

# California Wildfires are analogous to the World Trade Center disaster, Military Burn Pits/K2, and the East Palestine, Ohio Train Derailment

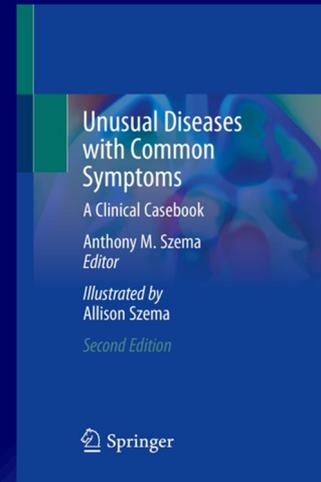
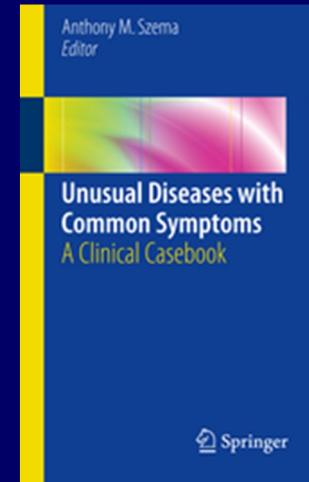
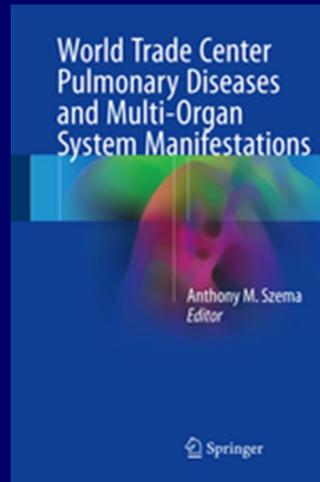
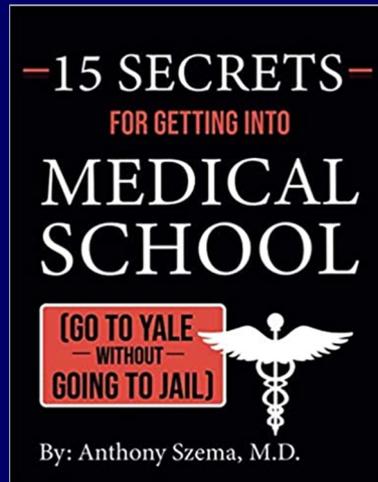
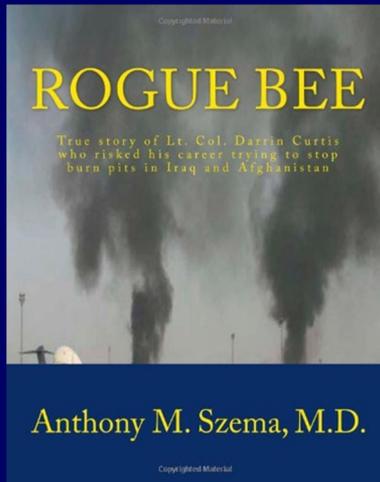
Anthony M. Szema, MD, ATSF  
Chair, ATS Section on Terrorism and Inhalation  
Disasters (TID)



# DISCLOSURES

- **2024-6 NIH NCI SEER Covid-19 Real World Data Infrastructure (CRWDi) Northwell Research Group (Crawford, PI) “Examining the synergistic effect of COVID-19 infection and Vaping on Respiratory Illness” (PI Szema)**
- **2022-5 Site PI and co-investigator \$3.5 million CDMRP Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program DOD Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) PR211133 - “A Wearable Device for Airborne Hazard and Burn Pit Exposure Monitoring”(PI Cridge)**
- **2022-present Northwell Health Veterans Liaison Service Department grant for remote monitoring devices(PI Szema)**
- **2021-Present Principal Investigator, New York State “A Manufacturing and Technology Resource Consortium (MTRC) Supplemental Award Agreement” MTRC Project No. 20211012.1605 (PI Szema)**
- **2021-2026 Site PI and co-investigator CDC NIOSH SW3U01 OH012264 Longitudinal Follow-Up of 9/11 Directly Exposed Children in their Age of Transition: Independence, Occupation and Morbidity (Hoven PI )**
- **2020-2024 Consultant, NIH NHLBI R01 HL152385 05/01/20-04/30/24, “Childhood Mass Trauma Exposure, Inflammatory Programming, and Psychopathology in Young Adulthood” extended due to Columbia University research pause (Hoven, Amsel, MPis)**
- **2020-Present Butterfly Ultrasound Unlimited Cloud Storage Grant for Resource Limited Studies (PI Szema)**
- **2018-Present Site PI and Co-Investigator Centers for Disease Control Grant CDC NIOSH U01 OH011308 “9/11 Trauma and Toxicity in Childhood: Longitudinal Health and Behavioral Outcomes” (PI Hoven)**

# DISCLOSURES



**CME Slide deck for primary care providers at  
Warrior Centric Health on Burn Pits**

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## **Scientific Advisory Board**



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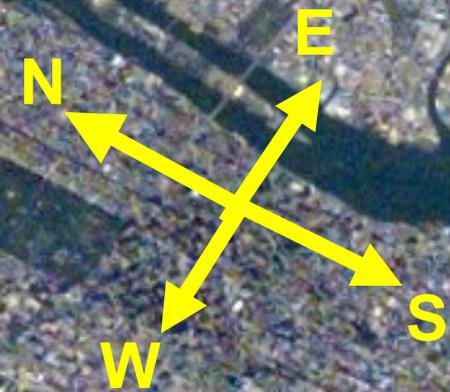
# Reflections on 9/11:

- **Asthma, allergy, lung injury in children and rescue workers post 9/11**
- **Comparison to Military Burn Pits/K2**
- **California/Canadian Wildfires**
- **East Palestine, Ohio Train derailment of 2023**

# Reflections on 9/11:

- **Asthma, allergy, lung injury in children and rescue workers post 9/11**
- **Comparison to Military Burn Pits/K2**
- **California/Canadian Wildfires**
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# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11



International Space Station Imagery  
[globalsecurity.org](http://globalsecurity.org)

Sept 11, 2001



This man, who was pulled from the debris by co-workers on the 91st floor of the World Trade Center's north tower, covers his mouth as he walks through debris after the collapse of one of the World Trade Center Towers. Photo by Stan Honda/AFP.



A woman covered in dust takes refuge in an office building after the top of one of the World Trade Center towers collapsed. The woman was caught outside on the street as the cloud of smoke and dust enveloped the area. Photo by Stan Honda/AFP.

# COMPOSITION OF DUST AND SMOKE AEROSOL FROM THE COLLAPSE OF THE WTC

(collected on September 16 and 17, 2001)

- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (>0.1% of the mass)
- Polychlorinated biphenyls
- Polychlorinated dibenzodioxins
- Polychlorinated dibenzofurans
- Pesticides
- Phthalate esters
  
- Plastic
  
- Partially burned jet fuel
- Soot
  
- Inorganic metals
- Radionuclides
- Ionic species
  
- **Asbestos (0.8%-3.0% of the mass)**

Liou P, Weisel CP, Millette JR, et al. Characterization of the dust/smoke aerosol that settled east of the World Trade center (WTC) in Lower Manhattan after the collapse of the WTC 11 September 2001. Environ Health Perspect 2002;110:703-712.

# **COMPOSITION OF DUST AND SMOKE AEROSOL** **FROM THE COLLAPSE OF THE WTC**

**(collected on September 16 and 17, 2001)**

**70% of samples comprised construction materials:**

- Office furnishings**
- Pulverized cement**
- Glass fibers (mineral wool and fiberglass)**
- Wallboard**
- Paint (leaded and unleaded)**

- **Dust samples collected at the World Trade Center site on September 12, 2001 were found to be rich in calcium-based compounds**
- **Calcium-based compounds are known to irritate the upper airways**

**McGee JK, Chen LC, Cohen MD, et al. Chemical analysis of World Trade Center fine particulate matter for use in toxicological assessment. Environ Health Perspect 2003;111:972-980.**

## **Composition of inhalants**

**from the World Trade Center Disaster**

- **Organo-chlorine pesticides**
- **Phosgene**
- **Cadmium**
- **Mercury**
- **Diesel exhaust**
- **Hydrogen Sulfide**

# Composition of inhalants

from the World Trade Center Disaster

- **Carbon Monoxide**
- **Nitrogen Dioxide**
- **Nitric oxide**
- **Smog**
- **Sulfur dioxide**
- **Chlorine**
- **Phosgene**
- **Freon**

## **NYC Households With At Least One Person With Asthma (2000 Census data)**

• Non-Hispanic white	11.0
• Non-Hispanic black	15.8
• Puerto Rican	28.0
• Dominican	14.8
• Central/South American	13.0
• Mexican	5.0
• Other Hispanic (Cuban)	16.8
• Chinese	6.8
• Asian Indian	7.3
• Other Asian	11.7

*Other Asian comprises Korean, Japanese, Filipino, Vietnamese, and other Pacific Islanders)*

Rosenbaum E. Racial/ethnic differences in asthma prevalence: the role of housing and neighborhood environments. *J Health Soc Behav.* 2008 Jun;49(2):131-45.

# **ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11 HYPOTHESES**

**1. Pediatric asthma patients exposed to the World Trade Center disaster may experience increased asthma severity.**

**2. Some previously healthy children may be newly diagnosed with asthma after September 11, 2001.**

# **ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11 STUDY POPULATION**

- **Chinese-American pediatric asthmatic patients who live in New York City**
- **Receive medical care at the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center (CBWCHC), located in lower Manhattan's Chinatown, approximately 1.5 miles from the WTC.**

# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

Charles B. Wang Community Health Center

王嘉廉社區醫療中心



# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## Demographic Characteristics of Chinese-American Pediatric Asthmatic Patients

### CHARACTERISTICS

### ALL PATIENTS

Age (y)

8.18<sub>±</sub>3.47

Sex

Female, n (%)

69 (34.2)

Male, n (%)

133 (65.8)

Height (in)

Before 9/11

48.69<sub>±</sub>9.71

After 9/11

50.63<sub>±</sub>8.05

Weight (lbs)

Before 9/11

63.94<sub>±</sub>31.45

After 9/11

71.43<sub>±</sub>34.43

# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## Demographic Characteristics of Chinese-American Pediatric Asthmatic Patients

### CHARACTERISTICS

### REGION 1 (<5 mi WTC)

Age (y)

7.81<sub>±</sub>3.07

Sex

Female, n (%)

27 (33.3)

Male, n (%)

54 (66.7)

Height (in)

Before 9/11

47.53<sub>±</sub>7.38

After 9/11

49.99<sub>±</sub>7.08

Weight (lbs)

Before 9/11

59.80<sub>±</sub>26.26

After 9/11

66.58<sub>±</sub>28.91

# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## Demographic Characteristics of Chinese-American Pediatric Asthmatic Patients

### CHARACTERISTICS

### REGION 2 (>5 mi WTC)

Age (y)

8.42<sub>±</sub>3.70

Sex

Female, n (%)

42 (34.7)

Male, n (%)

79 (65.3)

Height (in)

Before 9/11

49.40<sub>±</sub>10.98

After 9/11

51.24<sub>±</sub>8.67

Weight (lbs)

Before 9/11

66.57<sub>±</sub>34.30

After 9/11

74.93<sub>±</sub>37.48

# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## Demographic Characteristics of Chinese-American Pediatric Asthmatic Patients

<u>CHARACTERISTICS</u>	<u>REGION 1 (&lt;5 mi WTC)</u>	<u>REGION 2 (&gt;5 mi WTC)</u>	<u>P Value</u>
Age (y)	7.81 <sub>±</sub> 3.07	8.42 <sub>±</sub> 3.70	NS
Sex			
Female, n (%)	27 (33.3)	42 (34.7)	NS
Male, n (%)	54 (66.7)	79 (65.3)	NS
Height (in)			
Before 9/11			
After 9/11	47.53 <sub>±</sub> 7.38	49.40 <sub>±</sub> 10.98	NS
Weight (lbs)			
Before 9/11			
After 9/11	59.80 <sub>±</sub> 26.26	66.57 <sub>±</sub> 34.	NS
	66.58 <sub>±</sub> 28.91	74.93 <sub>±</sub> 37.48	NS

# **ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11**

**ASTHMA CLINIC VISITS  
AND ASTHMA  
PRESCRIPTIONS  
INCREASED**





# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

**TABLE III.** Asthma treatments in Chinese American pediatric patients treated at the CBWCHC, September 11, 2000–September 10, 2002, according to region of residence

Clinical parameter	Region 1			Region 2		
	9/11/2000– 9/10/2001	9/11/2001– 9/10/2002	<i>P</i> value	9/11/2000– 9/10/2001	9/11/2001– 9/10/2002	<i>P</i> value
Clinic visits for asthma (no. of visits per child)	3.95 ± 3.07	5.10 ± 4.01	.013	3.71 ± 3.26	4.40 ± 3.21	.063
Asthma prescriptions (no. of prescriptions per child)	2.15 ± 1.51	2.46 ± 1.14	NS	2.00 ± 1.46	2.23 ± 1.22	NS
Rescue inhaler doses per week (no. of doses per child)	4.61 ± 7.70	4.89 ± 8.41	NS	8.87 ± 10.17	7.57 ± 9.21	NS
Oral steroid use (% yes)	0.23 ± 0.45	0.20 ± 0.44	NS	0.18 ± 0.45	0.17 ± 0.45	NS

*NS*, Not significant.

**MORE ASTHMA VISITS FOR  
CHILDREN WITHIN 5 MILES**



# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

Asthma treatments in Chinese-American pediatric patients treated at the CBWCHC, September 11, 2000-September 10, 2002, according to region of residence

<u>Clinical Parameter</u>	<u>REGION 1</u>		<u>P Value</u>
	<u>9/11/2000</u> <u>-9/10/2001</u>	<u>9/11/2001</u> <u>-9/10/2002</u>	
Clinic visits for asthma (no. visits per child)	3.79 <sub>±</sub> 3.18	4.69 <sub>±</sub> 3.54	.002
Asthma prescriptions (no. of prescriptions per child)	2.05 <sub>±</sub> 1.48	2.33 <sub>±</sub> 1.19	.018
Rescue inhaler doses per week (no. of doses per child)	7.15 <sub>±</sub> 9.46	5.25 <sub>±</sub> 8.85	.058
Oral steroid use (% yes)	20 <sub>±</sub> 45	19 <sub>±</sub> 45	NS

# **ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11**

**MORE ASTHMA VISITS  
FOR CHILDREN WITHIN 5  
MILES**



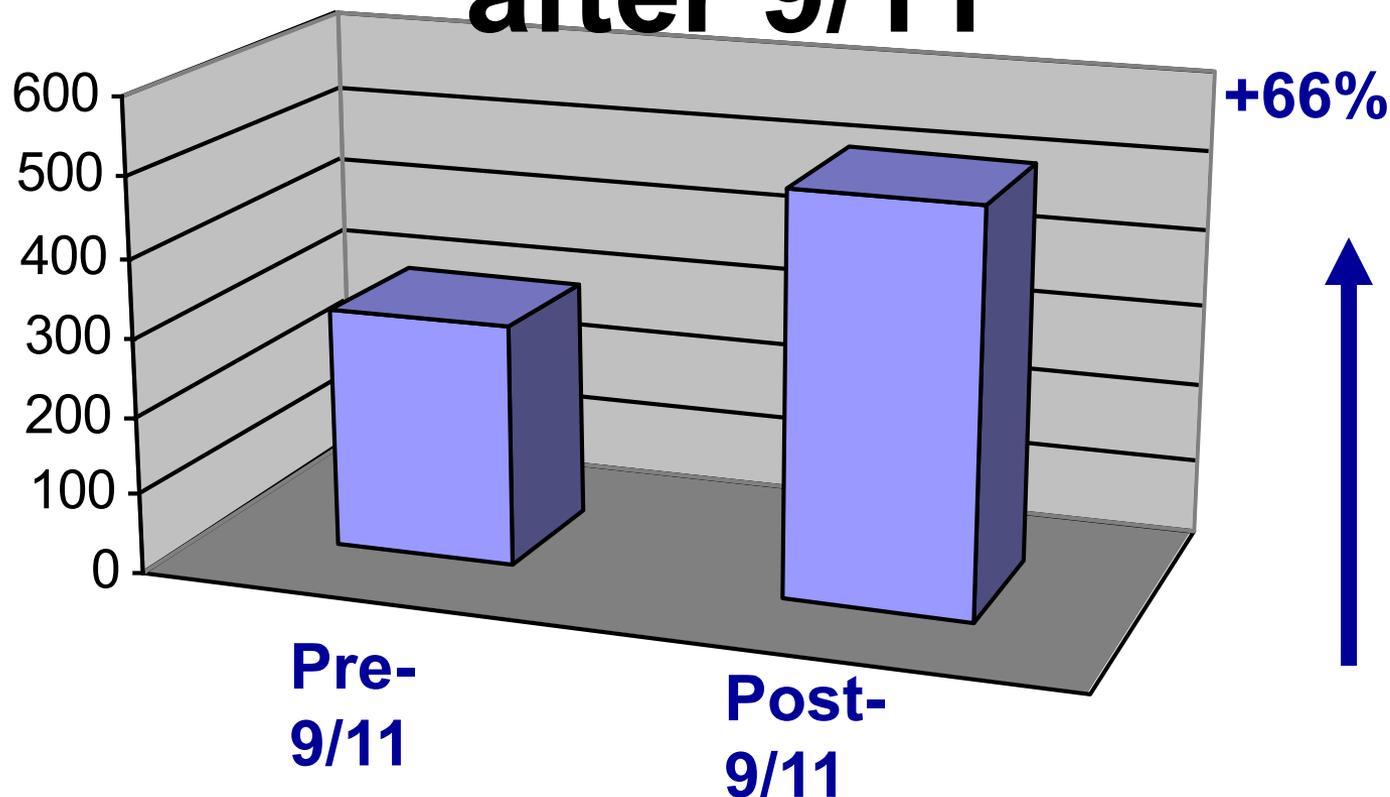
# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

- Number of children with asthma increased **66%**
- Pediatric asthma visits increased **48.8%**



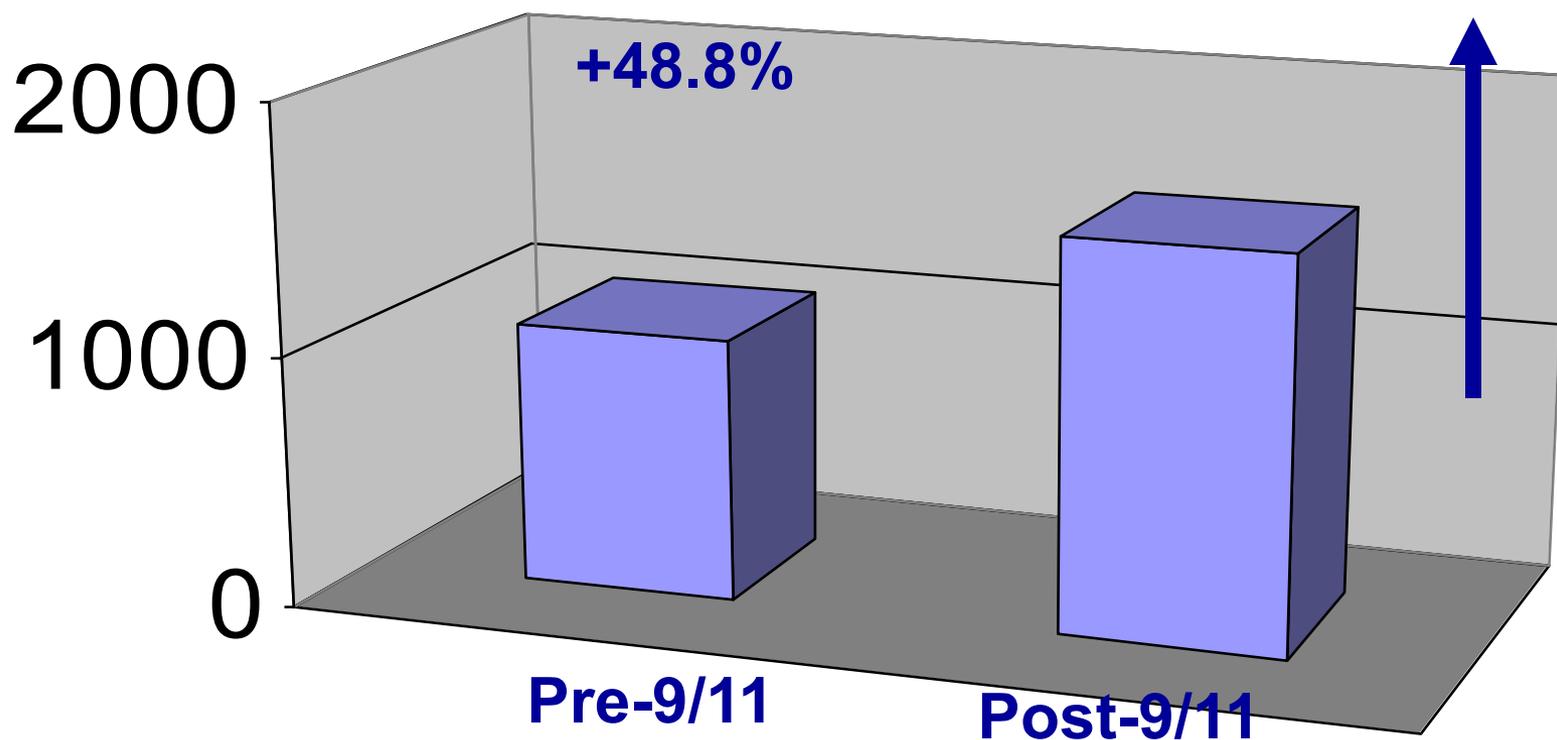
# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## Increase in pediatric patients in Chinatown after 9/11



# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## Increase in pediatric asthma visits in Chinatown after 9/11

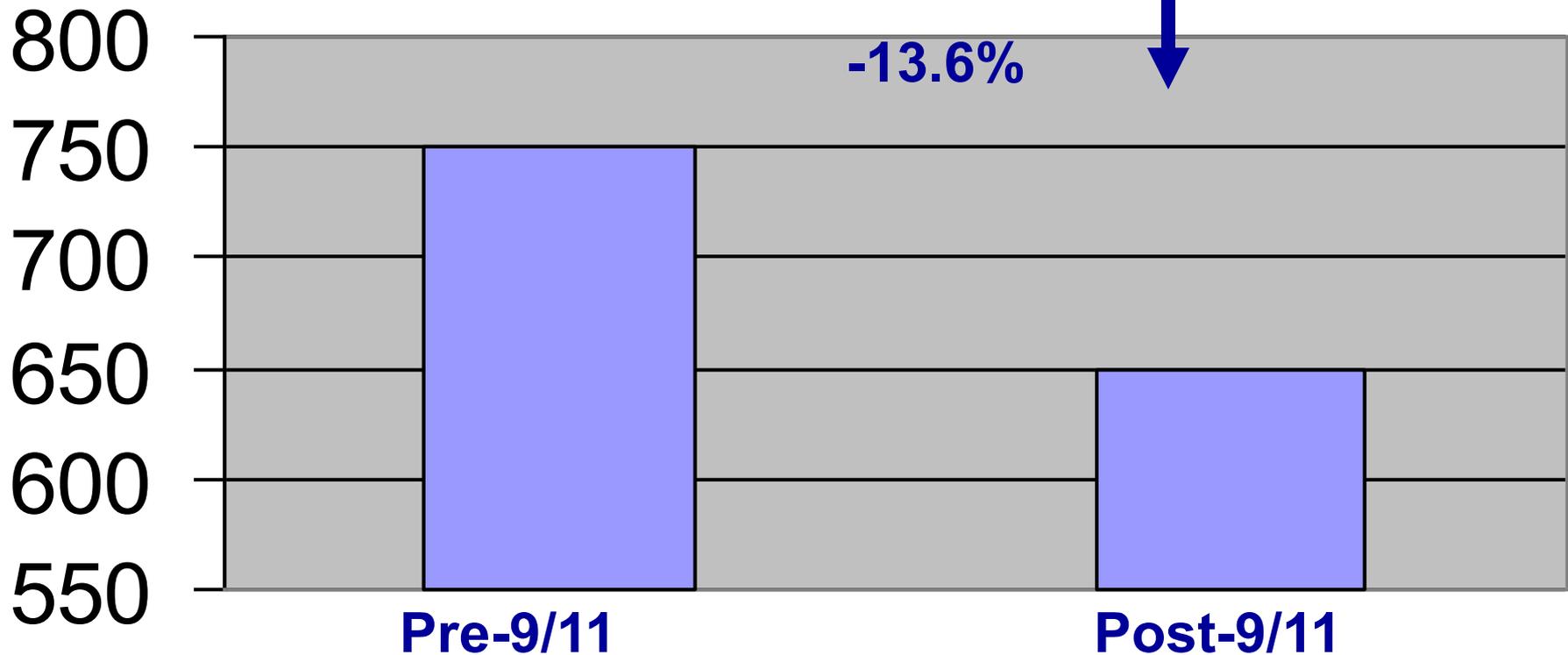


# ASTHMA IN FLUSHING AFTER 9/11

- Number of children with asthma decreased **10.9%** ↓
- Pediatric asthma visits decreased **13.6%** ↓

# ASTHMA IN FLUSHING AFTER 9/11

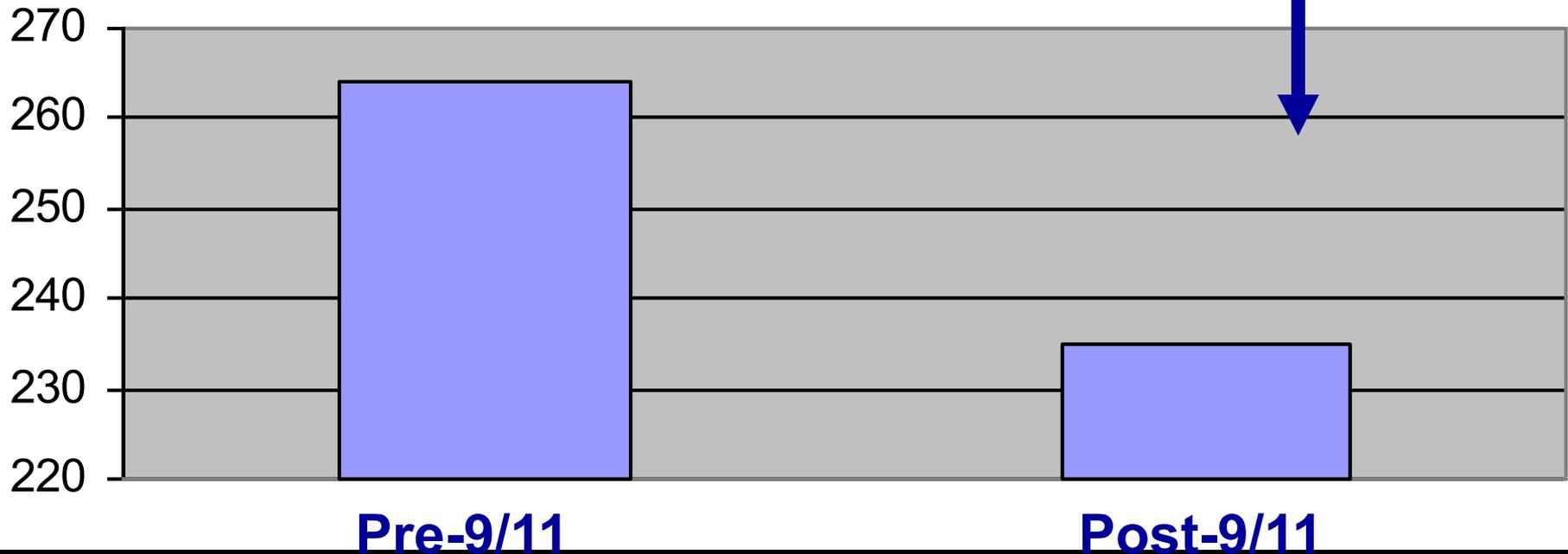
## Number of Pediatric Asthmatic Visits in Flushing Clinic



# ASTHMA IN FLUSHING AFTER 9/11

Decrease in pediatric asthma patients in Flushing after

9/11  
**-10.9%**

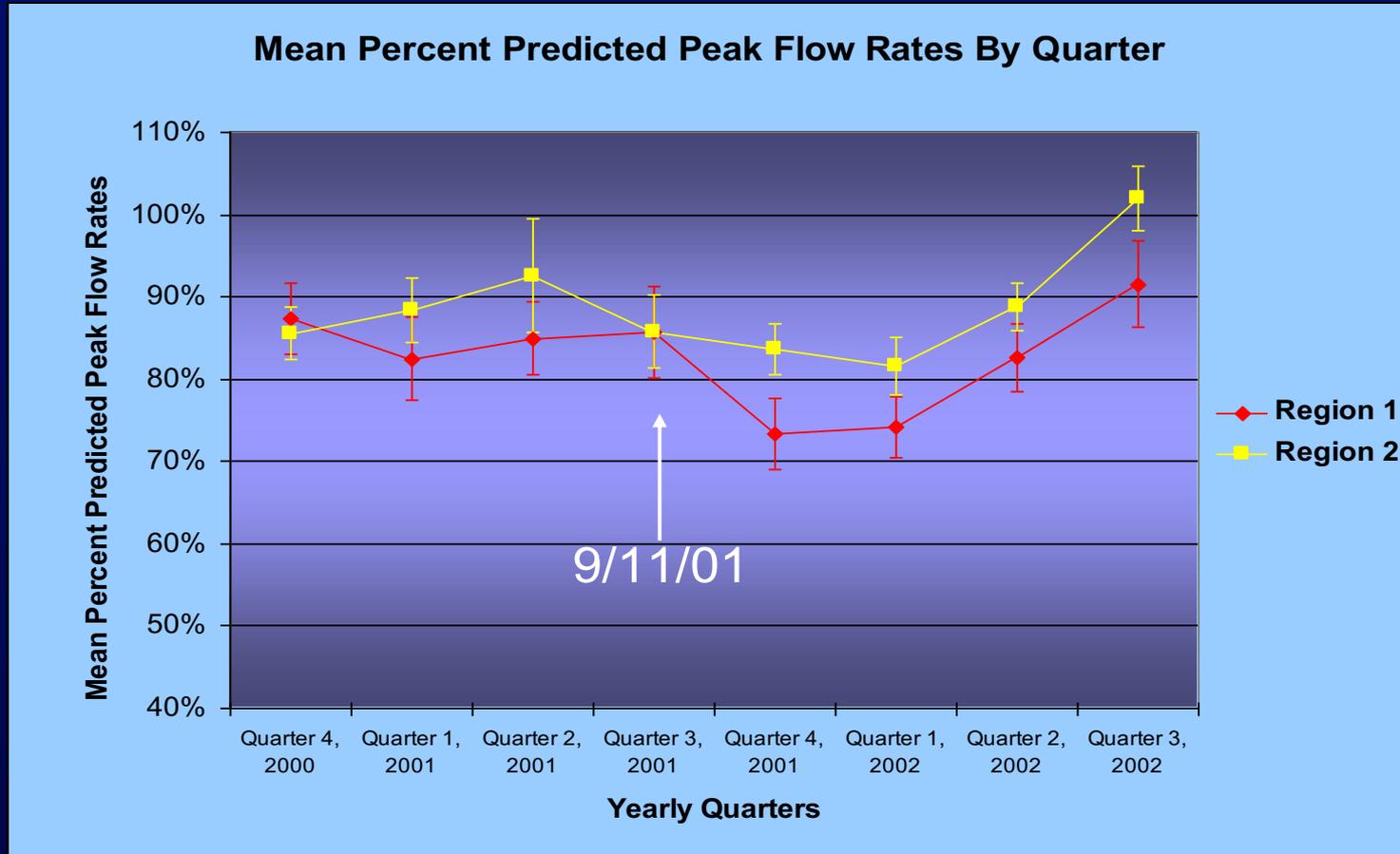


# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

**Mean percent predicted  
peak flow rates decreased  
below 80% for 6 months  
for those living < 5 miles  
from Ground Zero**



# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11



All values in Region 2 were within normal limits (greater than 80% predicted) throughout the two-year study period.

In Region 1, however, values fell below normal (73.4%) for the quarter following 9/11/01 and gradually returned to baseline (within the normal range) two quarters after the disaster.

# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## CONCLUSIONS

- Residential proximity to Ground Zero was predictive of the degree of decrease in asthma health

# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## CONCLUSIONS

Exposure to the World Trade Center disaster led to:

**INCREASED ASTHMA SEVERITY**

# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## CONCLUSIONS

- After September 11, 2001 these children had more asthma-related clinic visits ( $p=.002$ )

# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## CONCLUSIONS

- These children received more prescriptions for asthma medications ( $p=.018$ )

# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## CONCLUSIONS

- Those children living within 5 miles had more clinic visits after September 11, 2001 ( $p=.013$ )

# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## CONCLUSIONS

- **The increase in visits for children living further than 5 miles from Ground Zero was not significant**

# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## CONCLUSIONS

- Mean percent predicted peak expiratory flow rates decreased solely for those patients living within 5 miles of Ground Zero after September 11, 2001

# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## CONCLUSIONS

- **Asthma severity worsened after September 11, 2001, in pediatric asthmatic patients living near Ground Zero.**

# ASTHMA IN CHINATOWN AFTER 9/11

## RESEARCH TEAM

### **Stony Brook Allergy/Immunology Fellows**

- Meera Khedkar, M.D.
- Patrick F. Maloney, M.D.
- Patricia A. Takach, M.D.
- Michael S. Nickels, M.D., Ph.D.
- Harshit Patel, M.D.

### **University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology**

- Francesmary Modugno, Ph.D., M.P.H.

### **Charles B. Wang Community Health Center**

- Alan Y. Tso, M.D.
- Deborah H. Lin, M.D.
- Holly Lee, F.N.P.

### **Stony Brook Med & College Students**

- Roger Yang, M.D.
- Karen Chang Chen, M.D.
- Ramneek Rana

### **Harvard Medical School, Department of Psychiatry**

- Hongtu Chen, Ph.D.

# **Post 9/11: High Asthma Rates Among Children in Chinatown, New York**

**Anthony M. Szema, M.D.**

**Khalil W. Savary, M.D.**

**Benjamin L. Ying, M.D.**

**Kevin Lai, M.D.**



# Disclosures

## Support

- **Stony Brook MD with Recognition in Research Program for student funding**
- **NSpire Corp. who loaned 3 spirometers**
- **NYC Department of Education for approval of study**
- **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for air pollution data**

# Spirometry

- Spirometry calibrated daily and results adjusted for temperature, barometric pressure, age, height, gender, and race.
- A minimum of 8 forced vital capacity (FVC) maneuvers were performed to achieve 3 acceptable flow-volume loops with 2 being within 200 mL for FVC and forced expiratory volume at 1 second (FEV1).
- The value assigned to a participant was the largest acceptable value within 200 mL of a second value.

# Outdoor Air Pollution



Thermo Scientific 1400ab TEOM monitor.

**2 fine particulate sampler monitors were deployed on the roof (14m above ground) of the elementary school.**

**Installed by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$ -sized particulate mass samples collected continuously every 3 days.**

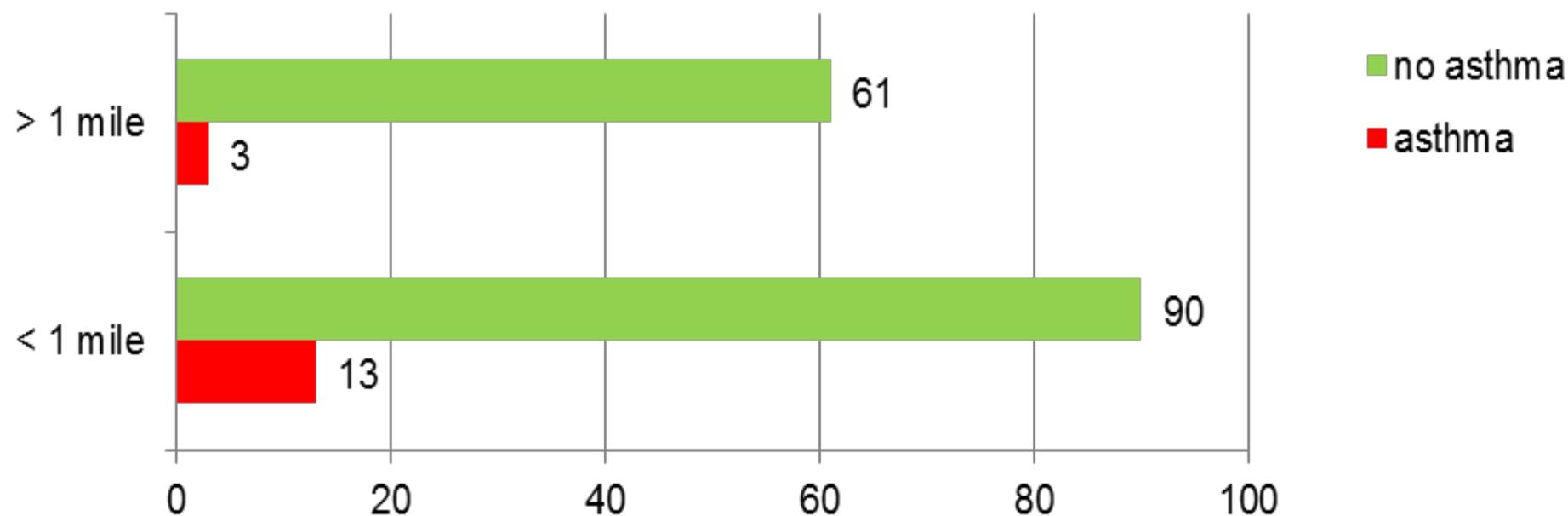
# Indoor Air Pollution - Aeroallergens

- Using a DUSTREAM™ vacuum collection system, dust from around the school was collected and sent to Indoor Biotechnologies (Charlottesville, VA) to be analyzed by ELISA for concentrations of antigens
  - Mouse
  - Rat
  - Feline (cat)
  - Cockroach
  - 3 groups of dust mites
  - Dog

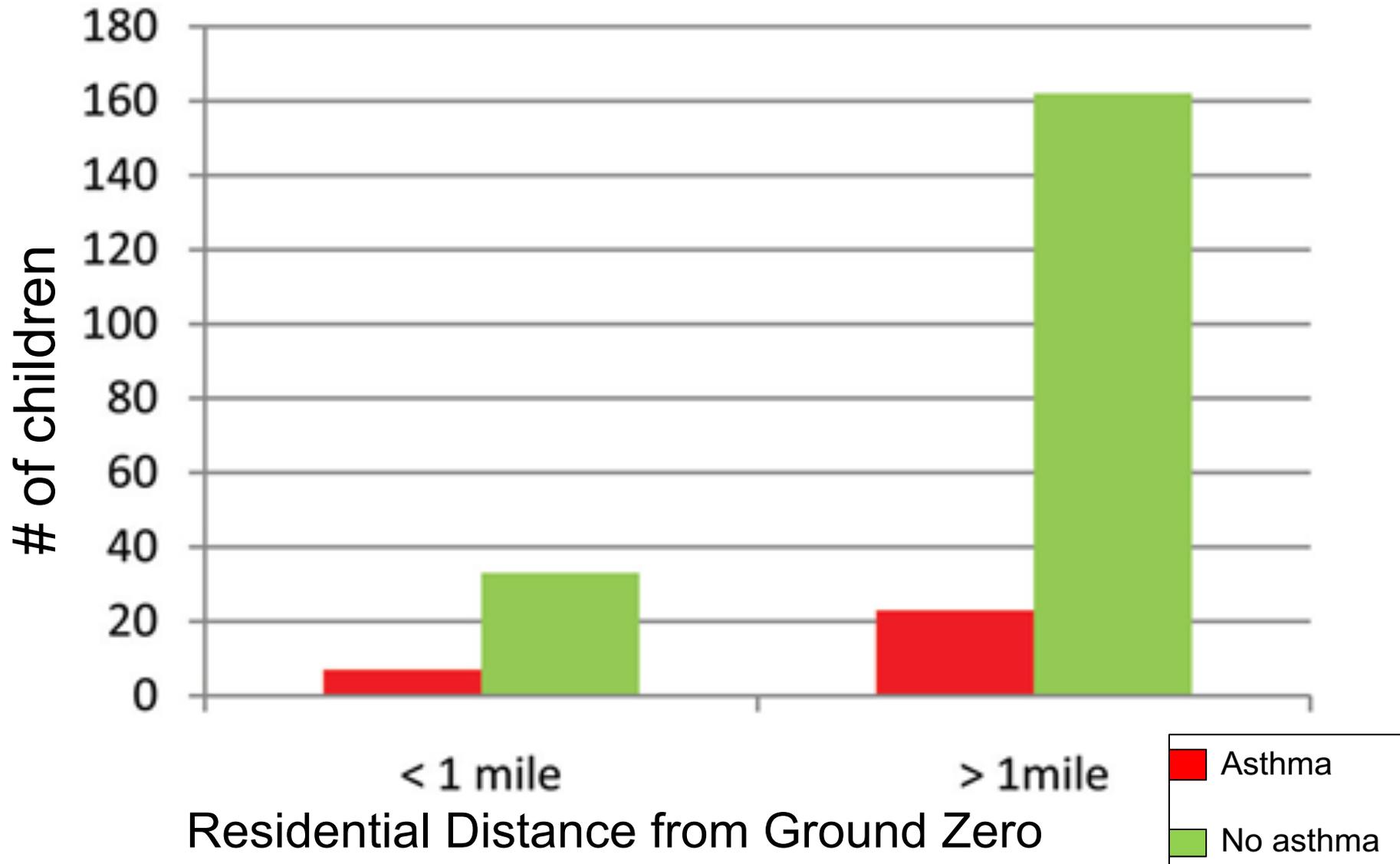


## Self-Reported Asthma Rates Among Students Without Spirometry

12.6% for those Living < 1 Mile from Ground Zero  
vs. 4.8% for those living further away

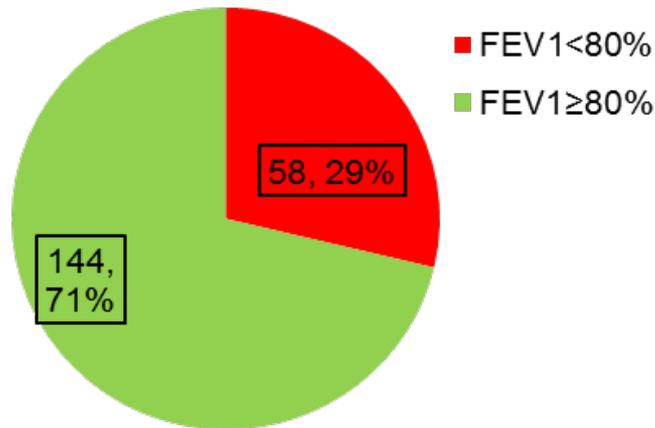


# Self Reported Asthma From Children with Spirometry

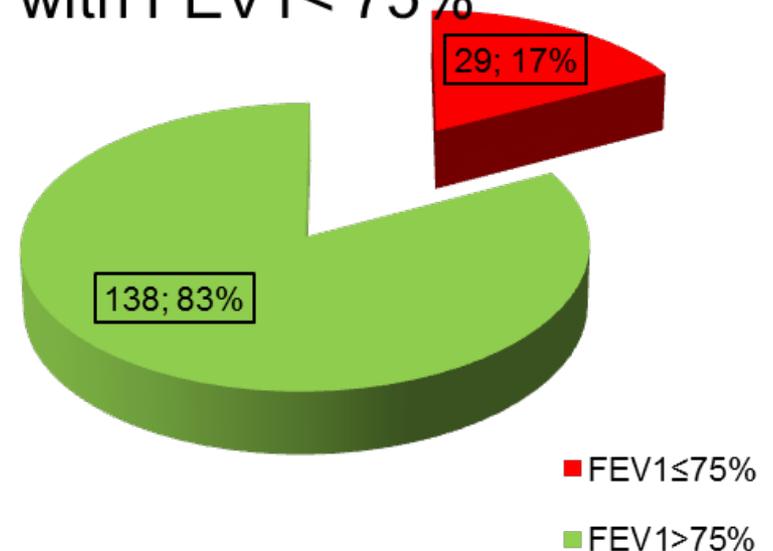


# Post 9/11: High asthma rates among children in Chinatown, NY

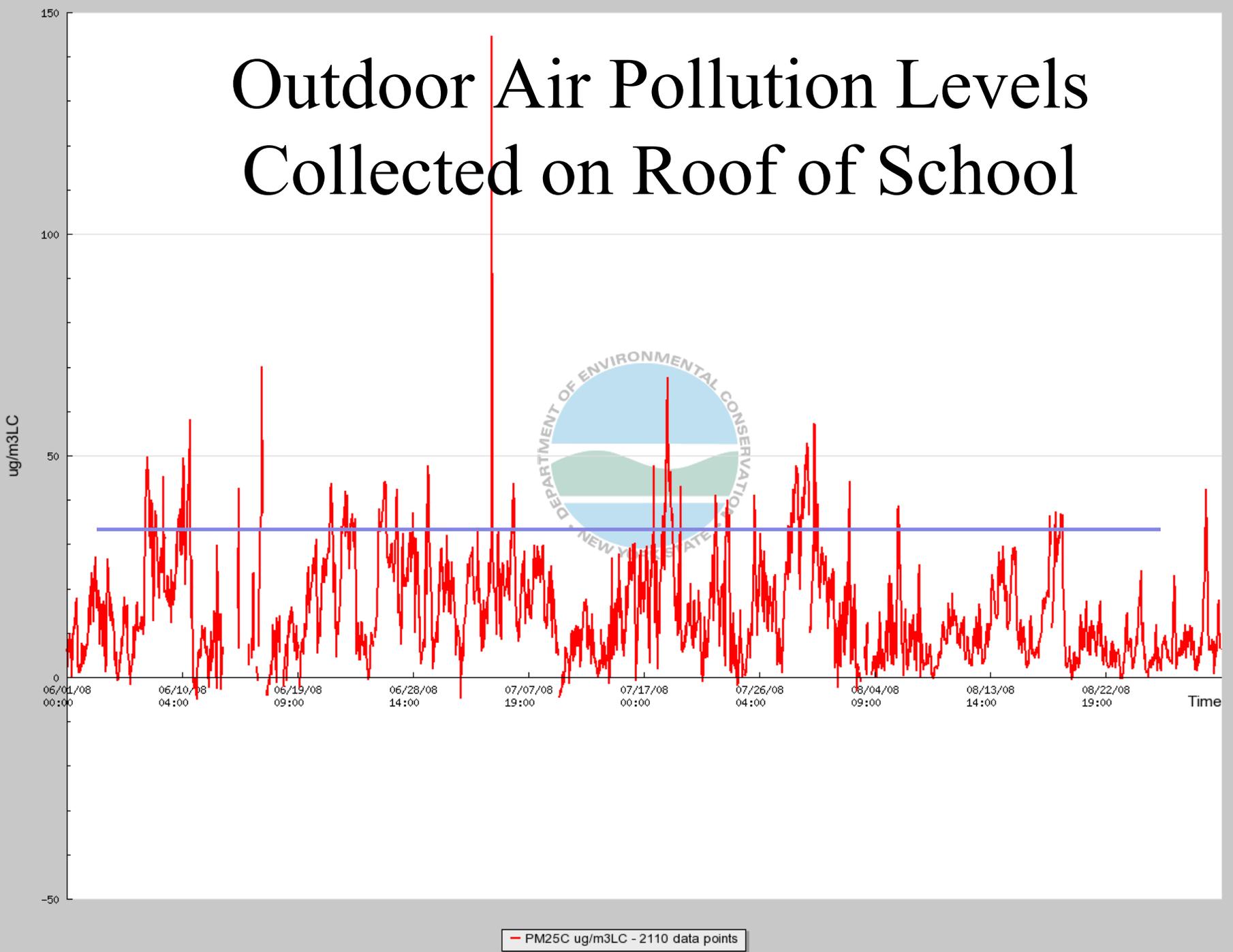
58/202 or 29% of Students 4-12 Years Old With FEV1 <80% (72%±6.8% S.D.)



Spirometric Values for Children ≥ 7 Years Old with FEV1 < 75%



# Outdoor Air Pollution Levels Collected on Roof of School



# Indoor Aeroallergens

Mite Allergens			Cat	Dog	Cockroach	Rat	Mouse
Der p 1	Per f 1	Mite Group 2	Fel d 1	Can f 1	Bla g 2	Rat n 1	Mus m 1
0	0	0	0.31	0	0	0	0.068

# Conclusions

- 1. Chinatown asthma rates are still higher than other groups (29% vs. the NYC reference rate of 13%). These rates indicate persistence of elevated rates, as suggested by Lin and colleagues.**
- 2. Air pollution levels exceed EPA standards and are unhealthy ( $> 35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3/\text{d}$ ). This may account for increased asthma incidence. It is possible that exposure to various toxins on 9/11 accentuated the effect of subsequent exposure to air pollution.**
- 3. The difference between parent-reported prevalence of asthma (12.6%) and tested prevalence (29% overall) corresponds to those reported by the Harlem Children's Zone Asthma Initiative and suggests a high degree of unmet need for asthma treatment and lower-than-necessary child well-being and health status.**

# Acknowledgements

Yeseniya Aronova, MS3

Yi Feng Chen, MS3

Tamarra Khaimchayev, MS3

Kun Pan

Wei Chen, MD

Dennis Daniel, MD

Jackie Lee, MD

Tom Gold, PhD

David Wheeler, MS

INDOOR Biotechnologies Inc.

# ALLERGY SYMPTOMS & ELEVATED AIRWAYS RESISTANCE AMONG CHILDREN LIVING NEAR THE WORLD TRADE CENTER



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John Chen, Ph.D.

Jonathan Li, B.S.

David Lin

# Disclosures

## Support

- **Stony Brook MD with Recognition in Research Program for student funding**
- **NYC Department of Education for approval of study**
- **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for air pollution data**
- **Carefusion Corporation for Impulse Oscillometer agreement**

# **Allergy Symptoms, Airway Resistance Near the WTC**

- **Background**
- **Hypotheses**
- **Study Population**
- **Methods/Data Collection**
- **Results**
- **Conclusions**

# Redline Questionnaires

## STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Race:  African American  Asian American  Hispanic  White  Native American  Other

Please tell us how often you have any of the following:

- |  |                       |                       |                       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. My breathing sounds noisy or wheezy.                                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|  | NEVER                 | SOMETIMES             | A LOT                 |
| 2. It is hard to take a deep breath.                                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|  | NEVER                 | SOMETIMES             | A LOT                 |
| 3. It is hard for me to stop coughing.                                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|  | NEVER                 | SOMETIMES             | A LOT                 |
| 4. My chest feels tight or hurts after I run, play hard, or do sports. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|  | NEVER                 | SOMETIMES             | A LOT                 |
| 5. I wake up at night coughing.  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|  | NEVER                 | SOMETIMES             | A LOT                 |
| 6. I wake up at night because I have trouble breathing.                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|  | NEVER                 | SOMETIMES             | A LOT                 |
| 7. I cough when I run, climb stairs or play sports.                    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|  | NEVER                 | SOMETIMES             | A LOT                 |
| 8. My eyes get itchy, puffy or burn.                                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|  | NEVER                 | SOMETIMES             | A LOT                 |
| 9. I have problems with a runny or stuffy nose.                        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|  | NEVER                 | SOMETIMES             | A LOT                 |

Please answer the following questions:

- |  |                       |                       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 10. A doctor or nurse told me that I have asthma.                                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|  | YES                   | NO                    |
| 11. I stayed in the hospital overnight for asthma or trouble breathing this past year. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|  | YES                   | NO                    |
| 12. I take medicine or use an inhaler for asthma.                                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|  | YES                   | NO                    |
| 13. I take medicine for allergies.   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|  | YES                   | NO                    |

# Impulse Oscillometry



## PARENT OR GUARDIAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Race:  African American  Asian American  Hispanic  White  Native American  Other

Please tell us how often your child has any of the following. (If your child has more problems in some seasons of the year, please tell us about problems during the worst season.) Does your child . . .

1. Make noisy or wheezy sounds when breathing?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	A LOT	Don't Know
2. Have a hard time taking a deep breath?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	A LOT	Don't Know
3. Develop coughs that won't go away?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	A LOT	Don't Know
4. Complain about a chest that feels tight or hurts after running, playing hard, or doing sports?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	A LOT	Don't Know
5. Wake up at night coughing?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	A LOT	Don't Know
6. Wake up at night because of trouble breathing?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	A LOT	Don't Know
7. Cough when running, climbing stairs or playing sports?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	A LOT	Don't Know
8. Miss days of school (absent from school) because of breathing problems?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	A LOT	Don't Know
9. Have eyes that itch, get puffy or burn.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	A LOT	Don't Know
10. Have problems with a runny, stuffy nose.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	A LOT	Don't Know

Please answer the following questions about your child:

11. Has a doctor or nurse told you that your child has asthma, reactive airway disease or wheezy bronchitis?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	YES	NO	Don't Know
12. Has your child stayed in the hospital overnight for asthma or for trouble breathing this past year?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	YES	NO	Don't Know
13. Does your child take medicine (or use an inhaler) for asthma?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	YES	NO	Don't Know
14. Does your child take medicine for allergies?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	YES	NO	Don't Know

## 家長或監護人問卷調查 (7歲以下小孩)

學生姓名 \_\_\_\_\_ 年齡 \_\_\_\_\_ 年級 \_\_\_\_\_ 教師姓名 \_\_\_\_\_

學生種族:  非裔美國人  亞裔美國人  西班牙裔美國人  白人  美洲印第安人  其他

請告訴我們你是否經常發現你孩子有以下特徵。(如果你的孩子在某些季節裡產生特別多的問題，請告訴我們在最壞的季節裡有哪些問題。) 你的孩子有.....

- |                                 |                          |    |    |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----|----|--------------------------|
| 1. 呼吸不暢順或有雜音嗎？                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | 0  | 0  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                           | 從來沒有                     | 有時 | 最多 | 不知道                      |
| 2. 深呼吸困難嗎？                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 0  | 0  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                           | 從來沒有                     | 有時 | 最多 | 不知道                      |
| 3. 是否有長時間性的咳嗽？                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | 0  | 0  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                           | 從來沒有                     | 有時 | 最多 | 不知道                      |
| 4. 在跑完步玩得很激烈或運動完 之後，抱怨胸口緊或不舒服嗎？ | <input type="checkbox"/> | 0  | 0  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                           | 從來沒有                     | 有時 | 最多 | 不知道                      |
| 5. 在半夜因咳嗽而醒來嗎？                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | 0  | 0  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                           | 從來沒有                     | 有時 | 最多 | 不知道                      |
| 6. 因呼吸不順而導致半夜起床嗎？               | <input type="checkbox"/> | 0  | 0  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                           | 從來沒有                     | 有時 | 最多 | 不知道                      |
| 7. 在跑步，爬樓梯或運動時咳嗽嗎？              | <input type="checkbox"/> | 0  | 0  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                           | 從來沒有                     | 有時 | 最多 | 不知道                      |
| 8. 因呼吸道的問題而不上學 ( 缺席 ) 嗎？        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 0  | 0  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                           | 從來沒有                     | 有時 | 最多 | 不知道                      |
| 9. 覺得眼睛發癢，紅腫，刺痛嗎？               | <input type="checkbox"/> | 0  | 0  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                           | 從來沒有                     | 有時 | 最多 | 不知道                      |
| 10. 流鼻涕或鼻塞的問題嗎？                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 0  | 0  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                           | 從來沒有                     | 有時 | 最多 | 不知道                      |

請回答以下有關於你孩子的问题:

- |                                   |                       |                       |                          |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 11. 是否曾經有醫生或護士有告訴過你，你孩子有時哮喘？      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                             | 是                     | 否                     | 不知道                      |
| 12. 在過去的一年，你孩子是否曾經因哮喘病或呼吸 性疾病而住院？ | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                             | 是                     | 否                     | 不知道                      |
| 13. 你孩子是否服用哮喘藥物或使用哮喘噴霧器？          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                             | 是                     | 否                     | 不知道                      |
| 14. 你孩子有否因過敏而服用藥物嗎？               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____                             | 有                     | 否                     | 不知道                      |

## 學生問卷調查 ( 7至14歲 )

姓名 \_\_\_\_\_ 年齡 \_\_\_\_\_ 年級 \_\_\_\_\_ 教師姓名 \_\_\_\_\_

種族  非裔美國人  亞裔美國人  西裔非裔美國人  白人  美洲印第安人  其他

- |                                     |                       |                       |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. 呼吸不暢順或有雜音。                       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|                                     | 沒有                    | 有時                    | 經常                    |
| <hr/>                               |                       |                       |                       |
| 2. 深呼吸有困難。                          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|                                     | 沒有                    | 有時                    | 經常                    |
| <hr/>                               |                       |                       |                       |
| 3. 我咳嗽時，咳嗽不會容易停止。                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|                                     | 沒有                    | 有時                    | 經常                    |
| <hr/>                               |                       |                       |                       |
| 4. 當跑完步，玩得激烈，或運動完之後，<br>會覺得胸口緊或不舒服。 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|                                     | 沒有                    | 有時                    | 經常                    |
| <hr/>                               |                       |                       |                       |
| 5. 我會在半夜因咳嗽而醒來。                     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|                                     | 沒有                    | 有時                    | 經常                    |
| <hr/>                               |                       |                       |                       |
| 6. 我會因為呼吸不順而導致半夜起床。                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|                                     | 沒有                    | 有時                    | 經常                    |
| <hr/>                               |                       |                       |                       |
| 7. 當我跑步，爬樓梯或運動時，我會咳嗽。               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|                                     | 沒有                    | 有時                    | 經常                    |
| <hr/>                               |                       |                       |                       |
| 8. 我的眼睛會覺得發癢，紅腫，刺痛。                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|                                     | 沒有                    | 有時                    | 經常                    |
| <hr/>                               |                       |                       |                       |
| 9. 我有流鼻涕或鼻塞問題。                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|                                     | 沒有                    | 有時                    | 經常                    |

### 請回答以下的问题:

- |                                  |                       |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 10. 曾經有醫生或護士告訴我，我有哮喘病。           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|                                  | 有                     | 沒有                    |
| <hr/>                            |                       |                       |
| 11. 在過去的一年，我曾經因哮喘病或呼吸<br>性疾病而住院。 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|                                  | 有                     | 沒有                    |
| <hr/>                            |                       |                       |
| 12. 我有服用哮喘病藥物或使用哮喘噴霧器。           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|                                  | 有                     | 沒有                    |
| <hr/>                            |                       |                       |
| 13. 我因過敏而服用藥物。                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|                                  | 有                     | 沒有                    |

R5



Z5

X5

R20

FEV1

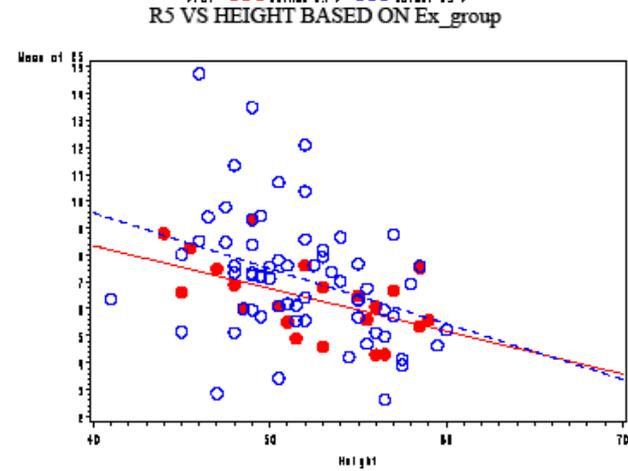
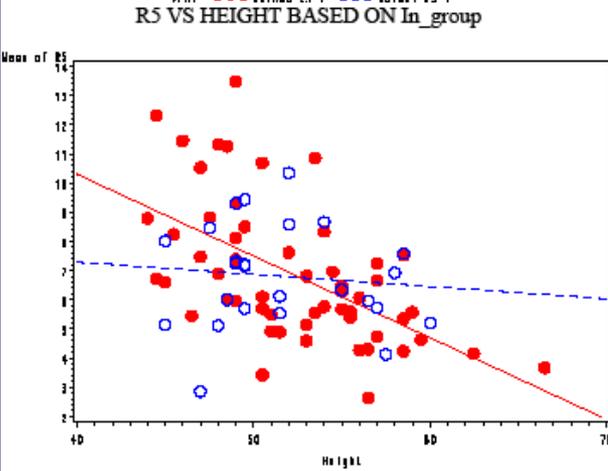
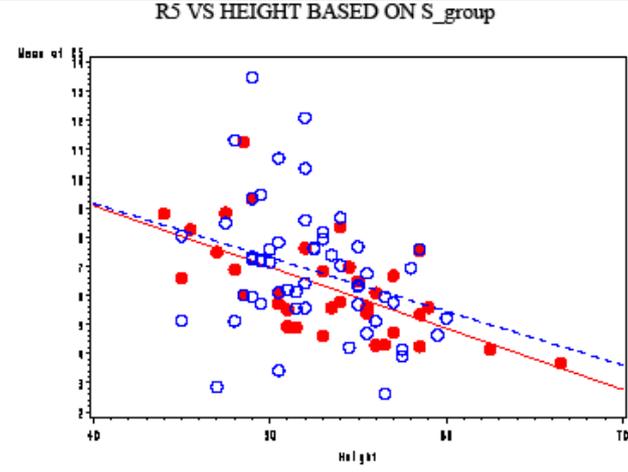
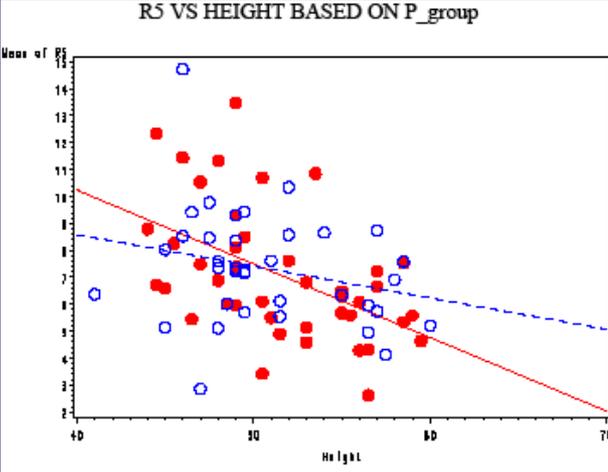
FEV1: Additional forced inspiration

# Results

Table 1. Correlations of Parent and Child Responses for Asthma and All Allergy Symptoms from the Validation Sample\*(n = 158)

Student Question# (Paired with Parent Questions**)	Sample Size	Responses Spearman r	Two-sided P value
Making noisy or wheezing (1)	87	0.748	<0.001
Hard to take a deep breath (2)	84	0.895	<0.001
Hard to stop coughing (3)	90	0.646	<0.001
Chest feels tight after run (4)	85	0.880	<0.001
Wake up at night coughing (5)	93	0.749	<0.001
Wake up at night because of Trouble breathing (6)	87	0.713	<0.001
Cough when climbing stairs (7)	85	0.738	<0.001
Have eyes itch, get puffy (8)	89	0.870	<0.001
Have problems with a runny, Stuffy nose (9)	89	0.824	<0.001
A doctor or nurse told me that I have asthma (10)	89	0.935	<0.001
Stayed in hospital overnight (11) * **			
Take medicine for asthma (12)	90	0.848	<0.001
Take medicine for allergies (13)	93	0.832	<0.001

R5 is a measure of Total Resp System Resistance and includes central vs. peripheral airways (small airways) and is decreased linearly with increase in height among: 1) students with a self-diagnosis of asthma (S\_group); 2) students whose parents noted the child has asthma (P\_group); 3) those with both student and parent diagnosis of asthma (In\_group) and 4) those students who believe they do not have asthma and their parents agree with then (Ex\_group).



**Table1 (n = 114)**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Boys(57)</b>	<b>Girls(57)</b>
	<b>Means <math>\pm</math> SD</b>	<b>Means <math>\pm</math> SD</b>
<b>Age(year)</b>	<b>8.20<math>\pm</math>1.86</b>	<b>8.35<math>\pm</math>1.79</b>
<b>Height(cm)</b>	<b>131.57<math>\pm</math>11.65</b>	<b>132.28<math>\pm</math>11.08</b>
<b>Weight(kg)</b>	<b>31.24<math>\pm</math>8.92</b>	<b>30.08<math>\pm</math>8.66</b>
<b>Mean_R5</b>	<b>7.24<math>\pm</math>2.14</b>	<b>6.74<math>\pm</math>2.28</b>
<b>Mean_R20</b>	<b>3.42<math>\pm</math>1.13</b>	<b>3.28<math>\pm</math>0.80</b>
<b>Mean_x5</b>	<b>-2.77<math>\pm</math>2.58</b>	<b>-2.74<math>\pm</math>2.94</b>

**When comparing boys higher vs. girls**

# Results

- Mean R5, X5 and R20 (resistance at 5 Hz, reactance at 5 Hz, and resistance at 20 Hz, respectively) given in centimeters of H<sub>2</sub>O per liter per second were high.
- Boys and girls with average ages of 8 years, height of 132 cm, and weight 31 kg, had: Boys values of R5=7.2, X5=-2, and R20=3; and Girls values of R5=6.7, X5=-2.7, R20=3.2.
- Mean values for the entire group of boys and girls were: R5=6.99, X5=-2.75, R20=3.35.

R5, Resistance at 5 Hz; X5, reactance at 5 Hz; R20, Resistance at 20 Hz

†IOS measurements are given in centimeters of H<sub>2</sub>O per liter per second, except for resonant frequency, which is given in Hertz. IOS measurements are given as resistance and reactance at 5 and 20 Hz.

# Total PM2.5 Levels from 6/1/08 to 8/31/08 at the Bronx, Queens, and Manhattan Sites

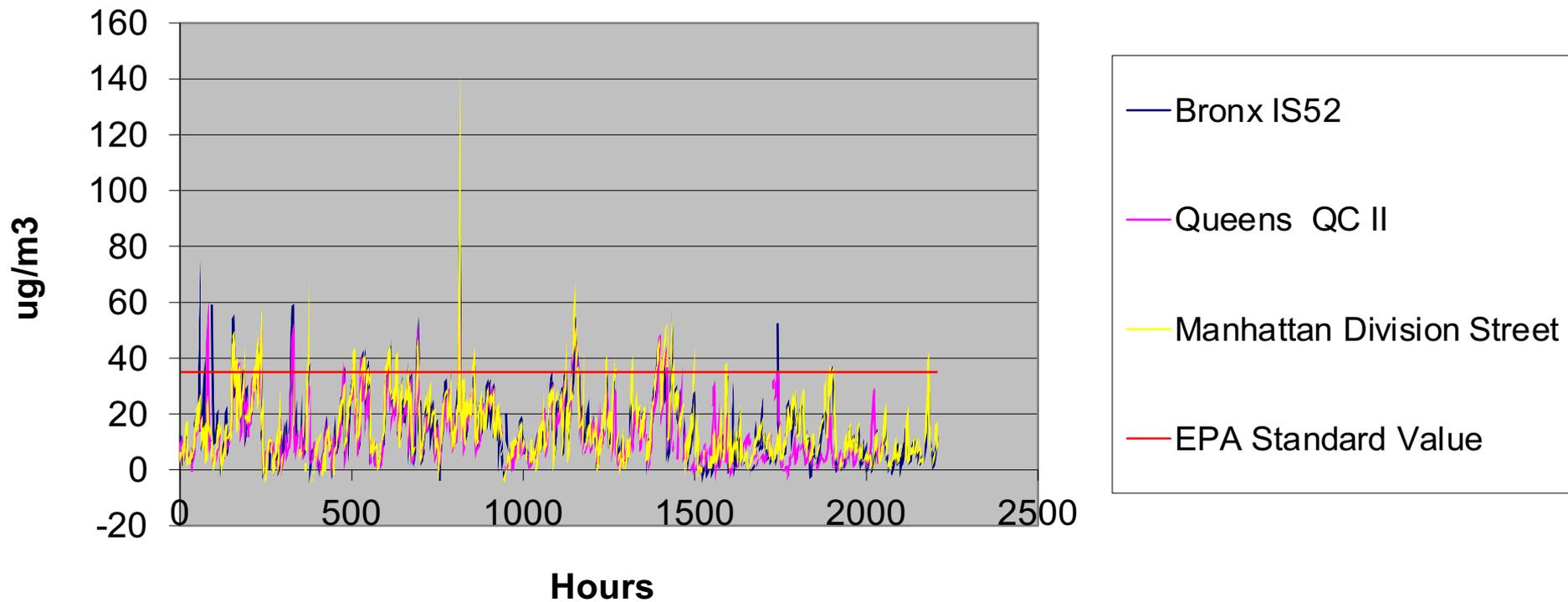
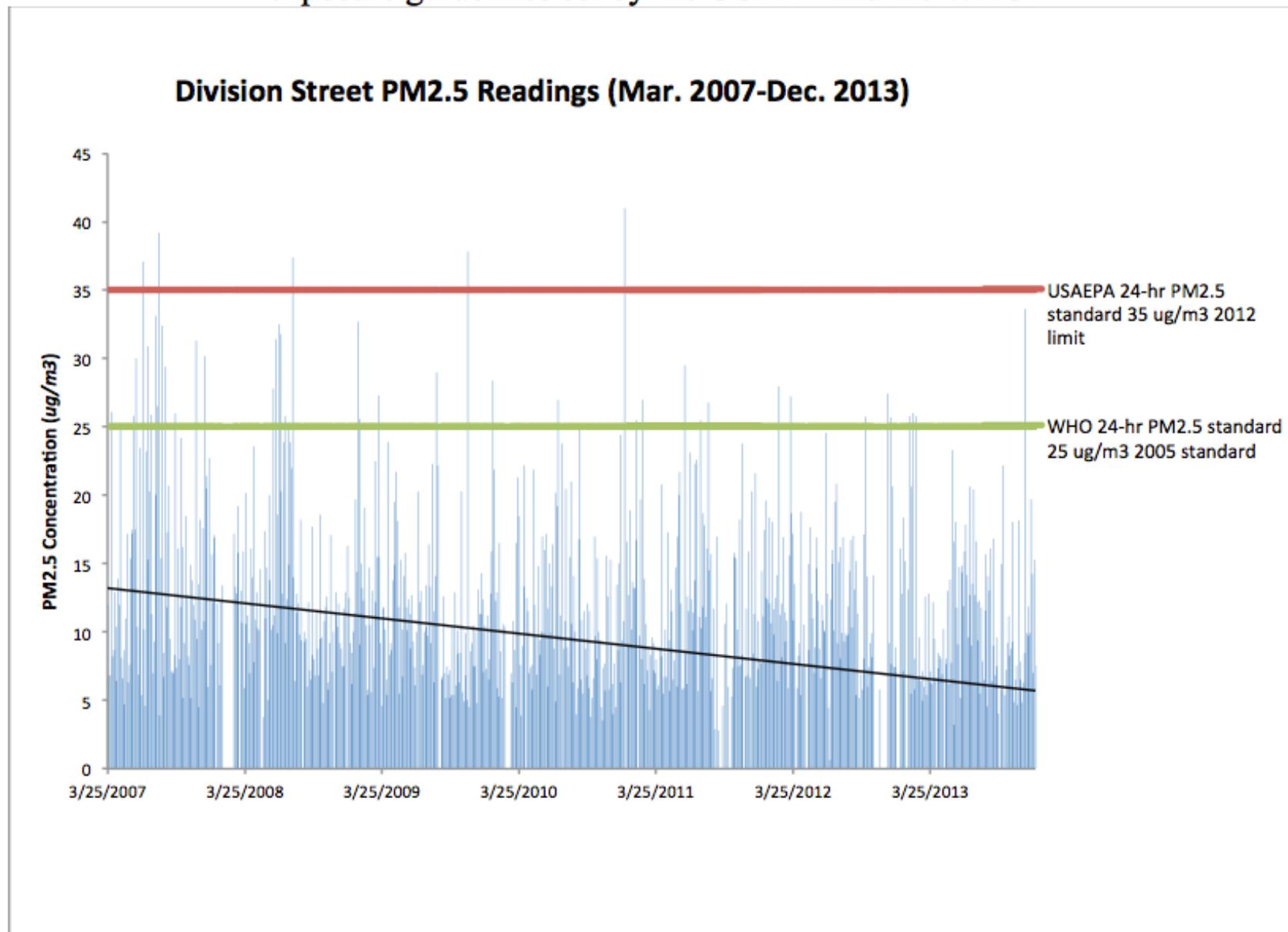
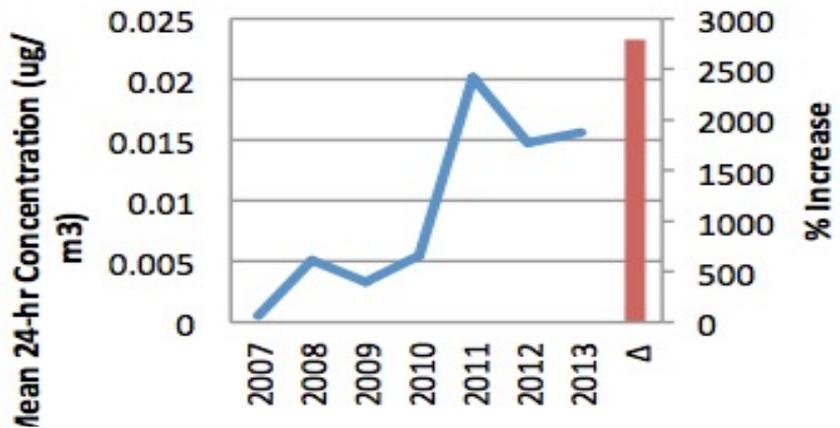


Figure 3: Division St. PM2.5 Readings between 03/2007 to 12/2013 and two different exposure guidelines set by the USEPA and the WHO.

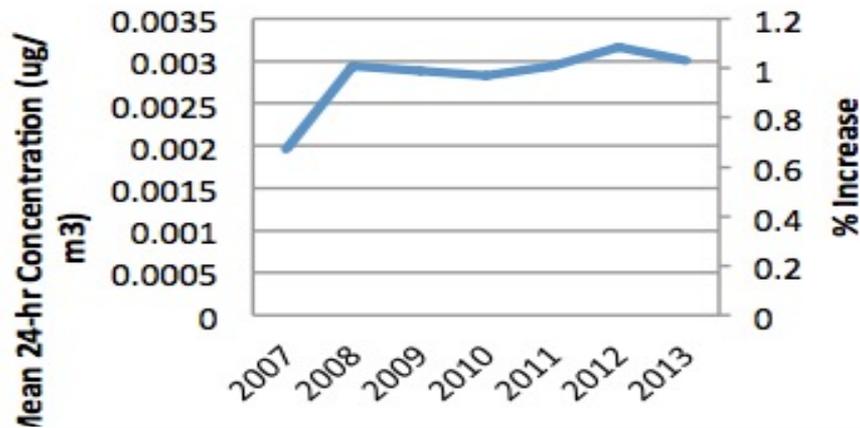


# Speciation Data for Specific Metals at Division St.

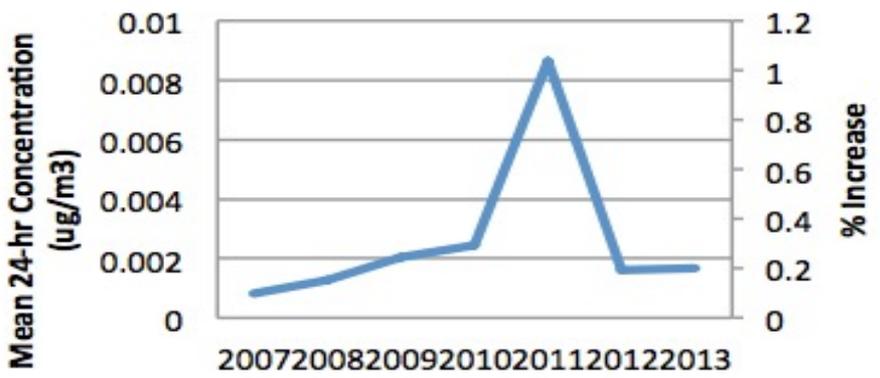
**Antimony (Sb)**



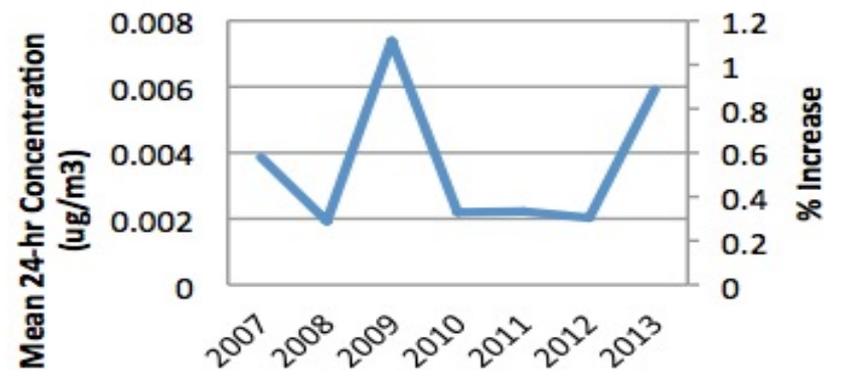
**Bromine (Br)**



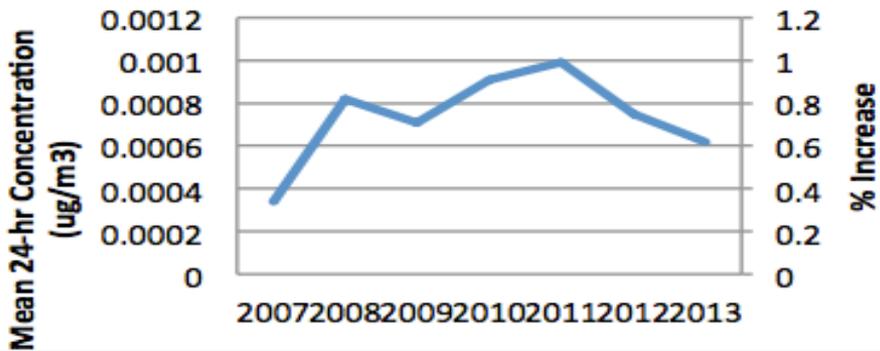
**Cadmium (Cd)**



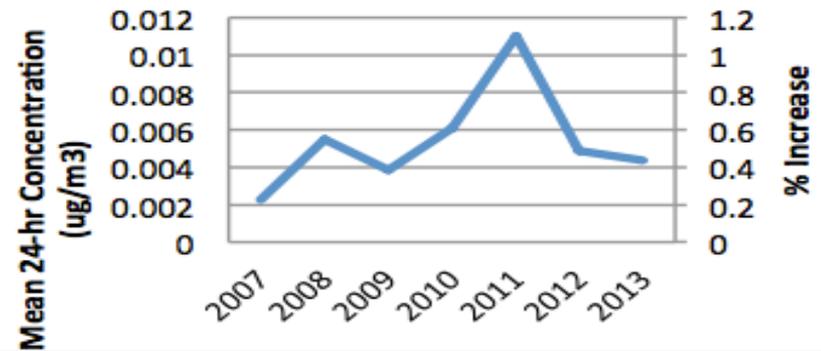
**Chromium (Cr)**



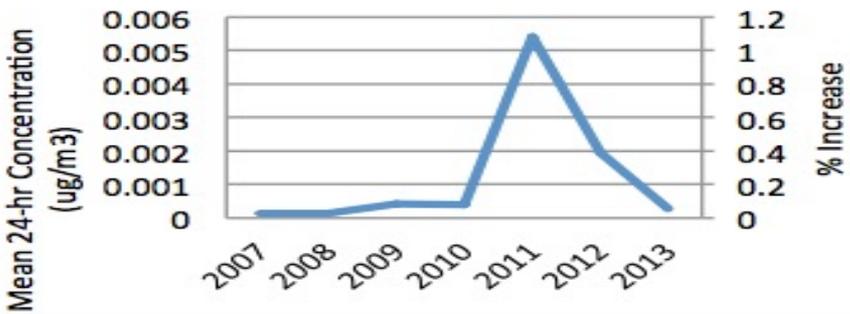
### Cobalt (Co)



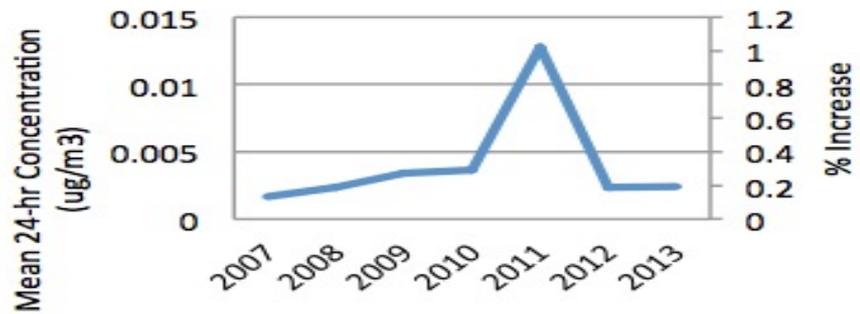
### Magnesium (Mg)



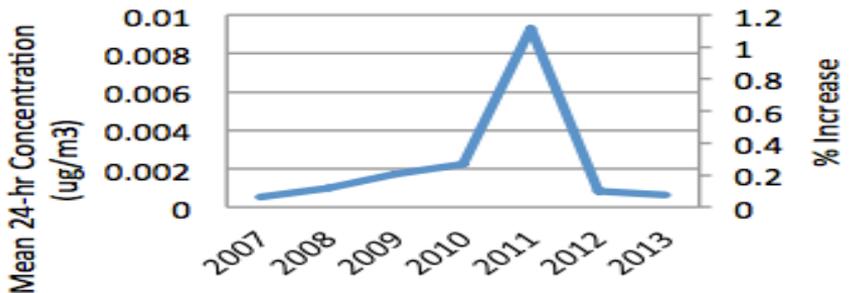
### Phosphorous (P)



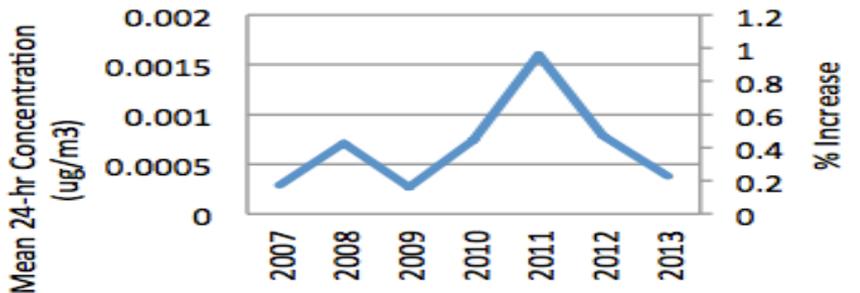
### Tin (Sn)



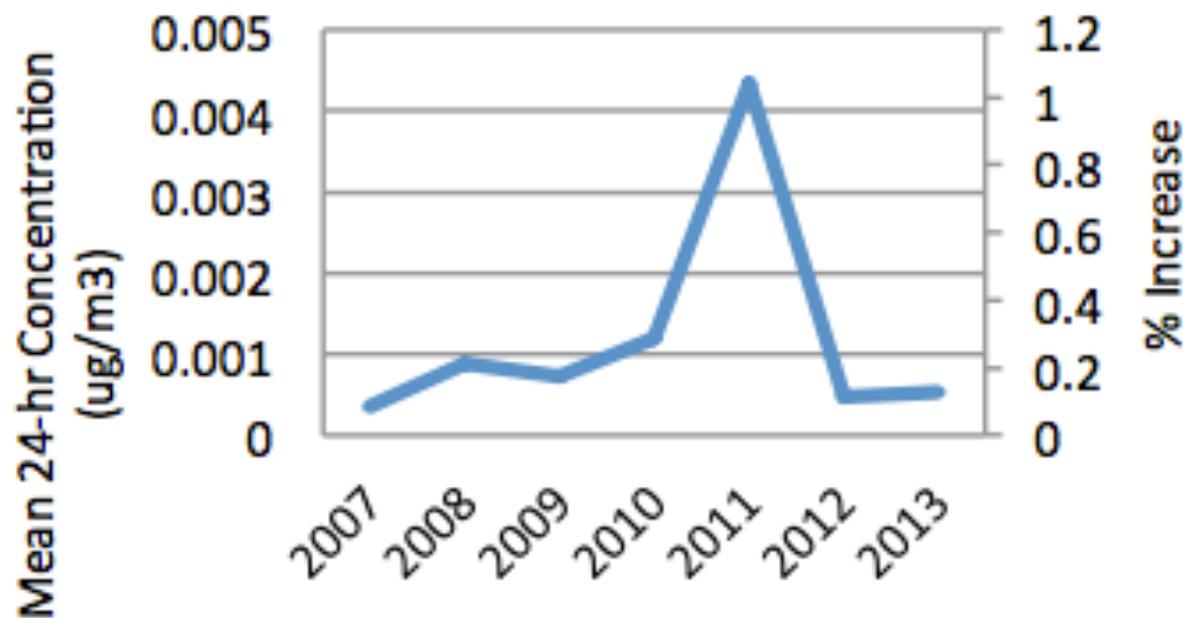
### Silver (Ag)



### Strontium (Sr)

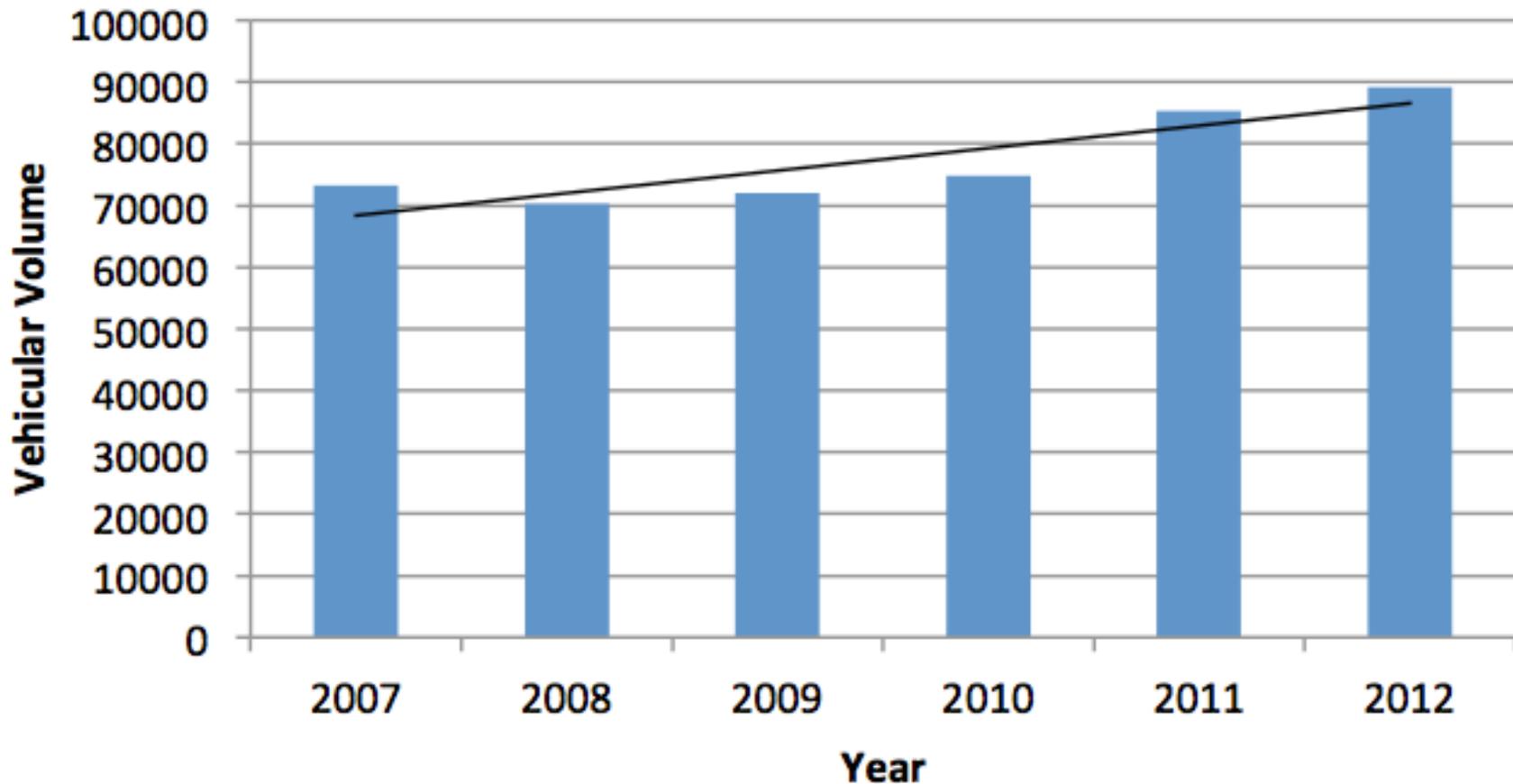


## Zirconium (Zr)



# Manhattan Bridge Traffic 2007-2012

Annual Manhattan Bridge Traffic 2007-2012



# Elements with +% $\Delta$ Correlated with Traffic Volume

Chemical	Correlation with Traffic volume (Pearson's R)	Strength of interdependence between chemical quantities and amount of traffic
Sb	88%	Very strong
P	75%	Very strong
Sr	64%	Strong
Cd	50%	Strong
Mg	50%	Strong
Sn	47%	Strong
Br	45%	Strong
Ag	45%	Strong
Zr	42%	Strong
Co	33%	Moderate
Cr	-42%	Strong (negative)

# Conclusions

- Allergy and respiratory symptoms are common among those children (confirmed by parents) responding to the survey distributed among classrooms at the closest elementary school to the World Trade Center site.
- There were strong correlations between responses from children and their parents.
- Frequent severe symptoms such as wheezing and chest tightness, juxtaposed with use of allergy and asthma medications, supports the concept that these patients are not clinically well-controlled.

# Conclusions

- **Boys and girls in this cohort had increased values of airway resistance at 5 Hz, with boys having higher values than girls.**
- **Frequency dependence between resistance values at 5 Hz and 20 Hz suggest small airways dysfunction rather than central airways narrowing.**

# Conclusions

- **Air pollution levels are high and contain detectable lead, vanadium, and indium.**

# Allergy and Lung Injury Among Rescue Workers Exposed to the World Trade Center Disaster Assessed 17 Years After Exposure to Ground Zero

- Rescue and cleanup workers exposed to the WTC fallout had a high incidence of allergic hypersensitivity and had evidence of permanent small airways dysfunction characterized by distal airways narrowing and airway hyperresponsiveness.
- This is severe lung injury with only partial reversibility.



Caruana et al.,  
JOEM, 2020

# Reflections on 9/11:

- Asthma, allergy, lung injury in children and rescue workers post 9/11
- **Comparison to Military Burn Pits/K2**
- California/Canadian Wildfires
- East Palestine, Ohio Train derailment of 2023

## Blast Overpressure



<http://www.labspaces.net/images/news/155fire.jpg>



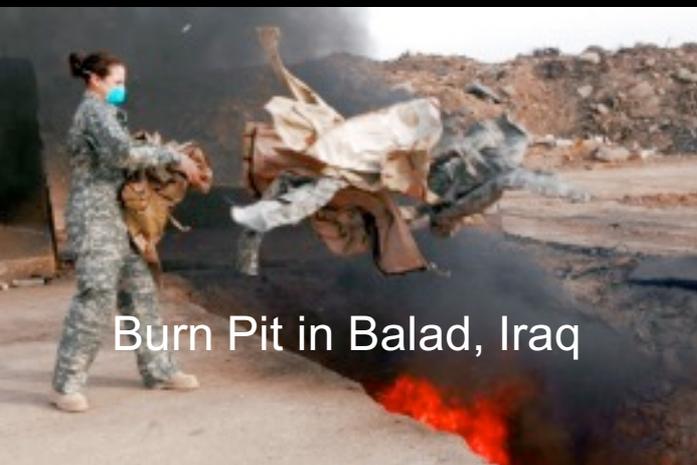
Indoor aeroallergens:  
aspergillus

[http://bioweb.uwlax.edu/bio203/s2008/miller\\_melo/](http://bioweb.uwlax.edu/bio203/s2008/miller_melo/)



IED (Iraq)

[http://www.wired.com/images\\_blogs/dangerroom/images/2008/04/24/iraqiexplosion\\_ied.jpg](http://www.wired.com/images_blogs/dangerroom/images/2008/04/24/iraqiexplosion_ied.jpg)



Burn Pit in Balad, Iraq

[http://www.armytimes.com/xml/news/2008/10/military\\_burnpit\\_102708w/102708af\\_burn\\_pit\\_800.JPG](http://www.armytimes.com/xml/news/2008/10/military_burnpit_102708w/102708af_burn_pit_800.JPG)



Outdoor aeroallergens:  
Date palm pollen

<http://www.fruitipedia.com/Date%20Palm.htm>

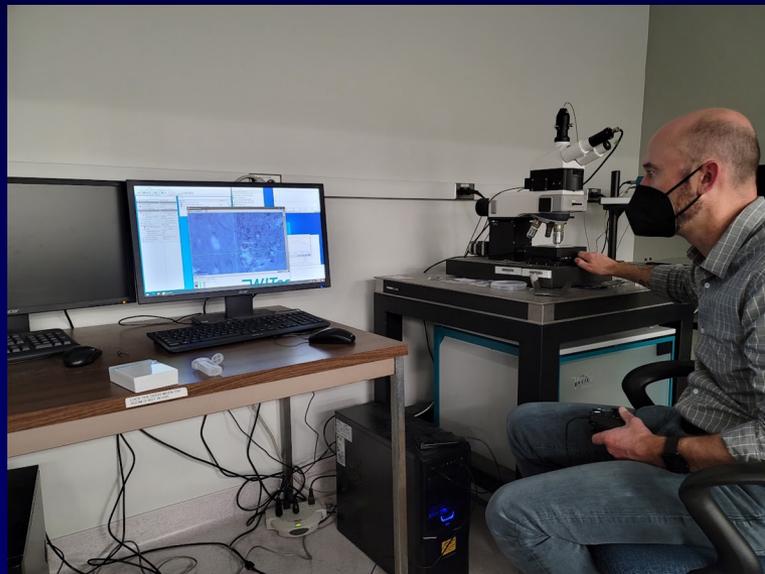
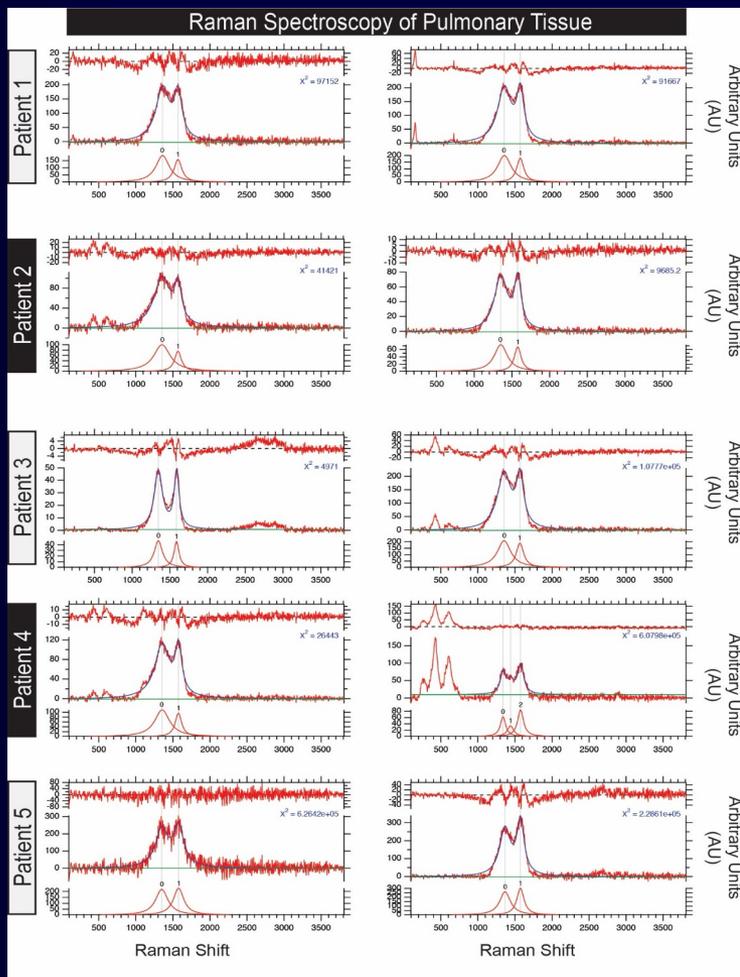
<http://ipac.kacst.edu.sa/eDoc/eBook/4489.pdf>



Sandstorms

<http://www.greenprophet.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/sandstorm-iran-560x342.jpg>

# WITec alpha300R Micro-Imaging Raman Spectrometer



**JP-8 burned jet fuel in lung tissue of Veterans exposed to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan**

nature

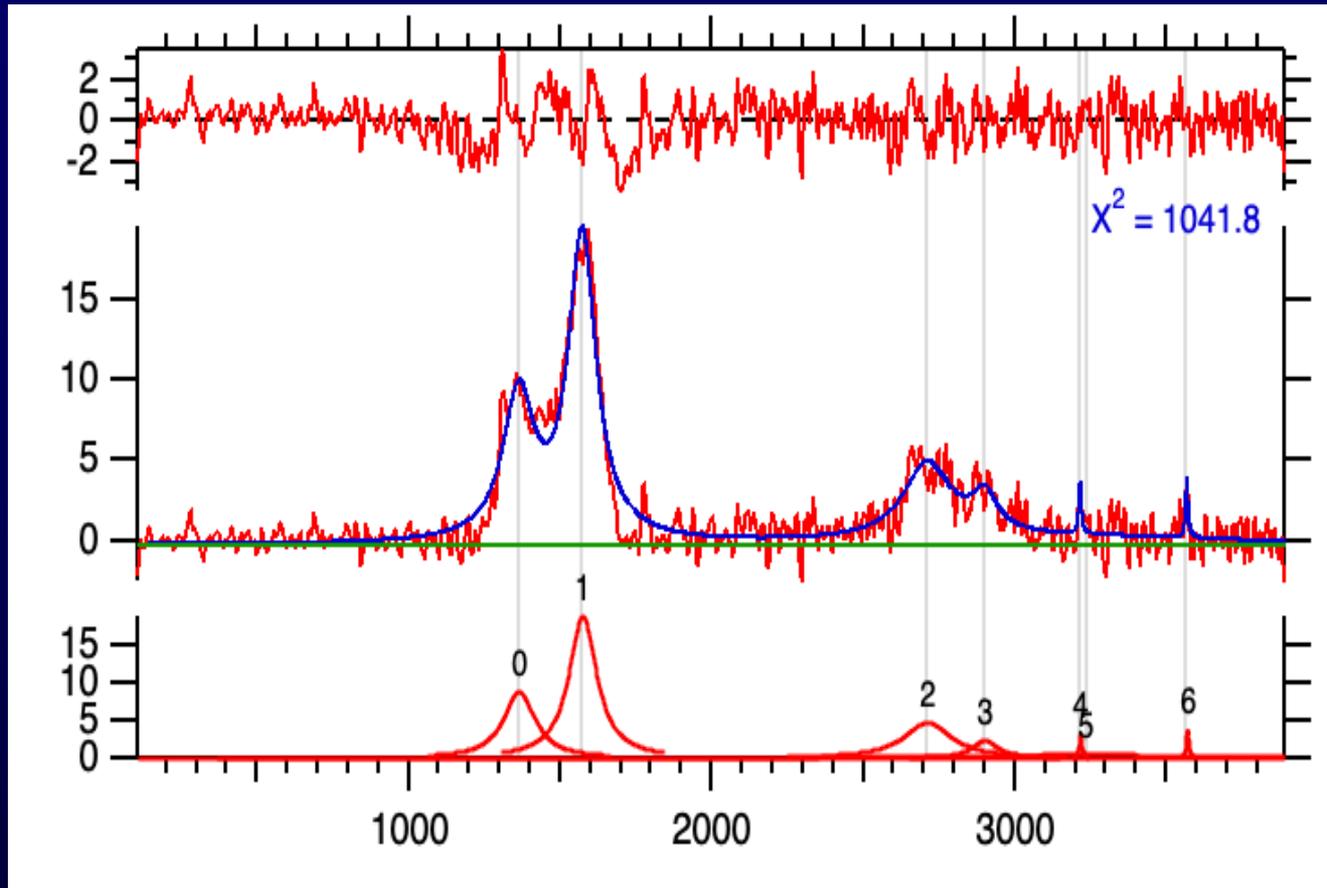
SCIENTIFIC  
REPORTS

Olsen et al., Sci Rep,  
2022



DONALD AND BARBARA  
ZUCKER SCHOOL of MEDICINE  
AT HOFSTRA/NORTHWELL

# Burned JA-1 commercial jet fuel in center of lung cancer from patient exposed to world trade center (by Dorian Poussiant, ZSOM)

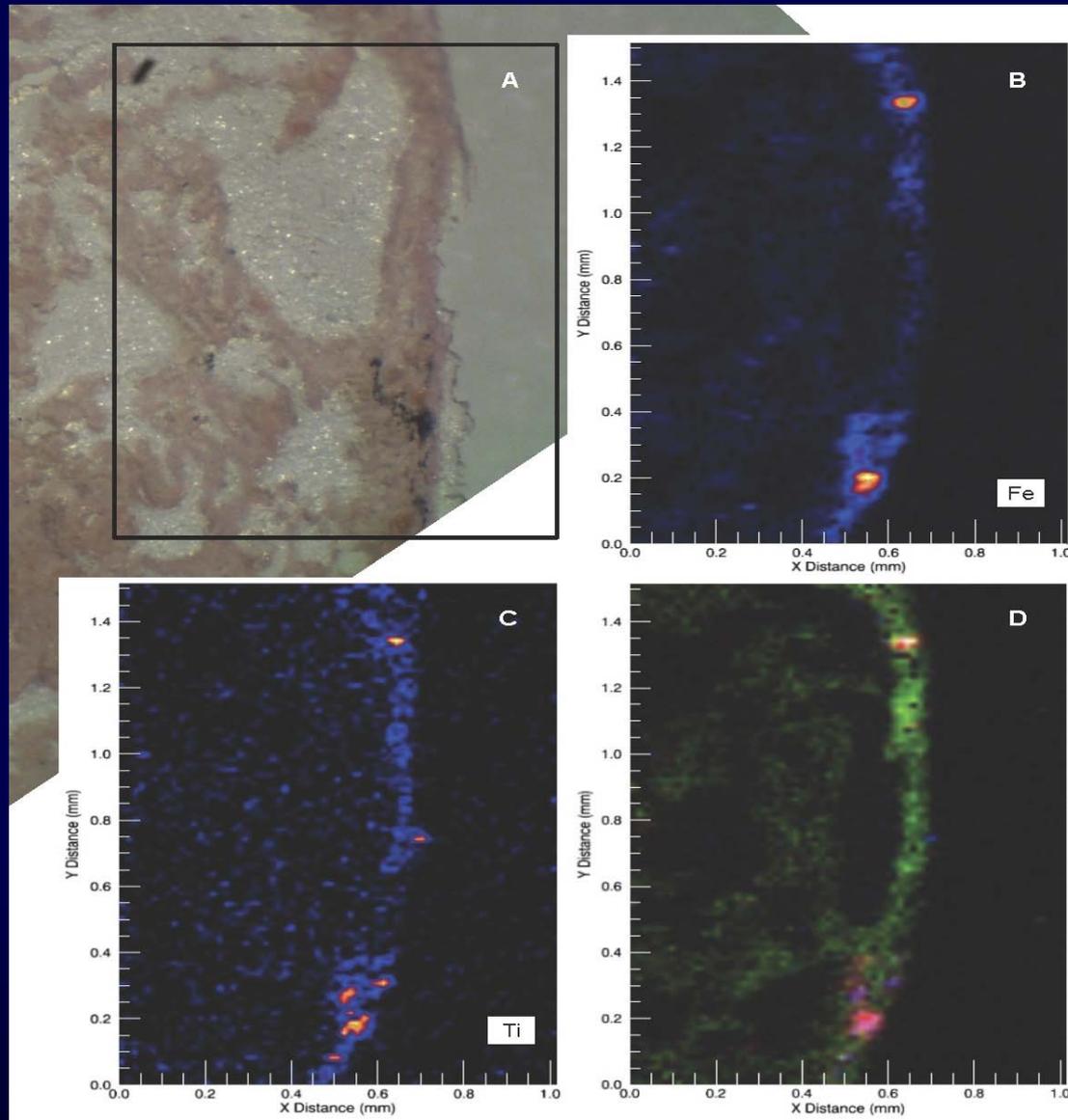


On December 7, 1854, as dean of the brand new Faculty of Sciences at Lille, Louis Pasteur gave the opening speech in which he said,



**“in the fields of observation, chance only favours the mind which is prepared...”**

# Titanium and iron in lung of a soldier with nonspecific interstitial pneumonitis and bronchiolitis after returning from Iraq, was asymptomatic post-WTC



Szema et al., JOEM,  
2012



The US Army testing team found yellow cake powder and pellets consistent with enriched uranium at K2. We photographed the radiological testing because the readings were extremely high.



Photos from Matthew Erbelding, USAFA '98





**Portable Near Infrared Spectroscopy to Identify Chemicals**



**Nirlab.com**

**Photos courtesy of Lt. Col Gordon Peters, MD**



# Reflections on 9/11:

- Asthma, allergy, lung injury in children and rescue workers post 9/11
- Comparison to Military Burn Pits/K2
- **California/Canadian Wildfires**
- East Palestine, Ohio Train derailment of 2023

**Photo by Edward Forsyth, MD, miles from epicenter of Malibu, CA wildfires spring 2025**



# ANALYSIS OF CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE DUST



# Our Team in Los Angeles

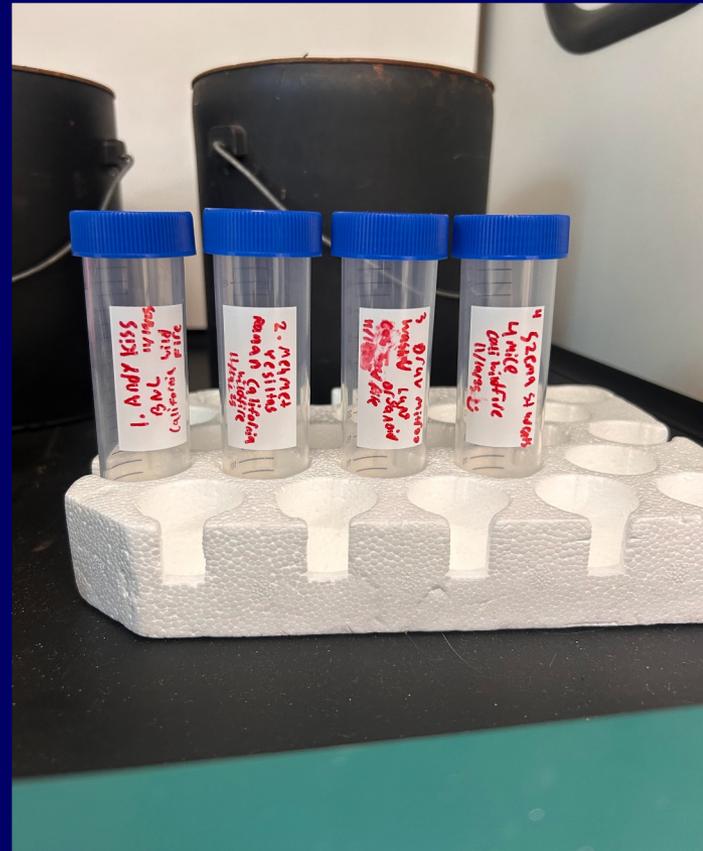
- Edward Forsyth, MD Chief, Urology
- Los Angeles General Medical Center,  
12/3/25
- Collected CA wildfires dust on this  
sidewalk January 18, 2025



Los Angeles General  
Medical Center



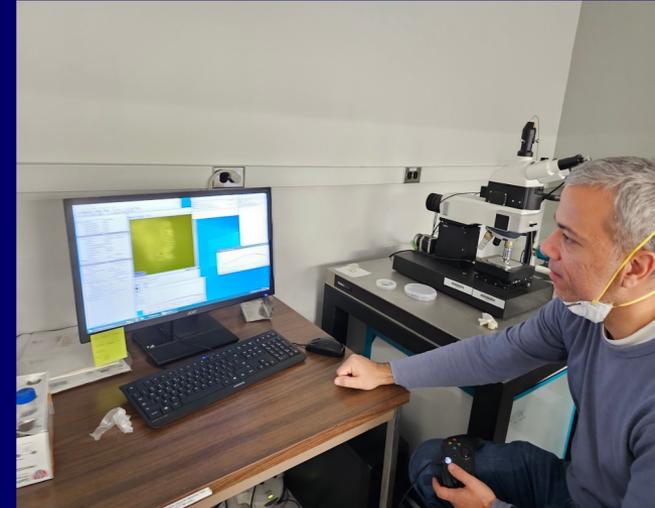
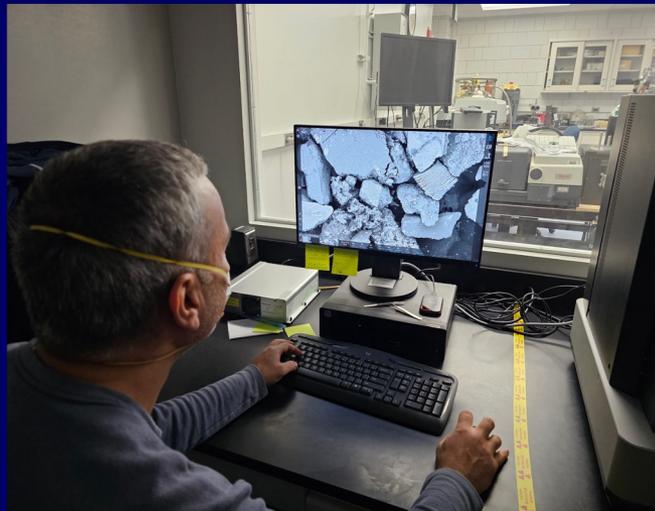
# California Wildfire Dust



# Raman Spectroscopy & Electron Microscopy California Wildfire Dust



## Electron Microscopy Analysis



## Raman Spectrometer Analysis

- Mehmet Yesiltas, PhD

- Research Associate

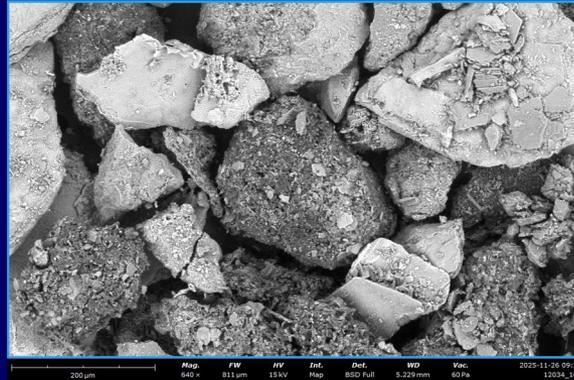
- Professor

- Department of Geosciences at

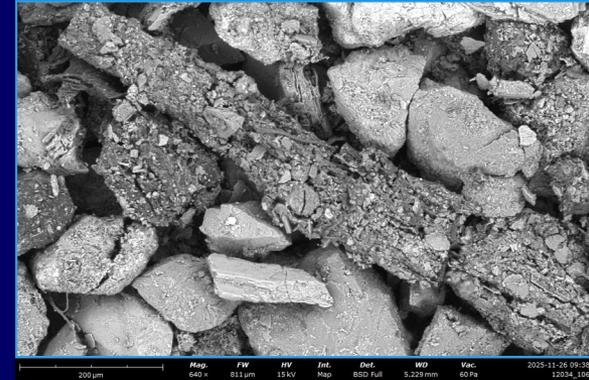
- Stony Brook University

# Dust Samples

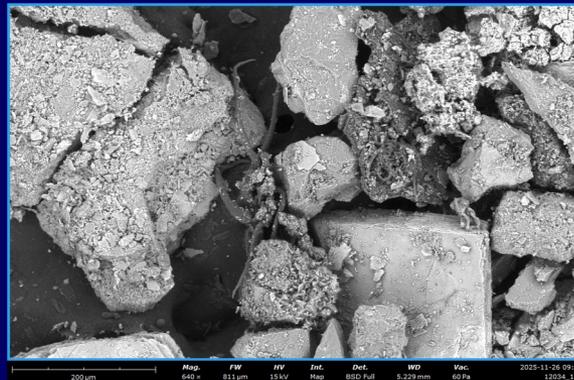
Sample 1



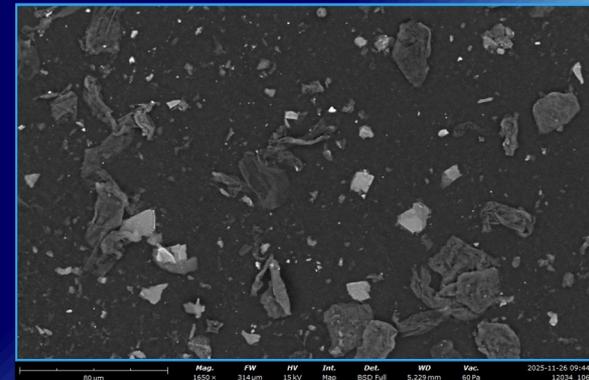
Sample 2



Sample 3

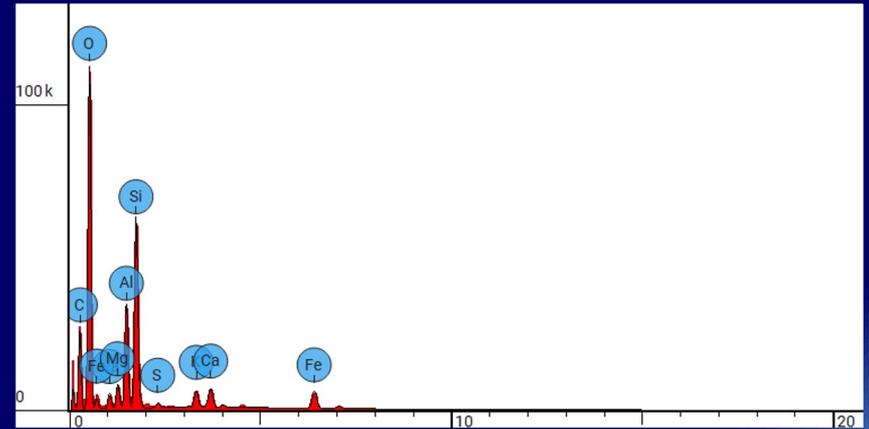
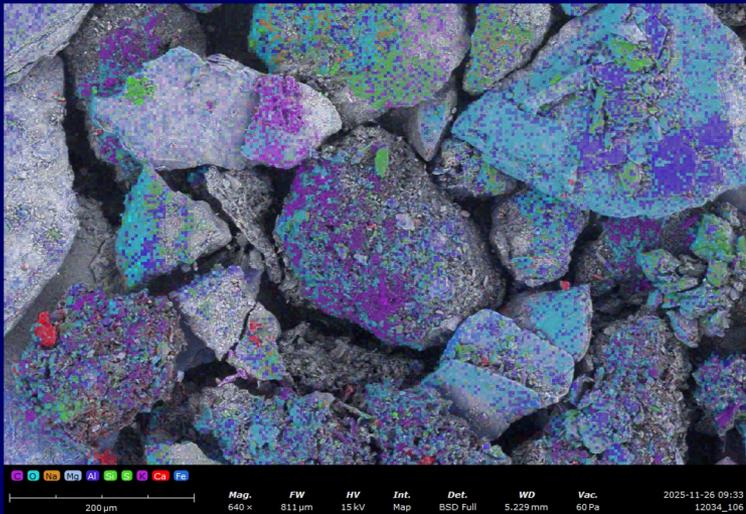


Sample 4



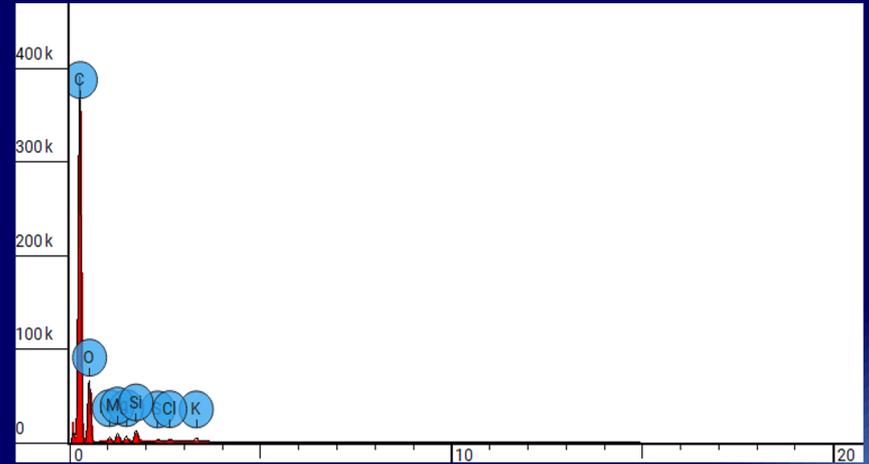
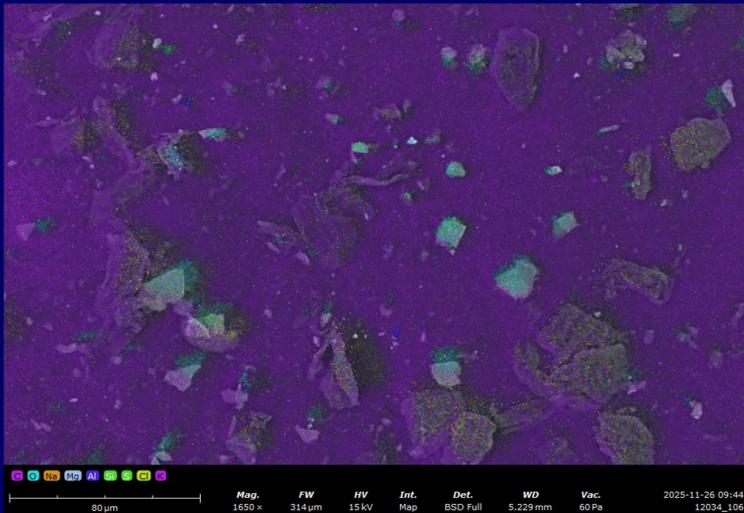
Dust samples obtained outside the LA General Medical Center analyzed under an electron microscope.

# Further Analysis: Sample 1



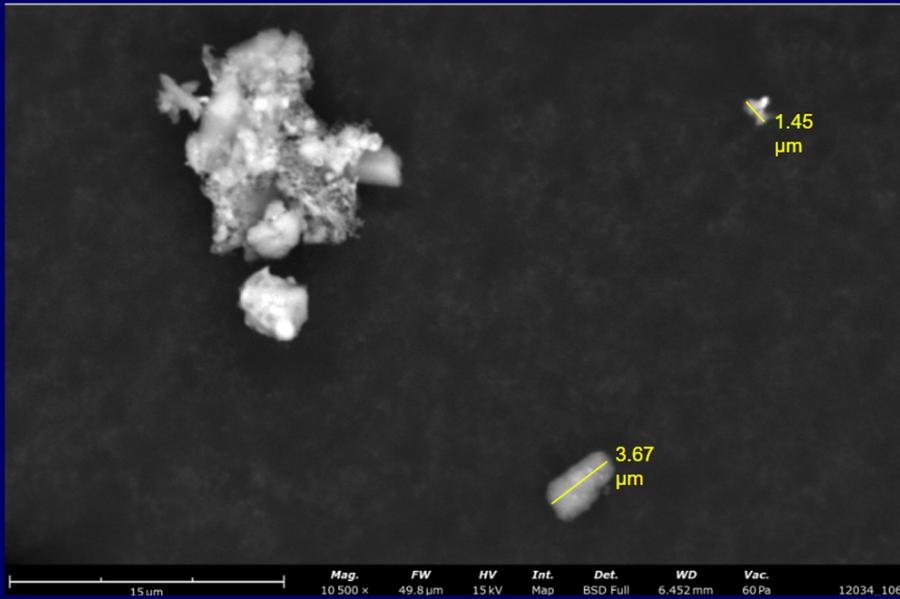
Element Number	Element Symbol	Element Name	Atomic Conc.	Weight Conc.	Oxide Symbol	Stoich. Weight Conc.
6	C	Carbon	27.453	18.300		
8	O	Oxygen	53.601	47.600		
11	Na	Sodium	1.097	1.400	Na <sub>2</sub> O	3.256
12	Mg	Magnesium	0.963	1.300	MgO	3.719
13	Al	Aluminum	4.275	6.400	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	20.873
14	Si	Silicon	7.569	11.800	SiO <sub>2</sub>	43.562
16	S	Sulfuric	0.225	0.400		
19	K	Potassium	1.152	2.500	K <sub>2</sub> O	5.197
20	Ca	Calcium	1.214	2.700	CaO	6.520
26	Fe	Iron	2.452	7.600	FeO	16.873

# Further Analysis: Sample 4



Element Number	Element Symbol	Element Name	Atomic Conc.	Weight Conc.	Oxide Symbol	Stoich. Weight Conc.
6	C	Carbon	72.407	64.800		
8	O	Oxygen	25.078	29.900		
11	Na	Sodium	0.467	0.800	Na <sub>2</sub> O	13.686
12	Mg	Magnesium	0.497	0.900	MgO	18.938
13	Al	Aluminum	0.348	0.700	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	16.791
14	Si	Silicon	0.621	1.300	SiO <sub>2</sub>	35.296
16	S	Sulfur	0.126	0.300		
17	Cl	Chlorine	0.114	0.300		
19	K	Potassium	0.343	1.000	K <sub>2</sub> O	15.289

# Respirable Particles <5 microns

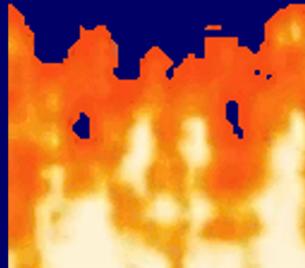


# Peak Temperature: Based on D and G Carbon Bands of 3 Spectra

- Busemann model  
(based on D band width):

$T_{\text{peak}}$  (Spec-16): 216.68 C  
 $T_{\text{peak}}$  (Spec-36): 259.32 C  
 $T_{\text{peak}}$  (Spec-43): 247.64 C

- Cody model  
(based on D band width):

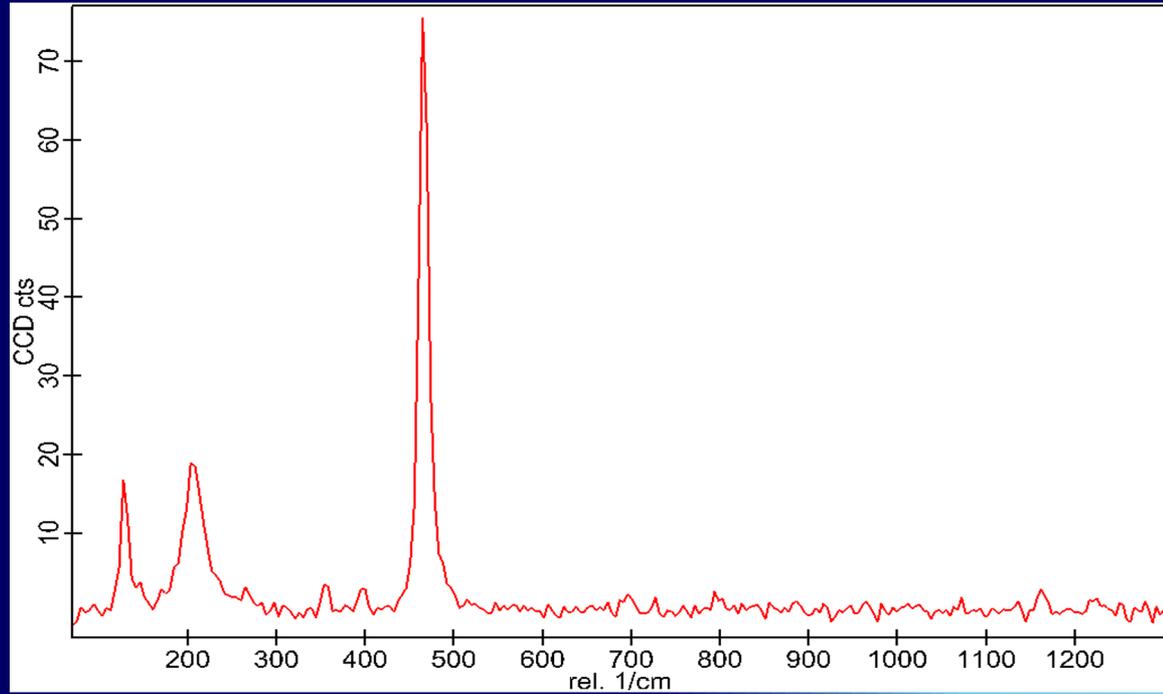
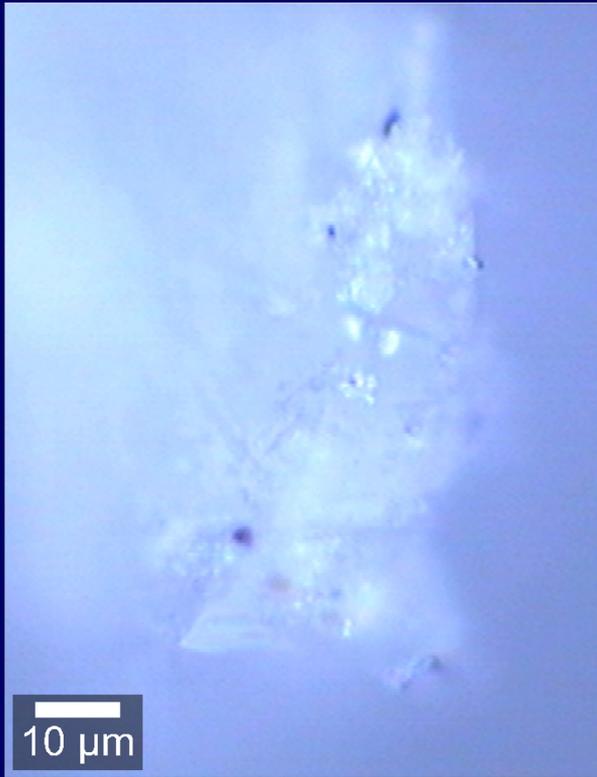


$T_{\text{peak}}$  (Spec-16): 180.70 C  
 $T_{\text{peak}}$  (Spec-36): 327.85 C  
 $T_{\text{peak}}$  (Spec-43): 303.68 C

- Cody model  
(based on G band width):

$T_{\text{peak}}$  (Spec-16): 157.77 C  
 $T_{\text{peak}}$  (Spec-36): 328.58 C  
 $T_{\text{peak}}$  (Spec-43): 341.25 C

# Detection of Quartz in the Sample



# **Fine Quartz Dust=Respirable Crystalline Silica**

- **Occupational hazard in construction, mining, stone fabrication**
- **Silicosis is incurable when silica dust particles lodge deep in lungs leading to inflammation and permanent scarring (pulmonary fibrosis)**
- **Lung Cancer risk: respirable crystalline silica is classified as a Group 1 carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), meaning a definite cause of cancer in humans.**

## **Fine Quartz Dust=Respirable Crystalline Silica**

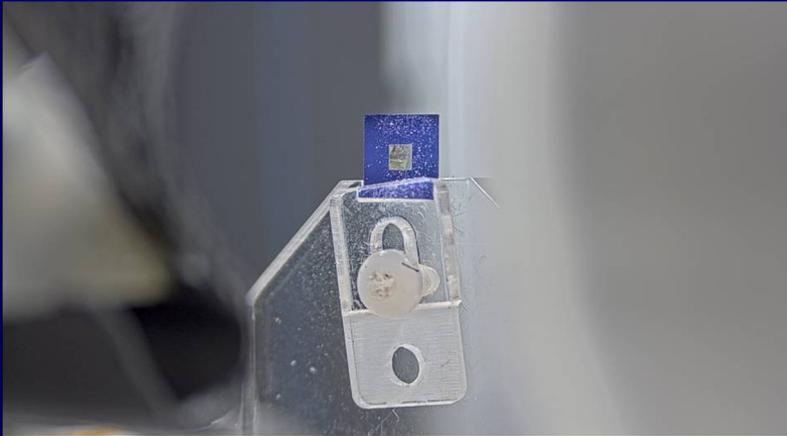
- **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)**
- **Bronchitis, Emphysema**
- **Kidney Disease**
- **Autoimmune Diseases (Rheumatoid Arthritis)**
- **Tuberculosis (TB)**
- **Possible cancer risk**

# Palisades Fire Ash Preliminary Analysis

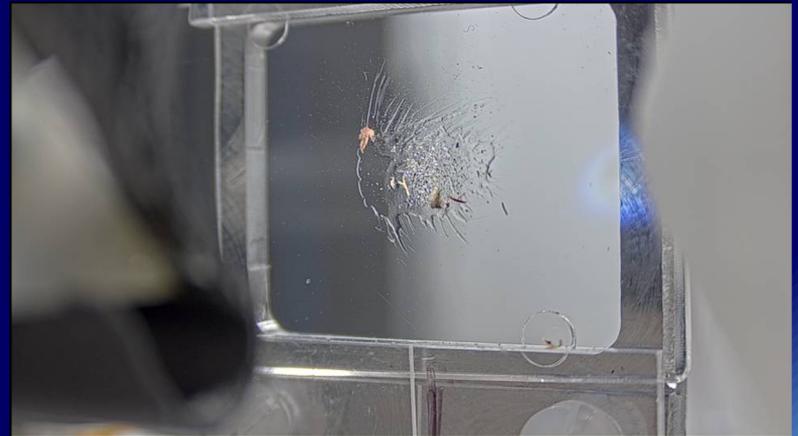
Andrew M. Kiss, PhD  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
National Synchrotron Light Source II (NSLS II)  
Beamline ID-5



# Sample Mounting



Ash was spread on 200 nm thick SiN window. Windows are very fragile and this one broke.

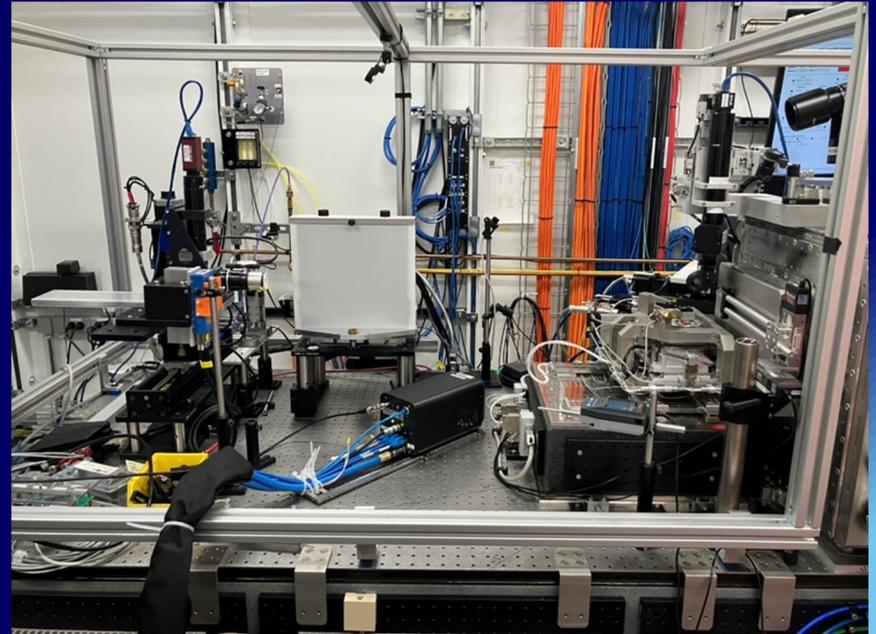


Ash was spread on an acrylic microscope slide.

# **NLS-II SRX Beamline**

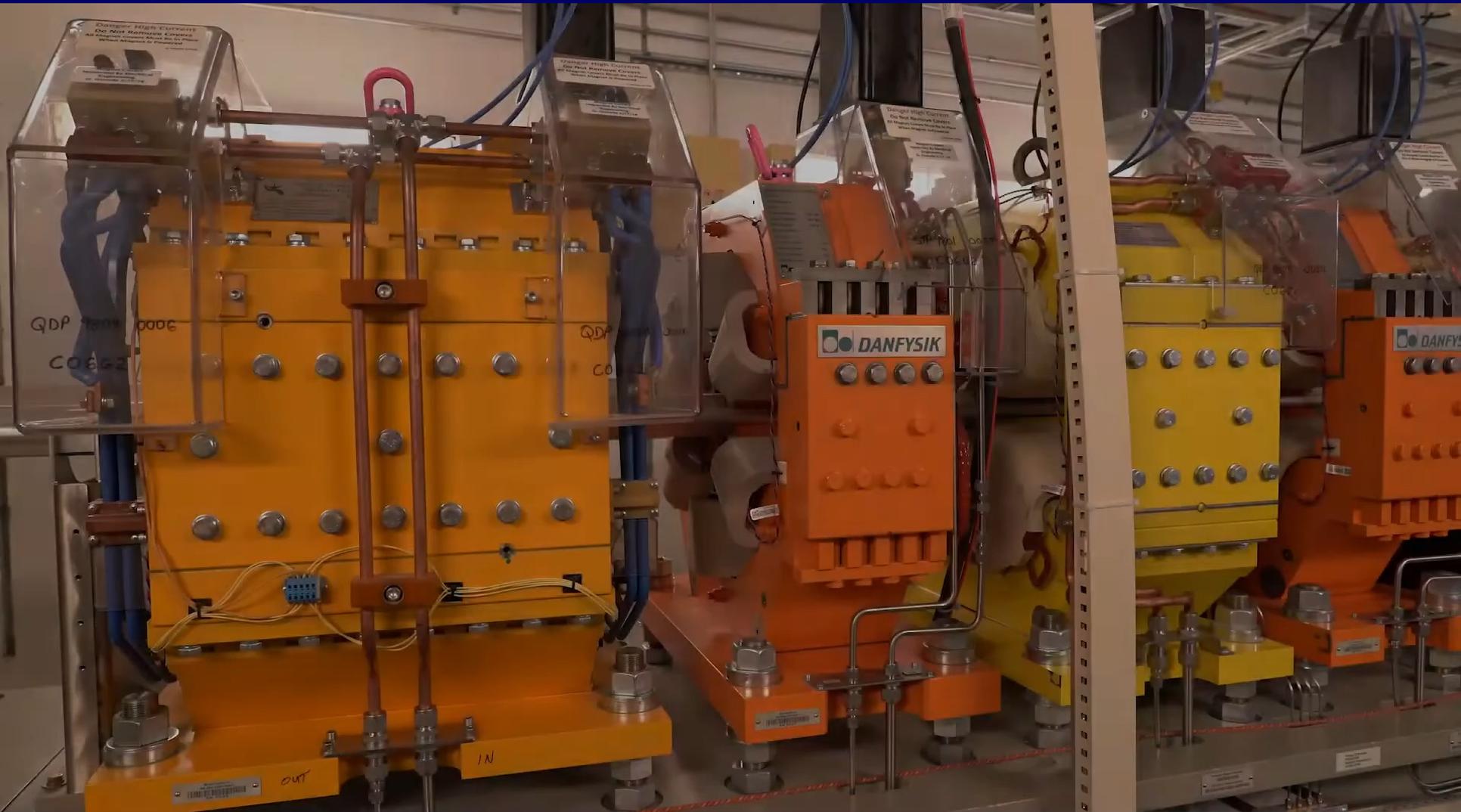


**Beamline workstations**

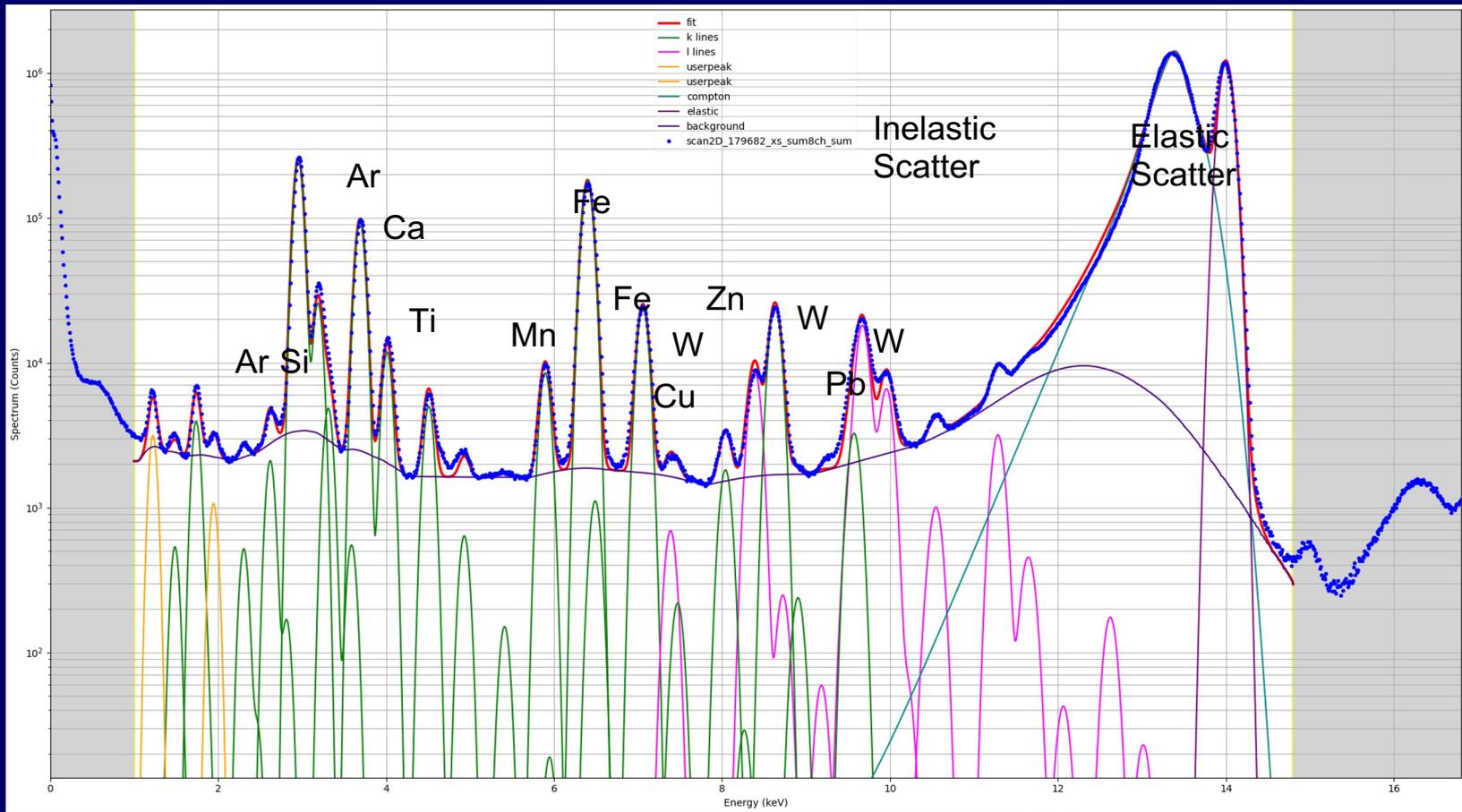


**SRX endstation**

# NSLS-II Virtual Tour Lisa Miller, PhD, Biophysical Chemist

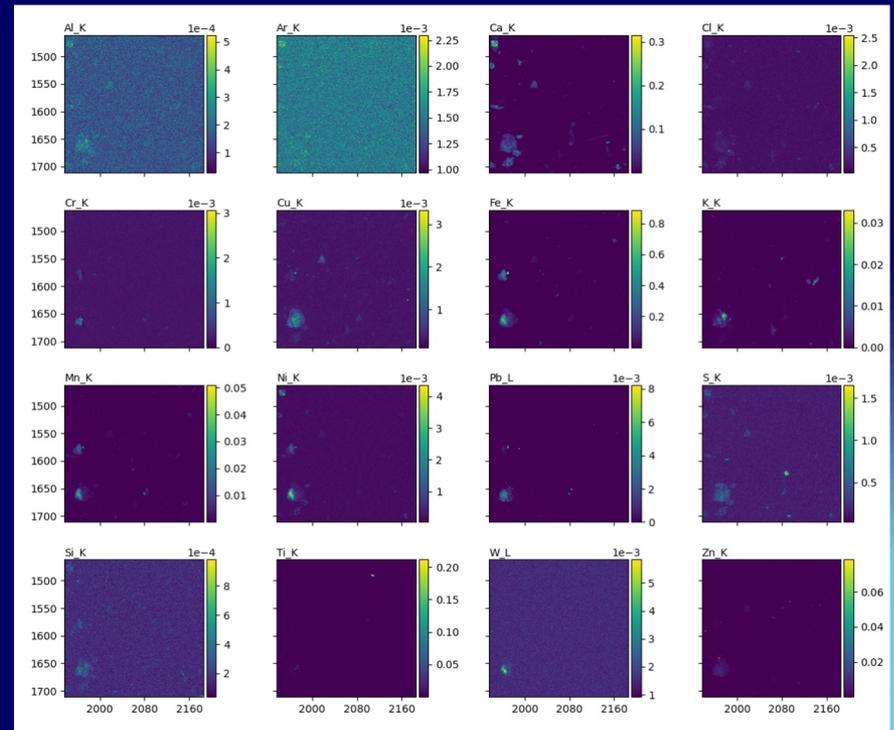
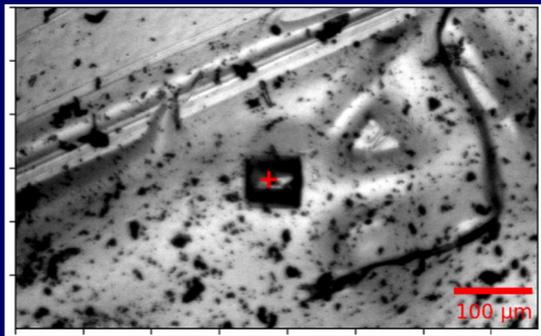


# Brookhaven National Lab Fluorescence Lines



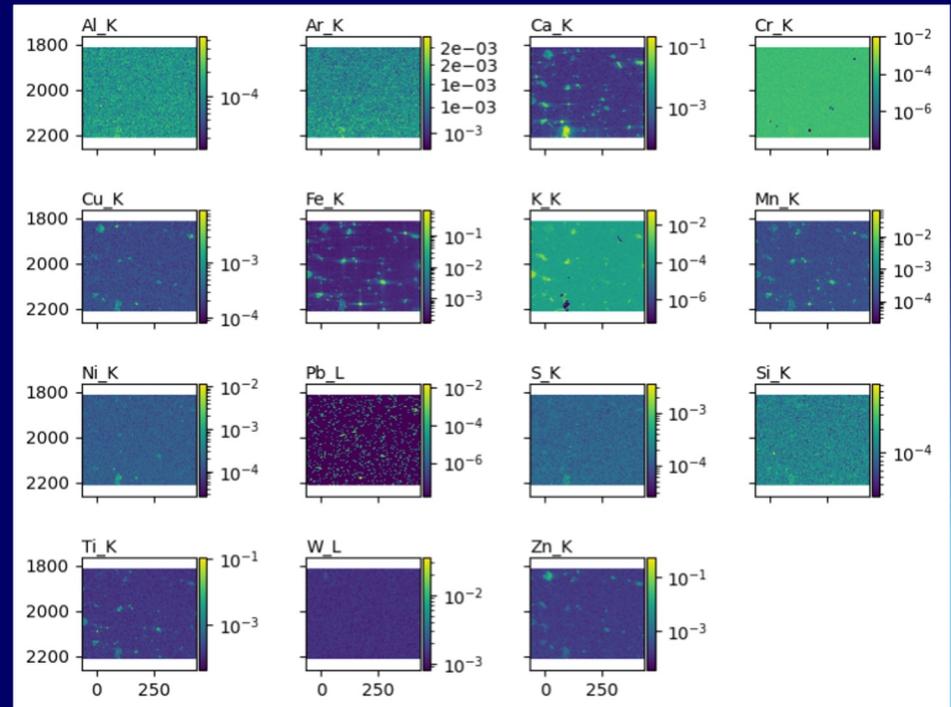
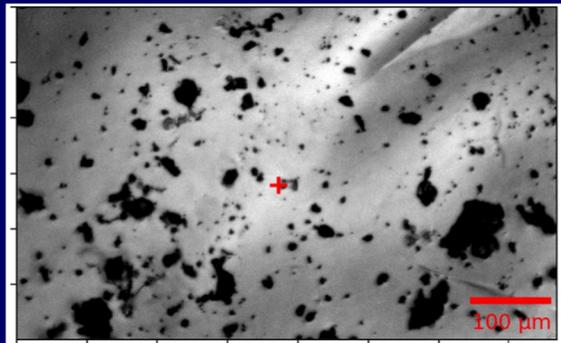
# Elemental Mapping

- XRF map at 14 keV
- Scan area 250 x 250  $\mu\text{m}$  with 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$  resolution
- Total collection time: ~2 hour



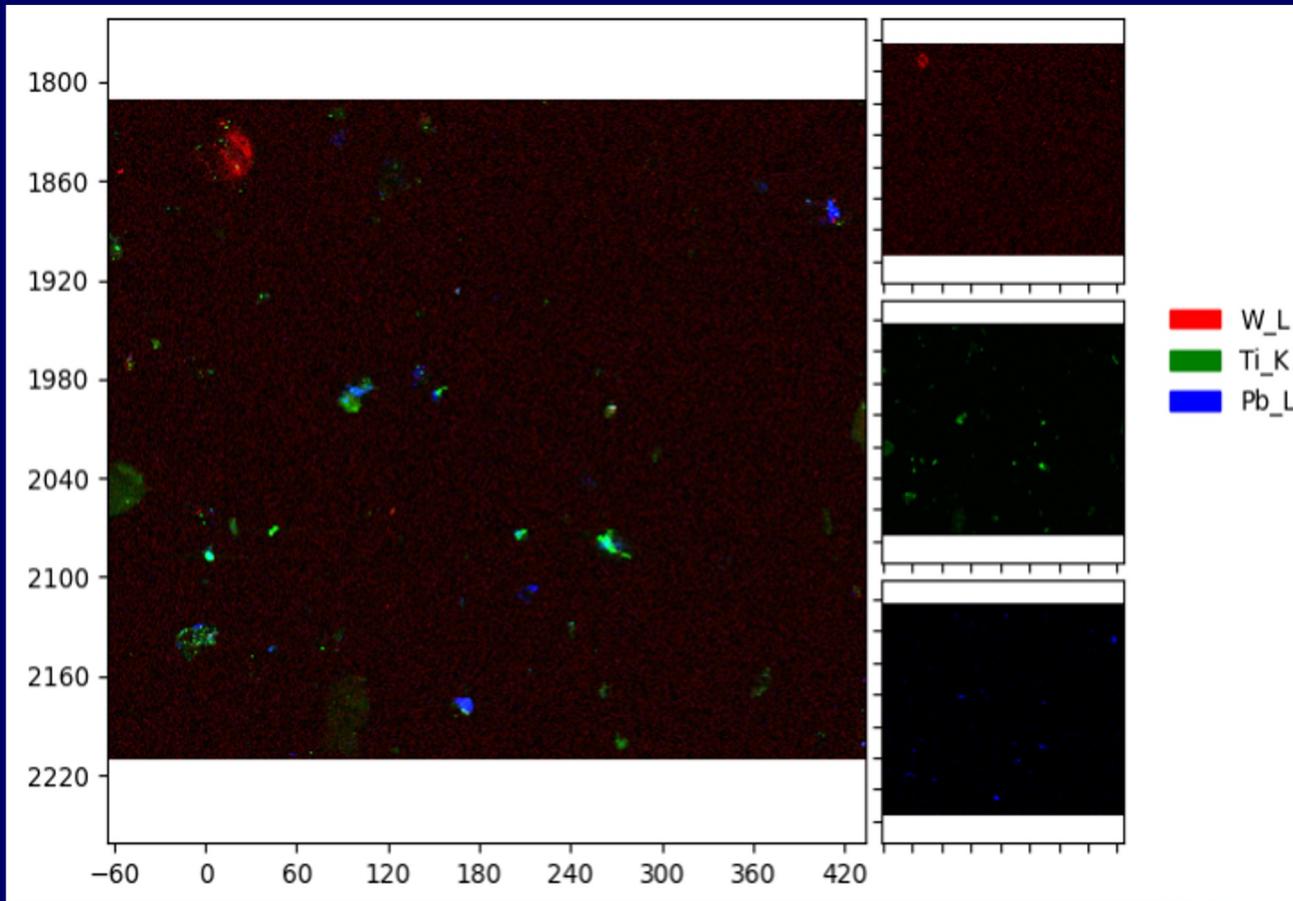
# Elemental Mapping

- XRF map at 14 keV
- Scan area 500 x 400  $\mu\text{m}$  with 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$  resolution
- Total collection time: ~6 hour



\* log(intensity) is displayed

# Element Correlation Map

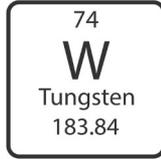


Elemental  
distribution  
of:

- Tungsten
- Titanium
- Lead



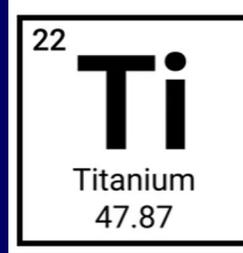
# Health Hazards of Tungsten Inhalation



- **Pulmonary Fibrosis**
- **Cardiovascular issues (hypertension, stroke)**
- **Risk of Cancer**
- **Systemic accumulation (bone, kidney, liver, spleen)**
- **Neurological Effects**
- **Memory Sensory Deficits**



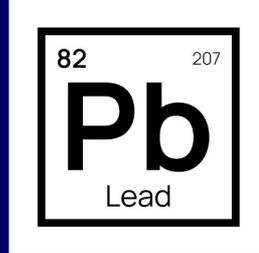
# Health Hazards of Titanium Inhalation



- Nasal and throat irritation
- Metal Fume Fever (low- grade fever, headache, fatigue, myalgia)
- Pneumoconiosis (deposition in lungs, tissues, and lymph nodes)
- Corrosive injury
- Risk of cancer
- Bronchitis
- Lung fibrosis



# Health Hazards of Lead Inhalation



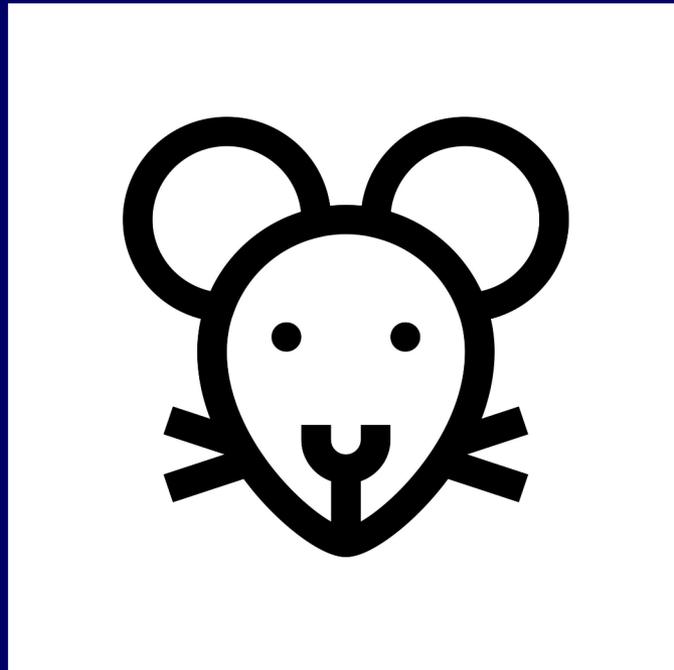
## Impacts on Children

- Learning Disabilities
- Attention Problems
- Behavioral Issues
- Stunted Growth
- Hearing Problems
- Seizures
- Death

## Impacts on Adults

- Compromised Nervous System
- High Blood Pressure
- Decreased Kidney Function
- Infertility
- Joint Pain
- Decreased Lung Function

# Future Experiments: Utilizing mice for intratracheal inhalation.



## Szema Research Group Mentors



**Mary Lee-Wong, MD, MS**



**Robert Promisloff, DO, FCCP**



## Szema Research Group Students



**Anthony M. Szema, BSE,  
MD, ATSF**

**Spencer Hedges, BS**

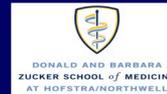
**Ali Hassan, BS**

**Luke Cacic, BS**

**Matthew Lenis**

# Szema Research Group

**Anthony M. Szema, BSE, MD, ATSF**



**Mary Lee-Wong, MD, MS**



**Robert Promisloff, DO, FCCP**



**Spencer Hedges, BS**

**Mehmet Yesiltas, PhD**



**Ali Hassan, BS**



**Andrew M. Kiss, PhD**



**Luke Cacic, BS**

**Edward Forsyth, MD**



**Los Angeles General  
Medical Center**

**Matthew Lenis**

# The Circul+ Device is Accurate Across Racial Disparities

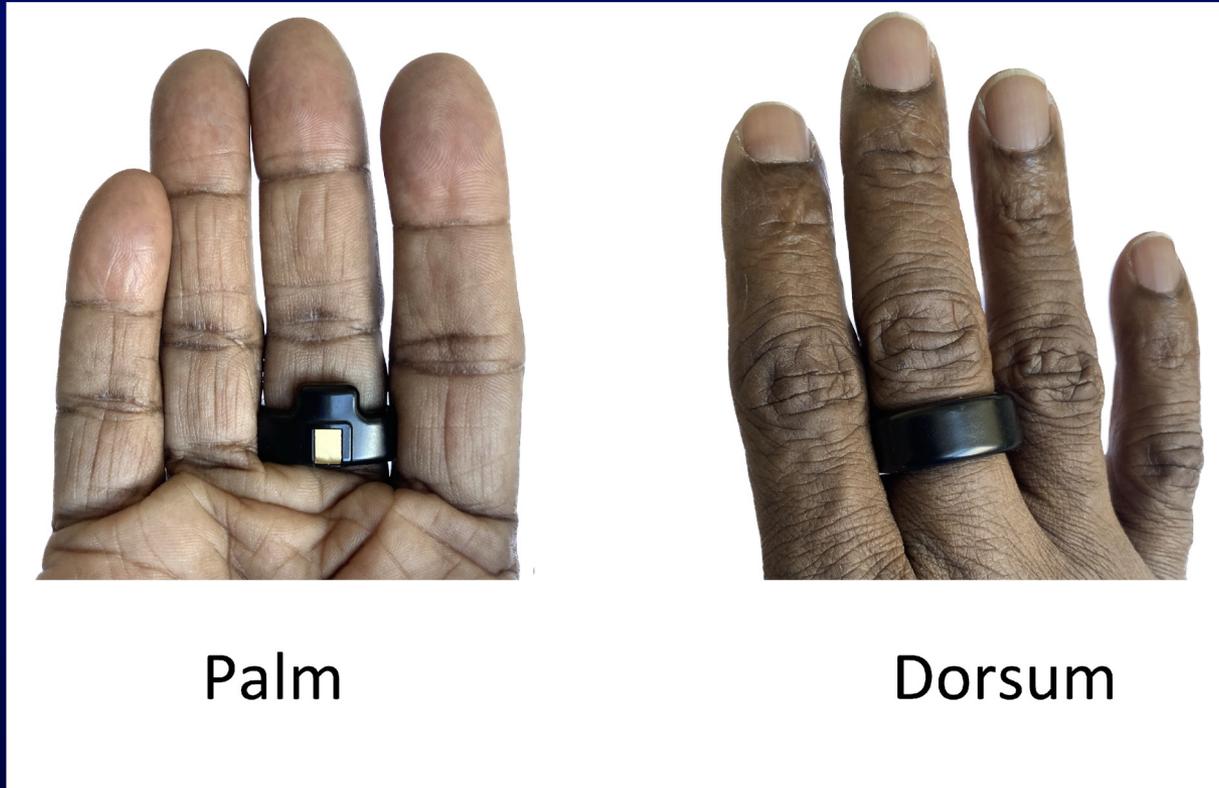
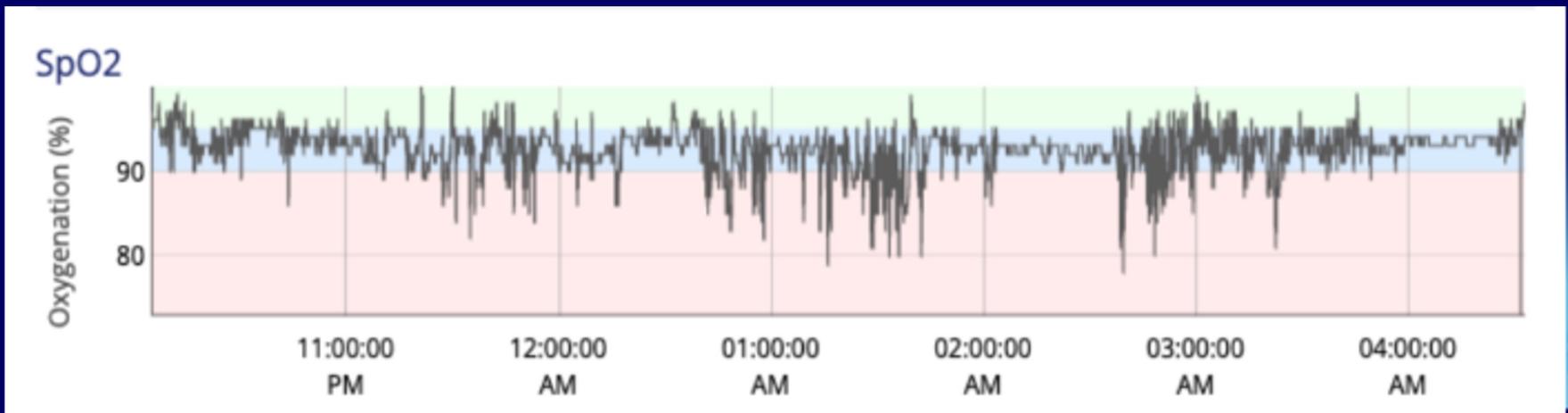


Photo from Meir Kryger, MD

# Clinical Case : Initial Evaluation

Initial Evaluation Demonstrated Severe  
Desaturation at Night



Time Saturation Below 90%: 50:28min/sec

# Reflections on 9/11:

- Asthma, allergy, lung injury in children and rescue workers post 9/11
- Comparison to Military Burn Pits/K2
- California/Canadian Wildfires
- East Palestine, Ohio Train derailment of 2023

# Scientists warn of potentially serious health risks following Ohio train derailment

**NEW YORK POST**

February 16, 2023



# Wearable Sensors



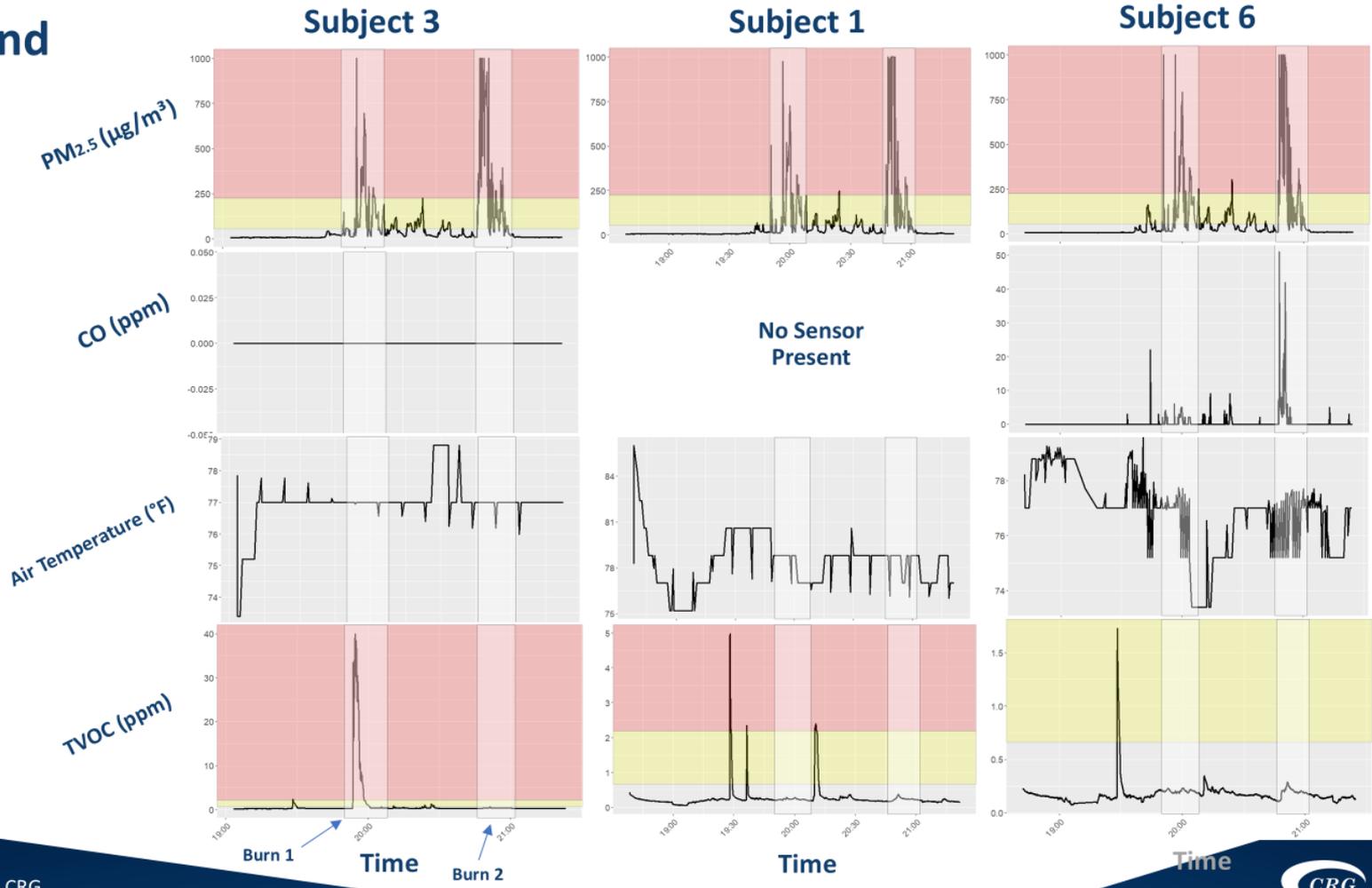
Supported by Department of Defense  
Proposal Number PR211133, Award Number  
W81XWH-22-1-1062; E03756.1a - OHRO  
Approval Memorandum WCG 20241990



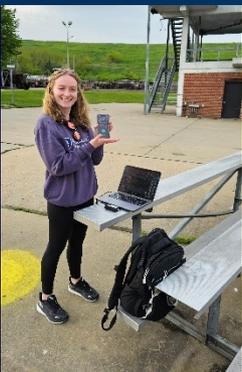
# July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Simultaneous capture of multiple data types can be time-synched across users

Differences in exposure can be easily evaluated, as seen here with TVOC exposure



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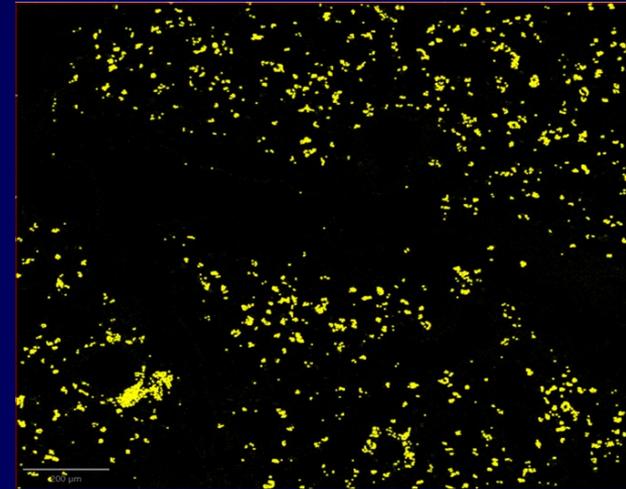
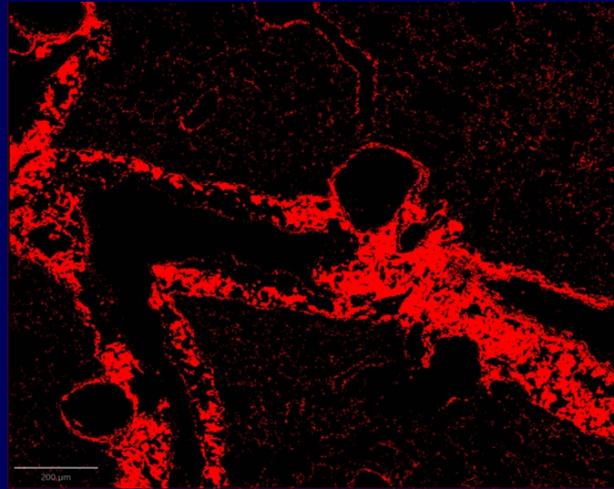
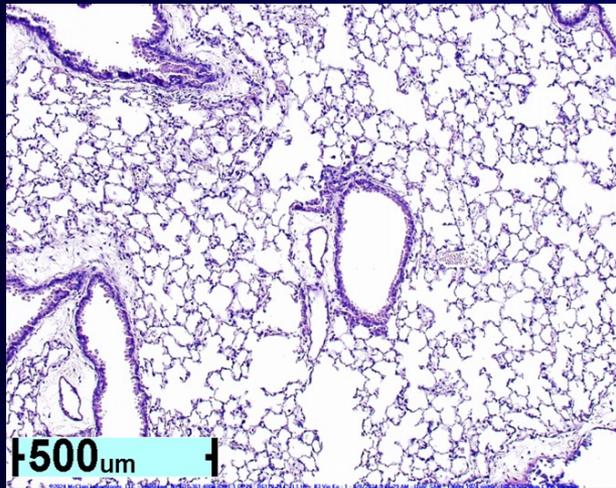
Kayla Keenan, MHA, Penn State College of Medicine, '27

Kayla Keenan, PSCOM '1

# Reflections on 9/11:

- **Asthma, allergy, lung injury in children and rescue workers post 9/11**
- **Comparison to Military Burn Pits/K2**
- **California/Canadian Wildfires**
- **East Palestine, Ohio Train derailment of 2023**

# Imaging Mass Cytometry shows WTC-induced Collagen and CD45 deposition before light microscopy changes, worse in VIP KO Mice



(A) H & E stain of a VIP-KO w/ WTC dust

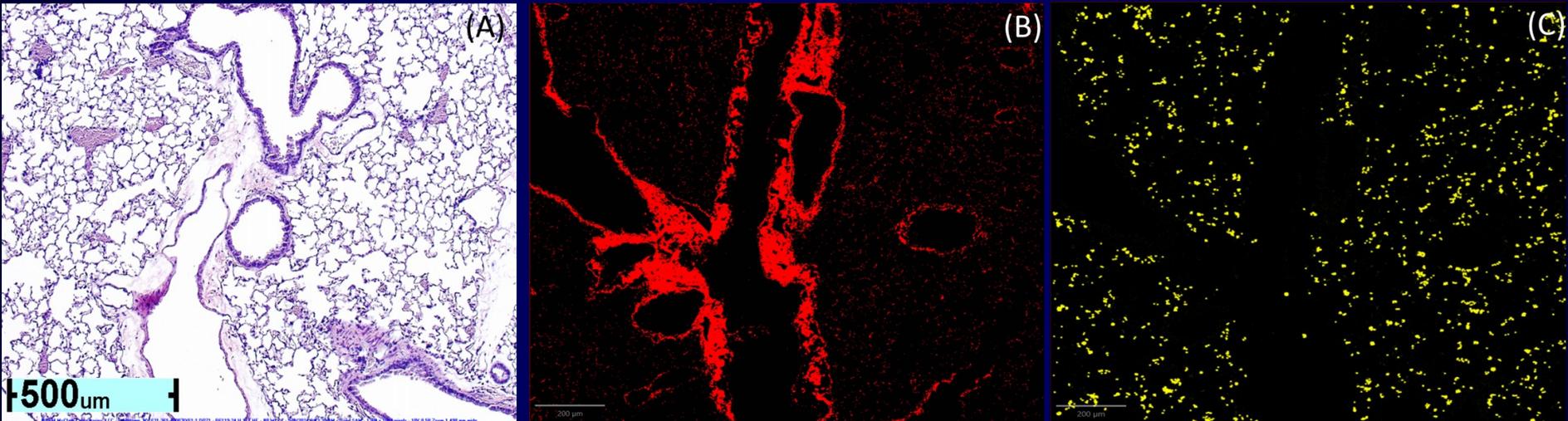
(B) IMC of VIP-KO w/ WTC dust highlighting areas of type I collagen deposition

(C) IMC of VIP-KO w/ WTC dust highlighting CD45 expression.



Nick Favazza, MD, MPH

# Imaging Mass Cytometry detects WTC-induced Collagen and CD45 deposition before light microscopy shows damage



(A) H & E stain of a WT w/ WTC dust

(B) IMC of WT w/ WTC dust highlighting areas of type I collagen deposition

(C) IMC of WT w/ WTC dust highlighting CD45 expression.

B) IM



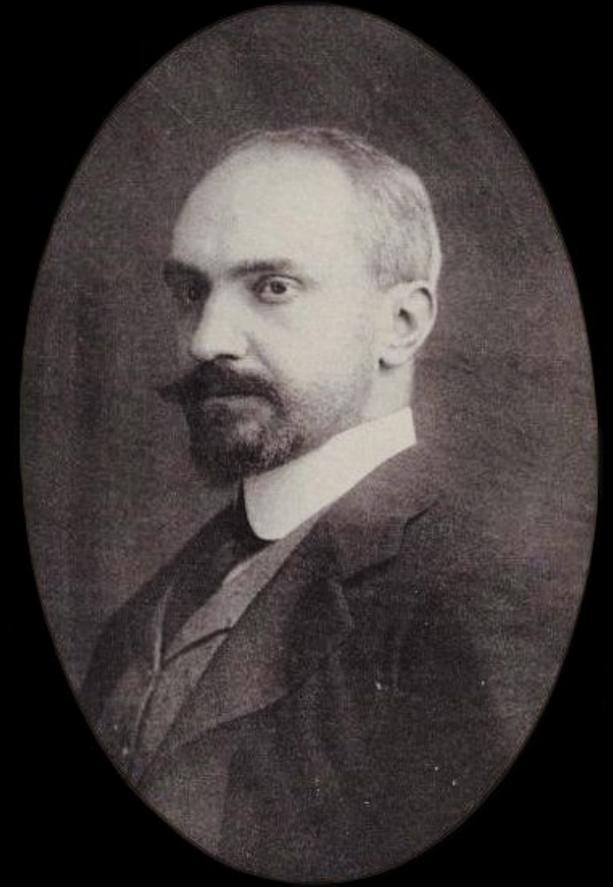
Nick Favazza, MD, MPH

# Reflections on 9/11

- Starting with the world trade center disaster, our community concern about exposure in Chinatown, Manhattan, prepared us to understand military burn pits, California and Canadian wildfires, and now the East Palestine, Ohio train derailment.
- These are not isolated incidents but rather are harbingers of future disasters.

Those who **cannot remember  
the past** are condemned  
to **repeat it.**

— *George Santayana*



# Reflections on 9/11: Comparison to Military Burn Pits/K2, California/Canadian Wildfires, and the East Palestine, Ohio Train Derailment

Anthony M. Szema, MD, ATSF  
Chair, ATS Section on Terrorism and Inhalation  
Disasters (TID)

