



## **2<sup>ND</sup> Alaska Asthma Summit**

December 1, 2005  
Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage

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### **Purpose of the Summit**

Asthma is an increasingly widespread health problem with a substantial impact in the United States. It ranks among the most common chronic conditions in this country affecting over 30 million persons with a higher prevalence among children and minority populations. What is the asthma burden in Alaska? What infrastructure is currently in place and what components are essential for a comprehensive asthma control program?

This is a working conference. Presenters will demonstrate a need for a comprehensive asthma control program and share the research and findings of task forces that have been meeting regularly since the 2004 Summit. Participants will be asked to:

- Review and comment on the draft Alaska Asthma Plan that will guide the State in addressing asthma in Alaska in the coming years. (*A draft will be sent to registered participants prior to the Summit.*)
- Contribute your perspective and develop implementation priorities that will put the Plan into action.
- Identify means of increasing the geographic, cultural, and professional diversity of the Coalition.
- Establish networking and collaboration opportunities.

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### **Background**

When the first summit was held in September 2004, Alaska was one of many states that did not have a formal plan to combat asthma. The Alaska Asthma Coalition, formed in late 2003, was committed to developing a plan and used the summit to present a series of draft goals and objectives for comment by the broad range of people and organizations that attended. Summit participants conducted their discussions around three broad, long-term goals:

- Reduce mortality and morbidity in people with asthma
- Control the cost of care
- Improve the quality of life for asthma patients

Following the summit, a steering committee was formed to oversee the work of task forces in the following areas:

- Surveillance
- Scientific Intervention and Training
- Work-Related Asthma
- Education and Outreach
- Media and Awareness
- Legislative Advocacy
- Partnering

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## Next Steps

Following the 2005 Asthma Summit, the Alaska Asthma Coalition will prepare the final draft of the State Plan. We envision that the coalition will grow and become the vehicle through which we can achieve outcomes together than can't be accomplished by a single organization on its own. The Coalition will become a way to share information and resources, as well as challenges. It will provide the infrastructure needed to evaluate progress. And, perhaps most important, it will provide a unified voice to those who make decisions in Alaska, encouraging them to consider policies, programs and activities that help people with asthma live healthy lives.

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## Registration

Because of limited space, we request that all delegates register in advance. **Deadline is November 28, 2005.** There is no registration fee. Meals will be provided.

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## Sponsor:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - National Center for Environmental Health

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## Guest Speakers

### Richard Mandsager, MD

*Alaska Asthma Coalition Steering Committee Member  
Director, Department of Health and Social Services  
Division of Public Health*

### Vivian Echavarria

*Board President, American Lung Association  
of Alaska  
Hospital Education Director, Alaska Native Medical  
Center*

### Thad Woodard, MD

*Chair, Alaska Asthma Coalition  
Pediatrician, Alaska Center for Pediatrics  
President, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Alaska Chapter*

### Brad Gessner, MD

*Alaska Asthma Coalition Surveillance  
Task Force Chair  
Maternal and Child Health Section of Epidemiology,  
Division of Public Health Department of Health and  
Social Services*

### Mary Ellen Gordian, MD

*University of Alaska Anchorage Institute for  
Circumpolar Health Studies*

### Rosalyn Singleton, MD

*Visiting Researcher, Centers for Disease Control  
Immunization Consultant, Alaska Native Tribal  
Health Consortium*

### Kitacha Benson

*Project Manager, Southcentral Foundation*

### Tom Mitchell

*Nurse Case Manager, Southcentral Foundation*

### Michelle Toohey

*Director of Public Relations and Advocacy,  
American Lung Association of Alaska*

### Marge Larson

*Alaska Asthma Coalition Steering Committee Member  
CEO, American Lung Association of Alaska*

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## Agenda

- 8:00 to 8:30            **Check-in and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 to 8:45            **Opening and Welcome**  
Thad Woodard and Vivian A. Echavarria ,
- 8:45 to 9:15            **Why Should Asthma be a Public Health Priority?**  
Richard Mandsager
- 9:15 to 9:30            **Analysis of the Latest BRFSS Data on Asthma in Alaska**  
Brad Gessner
- 9:30 to 9:45            **Environmental Factors Affecting the Respiratory Health in Urban and Rural Alaska**  
Mary Ellen Gordian
- 9:45 to 10:00           **Break**
- 10:00 to 10:30          **Asthma Hospitalizations in Alaska Natives 1988-2002  
What are the Trends?**  
Rosalyn Singleton
- 10:30 to 11:00          **Improving Asthma Care: Alaska Native Medical Center's Quality Assurance Project**  
Kitacha Benson and Tom Mitchell
- 11:00 to 12:00          **Rural Providers Assessment and Insight**
- 12:00 to 1:00           **Lunch**
- 1:00 to 1:30            **Alaska Asthma Coalition**  
Thad Woodard
- 1:30 to 2:30            **Strategic Plan for Addressing Asthma in Alaska**  
Michele Mercier (invited), Thad Woodard and Steering Committee Members
- 2:30 to 2:45            **Break**
- 2:45 to 3:45            **Roundtable Discussion**
- 3:45 to 4:15            **Reports on Roundtable Discussion**
- 4:15 – 4:45            **Changing the Future for Alaska's Asthmatics by Educating the Policy Makers of Today**  
Michelle Toohey and Fred Meyer (invited)
- 4:45 to 5:00            **Wrap Up and Next Steps**  
Marge Larson
- 5:00                      **Adjourn**

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## **Alaska Asthma Coalition Steering Committee**

- Richard Mandsager, MD Director, Division of Public Health Department of Health and Social Services
  - Marge Larson CEO, American Lung Association of Alaska
  - Thad Woodard, MD Pediatrician, Alaska Center for Pediatrics
  - Jayne Andreen Manager, Health Promotion Unit, Division of Public Health Department of Health and Social Services
  - Dale Knutsen Program Director, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America Alaska Chapter
  - Michelle Toohey Director of Public Relations and Advocacy, American Lung Association of Alaska
  - Shawnee Albright Director of Media, American Lung Association of Alaska
  - Rebecca Hayes Concerned Citizen, Miss Alaska 2005
  - Brad Gessner, MD Maternal and Child Health Section of Epidemiology, Division of Public Health Department of Health and Social Services
  - David Frankl, MD Department of Veteran Affairs
  - Larry Taylor Environmental Engineer, Anchorage Air Pollution Control Agency, Municipality of Anchorage
  - George Conway, MD. MPH Chief, Centers for Disease Control – National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
  - Charles Holyfield Respiratory Therapist, Denali Center Fairbanks Memorial
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