

GLOBAL

ASTHMA

NETWORK

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2020



Dear Global Asthma Network colleagues and friends,

At the time of our last GAN newsletter in March, in most of the world the full impact of COVID-19 was not foreseen and was yet to be felt, with its acute and long lasting devastating effects that have affected so many people, and still do. This is an unprecedented event that has changed our lives in many ways. Our compassion to all those affected.

GAN Phase I data collection, data and methodology checks have been completed, and we are impressed by your work. Analyses and paper writing is now starting (see 4 new publications on page 7), and if your data is included in a paper you will be a named author in the study group. Only centres which met the main methodology requirements can be included in the papers. Centres who were unable to meet the data submission deadline for inclusion in the first papers, will be included in GAR 2022. Unfortunately, in some centres school closures this year have halted and derailed your GAN Phase I data collection, resulting in insufficient responses to be able to be included in our analyses.

We again request that our collaborators send photos for the GAR 2022. The specifications for photographs are included on page 8 in this newsletter and we encourage you to send these to us so that we have a vibrant new set of high-quality photos to include.

The Steering Group was of course unable to travel for our yearly Steering Group meeting at the Union World Conference on Lung Health originally scheduled in Seville, Spain. Instead we held 2 hourly Zoom meetings over 4 days. We were able to attend to the agenda items and discuss GAN Phase I data analysis, future GAN publications and development of the GAR 2022.

We encourage you to send any GAN related publications to us so that Eamon Ellwood can put these up on the GAN website <http://www.globalasthmanetwork.org/publications/publications.php>

The GAN COVID-19 survey has been circulated to interested collaborators from 50 GAN centres in 35 Countries. Eamon has completed the online data entry programme and this will be circulated to the participating centres before Christmas.

I am delighted to congratulate Guy Marks and Arzu Yorgancıoğlu (pages 2 and 3) and to welcome to the GAN Steering Group, Eva Morales, Refiloe Masekela and Eamon Ellwood (profiled on pages 4, 5 and 6).

We acknowledge the hard work you have all put in to ensuring the success of GAN, especially in these difficult times. We thank you all, and we wish you a happy Christmas and festive season.

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

Innes
Professor Innes Asher ONZM,
Chair of GAN

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Sub editor - P Ellwood
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Congratulations to:

Professor Guy Marks

AAHMS FELLOWSHIP FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNION
PROFESSOR GUY MARKS



The Union's President, Professor Guy Marks has been recognised for his global contributions to asthma, chronic lung disease, tuberculosis (TB) and air pollution, which have transformed global responses to these health problems.

Along with 27 other top medical and health researchers, Prof. Marks has been elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to health and medical research in Australia.

This year's AAHMS Fellows are elected at a time when health and medical science is making a crucial contribution, as the community works to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am honoured to receive this award and to join such distinguished company. I believe Australian health and medical research has a great history of contributing to solve global health problems," Prof. Marks said.

Prof. Marks is a respiratory physician and epidemiologist and a public health physician, who has led the Respiratory and Environmental Epidemiology group at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research since 1997. The major focus of his research interest is lung health with a specific focus on airways disease, air pollution and TB. He also has a strong commitment to capacity building for lung health research.

The AAHMS advances health and medical research in Australia and its translation into benefits for all, by fostering leadership, providing expert advice to decision-makers and engaging patients and the public. Its body of Fellows are elected by their peers for their outstanding achievements and exceptional contributions to health and medical science in Australia.

The new Fellows were admitted at the Academy's sixth annual meeting on 14-16 October, which was streamed live from Sydney. The annual gathering included a scientific meeting that reflected on the pandemic to date, with speakers including Department of Health Secretary and AAHMS Fellow, Professor Brendan Murphy, and NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant PSM.

Congratulations to:

Prof. Arzu Yorgancıoğlu

ERS Advocacy Council Chair receives award for contributions to
science



ERS extends many congratulations to the ERS Advocacy Council Chair, Prof. Arzu Yorgancıoğlu, for being presented with the Turkish Thoracic Society's Science Award. The prestigious award was presented during the Society's annual congress in recognition of Prof. Yorgancıoğlu's achievements in national and international science, including her involvement with ERS, the World Health Organization's Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases, the Global Initiative for Asthma and the American Thoracic Society.

Welcome to the GAN Steering

Group: Eva Morales, Refiloe Masekela
and Eamon Ellwood

Eva Morales

Epidemiologist at the Biomedical Research Institute of Murcia (IMIB-Arrixaca), Murcia, Spain.



Eva Morales is a medical epidemiologist by training and has a PhD in Biomedical Sciences and a Master in Public Health. She is principal investigator at the Biomedical Research Institute of Murcia (IMIB-Arrixaca) and adjunct professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Murcia.

Her main research lines focus on maternal and child health to understand early development of human complex diseases, including asthma and allergy, and environmental and molecular epidemiology to investigate the impact and biological mechanisms of environmental stressors on maternal and child health analyzing data of cutting-edge longitudinal birth cohort studies. She is currently co-coordinator of the Nutrition in Early Life and Asthma (NELA) birth cohort study (www.nela.imib.es).

Refiloe Masekela

Paediatric Pulmonologist, University of KwaZulu Natal



Refiloe Masekela is a paediatric pulmonologist, an Associate Professor and Head of Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of KwaZulu Natal. She is an Honorary Visiting Professor in the Centre for Genomics and Child Health at the Queen Mary University London, UK.

Her research focus is chronic lung disease both infectious and non-communicable disease in African children, including asthma and allergies. She is the site principal investigator for the Achieving Control of Asthma in Children in Africa (ACACIA) study for South Africa and NIHR funded study PI Professor Grigg, Queen Mary University London, UK. Professor Masekela is the Vice President of the Pan African Thoracic Society and the program co-director of its Methods in Epidemiological and Operational Research (MECOR) program. She is a member of the European Respiratory Society Global Lung Initiative (GLI) Network of Clinical Research Collaboration committee.

Eamon Ellwood

Data Manager for the School of Medicine,
University of Auckland, New Zealand



Eamon Ellwood is currently the Data Manager for the School of Medicine, University of Auckland, and works on multiple projects within the school. He has been the Global Asthma Network website developer and data manager since its inception in 2012 and has been responsible for the graphic design of all its online electronic and printed material. Prior to this he was the website developer for the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) from 2008.

His research interests include novel methodologies in graphic interfaces to best convey information, and the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping software to investigate environmental and geographic factors than can affect asthma.

GAN Phase I update – Philippa

The GAN Global Centre received expressions of interest from 383 centres in 137 countries, and up to 111 responded to GAN on-line surveys in 2013-4.

Of the total expressions of interest, 137 centres from 59 countries registered to undertake GAN Phase I. To date we have completed data and centre report checks from 63 centres from 24 countries (we expect this number to increase). Among them 25 centres also undertook ISAAC Phase Three (+ Athens Phase 1), which will enable Time Trends analyses to be conducted.

The end of March 2020 was the deadline for data submission in order to be included in the first GAN Phase I worldwide papers, provided data and centre report checks are completed. Thank you to all of you who managed to achieve this target.

The deadline for submission of data for the next Global Asthma Report (GAR) which will be published in 2022 was 1st October 2020. Thank you to those of you who also managed this deadline.

I would like to thank you all for assisting in the data and centre report checking process. To those of you affected by COVID-19 and were unable to achieve these deadlines, we are appreciative of your efforts. Please note that you may be able to publish your data as an individual study and I wish you well.

Best wishes

Philippa

New Publications:

There are four publications that have recently been published or are in press.

The four new publications are:

P Ellwood , E Ellwood, C Rutter, V Perez-Fernandez, E Morales, L García-Marcos, N Pearce, MI Asher, D Strachan and the GAN Phase I Study Group. *Global Asthma Network Phase I Surveillance: Geographical Coverage and Response Rates*. J. Clin. Med. 2020, 9(11), 3688; doi:10.3390/jcm9113688.

B E Del-Río-Navarro, A Berber, N Reyes-Noriega, E M Navarrete-Rodríguez, R García-Almaráz, J V Mérida-Palacio, P Ellwood, L García-Marcos Álvarez. *Have asthma symptoms in Mexico changed in the past 15 years? Time trends from the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood to the Global Asthma Network*. *Allergologia et Immunopathologia*. In Press. doi.org/10.15586/aei.v49i1.35.

R García-Almaraz, N Reyes-Noriega, B E Del-Río-Navarro, A Berber, E M Navarrete-Rodríguez, P Ellwood and L García Marcos Álvarez. *Prevalence and risk factors associated with Allergic Rhinitis in Mexican School Children: Global Asthma Network Phase I*. *World Allergy Organization Journal* (2021) 14:100492 <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.waojou.2020.100492>

Asher MI, García-Marcos L, Pearce NE, Strachan D. *Trends in worldwide asthma prevalence*. *Eur Respir J* 2020; in press (<https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.02094-2020>).

Please note:

Centre investigators that contribute data to any GAN publication are included in the group authorship “and the Global Asthma Network”.

Global Asthma Report (GAR) 2022

The GAR 2022 is well on track for publication in 2022. Several GAN papers will be prepared and submitted prior to GAR 2022.

Photos for GAR 2022 (An urgent plea!)

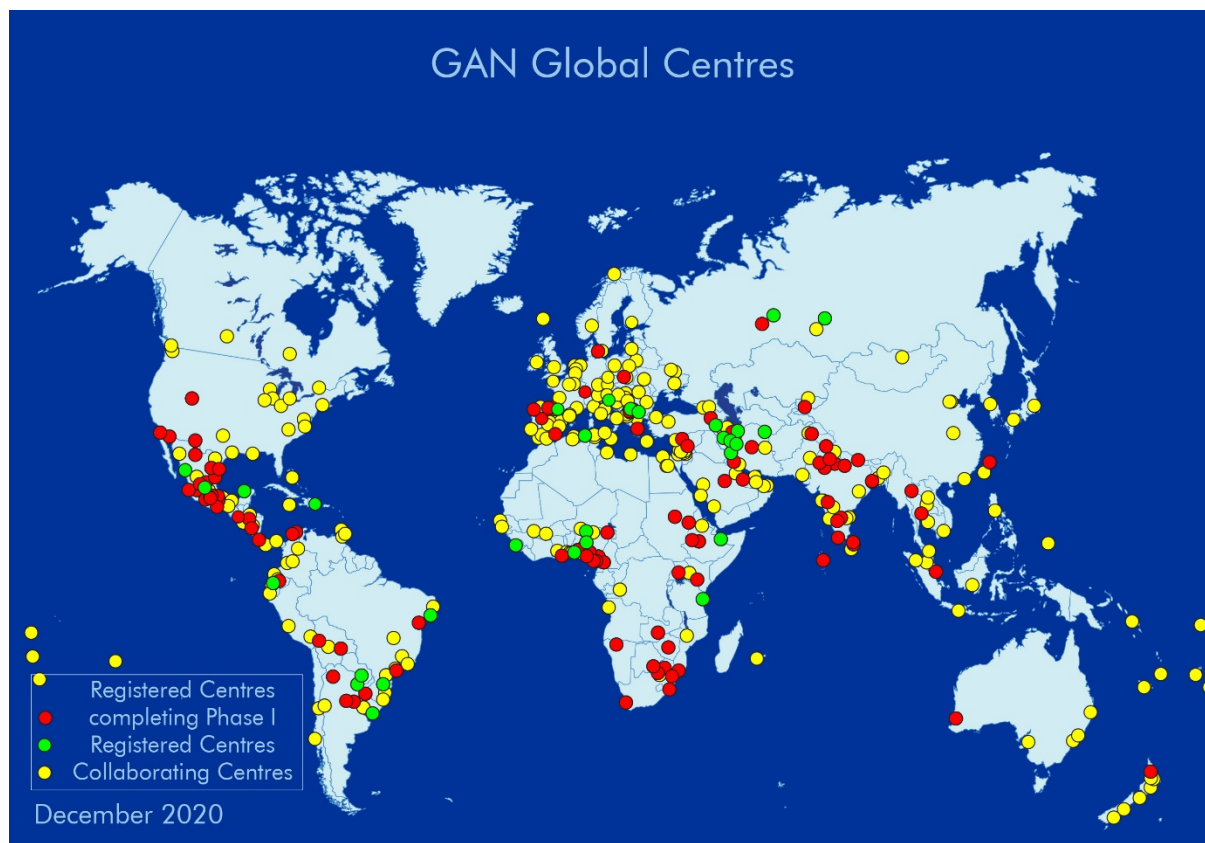
We would appreciate receiving high quality photographs for the GAR 2022. There are a number of ways to measure photos, some common specifications are:

- 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.

Social Media

The Global Asthma Network is on [Twitter](#) and is gaining more followers regularly. We now have 321 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!



Africa

Angola
Luanda
Botswana
*Gaborone
Cameroon
*Douala
*Bafoussam
*Yaounde
*Buea
Ethiopia
*Addis Ababa
Mekelle
*Nekemte
The Gambia
Fajara
Ghana
Kumasi
*Accra
Kenya
Eldoret
*Nairobi
Malawi
Blantyre
Namibia
*Oshana
Nigeria
*Ibadan
Ife
*Maiduguri
*Lagos
Kano
*Gusau
*Enugu
Owo
Benin City
*Gwagwalada
Sokoto
*Okrika Rivers State

Senegal

Dakar
Sierra Leone
*Freetown
Somalia
*Hargeisa
South Africa
Polokwane
*Cape Town
Ekurhuleni
*Pretoria
*Durban
Sudan
*Khartoum
*Gadarif
Swaziland
*Manzini
Eswatini
*Dar es Salaam
*Mbabane
Uganda
Kampala
*Nansana
Zambia
Lusaka
*Lusaka (2)
Zimbabwe
*Zimbabwe
Egypt
Cairo
Alexandria
Cairo-Castle
Algeria
Wilaya of Algiers
Blida
Bab El Oued
*Annaba
Benin
Cotonou
Sèmè Podji

Burkina Faso

Bobo-Dioulasso
Congo, Dem. Rep.
*Kinshasa
Libya
Tripoli
Benghazi
Mali
Bamako
Mozambique
Maputo
*Maputo (2)
Reunion Island
Reunion Island
Togo
Lome
Tunisia
Ariana
Tunis
Asia-Pacific
Hong Kong
Hong Kong
China
Beijing
Hefei
Tayuan
Indonesia
Bandung
North Sumatera
Palangkaraya
Japan
Fukuoka
Tochigi
Korea, South
Seoul
Lao PDR
Lao PDR
Malaysia
Klang Valley

Kota Bharu
Mongolia
Ulaanbaatar
Philippines
Metro Manila
Singapore
*Singapore
Taiwan
*Taipei
Tainan
Thailand
*Bangkok
Chantaburi
*Chiang Mai
Khon Kaen
Vietnam
Ho Chi Minh

Eastern Mediterranean

Iran
*Ahvaz
*Yazd
Tehran
Rasht
Birjand
Bushehr
Zanjan
*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 Aires (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
 *Uruguiana
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 Cristobal 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
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

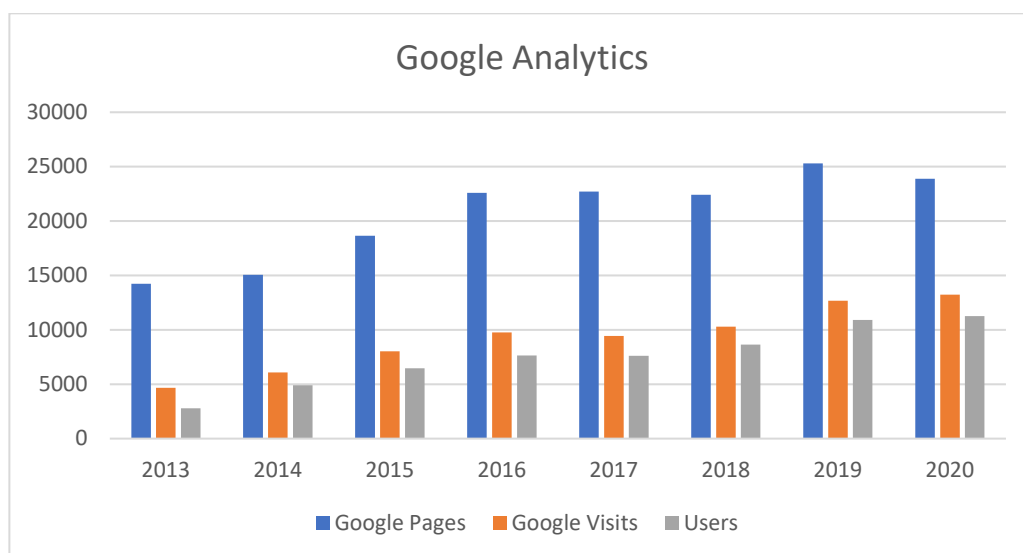
* = Centre is registered

Global Asthma Network Website Report – December 2020

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.

Website Statistics

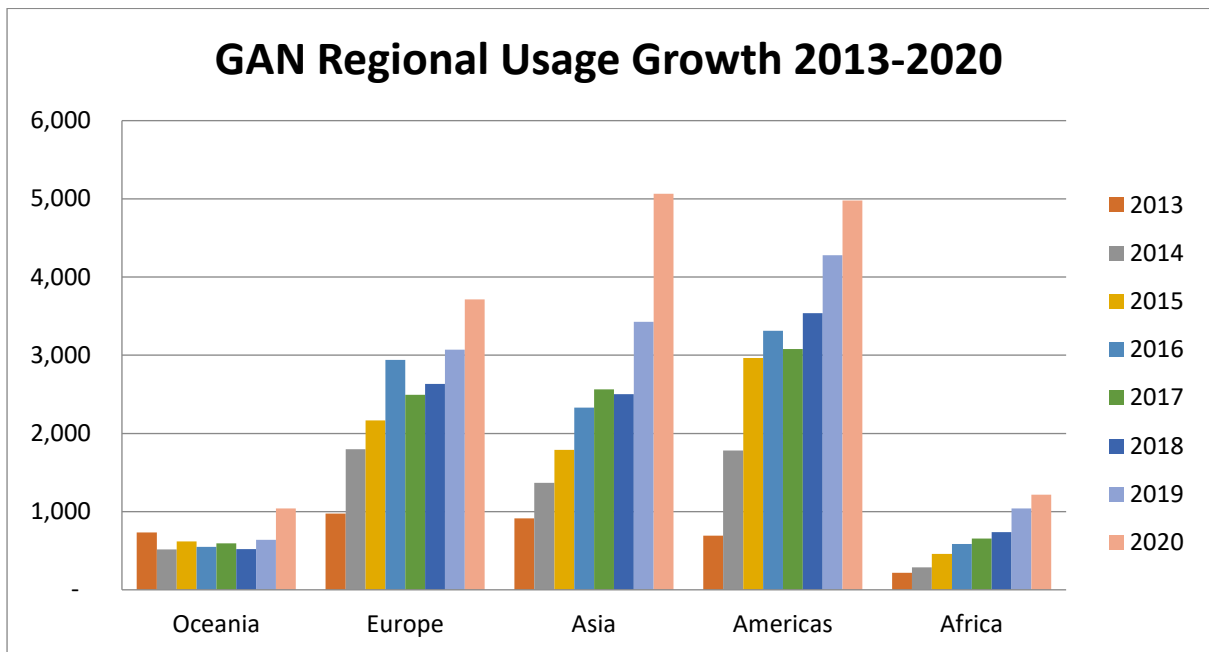
Website usage has continued to show steady growth, as can be seen in the stats below, with seasonal dips in July and January



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, however there are many 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

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



Global Asthma Reports (GAR) 2011, 2014, 2018

While the GAR website has shown decreased usage, the pdf downloads have increased at a high rate, as seen below. At over 57,000 downloads the 2018 GAR has more than tripled the GAR 2014 downloads in its first full year of availability. The continued high demand and growing global recognition of the Global Asthma Reports is heartening.

