

Prevention of asthma and allergies in early life: the farm effect

Co-chairs:

Juha Pekkanen, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Kuopio, Finland

Charlotte Braun-Fahrländer, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland

Aim and short description: Discuss the protective effect of microbes and diet (farm milk) during the pregnancy and early life on the future development of asthma and allergic diseases. Presentations are based on new results from mainly two studies on the farming environment, i.e. PASTURE, a birth cohort and GABRIEL, a cross sectional study. Also interactions between genes, environment and the immune system are presented.

Presentations:

1. Review on farm environment, genes and development of asthma and allergies
Speaker: Charlotte Braun-Fahrländer, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland
2. Importance of careful disease phenotyping in studies on development of asthma and allergies
Speaker: Jon Genuneit, University of Ulm, Germany
3. Interactions between environment and the immune system in development of allergies
Speaker: Caroline Roudit, the High Mountain Hospital Davos, Davos-Wolfgang, Switzerland
4. Associations of environmental microbial exposure with development of asthma and allergies
Speaker: Juha Pekkanen, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Kuopio, Finland
5. Effect of farm milk on development of asthma and allergies
Speaker: George Loss, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland
6. General discussion