

Upcoming Events

CNRC Annual General Meeting

to be held in Toronto
Friday, December 10th, 2010

The Canadian Network for Respiratory Care will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Friday, December 10th at the Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel, 901 Dixon Road, Toronto, ON M9W 1J5 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. CAEs and CREs in the Toronto area are invited to attend. For those unable to attend, more information will be sent on how to participate by proxy. Join us for a casual dinner and opportunity to be updated on recent CNRC activities as well as our plans for the future.

Please check your mail in the next couple of weeks for more information.

6th Annual Day in Respirology

Saturday, November 13, 2010

University of Toronto
The MaRS Centre
Toronto, ON

www.dayinrespirology.com

Job Posting

The Ontario Lung Association

is looking for a Project Coordinator for their Provider Education Program, based in Toronto. This is a full-time contract position initially to March 31, 2011 (renewable annually).

For further information, please contact the Ontario Lung Association directly.

[To access the full job posting](#)

Allergic Living Update

You should all be receiving your copies of Allergic Living magazine. This has been a wonderful opportunity to promote the knowledge, skills and talent of Certified Asthma and Respiratory Educators directly to patients in our Currents supplement. We are grateful for the support of GlaxoSmithKline Canada in supporting this important project. Please continue to send your story ideas, Q&As and True/False questions directly to cconnors@cnrcrhome.net.

If you haven't visited the Allergic Living website recently, you should take a look at it at <http://www.allergicliving.com>. It is one of the best resources for user-friendly client-centred information on asthma and allergies. You will find the latest asthma/allergy news, recipes and blogs/Q&As from experts in the field. They are even now including and "Ask the Respiratory Educator" section at <http://allergicliving.com/index.php/category/blogs/>.

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Allergic Living is working with a number of allergy groups (including Anaphylaxis Canada, the Canadian Celiac Association, the Asthma Allergy Information Association, the Association Québécoise des allergies alimentaires, the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology and Canadian Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Foundation) to organize a letter-writing campaign to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq as well as local MPs.

If you would like to participate in Allergic Living's letter writing campaign to support this very important, life-saving legislation, please consider sending a letter to your MP, the PM and the Health Minister.



Asthma Education from Certified Asthma Educator Rated Top Performance Indicator

Lead author Dr. Teresa To, from the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto has published an important study developing evidence-based performance indicators that measure the quality of primary care for asthma. "Evidence-based performance indicators of primary care for asthma: a modified RAND Appropriateness Method" was published in the "International Journal for Quality in Health Care" (Advance Access published October 25, 2010).

The study involved a comprehensive literature search and review combined with input and review from an Expert Panel. Asthma education from a Certified Asthma Educator was rated as the top performance indicator (tied with pulmonary function testing). Performance indicators were evaluated by the Expert Panel group based on the following factors:

- Validity (Evidence supports a link between the indicator and positive patient outcomes)
- Relevance (The indicator will drive quality improvement in primary care and increase healthcare accountability)
- Room for improvement (can detect current gaps in primary asthma care)
- Overall (has strong utility for asthma quality of care assessment)

2004 data suggests that a staggering \$162 million was spent in Canada on treating uncontrolled asthma. Despite well-established guidelines, variations in quality of asthma care in primary care are common. The authors concluded that there is a need to identify effective quality improvement strategies to ensure safe delivery of high-quality services. Community-based performance indicators (or quality of care indicators) can help identify barriers to, and enablers of, the development, dissemination and uptake of clinical guidelines.

The authors recommended that the top 15 indicators be used in primary care to measure asthma care delivery, respiratory health outcomes and establish benchmarks for optimal health service delivery over time and across populations.

[To read the full article](#)

Show Your Support: Food Allergen Label Law

Allergic Living has just learned that the long sought after food labeling legislation has been stalled. If the regulations do not pass by the end of this year, they will expire and the process, already a decade in the making, will have to begin again from scratch.

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Support for Smoking Cessation Certification Proposal

By Cheryl Connors, Executive Director



I would like to thank everyone for the tremendous support you demonstrated for our funding submission to the Public Health Agency of Canada. We are partnering with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) TEACH (Training Enhancement in Applied Cessation Counselling) program to create a smoking cessation certification program, "Enhancing Healthcare Professional Capacity to Integrate Evidence-based Smoking Cessation Interventions". Within a very short timeframe, we received a tremendous number of letters of support for the program from CAEs and CREs personally, as well as from your organizations. We have received an update that PHAC received 45 submissions to the Lung Health Program (Phase II) funding. We will collectively "keep our fingers crossed" as we wait for news on whether our very important smoking cessation certification initiative will receive funding. Stay tuned.

Alberta and Manitoba CREs and CAEs Needed for Research Study

A research team led by Dr. Miriam Stewart at the University of Alberta is studying asthma and allergies in low income and aboriginal communities. The project, "Mapping Policy Pathways for Community Action on Urban Respiratory Health Inequities in Children."

The researchers would like to talk to low-income children/youth and their parents in Edmonton and Winnipeg (incomes under \$45,000). They will provide CREs and CAEs with posters or personal flyers for patients. They also want to talk to service providers and service planners in Alberta (Manitoba) who can help them understand the policy influencers at the local level.

In addition, for another study, "Engaging Aboriginal families affected by allergies and asthma in support-ed program development", the researchers would like to talk to CREs and CAEs who work in Alberta First Nations or Métis Communities or work with Canada's aboriginal people off reserve or settlement. They are particularly interested in speaking to front-line professionals who provide services to children with respiratory conditions. They would like to know about their experience of barriers for low-income parents and children (E.g. over the counter meds, travel, parking, time off work). Group interviews will be conducted by conference call and face-to-face interviews.

Interested Alberta and Manitoba CREs and CAEs should contact Sharon Anderson, MEd, MScC, Research Associate, Social Support Research Program at the University of Alberta at sdanders@ualberta.ca or by phone at (780) 492-8945.

[For more information](#)