



# The Case for a European Innovation Partnership for Asthma

**Samantha Walker PhD**

**Coordinator - European Asthma Research and Innovation Partnership  
(EARIP)**

**Deputy Chief Executive, Asthma UK**

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



# Asthma: Europe's Unsolved Problem

## Prevalence

- Asthma affects 30 million people in Europe
- It affects every age group and every aspect of society
- It is the most prevalent long-term condition for children
- 14 of the world's 20 worst countries for asthma prevalence are in Europe

## Social impact and health inequalities

- Asthma is more common and severe in deprived areas
- There is significant variation in asthma prevalence and care across Europe
- It starts early in life placing a heavy toll on a child's educational potential
- Asthma is associated with many co-morbidities

## Economic burden

- Total economic cost of asthma in Europe is more than €25 billion annually
- Pharmaceutical costs stand at €3.6 billion per year alone
- Health care services at a further €4.3 billion per year



# The Political Priorities of the European Union: Momentum for change

*“Childhood asthma is having an increasingly serious health, social and economic impact on the European Community... childhood respiratory illness has serious economic consequences and serious effects on the quality of life of individuals”*

**Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2004**

*“[We must] strengthen efforts to reduce the disability and premature death related to asthma by fostering best practices at an international level.”*

**Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2011**

*“The Presidency will promote healthy lifestyles and prevention, within the conceptual framework of the “3rd Health EU Programme”... with a special view to the prevention of respiratory diseases”*

**The Priorities of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union  
2014**

## An achievable agenda:

- Successful programmes seen in Finland, Portugal, Turkey and Poland
- New opportunities in research, mHealth, and technologies to break down silos



# A European Innovation Partnership for Asthma: the size of the prize

## European Innovation Partnerships

- Aim to bring about societal changes for achievable, distinct challenges
- Funded as part of Horizon 2020 to stimulate growth in the EU
- Build on existing resources and institutions to deliver change through research and innovation

## A European Innovation Partnership for Asthma would

- Draw together SMEs, industry and research institutes and remove bottlenecks
- Bring about systemic change by linking research to the unmet needs of asthma
- Build on the success and experience of the EIP in Active and Healthy Ageing



# A European Innovation Partnership for Asthma: The right tool for the right challenge

## A European Innovation Partnership for Asthma is a chance to:

- Guide a unified research agenda and allocate funding more efficiently
- Re-establish Europe's competitiveness in global pharmaceutical research
- Drive progress in Europe's Digital Agenda and ICT
- Address risk factors through new multidimensional policy approaches to smoking, pollution and unhealthy lifestyles
- Act as an exemplar for how EIPs can address other diseases

## The European Asthma Research and Innovation Partnership 2013-2016

- A stakeholder partnership supported under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the European Commission
- Coordinated by Asthma UK
- Will identify the research needs for asthma in the next decade
- Establishes a path towards a European Innovation Partnership for Asthma

# Asthma UK: The patient perspective

- Asthma UK is a patient organisation acting as the project coordinator for EARIP
- Asthma UK improves the lives of people with asthma by:
  - funding research on asthma
  - providing clinical advice and supporting people with asthma
  - acting as a representative and influencing policy for change
- Asthma UK has a large membership and consults with people with asthma in all of its decisions and policies
- Asthma UK has the necessary legitimacy to deliver change for people with asthma in Europe through an EIP



## A European Innovation Partnership for Asthma Solving the problem of asthma in Europe

- Asthma is now a public health problem for Europe
- A European Innovation Partnership can solve the problem of asthma in Europe
- We would like GARD-Italy to help us by calling on the European Union to establish a European Innovation Partnership for Asthma

Samantha Walker PhD

Coordinator - European Asthma Research and Innovation  
Partnership (EARIP)

Deputy Chief Executive, Asthma UK

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

[www.earip.eu](http://www.earip.eu)

