

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2021

Dear Global Asthma Network colleagues and friends,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well and safe. The Covid-19 pandemic and its recent delta variant are a threat to us all. At the same time as countries like mine are moving towards a 90% double vaccination target, the African continent has only enough vaccines for 5% of its people; large inequities are deepening. In these immensely difficult times it feels like a miracle that we are able to connect with you and it is a privilege to work with you.

I am delighted to congratulate Professor Chen-Yuan Chiang (Taiwan) and Mr Elvis Ndikum (Cameroon) on their achievements (pages 2-3)

We are delighted that GAN Phase I is flourishing with its first publications on time worldwide trends on [asthma in The Lancet](#) and on [rhinoconjunctivitis in Paediatric Allergy and Immunology](#). More global papers are following. Congratulations to all collaborators who are involved in these papers, and thanks to the data centres in London and Murcia. Papers are being published by local or national collaborators on their own data - 12 so far (see pages 4-5) – more congratulations. There are lots of good things going on.

Preparation is well underway of the next Global Asthma Report (GAR) to be launched in 2022. There are 18 chapters that have been submitted and are being edited. There will be lots of new information and perspectives.

High quality photos are vital for GAR 2022. Thank you very much to those of you who have already sent in photos. However, we still need more. The specifications for photographs are included on page 5 in this newsletter.

The Steering Group meet annually, but since 2020 we have met by zoom with 4 meetings of 2 hours duration each, over a month. The meetings started on 1 November 2021 and in our next newsletter will inform you of the main outcomes.

We encourage you to keep sending us GAN related publications so that Eamon Ellwood can put these in the searchable GAN website library <http://www.globalasthmanetwork.org/publications/publications.php>

We thank you all for your input into GAN and hope that the year ahead is kind to you and your families.

With all best wishes from the GAN Global Centre, Auckland.

Innes
Professor Innes Asher ONZM,
Chair of GAN

CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Professor Innes Asher
Global Asthma Network Chair
Dept of Paediatrics: Child and Youth Health.
Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences.
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92 019
Auckland
NEW ZEALAND

Ph: 64 9 923 6451
Fax: 64 9 373 7602
Email: i.asher@auckland.ac.nz
Website:
<http://www.globalasthmanetwork.org/>

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Sub editor - P Ellwood
p.ellwood@auckland.ac.nz

Congratulations to:

Professor Chen-Yuan Chiang

For his promotion to Full Professorship of Medicine of Taipei Medical University



Professor Chiang has been a member of the Global Asthma Network (GAN) Steering Group since 2012.

Professor Chiang is affiliated with International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), Paris, France; and Division of Pulmonary Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Wan Fang Hospital, Taipei Medical University, Taipei, Taiwan; and Division of Pulmonary Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, College of Medicine, Taipei Medical University, Taipei, Taiwan. Prof Chiang's research interest is epidemiology, prevention and care of asthma and tuberculosis, and promoting lung health in resource limited settings.

The Ann Woolcock lecture - Asthma in the world: What are we learning from ISAAC and the Global Asthma Network?

Professor [Ann Woolcock](#) was an eminent Australian chest physician and researcher leader of global standing. On 8 October 2021 Innes Asher gave the invited Ann Woolcock lecture for the [Woolcock Institute](#) entitled "Asthma in the world: What are we learning from ISAAC and the Global Asthma Network?". The zoom lecture was [recorded](#) and her slides (pdf) are attached to this newsletter. The [work that Innes did with Ann](#) was a seed for developing ISAAC.

Congratulations to:

Achiri Elvis Ndikum

Congratulations to Achiri Elvis Ndikum, GAN Phase I Principal Investigator of Yaounde Cameroon, on being awarded a research scholarship

He is also part of The Global Youth 4 Clean Air and Climate Health Action-(Working group) which he explains below



The Global Ethics Education Initiative (GEEI) has offered Elvis a full scholarship to participate in its certificate program “How to Conduct and Publish Research”. Also, at the end of the training they will be sourcing funding for the research developed.

Elvis will be monitoring the effects of air pollution on respiratory and cardiovascular diseases emergency hospitalisations such as asthma. There is a gap around this area as well, and it will be a follow up to his previous recent study on asthma and environmental risk factors.

The Global Youth 4 Clean Air and Climate Health Action-(Working group)

We are 12 healthcare professionals and clean air advocates majority from the global south; South Africa, India, Mexico, Rwanda, Indonesia, Nepal, Zambia, Jordan and Cameroon. This working group comes at a time when the world is struggling to recover from the worst pandemic of this century related to respiratory health, SARS-CoV2. Our resolve to rise for clean air and climate health is needed more than ever. Today, more than 90% of the world’s population lives in areas with air quality levels significantly above the World Health Organization standards. Air pollution disproportionately kills more than 7 million people around the world according to the World health organization in 2016, excluding deaths from direct climate change impacts. We strive to mobilize global action through advocacy against the generational silence around air pollution and climate health. As well as call on governments to highlight

and take ambitious steps to protect the health of youth from the devastating effects of air pollution exacerbated by climate change.

GAN Phase I update – Philippa

We are now underway with the GAN Phase I worldwide papers. We live in challenging times now and I thank all of you who managed to submit your data to the GAN Global Centre. It has become increasingly difficult to undertake research in schools in this environment we now live in, and we appreciate your efforts very much.

I would also like to thank you all for your assistance in the data and centre report checking process. We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many of you in different ways and subsequently many were unable to achieve the deadlines, despite your best efforts. We understand your frustration, however, we hope that you are able to publish your data as an individual study (or with other centres in your country) and wish you well in your endeavours. If you are not part of the GAN Phase I worldwide collaboration, do please ensure that you do not use GAN in the title of your manuscript and that in the methods section you say that you used the GAN methodology. This will avoid any confusion for the Journals when it comes to publishing your data.

I wish you all the best for the rest of this year. Take care and keep safe.

Kind regards Philippa

Recent Publications:

Asher MI, Rutter CE, Bissell K, Chiang CY, El Sony A, Ellwood E, Ellwood P, García-Marcos L, Marks GB, Morales E, Mortimer K, Pérez-Fernández V, Robertson S, Silverwood RJ, Strachan DP, Pearce N and the Global Asthma Network Phase I Study Group. Is the worldwide prevalence of asthma symptoms in children changing? *Global Asthma Network Phase I. Lancet* 2021; 398: 1569-1580 [doi:10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)01450-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)01450-1)

Strachan DP, Rutter CE, Asher MI, Bissell K, Chiang C-Y, El Sony A, Ellwood E, Ellwood P, Garcia-Marcos L, Marks GB, Morales E, Mortimer K, Pearce N, Perez-Fernandez V, Robertson S, Silverwood RJ, Global Asthma Network Phase I Study Group. Worldwide time trends in prevalence of symptoms of rhinoconjunctivitis in children: Global Asthma Network Phase I. *Pediatr Allergy Immunol* 2021;00:1–12 [doi:10.1111/pai.13656](https://doi.org/10.1111/pai.13656).

We have received encouraging news that this paper (now published online) will be featured as "editor's choice" in the print version of PAI in January 2022.

Del-Río- Navarro BE, Berber A, Reyes-Noriega N, Navarrete-Rodríguez EM, García-Almaraz R, Ellwood P, Garcia-Marcos L, Saucedo-Ramírez OJ, Mérida-Palacio VJ, Del Carmen Ramos-García B, Escalante-Domínguez AJ, Linares-Zapién FJ, Moreno-Gardea HL, Ochoa-López G, Hernández-Mondragón LO, Santos Lozano-Sáenz J, Sacre-Hazouri JA, Juan-Pineda A, Guadalupe Sánchez-Coronel M, Rodríguez-Pérez N, de Jesús Ambriz-Moreno M, and the GAN Phase I group. Global Asthma Network Phase I Study in Mexico: Prevalence of Asthma Symptoms, Risk Factors and Altitude Associations—a Cross-sectional Study. *BMJ Open Res* 2020;7:e000658. [doi:10.1136/bmjresp-2020-000658](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjresp-2020-000658)

Rutter CE, Silverwood RJ, Asher MI, Ellwood P, Pearce N, Garcia-Marcos L, Strachan DP, ISAAC Phase Three Study Group. Comparison of individual-level and population-level risk factors for rhinoconjunctivitis, asthma, and eczema in the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) Phase Three. *The World Allergy Organization journal* 13(6):100123; Jun 2020. [doi:10.1016/j.waojou.2020.100123](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.waojou.2020.100123)

Meghji J, Mortimer K, Agusti A, Allwood BW, Asher I, Bateman ED, Bissell K, Bolton CE, Bush A, Celli B, Chiang C-Y, Cruz AA, Dinh-Xuan A-T, El Sony A, Fong KM, Fujiwara PI, Gaga M, Garcia-Marcos L, Halpin DMG, Hurst JR, Jayasooriya S, Kumar A, Lopez-Varela MV, Masekela R, Mbatchou Ngahane BH, Montes de Oca M, Pearce N, Reddel HK, Salvi S, Singh SJ, Varghese C, Vogelmeier CF, Walker P, Zar HJ, Marks GB. Improving lung health in low-income and middle-income countries: from challenges to solutions.

Lancet 2021; 397: 928–40 [doi:10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)00458-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00458-X).

Urrutia-Pereira M, Chong-Neto H, Pitrez Mocellin L, Ellwood P, Garcia-Marcos L, Simon L, Rinelli P, and Solé D. Prevalence of asthma symptoms and associated factors in adolescents and adults in southern Brazil: A Global Asthma Network Phase I study. World Allergy Organization Journal (2021) 14:100529 [doi:10.1016/j.waojou.2021.100529](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.waojou.2021.100529)

Antonogeorgos G, Priftis KN, Panagiotakos DB, Ellwood P, García-Marcos L, Liakou E, Koutsokera A, Drakontaeidis P, Thanasia M, Mandrapiylia M, and Douros K. Parental education and the association between fruits and vegetable consumption and asthma in adolescents: the Greek Global Asthma Network (GAN) study. Children 2021, 8(4), 304.

[doi:10.3390/children8040304](https://doi.org/10.3390/children8040304)

Marín-Cassinello A, Vega-Hernández MC, Lumbreras-Lacarra B, De Arriba-Méndez S, Pellegrini-Belinchón J. Prevalence of symptoms, severity and diagnosis of asthma in adolescents in the Province of Salamanca, Spain: Global Asthma Network (GAN) Phase I. Allergol Immunopathol (Madr) 2021;49(5):106-112. [doi:10.15586/aei.v49i5.438](https://doi.org/10.15586/aei.v49i5.438)

Cabrera A, Picado C, Rodriguez A, Garcia-Marcos L. Asthma, rhinitis and eczema symptoms in Quito, Ecuador: a comparative cross-sectional study 16 years after ISAAC. BMJ Open Res 2021;8(1):e001004. [doi:10.1136/bmjresp-2021-001004](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjresp-2021-001004).

Please note:

GAN investigators who have contributed completed and checked data to GAN worldwide publications and reviewed that paper are named in each publication. This is by being included in the group authorship for that paper: “and the Global Asthma Network Study Group”. This means that they appear as authors on a Pub Med search.

Global Asthma Report (GAR) 2022

The GAR 2022 is well on track for publication in 2022. Several chapters will include excerpts of GAN papers already published or prior to GAR 2022. We are grateful to those of you that have already sent in photos. These are much appreciated. However we have a further plea for more photos!!!

Specifications for photos for GAR 2022

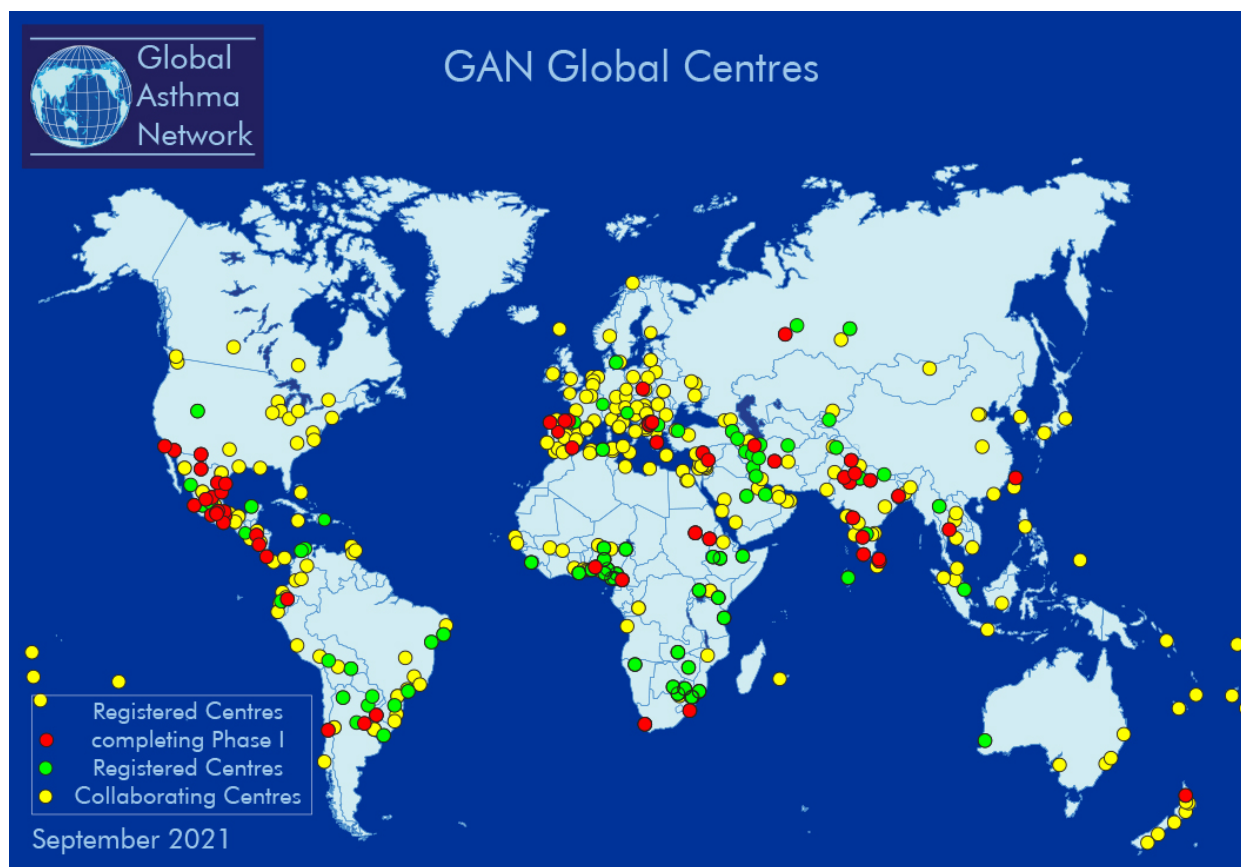
We would appreciate receiving more high quality photographs for the GAR 2022. There are a number of ways to measure photos, some common specifications are:

- At least 300ppi
- At least 3mb file size
- At least 12 megapixels camera size/quality

- At least 3000 pixels wide or high

We would welcome photos that meet any of these specifications from our collaborators – please see the previous GAR 2018 <http://www.globalasthmareport.org/> to see a sample of the range of context of photos which would be welcome.

Global Asthma Network Centres November 2021 384 centres in 137 countries



Africa	Ife	*Manzini	*Kinshasa	Fukuoka
Angola	*Maiduguri	*Mbabane	Libya	Tochigi
Luanda	*Lagos	Tanzania	Tripoli	Korea, South
Botswana	Kano	*Dar es Salaam	Benghazi	Seoul
*Gaborone	*Gusau	Uganda	Mali	Lao PDR
Cameroon	*Enugu	Kampala	Bamako	Lao PDR
*Douala	Owo	*Nansana	Mozambique	Malaysia
*Bafoussam	Benin City	Zambia	Maputo	Klang Valley
*Yaounde	*Gwagwalada	Lusaka	*Maputo (2)	Kota Bharu
*Buea	Sokoto	*Lusaka (2)	Reunion Island	Mongolia
Ethiopia	*Okrika Rivers State	Zimbabwe	Reunion Island	Ulaanbaatar
*Addis Ababa	Senegal	*Zimbabwe	Togo	Philippines
Mekelle	Dakar	Egypt	Lome	Metro Manila
*Nekemte	Sierra Leone	Cairo	Tunisia	Singapore
The Gambia	*Freetown	Alexandria	Ariana	*Singapore
Fajara	Somalia	Cairo-Castle	Tunis	Taiwan
Ghana	*Hargeisa	Algeria	Asia-Pacific	*Taipei
Kumasi	South Africa	Wilaya of Algiers	Hong Kong	Tainan
*Accra	Polokwane	Blida	Hong Kong	Thailand
Kenya	*Cape Town	Bab El Oued	China	*Bangkok
Eldoret	*Pretoria	*Annaba	Beijing	Chantaburi
*Nairobi	*Durban	Benin	Hefei	*Chiang Mai
Malawi	Sudan	Cotonou	Tayuan	Khon Kaen
Blantyre	*Khartoum	Sèmè Podji	Indonesia	Vietnam
Namibia	*Gadarif	Burkina Faso	Bandung	Ho Chi Minh
*Oshana	Eswatini	Bobo-Dioulasso	North Sumatera	
Nigeria		Congo, Dem. Rep.	Palangkaraya	
*Ibadan			Japan	
				Eastern Mediterranean

Iran

*Ahvaz
 *Yazd
 Tehran
 Rasht
 Birjand
 Bushehr
 Zanzan
 *Karaj
 *Sari
 *Hamadan
 *Mashhad
 *Kashan
 *Sanandaj
 *Tabriz

Israel

Israel

Jordan

Amman
 Jerash
 Irbid

Kuwait

*Kuwait

Malta

Malta

Pakistan

Islamabad
 Peshawar
 Hyderabad
 *Multan

Palestine

Ramallah
 North Gaza

Qatar

*Qatar

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Abha
 Alkhobar
 Madinah
 *Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 Jeddah
Oman
 Al-Khod
 Muscat
Syrian Arab Republic
 Aleppo
 *Lattakia
 *Damascus
United Arab Emirates
 Sharjah
 Al Ain

Indian Subcontinent**Bangladesh**

Dhaka
 Sylhet

India

*Kottayam
 *New Delhi
 *Chandigarh
 *Bikaner
 *Jaipur
 Chennai
 Mumbai (7)
 *Lucknow
 Orissa
 Kolkata (10)
 Mumbai (11)
 Vellore
 *Bangalore

Kolkata (14)

Aligarh
 Bijapur
 Mangalore
 Jodhpur
 *Kolkata (19)

*Pune

*Mysuru

Maldives

*Malé

Nepal

*Kathmandu

Sri Lanka

Colombo
 *Peradeniya
 *Anuradhapura

Latin America & Caribbean**Argentina**

Buenos Aires
 *Salta
 *Mendoza
 Buenos Aries (2)
 *Corrientes

*San Francisco

*Córdoba Ciudad

*Buenos Aires (3)

Bolivia

*Santa Cruz
 *Cochabamba
 *La Paz

Brazil

São Paulo South
 Porto Alegre
 Recife
 Belo Horizonte
 Rio de Janeiro
 Brasília
 *Passo Fundo
 *Maceió
 Curitiba
 *Feira de Santana
 *Santo André
 Pelotas
 *Uruguaiiana

Chile

Valdivia

Santiago

Colombia

Cali
 Bogotá
 Barranquilla
 Bucaramanga
 *Santa Marta

Costa Rica

*Costa Rica

Ecuador

Quito
 Guayaquil
 Esmeraldas
 *Samborondón
 *Cumbayá

El Salvador

San Salvador

Guatemala

*Guatemala

Honduras

San Pedro Sula

*Tegucigalpa

Mexico

*Monterrey
 *Mexico City North
 *Guadalajara
 *Mexicali

*Ciudad Victoria

Villahermosa

*San Luis Potosí

*Tijuana

*Toluca (1)

*Toluca (2)

Querétaro

Durango

*Chihuahua

Mexico City

Central

Mexico City South

East

*Oaxaca

San Cristabal de las Casas

*Ciudad Juárez

*Michoacán

*Xalapa

*Córdoba

*Puerto Vallarta

Nuevo Laredo

*Mérida

Hermosillo Sonora

Mexico City South

West

*Aguascalientes

Mexico City East

*Guanajuato

*Culiacan

Puebla Pue

*Matamoros

Veracruz

Nicaragua

Matagalpa

*Managua

Panama

David-Panamá

Panamá City

Paraguay

*San Lorenzo

Peru

Lima

Tumbes

Puno

Uruguay

*Montevideo

Bahamas

Bahamas

Dominican Republic

*Santo Domingo

Grenada

Grenada

Jamaica

Kingston

Trinidad and Tobago

*St Augustine

*Tobago

North America**Canada**

Ontario

Vancouver

Saskatoon

Montréal

United States

North Carolina

Fort Wayne

Seattle

Madison

Chicago

Metropolitan

Detroit

Iowa City

Washington DC

Houston

New Orleans

Dallas

Virginia

*Utah

Hartford

Northern and Eastern Europe**Albania**

Tiranë

Lezhë

Armenia

*Yerevan

Belarus

Grodno

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Prijedor

Bulgaria

*Sofia

Croatia

*Rijeka

Czech Republic

Prague/Pilsen

Denmark

*Copenhagen

Finland

Helsinki

Georgia

Tbilisi

Kutaisi

Hungary

Szeged

Szigetvár

Kosovo

*Prishtina

*Mitrovica

*Gjakova

*Peja

*Prizren

*Gjilan

*Ferizaj

Kyrgyz Republic

Bishkek

*Jalalabat

Latvia

Riga

Macedonia

Skopje

Norway

Oslo

Tromsø

Poland

Kraków

Poznan

*Katowice

Warsaw

Romania

Cluj-Napoca

Bucharest

Russia

Novosibirsk

*Tomsk

*Tyumen

*Tobolsk

Serbia

Belgrade

Novi Sad

Indjija

Slovenia

Golnik

Sweden

Lund

Ukraine

Kharkiv

Rural Kharkiv

*Ternopil

*Zaporizhzhia

Turkey

Ankara

Istanbul

*Pendik

Faroe Islands

Faroe Islands

Oceania**Australia**

Sydney

Newcastle

Adelaide

*Perth

Brisbane

Fiji

Suva

French Polynesia

Polynésie

française

New Caledonia

Nouvelle-

Calédonie

New Zealand

*Auckland

*Wellington

Bay of Plenty

Hawke's Bay

*Waikato

Christchurch

Otago

Whakatane

Niue

Niue Island

Palau

Republic of Palau

Samoa

Apia

Solomon Islands

Honiara

Tokelau

Tokelau

Tonga

Nuku'alofa

Tuvalu

Funafuti

Vanuatu

Port Vila

Western Europe**Austria**

Salzburg

Urfahr-umgebung

Belgium

Antwerp

Channel Islands

Guernsey

Cyprus

Nicosia

France

Marseille

Bordeaux

West Marne

Créteil

Germany

Munich

Greece

*Athens

Thessaloniki

Crete

Ireland

Ireland

Italy

Roma

Palermo

Firenze

Trento

Ascoli Piceno

Empoli

Florence

Bari

Netherlands

Utrecht

Zwolle

Leiden

Portugal

*Lisboa

Spain

*Cartagena

*Barcelona

Castellón

*San Sebastián

Málaga

*Valencia

Sevilla

Cádiz

Asturias

Madrid

*Salamanca

*Cantabria

*La Coruña

*Bilbao

Mar Menor

Toledo

Girona

*Pamplona

Switzerland

*Bern

United Kingdom

Birmingham

Vatican City

*Vatican City

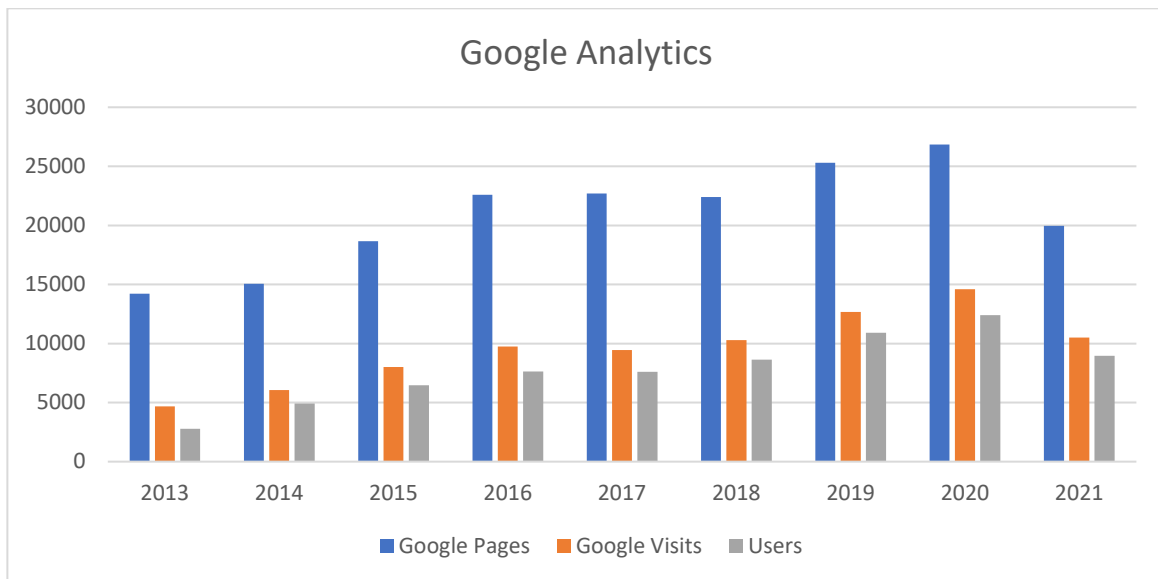
* = Centre is registered

Global Asthma Network Website Report – November 2021

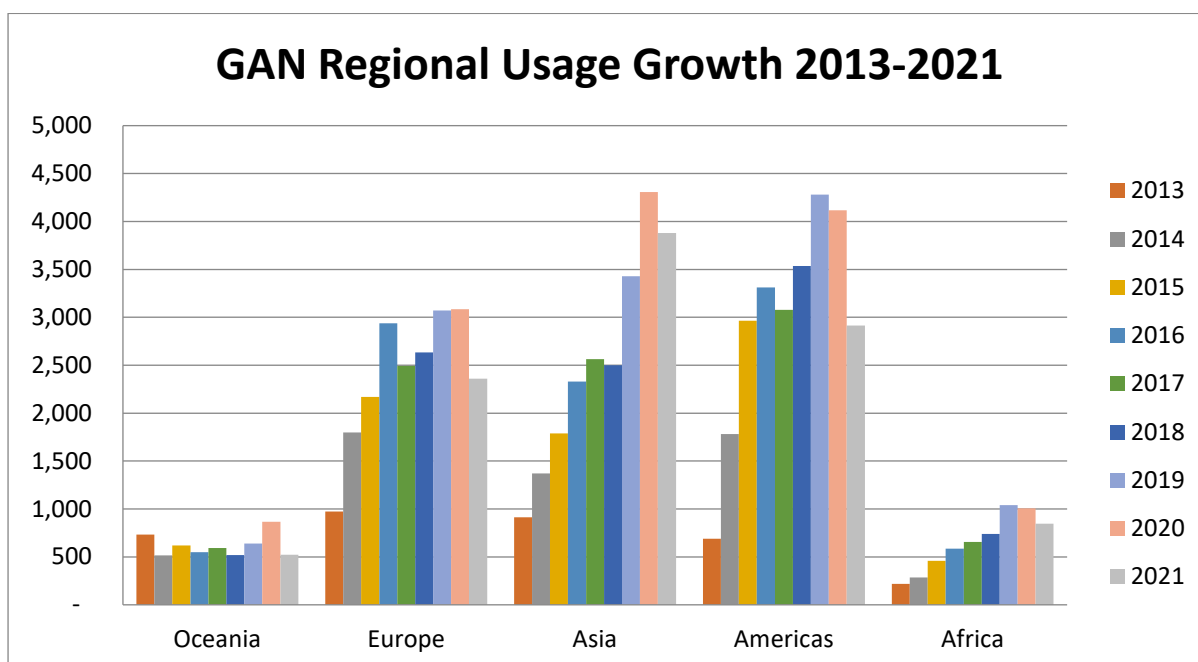
The [Global Asthma Network website](#) is intended to be the main channel for the dissemination of information. It includes information of use to collaborators in the Global Asthma Network, such as [upcoming conferences and symposiums](#), [asthma management guidelines](#) and the latest [asthma related news](#). The website also provides all the surveillance tools including the GAN Manual, Rationale and Methods and Registration and Centre Report forms, as well as all GAN publications. Please send us anything you recommend for the website

Website Statistics

Website usage has continued to show steady growth, as can be seen in the stats below, with seasonal dips in July and January



Website usage has continued to steadily increase in all regions, with Asia showing most growth. Africa is growing steadily.



Asthma Management Guidelines Update

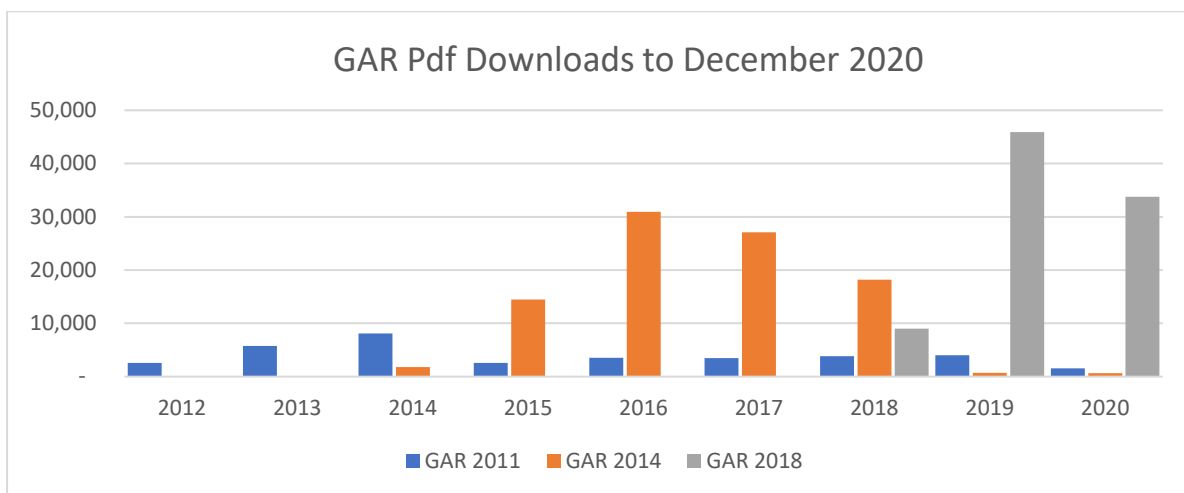
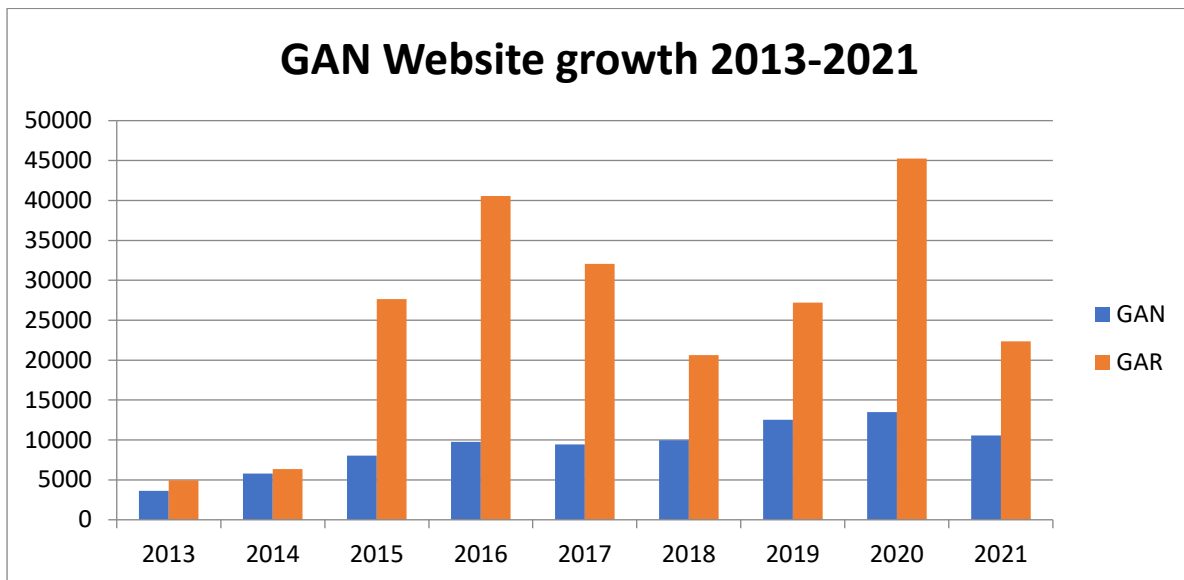
The management guidelines section has been recently updated and continues to see increased usage. This is being driven mainly by the Italian, Columbian, Peruvian and Bosnian guidelines. Guidelines for over 20 different countries are being downloaded each month. We have updated many of these in 2020 and 2021, however there are still out-dated entries. We would appreciate you looking at this section

<http://www.globalasthmanetwork.org/management/management.php>

and sending to us any new asthma guidelines you know of, especially for your country, locality or region. Kindly send these to info@globalasthmanetwork.org

Global Asthma Reports (GAR) 2011, 2014, 2018

We have temporarily lost access to the statistics for the pdf downloads in 2021. However, at the end of 2020 the three GARs had been downloaded over 220,000 times and the GAR 2018 was being downloaded on average 2500 times per month. The continued high demand and growing global recognition of the Global Asthma Reports is heartening. Usage of the website has dropped in 2021, however this follows the pattern of previous GARs and we expect usage to increase again with the launch of the GAR 2022 next year.



Social Media

The Global Asthma Network is on [Twitter](#) and is gaining more followers regularly. We now have 337 followers. Follow us at [@GlobalAsthmaNet](#). All Global Asthma Network tweets are included as an extension of the [news section](#). News items are tweeted, as well as pertinent asthma related information. Please send us news items!