SUMMER VACATION RESEARCH PROJECT:

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY RESPIRATORY HEALTH SURVEY III

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EXPERIENCE

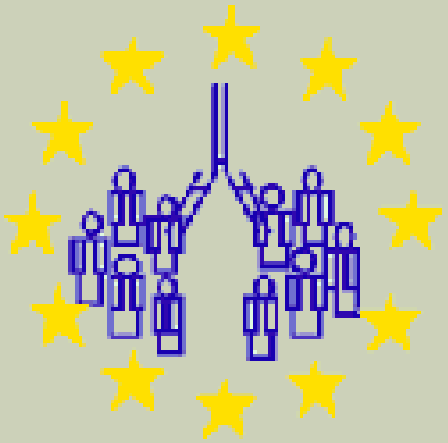
Research experience

- ECRHSIII
- Attended meetings, training days and data collection.
- Saw a range of studies at different stages:
  - Burden of Lung Disease (BOLD)
  - GIVE UP FOR GOOD
  - EXPOSURE
- SPHPM seminars
- Visits to William Buckland Radiotherapy Centre, ICU and ED

Clinical experience

- Allergy, Immunology and Respiratory Medicine Clinic
- Lung function laboratory
- Respiratory Grand Rounds

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY RESPIRATORY HEALTH SURVEY III



BACKGROUND

- Second follow-up of participants from the initial ECRHS study conducted in the early 1990s.
- ECRHS
  - Multicentre, international study used to assess asthma and allergy prevalence in young to middle aged adults.
  - Young adults recruited from South Eastern Melbourne in 1992.
- First follow-up (ECRHSII) conducted in 1998 in Melbourne.
- Two arms to ECRHSIII
  - Longitudinal cohort study
  - Cross-sectional study

AIMS

- Describe change in respiratory symptom prevalence in adults as they age
- Assess change in IgE sensitisation to common allergens in adults as they age
- Determine whether the prognosis of asthma is influenced by any observed change in atopic status
- Assess whether atopic status and asthma as measured over a twenty year period is associated with lung function decline or the development of COPD in older adults
- Describe the association of obesity and physical activity with asthma, lung function, lung function decline and the prognosis of asthma

METHODOLOGY

- Longitudinal cohort arm of study
- In December 2011, we contacted previous ECRHS participants initially recruited in 1992 using existing database details.
- Excluded:
  - Participants who declined all research
  - Deceased (Ryerson Death Notice Index)
- 726 participants were sent a validated postal questionnaire (optically scanned form) with a cover letter, explanatory statement and consent form.
- After 1 month, non-respondents were sent a second survey.
- This study is still ongoing.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- 166 questionnaire responses received as of February 2012.
- 73 (44%) from males, 93 (56%) from females
- Mean (SD) age was 55 (5.7) years

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Respiratory Symptoms	Prevalence	95% CI
Wheezing in the last 12 months	23.5%	17.0-30.0%
Breathless with wheezing	12.1%	7.2-16.9%
Wheezing without a cold	13.9%	8.6-19.1%
Woken with chest tightness in the last 12 months	15.7%	10.0-21.3%
Woken with shortness of breath (SOB) in the last 12 months	9.6%	4.9-14.3%
Woken with cough in the last 12 months	35.5%	28.3-42.8%
Asthma attack in the last 12 months	10.8%	5.9-15.7%
Medications for asthma	13.3%	8.0-18.5%
Nasal allergies including hayfever	43.4%	35.7-51.0%
SOB at rest in the last 12 months	10.9%	6.1-15.5%
SOB after strenuous activity in the last 12 months	22.9%	16.4-29.4%
Ever had asthma	29.5%	22.5-36.6%
Cough on most days for 3 months a year	11.4%	6.6-16.3%
Phlegm for 3 months a year (chronic bronchitis)	6.6%	2.9-10.4%

THANKS

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