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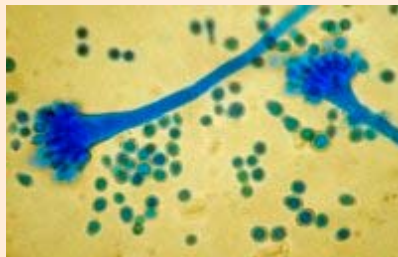
WELCOME to the latest news from the Aspergillus Trust. All members who have registered with the trust will receive this newsletter direct to their registered email account. You can change your options at: www.aspergillustrust.org/updatedetails.asp if you no longer wish to receive newsletters direct to your inbox.

Generic substitution of Itraconazole resulting in sub-therapeutic levels and resistance.

In a letter to the editor of the International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents Dr A C Pasqualotto and Professor David Denning reports that three patients had significant problems after substitution of the generic formulation of Itraconazole (Sandoz). Including the development of anti-fungal resistance. There are 3 Itraconazole capsule preparations - blue and pink (Sporonox), green (? Novartis) and brown (Jencons).

Read the full transcript on the Aspergillus Trust website www.aspergillustrust.org and click on [Guides and Information](#)

The Many Faces of Aspergillus



Aspergillus was first described in 1729 by a noted Italian botanist, Pietro Antonio Micheli. He gave it the name *Aspergillus* because the structure that produces spores resembles an aspergillum, a device used by the Catholic priests to sprinkle holy water. To date, close to 200 species have been described. Spores of *Aspergillus* are found in air and soil worldwide. The amount of airborne spores of *Aspergillus* spp. in indoor air is in most instances higher than outdoors at any given time. Members of this group produce large quantities of enzymes and are therefore capable of utilising a wide variety of substances as food.

Find out more about Aspergillus species at http://home.ezine.com:80/826_2/826_2-2007.01.08.14.22.archive.html
Article from Mould and Bacteria Reviews Mould & Bacteria Consulting Laboratories (MBL) Inc

TB Bug Killed by Antifungal Drug

Scientists hoping to find new treatments for one of the worlds most deadly infectious diseases say drugs used to treat common fungal infections may provide the answer.

Tuberculosis, or TB, is a highly contagious disease of the lungs that was thought to have been virtually eliminated by the 1960s, but is now resurgent and kills nearly two million people worldwide every year. New infections are occurring at a rate of one per second.

Now, biologists at The University of Manchester have shown that chemicals called azoles - the active agent in many antifungal drugs - kill the TB bacteria, and could be effective in tackling the emerging drug-resistant strains.

"TB is back with a vengeance with a third of the world's population currently infected," said Professor Andrew Munro, who led the research in Manchester's Faculty of Life Sciences - read the whole article on the AT News Forum

http://www.aspergillustrust.org/forums/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=32

London Asthma Sufferers Get Space-based Help

The city of London has launched an innovative service, funded by ESA, which delivers air pollution alerts and health advice via SMS text messages to those who suffer from asthma and other conditions vulnerable to poor air quality.

The airTEXT service officially kicked off at London's City Hall pm Thursday 29th March with the Deputy Mayor of London Nicky Gavron addressing the event:

"There's more than love in the air this spring! Air pollution causes around one thousand premature deaths each year, and we must do everything we can to cut emissions. "This pioneering service will provide people with crucial information about peak periods of air pollution localised for their part of London, so they can take action. It could literally save lives."

Read the full report at

http://www.aspergillustrust.org/forums/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=31

The New England Journal of Medicine Publishes Two Landmark Studies of NOXAFIL(R) (Posaconazole) In the Prevention of Invasive Fungal Infections

Two landmark clinical studies demonstrating the efficacy of NOXAFIL(R) (posaconazole) Oral Suspension in the prevention (prophylaxis) of life-threatening invasive fungal infections (IFIs) caused by *Aspergillus* and *Candida* in high-risk patients were published today in The New England Journal of Medicine, (1,2) reported Schering-Plough Corporation (NYSE: SGP). High-risk patients who develop IFIs have a mortality rate ranging from 50-90 percent. (3) In both these studies, NOXAFIL was significantly more effective in preventing invasive aspergillosis and reducing deaths related to invasive fungal infections, and, in one study, reducing overall mortality, versus the combined comparator drugs.

NOXAFIL is the first and only antifungal agent approved for the prevention of IFIs caused by *Aspergillus*.

Review the full article here

http://www.aspergillustrust.org/forums/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=27

Respiratory Research about to experience influx of Talented Young Scientists in UK

The field of respiratory research is about to experience an influx of talented young scientists. Twenty-one PhD students will soon begin research projects that address the role of factors as diverse as fungi, viral infection, immune system reactions and the influence of maternal diet on the serious respiratory disorders asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other conditions.

The research awards have been made in response to the growing number of people in the UK who suffer from respiratory disease.

http://www.aspergillustrust.org/forums/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=30

Annual Competition for Medical Students

The fifth *Aspergillus* Trust medical student competition has again produced a very high standard of entries. Judging is now taking place and winners will be announced in due course ...[Watch this space!](#)

Full details of the competition are available on our website

http://www.aspergillustrust.org/files/at_a4_poster_06-07.pdf

General Meeting

A General Meeting of the *Aspergillus* Trust took place on Saturday, 28th April 2007, at St George's Hospital, Tooting, London SW17. The minutes of the meeting are now available to view or download via the 'About the Trust' area of our website at: www.aspergillustrust.org

AGM and General Meeting

The AGM and next General Meeting will take place in London on 29th September - Date and Venue will be advised in due course.

If you would like more information about the *Aspergillus* Trust - please contact us by post at

Aspergillus Trust
PO Box 168
Hexham NE46 9AN
United Kingdom

or you can email us at info@aspergillustrust.org

Posaconazole Surpasses Fluconazole as Antifungal Efficacy

The extended-spectrum triazole posaconazole appears to be more effective than fluconazole as prophylaxis among patients at risk for invasive fungal infections, particularly those due to invasive aspergillosis, according to two international, phase III trials reported in the January 25th issue of The New England Journal of Medicine. Survival may also be better when posaconazole is used.

Reuters Health Information 2007

MAARA Pollen and Spore Report

If you live in the midlands area of the UK, you can get up-to-date pollen and spore reports from **MAARA (Midlands Asthma and Allergy Research Association)**. Registered Charity No. 257131

MAARA report for May 2007

There are currently very high pollen levels in the air. In particular there are high levels of plane tree pollen. The remainder of the count predominantly consists of birch, oak and yew pollen, with low quantities of ash, willow and rape. Counts will remain high during the sunny periods but will drop on days with rain.

Fungal spore concentrations

Airborne fungal spore levels remain low in Derby, with counts consisting predominantly of ascospores, basidiospores, *Sporobolomyces*, *Tilletiopsis* and *Cladosporium* spores.

This pollen and spore report will be updated as and when necessary.

Hayfever tips - always be prepared!

- Start medication early
- When the pollen count is high stay indoors with the doors and windows closed
- Change your clothes and have a shower at the end of the day
- Go to sleep with your head on a fresh pillowcase
- In the car keep the windows closed and wear sunglasses
- Keep away from areas of unmown grass
- Do not walk in the woods if you are allergic to tree pollen

If you want more information about MAARA and the work they do visit <http://www.maara.org/pages/latest.html>

Aspergillosis

Written by Professor David Denning this paper has recently been added to the article section of the *Aspergillus* Website. The article is 76 pages long, but if you really want to know about *Aspergillosis* then this is for you. An extensive review/overview of the disease and its causative agent, the fungus *aspergillus*.

Download the overview of *Aspergillosis* here:

http://www.aspergillus.org.uk/secure/articles/pdfs/Aspergillosis_Backgrounder-Final-1.pdf

100 Worst Cities for Spring Allergies

If you live in the USA you may be interested in finding out if the city you live in is included in the 100 worst for spring allergies. To find out go to:

<http://health.webmd.com/cgi-bin/21/DM/y/hsVw0L8uHv0Ft01FX0Eh>

"Last night I dreamed I ate a ten-pound marshmallow, and when I woke up the pillow was gone"

Tommy Cooper (1922-1984)

Urgent appeal for Donations

We currently have a backlog of three new patient leaflets in work in progress:

- **Chronic Pulmonary Aspergillosis(CPA) / Aspergilloma**
- **Allergic Fungal Sinusitis (AFS)**
- **Bronchiectasis, Pseudomonas, non-TB mycobacteria and other sources of additional respiratory problems for Aspergillus sufferers.**

It costs approximately £ 2800.00 to print and distribute each leaflet. We have adequate funding in place to complete one leaflet at present but urgently need to gain further financial support to complete all three. The cost is excluding design fees, as we are very fortunate that John Smout (trustee and ABPA sufferer) kindly provides this professional service - free of charge.

Your donation will help us get these leaflets out to those patients who urgently need them ...without your continued support this is proving very difficult to achieve.

Please help - make a donation, there are no set amounts, simply give whatever you can afford ...we promise that every penny you donate to the leaflet fund will be spent on getting these leaflets out to patients.

I/we enclose a donation to the Aspergillus Trust.

£ ____: ____ as a donation towards the new patient leaflets

£ ____: ____ as my voluntary membership subscription for 2007

Name

Address

.....

.....

Post Code

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Please reclaim tax on all donations I make to the Aspergillus Trust from 6 April 2000 until further notice.

(Note that you must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations in any particular year (currently 28p for every £1 you give).

Signed.....Date.....

✂ please print, cut-out this form and post with your cheque to

Aspergillus Trust

PO Box 168 Hexham NE46 9AN

United Kingdom ...cheques should be made payable to the Aspergillus Trust and crossed 'A/C PAYEE'

You can also donate simply easily and securely via our website: <https://secure.efundraising.org.uk/tailored/donation.asp?charity=72201>

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give"

Sir Winston Churchill
British politician (1874 - 1965)

On a final note

As we enter a new financial year, funding is again top of our wish list. It's incredibly difficult having to keep asking but if you value what we have achieved to date then please support us by making a small donation - thank you!

Jim Breen

A favourite Recipe - Marmalade Soufflés

"You're simply not going to believe this until you taste it - no fat, no sugar, not even any sweetener, and yet you have one of the easiest and most fragrantly lovely soufflés in the world" - Delia Smith

Serves 6

6oz (175g) Thick cut sugar-free orange marmalade

5 large egg whites

½ teaspoon unsalted butter for greasing

Salt

You will also need six 2 inch (5cm) deep ramekins with a base diameter of 2½ inches (6cm) and a top diameter of 3 inches (7.5cm), very lightly buttered; and a medium sized baking tray.

Pre heat the oven to gas mark 4, 350°F (180°C)

First, what you need to do is have the egg whites ready in a grease-free bowl. Then place the marmalade in another, largish bowl and, using a fork whisk it around to break up any lumps. After that, add a pinch of salt to the egg whites and using an electric hand whisk, whisk them until they reach the stiff-peak stage. Now take a large kitchen spoon and first fold a spoonful of the egg whites into the marmalade to slacken the mixture, then quickly fold in the rest a spoonful at a time. Next, divide the mixture between the ramekins, piling it up as high as possible - it won't collapse.

Now place them on the baking tray on the centre shelf of the oven, and cook them for 10-12 minutes, or until the tops are nicely browned. Serve immediately, but don't worry they hold up extremely well.

This recipe is from a recipe book called 'Delia's 'How to Cook' - Book Three by Delia Smith
Published by BBC Worldwide Ltd
ISBN 0 563 53469 9

Can you help?

There are many ways that you can help the Aspergillus Trust in its work, these include:

- Becoming a Member ...join us and pledge your support.
- Contribute to our Voluntary Subscription scheme.
- Support other members by joining our online community forum
- Share your skills and ideas with us to further the aims and objectives of the AT.
- Volunteer to help us in organising our regional meetings and distributing information and help to other Aspergillus sufferers in your area.
- Invite family and friends to become AT supporters ...many companies for example have 'Dress Down Charity Days' - suggest that they consider nominating the AT as their Charity.
- Help with fundraising by taking part in or organising events and raising sponsorship for the trust.
- By making a donation.

News Items

If you have any news, articles, ideas, comments, or information you would like to contribute to future publications of the AT News please get in touch at: news@aspergillustrust.org

Please Note:

Articles will be included entirely at the discretion of the board of Trustees