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**Should patients tell researchers what to do? If so, how?**  
**Monday 17 September 2007**

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**SAMANTHA WALKER**

CASE STUDIES: IDENTIFYING THE TREATMENT UNCERTAINTIES OF  
PEOPLE WITH ASTHMA  
JOINT PRESENTATION WITH COLIN GELDER AND IVOR COOK



**BIOGRAPHY**

My background is as a biomedical research scientist, specialising with a PhD Immunology in asthma and allergy, before taking on my current role as the Research Liaison Officer at Asthma UK. My career path is greatly influenced by my experiences and desire to better understand and manage my asthma and multiple allergies from an early age. These experiences continue to motivate me to help improve the current situation for people with asthma today and in the future. Much of my time involves improving awareness and understanding of asthma research and facilitating the involvement of people with asthma and their carers at various stages of research.

**ABSTRACT**

The views of people with asthma and their carers already play an integral role in shaping Asthma UK's Basic and Clinical Research Strategies. In 2005, Philippa Major, then Assistant Director, Research at Asthma UK and Professor Stephen Holgate, MRC Clinical Professor of Immunopharmacology and now President of the British Thoracic Society (BTS) identified a need to better understand the unanswered research questions as identified by people living with asthma. Facilitated by the JLA, Asthma UK worked together with the BTS to form the inaugural patient-clinician partnership to address this issue. This session will discuss how Asthma UK, led by Philippa's successor Jenny Versnel, participated as the patient organisation in the JLA Asthma Working Partnership. The seminar will focus on how we involved and consulted with various groups of people living with asthma and the methods of analysing their responses and identifying the main concerns about asthma treatments, including the benefits and challenges. In addition, one of our asthma representatives from the working group will give their perspective on participating in the consultation and project work.

**RELEVANT COMPETING INTERESTS**

None

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Dr Samantha Walker

Research Liaison Officer, Asthma UK, Summit House, 70 Wilson Street, London EC2A 2DB

email: [swalker@asthma.org.uk](mailto:swalker@asthma.org.uk)

website: [www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk)

**IVOR COOK**

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WALKER

**BIOGRAPHY**

Ivor Cook is 65 years old, married with a son and grandchildren. On leaving HM Armed Forces after 24 years service in 1982, he moved to London and worked for 20 years at the Bank of England, and currently runs a small printing and IT business.

He considers himself very active, fit and leads a healthy lifestyle. Around 1984, he successfully stopped smoking, and was diagnosed with mild asthma. He was put on various asthma drugs, and even though he rarely needed any medicines, every so often his wheeziness reminded him that he should still take his medicine. Following a near fatal attack almost 7 years ago whilst on holiday in Germany, he realised how serious his asthma was, but managed to recover thanks to the quick action of his wife, sister-in-law and doctor. Ivor also manages his psoriasis in addition to his asthma.

Since then, Ivor joined Asthma UK and became a “Speak Up For Asthma” volunteer visiting various community venues and public events on behalf of Asthma UK, and has been involved in a variety of projects, including regional focus groups and presentation at Medicine & Me: Asthma Research event earlier this year

**RELEVANT COMPETING INTERESTS**

None

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Mr Ivor Cook

c/o Asthma UK, Summit House, 70 Wilson Street, London EC2A 2DB

website: [www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk)