



Actor portrayal.



## CLINICAL SPOTLIGHT

### Dr. Lawrence M. DuBuske, MD, FAAAAI, FAAAAI, FACP Washington, DC; Boston, MA

One notable area of impact from COVID-19 pandemic was on the provision of allergy immunotherapy. Last summer, the American Association of Certified Allergists - the only professional organization in the field of allergy which requires board certification to be a member – leveraged the Pandemic to make gains in providing virtual medical education in the U.S., to share the impact of COVID-19 has on practice of allergy. Based upon this experience, the American Association of Certified Allergists developed a concept of creating a Primer on allergen immunotherapy, to be used as a teaching tool for allergy fellows and aspiring allergists. The Primer will have an internationally acclaimed faculty who have agreed to contribute to this body of work with its ambition of becoming a leading tool for education and development of young allergists in best practices of immunotherapy.

## AIT FROM ALK

### Serum Periostin as a Biomarker for Predicting Clinical Response to House Dust Mite Sublingual Immunotherapy in Allergic Rhinitis

Hoshino M, Akitsu K, Kubota K, Ohtawa J.

House dust mite (HDM) sublingual immunotherapy tablets (SLIT-tablets) has proven to be effective for allergic rhinitis (AR), but its efficacy varies among patients. No candidate biomarkers for prediction of response to SLIT-tablets are available. The relationship between serum periostin levels and current rhinitis control before and after standardized-quality (SQ)-HDM SLIT-tablets was investigated, along with the role of periostin in predicting clinical response.

Periostin, a matricellular protein, is involved in pathophysiology of AR, and its serum levels reflect airway allergic inflammation. To evaluate the relationship between serum periostin levels and current rhinitis control before and after SQ-HDM SLIT-tablet, 111 subjects with HDM-induced AR were randomized to receive either SLIT-tablets plus pharmacotherapy, or pharmacotherapy alone, for 48 weeks. At enrollment and the end of the study, clinical characteristics and biomarkers that included serum periostin and rhinoconjunctivitis quality of life questionnaire (RQLQ) were measured. The association between clinical indices or biomarkers and clinical response to SQ-HDM SLIT-tablets was analyzed.

A response to SQ-HDM SLIT-tablets was recorded in 64% patients. High serum periostin levels (>30.2 ng/mL) were associated with an effective response to SQ-HDM SLIT-tablets, and the magnitude of RQLQ improvement was correlated with the level of serum periostin. Multivariate regression analysis showed that serum periostin was an independent factor for SLIT-tablet responders.

[Click to read full study](#)

Hoshino M, Akitsu K, Kubota K, Ohtawa J. Serum Periostin as a Biomarker for Predicting Clinical Response to House Dust Mite Sublingual Immunotherapy in Allergic Rhinitis. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract.* 2021;9(5):1864-1870; doi: 10.1016/j.jaip.2020.11.046.



## WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH?

### Risk factors for fatal and nonfatal reactions to immunotherapy (2008-2018): post-injection monitoring and severe asthma

Epstein T, Murphy-Berendts K, Liss G, Bernstein D.

SCIT-related fatalities have declined since 2008, with a slight increase in recent years. SCIT is not associated with an increased risk of infections. Tracking the time after injections and checking out with office staff confer significantly lower risks of severe systemic reactions. Asthma, especially severe asthma, is a major risk factor for severe and fatal systemic reactions. Strategies that reduce risks for individuals with asthma, such as not prescribing SCIT to patients with uncontrolled asthma, may lower the risks.

[Click to read full study](#)

Epstein T, Murphy-Berendts K, Liss G, Bernstein D. Risk factors for fatal and nonfatal reactions to immunotherapy (2008-2018): postinjection monitoring and severe asthma. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2021;127(1):64-69; doi: 10.1016/j.anaai.2021.03.011.

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

[@US\\_ALK #ALKMedAffairs](#)

## ALLERGY NEWS AROUND THE GLOBE

### Peanut induced anaphylaxis in children and adolescents: Data from the European Anaphylaxis Registry

Maris I, Dölle-Bierke S, Renaudin J, Lange L, Koehli A, et al.

The European Anaphylaxis Registry data confirmed peanut as one of the major causes of severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction in European children, with some characteristic features. Usage of intramuscular adrenaline as first-line treatment is low and needs to be improved. The Registry, designed as the largest database on anaphylaxis, allows continuous assessment of this condition.

[Click to read full study](#)

Maris I, et al. Peanut induced anaphylaxis in children and adolescents: Data from the European Anaphylaxis Registry. *Allergy.* 2021;76(5):1517-1527; doi: 10.1111/all.14683.

## DID YOU KNOW?

On September 28th, we recognized **National Penicillin Allergy Day**. A recent study has found that COVID-19 positive patients labeled with a **penicillin allergy** have a higher risk of hospitalization, ICU admission and ventilation.

[Click to read full study](#)

Penicillin Allergy Label Increases Risk of Worse Clinical Outcomes in COVID-19. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract.* 2021 Oct; 9(10): 3629–3637.e2.; doi: 10.1016/j.jaip.2021.06.054.

## RECENT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### U.S. Events

**MATIC Trial Lunch and Learn**

September 7 - 8, 2021

**ALK Academy with Moisés Calderón, MD, PhD**

August 30, 2021

September 8, 2021

September 22, 2021

**Webinar Wednesdays in North America**

August 25, 2021 -

Anne Ellis, MD (Canada)

September 15, 2021 - Stephen Durham, MD (UK)

**Women in Allergy Panel Discussions**

October 11, 2021

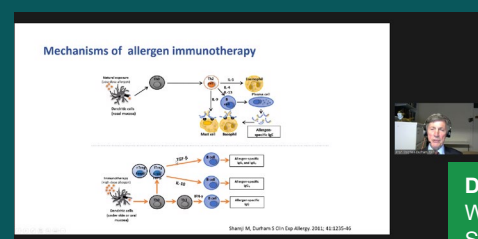
October 18, 2021

**Canada Events**

**Tree Allergy: Updates and Best Practice Sharing**

August 31 - September 1, 2021

September 9, 2021



Dr. Stephen Durham, Webinar Wednesday, September 15, 2021

## UPCOMING ALK EVENTS

[CLICK HERE](#) for ALK Virtual Programs Calendar  
\*Bookmark this page in your browser to stay up to date on new events being added!

### COMING SOON: ALK's "Allergy After Hours" Podcast

Our new ALK North American Medical Affairs' podcast, Allergy After Hours, will feature allergists from around the world discussing hot topics surrounding allergy immunotherapy, penicillin allergies, practice management and much more – stay tuned for updates!

### Worldwide Webinar Wednesdays in North America

**OCTOBER:** Natalija Novak, MD (Germany)

October 20, 2021 – 5:00pm EST - [REGISTER HERE](#)

**NOVEMBER:** Mohamad M. Shamji, MD (London)

November 10, 2021 – 6:00pm EST - [REGISTER HERE](#)

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

[✉ MedicalAffairs@alk.net](mailto:MedicalAffairs@alk.net)