Canadian Allergy and Clinical Immunology. AllerGen has been able to bring together researchers, clinicians, allied health and support organizations for the benefit of patients with allergic diseases. I hope that AllerGen will be able to continue its mandate for many years to come.

Dr. Eric Leith,

Chair

Canadian Allergy and Asthma and Immunology Foundation

6. CANADIAN SOCIETY OF ALLERGY AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY

AllerGen has forged a partnership with the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) in research and capacity building. AllerGen has promoted collaboration between basic scientists and clinical researchers within our membership, as well as collaboration with other disciplines, involved in the area of allergy and immune-related research.

AllerGen has also invested in young researchers, including the residents and fellows of the Clinical Immunology and Allergy programs. AllerGen has sponsored an annual trainee symposium for trainees interested in Allergy research. AllerGen and the CSACI have co-sponsored an AllerGen-CSACI Trainee Day over the past three years. AllerGen encourages networking between these young scientists at these trainees' meetings, at the annual meetings of AllerGen and CSACI, and at specialized workshops (e.g. asthma phenotyping, etc.).

AllerGen is concerned about improving the quality of life for individuals suffering from allergies, asthma and related immune disorders. To this end, clinical allergists and immunologists are an important interface between science and the patient. As is the case with many specialties, the specialty of Clinical Immunology and Allergy is facing significant manpower shortages. AllerGen included a symposium on "Allergy and Clinical Immunology: The future of the subspecialty" at its third Annual Research Conference in February 2008. This interactive forum allowed experts in the area of manpower issues, clinical allergists, and physicians and researchers from other disciplines, to discuss the challenges and possible solutions related to this manpower issue. AllerGen, along with the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, co-sponsored a weekend workshop on "The Future of the Specialty". Academic and clinical allergists from across the country spent a weekend discussing the challenges facing the specialty of Clinical Immunology and Allergy. Following brainstorming sessions, action plans for both the short-term and the long-term were established to address the manpower issues facing the specialty of Clinical Immunology and Allergy.

AllerGen has been a significant agent in promoting research, capacity building, and education in the Allergy community. Its contributions to date have been considerable, but the networks and partnerships it has forged will no doubt result in unprecedented advances in the area of Allergy research and education in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Frankish

President

Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

7. CANADIAN THORACIC SOCIETY

I have been involved with AllerGen in a variety of activities but would like to describe my impressions for the perspective as **Canadian Thoracic Society Research Committee director**. I have been impressed with how AllerGen has used a collaborative approach to strengthening the asthma and allergy research community in Canada. This has occurred at almost all levels of research, from trainees to senior scientists. A combined CTS/AllerGen fellowship was created to help encourage the growth of new clinician-scientists within Canada. Over and over, collaboration and strengthening of networks has been encouraged. At the CTS we are trying to use these models in other settings and develop collaborations that maximize the strengths and competitiveness of Canadian pulmonary scientists.

I am personally convinced that AllerGen has been a major force for the re-invigoration of Canadian pulmonary researchers. It shows how to do things right to move the field forward.

Irvin Mayers, MD, FRCPC
Professor and Divisional Director
Division of Pulmonary Medicine
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

8. HEALTH CANADA

Indeed AllerGen has provided us with an opportunity to develop unique projects directly supporting **Health Canada's** strategic objectives in improving the protection of consumers with food allergies and celiac disease. Of special note are projects being undertaken with co-sponsorship from Health Canada's food chemical safety program and AllerGen related to documenting prevalence of common food allergies and consumer behaviour vis-a-vis food labeling. These projects will provide invaluable data in direct support of Health Canada food allergen labeling policies pertaining to common food allergens and gluten sources.

We are glad to continue a strong collaboration with the research community of the AllerGen network.

Samuel Benrejeb Godefroy, Ph.D.
Director / Directeur
Bureau of Chemical Safety / Bureau d'innocuité des produits chimiques
Food Directorate / Direction des aliments
Health Canada / Santé Canada

9. IVAX RESEARCH INC.

IVAX Research was involved in the development of a novel inhaled non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug for the treatment of allergic inflammation in asthma. IVAX Research required a highly specialized technically skillful group of investigators able to use the antigen challenge clinical model in mildly asthmatic patients to test the drug activity on allergic inflammation. Special study techniques were needed to be implemented as part of the procedures, including bronchoalveolar lavage, exhaled nitric oxide measurements, methacholine challenges among others. AllerGen CIC working with IVAX Research provided the investigators who could not only perform the antigen challenge in a reproducible and systematic way but were also capable of performing the concomitant specialized procedures mentioned above. AllerGen CIC also collaborated with a partial grant to the investigators for additional mechanistic tests. Thanks to AllerGen CIC, IVAX Research was able to complete the study efficiently, and in a timely basis.

AllerGen Partner Impact Statements

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10. TOPIGEN PHARMACEUTICALS INC.

I was very satisfied with the quality of work and responsiveness of the AllerGen CIC group during our clinical trial. Their level of professionalism demonstrated during the trial was exactly what **Topigen** is looking for. I would not hesitate to return to this group at the first occasion

Rene Pageau
Senior Director Clinical Research
Topigen Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Montreal. QC