

2024 NEBRASKA ASTHMA CONFERENCE

COMBINED SESSION

NOVEMBER 1

2024

7:15-7:45 AM

Registration and Breakfast

7:45-8:00 AM

Welcome and Housekeeping

Mitzi Cardona, EdD, RRT-NPS, AE-C

8:00-9:00 AM

EXHALE Strategies and Environmental Health in Nebraska Asthma Management

Hana Niebur, MD, FAAP, FAAAAI

9:00-10:00 AM

Review of Pediatric Asthma Management: Global and National Guidelines

Joyce A Baker, MBA, RRT, NPS, AE-C, FAARC

10:00-10:30 AM

Morning Break

Please visit the vendor hall

10:30-11:30 AM

A Breath of Fresh Air: Updated SMART Therapy Guidelines

Jessica Witt PharmD, BCAP & Abigail Drobny, PharmD,

11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Acute Management of Asthma Exacerbations

Lauren Maskin, MD

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CLINICAL TRACK

NOVEMBER 1

2024

1:30-2:00 PM

Asthma Endotypes

Hana Niebur, MD, FAAP, FAAAAI

2:00-2:30 PM

Biologics in Asthma Management

Joel Van De Graaff, MD

2:30-3:00 PM

Asthma and My Biologics Experience

Jill Reel, MD

3:00-3:15 PM

Afternoon Break

Please visit the vendor hall

3:15-3:45 PM

IOS and FENO Testing of Asthma in Children

Russell Hopp, DO, FAAP, FAAAAI

3:45-4:45 PM

Inhaler Device & PFT Testing in Asthma Clinic Patients: Hands-on Workshop

Rachel Shirk, EdD, RRT-NPS, AE-C & Heather Bohan, BS, RRT-RPFT, AE-C

4:45-5:00 PM

Wrap-up, Evaluation & Claiming Education Credit

Mitzi Cardona EdD, RRT-NPS, AE-C

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POPULATION HEALTH TRACK

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1:30-2:00 PM

Increasing Pediatric Influenza Vaccine Rates Using a PDSA QI Approach

Leilanie Perez, MD, MS

2:00-2:30 PM

Challenges and Opportunities to Respiratory Care in Underserved Rural Communities

Bryan Krajicek, MD

2:30-3:00 PM

Barriers for Families in North Omaha to Come to Clinic

Winnie Dupree, RRT, CPFT

3:00-3:15 PM

Afternoon Break

Please visit the vendor hall

3:15-3:45 PM

Utilizing Home Health For Asthma Management

Casey Burg, MD

3:45-4:15 PM

Outdoor Environmental Impacts on Asthma

Andrew Rorie, MD, FAAAAI

4:15-4:45 PM

Breathe Easy, Live Well, Promoting Healthier Homes to Combat Asthma and Respiratory Risks

Jeff Weaver

4:45-5:00 PM

Wrap up, Evaluation & Claiming Education Credit

Mitzi Cardona EdD, RRT-NPS, AE-C

OUR SPEAKERS



Hana Niebur, MD, FAAP, FAAAAI

Dr. Niebur is an assistant professor of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology at UNMC College of Medicine. She completed her medical degree at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska, and a residency in Pediatrics at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois. She then completed a fellowship in Allergy and Immunology at the University of South Florida and All Children's Hospital in Saint Petersburg, Florida. Dr. Niebur's areas of clinical interest include primary immune deficiency, asthma, food allergies, and atopic dermatitis. Research interests include outcomes and quality improvement in primary immune deficiency and the role of the microbiome in chronic sinusitis. Dr. Niebur is the Asthma Medical Director at the Children's Specialty Clinics in the Pulmonology, Allergy, and Sleep Medicine Division.



Joyce A Baker MBA, RRT, NPS, AE-C, FAARC

Joyce is currently the Asthma Clinical Program Coordinator at the Breathing Institute at Children's Hospital Colorado. She is the inpatient asthma care coordinator and asthma program coordinator. Joyce collaborates with hospitalists, specialists, primary care providers, school nurses, and community health workers to standardize care for children with asthma and other respiratory diseases through guideline-based care. She is co-chair of the Colorado Asthma Coalition, a member of the Colorado American Lung Association - Lung Health Committee, and a panel member through the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) and Pediatric Acute Lung Injury and Sepsis (PALSI) Network where she is helping to develop a Pediatric Critical Asthma guideline. Joyce has several publications in the Journal for Respiratory Care on asthma and other pediatric respiratory diseases. She has provided interviews to the media on various health concerns impacting asthma and has presented at local, state, and national conferences on topics specific to respiratory care in pediatric patients and health disparities in asthma. Her national representation includes being a Board of Trustee member for the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC), she is on the Asthma Education Certification exam committee, a committee member for the AARC Position Statement Review Committee, and an Editorial Board member for the Respiratory Care Journal.



Jessica Witt, PharmD, BCACP

Dr. Witt received her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2016. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Pharmacy. She teaches Pharmacotherapy courses on Asthma and COPD medications as well as clinical skills assessment.



Abby Drobny, PharmD

Dr. Drobny received her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in 2024. She is currently a PGY1 Pharmacist Resident in the UNMC-Bakers Community Residency Program and works in the Nebraska Medicine Outpatient Pharmacy. She has worked in the outpatient setting as a technician, intern, and pharmacist for more than five years. Her advanced pharmacy practice experience included the UNMC Specialty Pharmacy and Walgreen's Specialty Pharmacy.



Lauren Maskin, MD

Dr. Maskin is a New York native who first developed an interest in medicine through the study of anthropology with a minor in Culture, Health, and Science at Smith College in Massachusetts. She worked briefly in cardiovascular thoracic research where she became convinced to stick with pediatrics. She is a medical graduate of the Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons. She trained in Pediatrics at Montefiore Children's Hospital in the Bronx for her intern year and finished her residency training in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Dr. Maskin has been practicing at Children's Nebraska since early 2012 and became a board-certified Pediatric Hospitalist in 2022. She served as the Medical Director for Inpatient Medical-Surgical Services for 9 years and is now the Medical Director for Clinical Effectiveness, where she works closely with the Children's Quality and Patient Safety team.



Joel Van De Graaff, MD

Dr. Van De Graaff is an Assistant Professor of Allergy and Immunology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He completed his medical degree at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City and a dual residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He then completed a fellowship in allergy and immunology at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Dr. Van De Graaff has a special interest in pediatric food allergies. He sees patients at Nebraska Medicine, Veteran's Affairs Hospital, and Children's Specialty Clinic.



Jill Reel, MD

Dr. Reel graduated from medical school at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1989 and completed her Pediatric residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Creighton University in 1992. Growing up in Iowa and then Nebraska, she had a lifelong history of allergies, sinusitis, bronchitis, and asthma. She had a few hospitalizations as a child that piqued her interest in medicine, and by age 5, she knew she wanted to be a doctor. In 2019, she was diagnosed with severe COPD, even though she was never a smoker. She started a biologic in 2019, and she believes it has saved her life and greatly improved her quality of life.



Russell J. Hopp, DO, FAAP, FAAAAI

Dr. Hopp graduated from Creighton University and the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. After a Pediatric residency and 2 years of general pediatrics, he entered an Allergy Fellowship at Creighton University. At its completion in 1984, he started an academic practice at Creighton University School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, where he remained for 35 years. He recently moved to UNMC as a Professor of Pediatrics and maintains clinical responsibilities as the Allergy Medical Director at the Children's Specialty Clinics, in the Pulmonology, Allergy, and Sleep Medicine Division. He is Board-certified in Pediatrics and Allergy and Clinical Immunology. Dr. Hopp has over 300 peer-reviewed publications, chapters, and abstracts, and hundreds of presentations, regionally, nationally, and internationally. His allergy specialty areas include severe asthma management, food allergy, and eosinophilic gastroenteritis.



Rachel Shirk, EdD, RRT-NPS, AE-C

Dr. Shirk is the Respiratory Therapy Director at Children's Nebraska, where she oversees the inpatient, pulmonary lab, and outpatient home healthcare respiratory teams. With over 20 years of experience, Rachel has been involved in asthma care through many avenues. She continues to look forward to greater community support for asthma patients, families, and the many people helping these patients.



Heather Bohan, BS, RRT-RPFT, AE-C

After being diagnosed with severe persistent asthma when she was 5 years old, Heather's dream job was always to work in an asthma clinic. The clinic staff always made her appointments fun, even when she was having difficulties. As an adult, Heather went to school to be a respiratory therapist and thinks that having asthma helped her relate to the patients and how they feel. Her goal during testing patients is to make it fun and relatable for kids while trying to get the best results for the provider to ensure the correct treatment plan. Heather has been a respiratory therapist for 18 years. She is a Certified Asthma Educator and a Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist. She is currently the Respiratory Supervisor at Children's Specialty Clinic Pulmonary Function Lab, and Children's Home Health Care.



Leilanie Perez Ramirez, MD, MS

Dr. Perez received her medical degree from the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine in San Juan, PR, and her Master of Science in Clinical and Translation Research at the University of Cincinnati, OH. She completed her Pediatrics residency at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine and her Allergy & Immunology fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Dr. Perez is an assistant professor at UNMC Division of Pediatric Allergy/Immunology, Department of Pediatrics, and an Allergist and Immunologist at Children's Specialty Clinic Pulmonology, Allergy, and Sleep Medicine Clinic.



Bryan Krajicek, MD

Dr. Krajicek is a Pulmonologist with Methodist Physicians Clinic at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, IA. He provides outreach pulmonary services at Montgomery County Memorial Hospital in Red Oak, IA. He is also an Associate Professor with the Creighton University School of Medicine where he continues to teach medical students and PA students. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Diseases, and Critical Care Medicine. His clinical and research interests include the management of patients with severe asthma and advanced COPD. Dr. Krajicek was born in Red Oak, IA, and considers himself a farm kid from northeast Nebraska. He is very passionate about improving respiratory care for rural patients.



Winnie Dupree, RRT-CPFT

Winnie completed her respiratory therapy degree at Metro Community College in 1996. She has a long history of inpatient and outpatient asthma care experience. Winnie is currently a Respiratory Therapist and Pulmonary Function Technologist in the Children's Specialty Clinic, and also cares for inpatients at Children's Nebraska. Winnie is very active in community health outreach, and a well respected healthcare professional in her community.



Casey Burg, MD

Dr. Burg is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Pediatric Pulmonary Division of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He is also the Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs for the Department of Pediatrics and serves as the Division Chief of Pediatric Pulmonology, Allergy, and Sleep Medicine at Children's Specialty Clinic. He is also the Director of Sleep Medicine there. Dr. Burg graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Medicine. He underwent pediatric residency at the Navy Medical Center, San Diego. He then served as a flight surgeon and pediatrician in the Navy before completing fellowships in pediatric pulmonary and sleep medicine through joint programs at National Jewish and the University of Colorado. He retired at the rank of Commander from the U.S. Navy Reserve and joined the sleep and pulmonary staff at Children's Hospital in Omaha. Dr. Burg is board-certified in Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep Medicine. His current areas of interest are telemedicine, electronic medical record improvement, treatment of neuromuscular patients, and research in pediatric sleep medicine.



Andrew Rorie, MD, FAAAAI

Dr. Rorie is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Allergy and Immunology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. He serves as the Medical Director of Allergy & Immunology at the Bellevue Medical Center in Bellevue, Nebraska. Dr. Rorie is a board-certified clinical allergist and immunologist with an active interest in aerobiology. He is the Chair of the AAAAI Aerobiology/NAB committee. He has been active in the National Allergy Bureau, including teaching the basic aerobiology certification course for pollen/spore counters.



Jeff Weaver

Jeff is the Executive Director of Healthy Housing Omaha. His mission is to reshape the organization and scale its impact. With over seven years of experience launching and leading two thriving nonprofits, Jeff brings a visionary approach to tackling housing-related health issues. Known for his drive and creativity, he's focused on cutting-edge solutions like the Asthma In-home Response (AIR) program and strategic partnerships to improve living conditions. Jeff's passion for safe and healthy housing fuels his commitment to transforming communities and ensuring a brighter future for those in need.