



BioMed Research International

Special Issue on
**Genetic and Molecular Background of Allergic
Asthma**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Bronchial asthma is a very common disorder with a multifactorial background. Although this disorder is now effectively treatable in most cases, a large deal of treatment-responsiveness is also acknowledged. This may be due to the incomplete understanding of this disorder and noncompliant patients who seek alternative therapies. Asthma has traditionally been regarded as an allergic disease, but it is now clear that nonallergic mechanisms may also be present contributing to a very wide inflammatory and clinical spectrum of this disorder. In line with this, a detailed phenotyping of patients including several clinical and molecular tests is now part of the clinical routine to optimize the treatment.

Around 90% of patients with asthma have an allergic background, but only 10% of atopic patients develop asthma. The discrepancy between the two phenomena is not fully understood. A broad range of studies aimed to investigate the molecular and genetic background of asthma, but unfortunately many of them did not address the presence of atopy in detail. In addition, it is also acknowledged that optimal asthma treatment usually does not resolve allergic conditions (i.e., rhinitis or conjunctivitis) and vice versa. A detailed picture on the link between asthma and allergy is therefore extremely warranted to understand the true nature of allergic asthma and to provide potential novel targets for drug development.

We therefore invite investigators to contribute original research and review articles focusing on genetic and molecular differences between allergic and nonallergic asthma.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Genetic, epigenetic, and genomic studies: current status
- ▶ Possible biomarkers in systemic (blood and urine) and airway (bronchoalveolar lavage, sputum, or exhaled breath) samples in both pediatric and adult populations:
 - ▶ Usefulness in asthma diagnosis
 - ▶ Usefulness in asthma management
 - ▶ Modification by treatment, influence of steroids, leukotriene antagonists, H1-antagonists, and so forth
 - ▶ Indicators for biological treatment
- ▶ Evaluation of therapeutic response in asthma: allergic versus nonallergic

Authors can submit their manuscripts via the Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/bmri/pulmonology/gmb/>.

Lead Guest Editor

Andras Bikov, Semmelweis University,
Budapest, Hungary
andras.bikov@gmail.com

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Liege, Belgium
fshleich@chu.ulg.ac.be

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silvano.dragonieri@uniba.it

Cecilia Anderson, Imperial College,
London, UK
c.andersson@imperial.ac.uk

Gabriella Galffy, Semmelweis
University, Budapest, Hungary
ggalffy@hotmail.com

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