

# Partners Asthma Center Faculty Newsletter

*Excellence in asthma care for children and adults*



*Brigham and Women's  
Hospital*

*Massachusetts General  
Hospital*

*Faulkner Hospital*

*Newton-Wellesley  
Hospital*

*North Shore Medical  
Center*

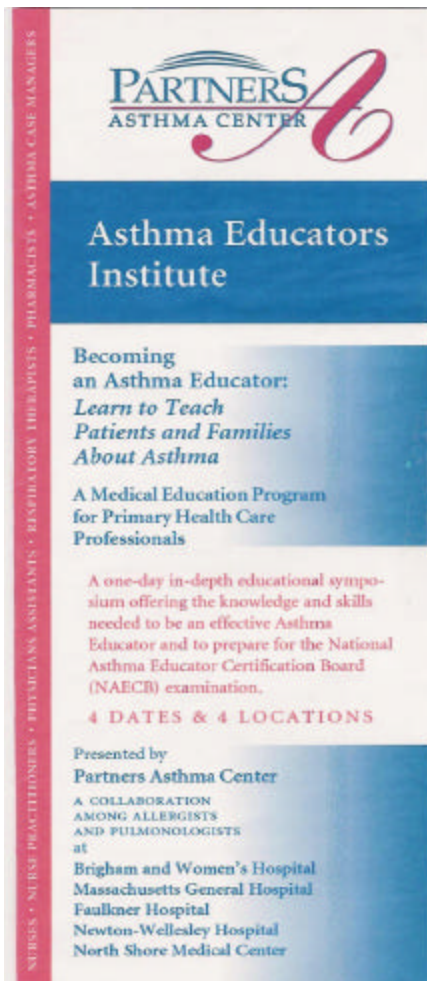


## Asthma Center's "Asthma Educators Institute" Launches First Series of Symposia

One of our missions is teaching asthma teachers to teach. Now is a particularly opportune time to pursue this goal. The National Asthma Educators Certification Board is offering an examination to allied health professionals such that they may become board-certified asthma educators. In the future, certification may enable billing and third-party reimbursement for asthma education sessions provided to patients.

Partners Asthma Center has organized a subdivision that we are calling our "Asthma Educators Institute." The institute will offer educational programs specifically for health professionals such as nurses, nurse practitioners, respiratory therapists, and pharmacists. Our first program is called: *Becoming an Asthma Educator: Learn to Teach Patients and Families about Asthma.* We have received continuing education credit approval for nurses, respiratory therapists, and pharmacists.

Most exciting about our new program is that it represents a collaboration among our participating hospitals. The same one-day program will be offered at 4 hospitals on 4 different days this fall and early winter. Participants can choose to attend at the location and time most convenient for them — all under the aegis of Partners Asthma Center.



## Partners Asthma Center RFI

### Partners Asthma Center “Best Practices” Committee

Partners Asthma Center is putting out an RFI – Request for Ideas – among its members. This is an initial attempt to develop some “Best Practices” guidelines from the experts in asthma care at Partners Asthma Center.



The time is ripe: omalizumab (Xolair) has been approved by the FDA for use in moderate-to-severe atopic asthma. Given the enormous cost of this therapy, many health care networks, including PCHI, will be trying to determine the proper approach to incorporating this medication into its pharmacopeia: for which patients, administered by which doctors, in what settings, at what age?

Partners Asthma Center should take a leadership role in making recommendations. Most importantly, we should try to make up our own minds, as cohesively as possible, about how this new therapy should be used. We can then share our opinions with others who seek expert guidance.

The proper use of omalizumab is only one example of how we might come together with Partners Asthma Center “white papers.” Another area for exploration might be the work-up and treatment of severe, “steroid-dependent” asthma. Might we develop a systematic approach to the patient who continues with difficult-to-control asthma despite triple controller medication?

Let’s begin with a Best Practices committee that brings together representatives from across the Partners Asthma Center network.

Volunteers? You can respond by e-mail to [cfanta@partners.org](mailto:cfanta@partners.org) or [asthma@partners.org](mailto:asthma@partners.org).

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## Other Partners Asthma Center Events and News

### [Asthma Grand Rounds](#)

**Friday, September 19, 8:30 a.m.**

*IgE Biology and Anti-IgE Therapy*

**Dr. Hans Oettgen**

Location: BWH Bornstein Family Amphitheater  
Videoconferencing: MGH (Lawrence House)  
and NSMC (MAC 4)

### [Rescheduled:](#)

### [Annual Asthma Center Picnic](#)

Sunday afternoon, **September 21**

**2:00—5:00 p.m.**

At the home of the Fantas in Newton Center

Plan to come, bring your family, and relax with  
colleagues and friends.

### [Research Project at Partners Asthma Center: Dissecting Difficult Asthma](#)

Dr. Elliot Israel in the Asthma Research Center at Brigham and Women's Hospital is leading an NIH-sponsored research project on Difficult Asthma. Subjects from our clinical practices are appropriate for participation, which involves clinical evaluation, blood drawing, and possible bronchoscopy. Subjects are remunerated for their participation. Details to follow in a separate communication. For more information, call 617-732-8260.



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Partners Asthma Center  
75 Francis Street  
Boston, MA 02115  
Phone: 1-800-9PARTNERS  
Fax: (617) 732-7421  
Email: [asthma@partners.org](mailto:asthma@partners.org)

*Save the Date: Visiting Professor Dinner*  
Thursday, October 23, 2003  
At Maison Robert (Old City Hall)  
School Street, Boston



*Arno River, Florence, 2002*