

## Special Issue

# The Epidemiology of Allergy

### Message from the Guest Editor

The academic study of the epidemiology of allergy has undergone a transformation over the last 20 years, from around 150 citations of "epidemiology and allergy" in 1995 to over 8500 in 2016. Epidemiological studies have laid the ground work for examining a range of exciting theories, as well as acting as hypothesis generating tools. Highlights have included probing the ubiquitousness of the hygiene hypothesis, exploring the nexus with gut and skin flora, examining the timing of introduction of allergens to diet, genetic factors and exposure to greenspace/more natural environments altering risk of allergy. The epidemiology of allergy is increasing flagged as important in the large populations of developing economies, with increasing urbanisation seeing a fundamental shift in exposures.

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### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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