

AIT Bulletin

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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CLINICAL SPOTLIGHT

Farnaz Tabatabaian, MD, MS Tampa, FL

As an Allergist and Clinical Immunologist and Assistant Program Director at the University of South Florida (USF), I have the honor to teach future generations in our specialty. My background and post-graduate training in cell signalling and inflammation have inspired me to pursue a career in Allergy and Immunology. I teach immunology to the fellows at USF and the role it plays in precision medicine. Over the years, we have expanded our ability to target Th2 high inflammation with various biologics and have demonstrated immunomodulation with allergen immunotherapy. Currently, my focus is on a quality improvement project targeting patients with multiple antibiotic allergies. My passion lies with teaching empathy and continued compassion for patients, and to improve patient access to subspecialty care in the community.

AIT FROM ALK

Real-world evidence: Methods for assessing long-term health and effectiveness of allergy immunotherapy

Fritzsche B, Contoli M, Porsbjerg C, Buchs S, Larsen JR, Freemantle N.

Real-world evidence (RWE) is often used to compliment randomized controlled trials (RCTs), but the number conducted in allergy immunotherapy (AIT) remains small. RCTs are required for regulatory approval and marketing authorizations for AIT, but RWE studies (RWSs) can be used to explore associations in AIT. To ensure appropriate robustness of RWE, the authors have identified caveats of RWSs and recommendations for possible improvements.

Appropriate data sources are key to the quality of any generated data. Retrospective data is often used in RWSs due to the large numbers needed and the length of time required to gauge outcomes, and several reporting methodologies exist to assess the quality of data used. To ensure generation of high-quality RWE, the authors identify the following attributes: 1) having a pre-specified analysis plan, 2) transparency regarding study design and analysis prior to execution, 3) identifying and addressing potential confounders in the retrospective data set, 4) transparent reporting of predefined outcomes, and 5) discussing outcomes in the context of existing research along with any potential conflicts of interest.

The authors concluded that high-quality retrospective RWSs, along with other RWE study types, can be used to compliment available evidence for RCTs in AIT.

[Read full study](#)

[Fritzsche B, Contoli M, Porsbjerg C, Buchs S, Larsen JR, Freemantle N. Real-world evidence: Methods for assessing long-term health and effectiveness of allergy immunotherapy. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2022;149\(3\):881-883. doi: 10.1016/j.jaci.2021.12.781.](#)

INVESTIGATOR INSIGHTS

We spoke with **Anne Ellis, MD** to discuss key takeaways from the publication [Randomized controlled trial of ragweed sublingual immunotherapy tablet in the subpopulation of Canadian children and adolescents with allergic rhinoconjunctivitis](#) and how clinicians can implement these findings in their practice. Watch below to learn more!

Investigator Insights: Anne Ellis M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P.C.

Randomized controlled trial of ragweed sublingual immunotherapy tablet in the subpopulation of Canadian children and adolescents with allergic rhinoconjunctivitis

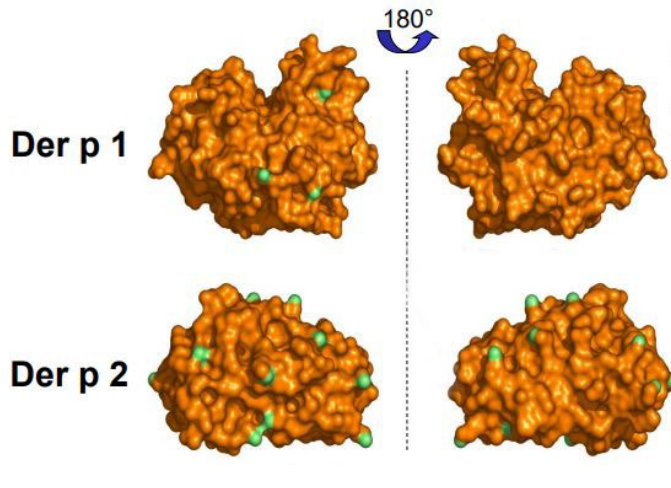
Ellis A E, Gagnon R, Bernstein G, and Nolte H. Randomized controlled trial of ragweed sublingual immunotherapy tablet in the subpopulation of Canadian children and adolescents with allergic rhinoconjunctivitis. *Allergy, Asthma & Clinical Immunology*. 2021;17(7). doi:10.1016/j.iacli.2021.06.029-2.

This publication is a post-hoc analysis with the Canadian subpopulation in the study, and it is designed for hypothesis generation purposes.

Disclaimer: Dr. Anne Ellis received an honorarium from ALK for participation in this video. The views of Dr. Anne Ellis are her own personal views and not that of ALK. This program is for educational purposes only and should not be purchased as medical advice.

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WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH?

Comparison of intact allergen extracts and allergoids for subcutaneous immunotherapy - the effect of chemical modification differs both between species and between individual allergen molecules

Henmar H, Nedergaard Larsen J, Lund L, Hvalsoe Meno K, Ferreras M.

Currently available commercial allergoids differ with respect to composition and downstream allergenicity and immunogenicity. Within this study, the authors explore how chemical modification can impact the properties of intact allergen extracts across species and allergen molecules. They report that allergoids and intact allergen preparations differ significantly with respect to the composition of IgE-binding epitopes. Interestingly, they tested birch, grass and house dust mite (HDM) allergoids and the chemical cross-linking effects of these species and allergen molecules differently. For instance, Der p 1 remains largely unmodified. Further, investigational HDM allergoid injections showed reduced and delayed immune responses when used for immunization of mice.

[Read full study](#)

[Henmar H, Nedergaard Larsen J, Lund L, Hvalsoe Meno K, Ferreras M. Comparison of intact allergen extracts and allergoids for subcutaneous immunotherapy - the effect of chemical modification differs both between species and between individual allergen molecules. J Invest Allergol Clin Immunol. 2022;33\(3\). doi: 10.18176/jiaci.0783.](#)

What gaps in research would you like to share with ALK? Let us know:

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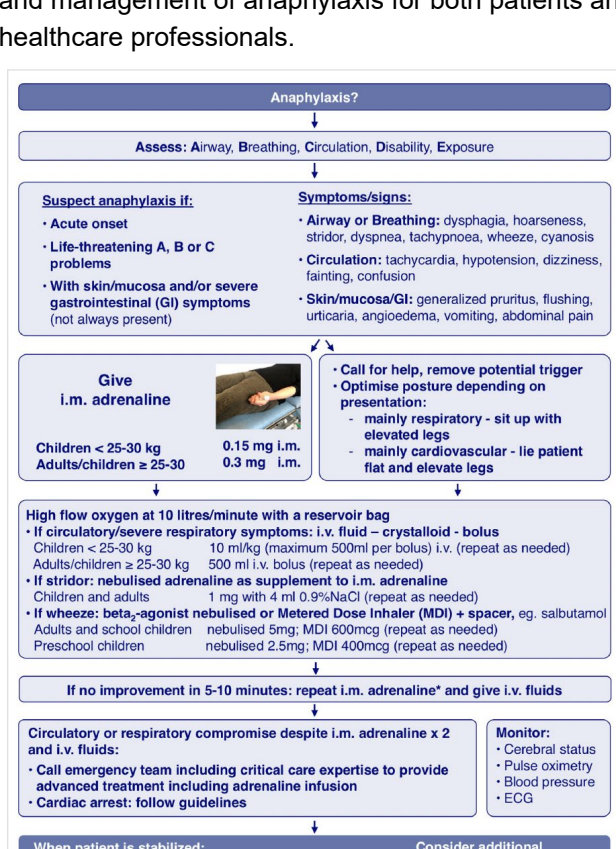
ALLERGY NEWS AROUND THE GLOBE

EAACI guidelines: Anaphylaxis (2021 update)

Angier E, Arasi S, Bellou A, Beyer K, Bijlhout D, Bilò MB, et al.

The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) Anaphylaxis multidisciplinary Task Force has updated their guidelines. Key recommendations include:

- Acutely, diagnosis is suggested to be made via clinical criteria including rapid onset of multiple signs and symptoms.
- Retrospective diagnosis is suggested to be made via serum tryptase (30 min-2 hours after onset) and baseline tryptase (within 24 hours of resolution).
- First-line treatment remains prompt administration of intramuscular adrenaline with auto-injectors suggested over prefilled needle-syringe.
- Increased availability of pharmacokinetic data is needed, especially for new devices.
- Education and training are recommended in recognition and management of anaphylaxis for both patients and healthcare professionals.



[View image](#)

[Read full study](#)

[EAACI guidelines: Anaphylaxis \(2021 update\). Allergy. 2022;77\(2\):357-377. doi: 10.1111/all.15032.](#)

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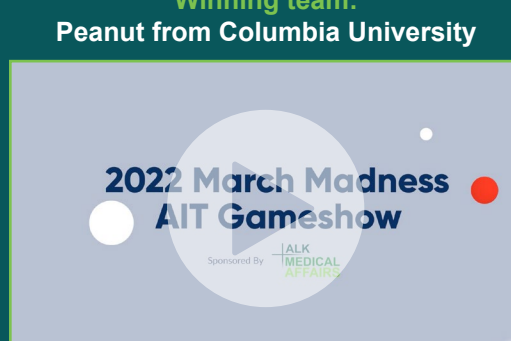
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RECENT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

March Madness – AIT Edition 2022

March 10, 2022

Winning team:
Peanut from Columbia University



[View video](#)

Botany Walks

University of Tennessee
Health Science Center
(Tennessee) – April 7, 2022

Texas Allergy, Asthma and
Immunology Society Annual
Meeting (Texas) –
April 8, 2022

Henry Ford Health
(Michigan) – April 15, 2022

University of Chicago
(Illinois) – April 22, 2022

Wake Forest University
(North Carolina) –
April 29, 2022

Rush Allergy & Immunology
(Illinois) – May 6, 2022

Beaumont Allergy &
Immunology (Michigan) –
May 14, 2022

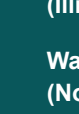
Loyola Medicine Allergy &
Immunology (Illinois) –
May 16, 2022

Adult & Pediatric Ear,
Nose & Throat
(Michigan) – May 21, 2022

University of Cincinnati
(Ohio) – May 23, 2022

BC Society of Allergy
and Immunology
(Vancouver, BC, Canada) –
June 22, 2022

UPCOMING ALK EVENTS



[ALK Virtual Programs Calendar](#)

Bookmark this page in your browser to stay up to date on new events being added!



Worldwide Webinar Wednesdays in North America

MAY: Joseph Han, MD (United States)

May 18, 2022 – 7:00pm EST

JUNE: Philippe Bégin, MD, PhD (Canada)

June 15, 2022 – 7:00pm EST

JULY: Christian Virchow, MD (Germany)

July 20, 2022 – 6:00pm EST

Botany Walks with Tricia Sowers, PhD

Botany Walks are an excellent opportunity to see common allergens in their natural environment. ALK has partnered with Tricia Sowers, PhD to engage with Allergists and ENTs for this unique educational program. If your institution is interested in hosting a botany walk, please email medicalaffairs@alk.net

medicalaffairs@alk.net

Upcoming Botany Walks:

Adult & Pediatric Ear, Nose & Throat (Michigan) -

May 21, 2022

University of Cincinnati (Ohio) - May 23, 2022

Connect with ALK Medical Affairs North America at upcoming conferences:

North Carolina Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Society -

May 20-22, 2022

Allergy Asthma and Immunology Foundation of Northern California Allergy Society (AAIFNC) - May 21, 2022

Eastern Allergy Conference - June 2-5, 2022

Pennsylvania Allergy & Asthma Association Annual Meeting - June 22-25, 2022

EAACI Conference - July 1-3, 2022

Do you have a suggestion for a future ALK Medical Affairs North America event? Let us know!

MedicalAffairs@alk.net