



Level 1, 22 Panama Street,
PO Box 1459, Wellington 6140
t (04) 499 4592 f (04) 499 4594
e info@asthmafoundation.org.nz
www.asthmafoundation.org.nz



the asthma foundation
Better respiratory health for New Zealanders

20 June 2011

Dear Colleagues,

The 2011 New Zealand Respiratory Educators Conference will be held at the Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington on 1 and 2 September 2011.

The conference is The Asthma Foundation's annual event for health professionals who care for people with respiratory disease.

The theme for 2011 is "Touch, Pause, Engage"

Touch base with new research and innovation

Pause – can you improve what you are doing currently?

Engage in evidence-based practice.

Professor Innes Asher from Starship Children's Hospital and Auckland School of Medicine, who is well known to most of us will be opening the conference with a presentation – *Asthma – where in the world are we now? A reflection on 20 years of ISAAC.*

The international keynote speaker is Professor Phil Bardin, Professor of Respiratory Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne. He is recognised internationally for his research of virus-asthma exacerbations and has also conducted extensive research of clinical asthma therapies and treatment. Recently, investigations of vocal cord dysfunction in asthma have come to prominence.

He will be giving an address – *Voice Box Asthma*. He is also presenting a workshop on *Immune Suppression in Asthma*.

Professors Asher and Bardin will be joined by New Zealand adult and paediatric respiratory specialists in medicine, nursing, physiotherapy and research.

New Zealand has some alarming statistics associated with respiratory disease:

- New Zealand has one of the **highest rates** of respiratory disease in the developed world.
- Approximately 160,000 children under 15 years of age are regularly exposed to cigarette smoke.
- Maori and Pacific children are more likely to be exposed to environmental tobacco smoke than non-Maori and non-Pacific children.

- New Zealanders are opting in increasing numbers to get immunised against flu. Three years ago 750,000 doses of flu vaccine were distributed by the start of winter. In 2011 by 1 June 950,000 doses have already been distributed. What can we do to influence this increasing trend?

The conference speakers will be addressing these issues and many others, such as getting started on your own research, putting research into YOUR practice, how to change your practice, managing end stage respiratory patients in the community, COPD, interpreting spirometry and smoking cessation techniques. I know that there will be something of interest to health professionals who have an interest in the respiratory health of New Zealanders.

We have extended the date for applications to display a poster and enter into the poster competition. The winner of the competition will receive a \$500 cash prize donated by McLaren Medical. For details of how to enter your poster check out our website.

Please feel free to photocopy the registration brochure and distribute to any of your colleagues who may not have received one personally. Registration forms and information on speakers and topics can also be found on our website, www.asthmafoundation.org.nz

We are really excited about this year's conference and hope that you will be able to join us and be part of it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robyn Ingleton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robyn Ingleton
Education Services Manager