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
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, 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:**


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.


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/](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

![Map of Global Asthma Network Centres](image-url)
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](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!