

## Overview of MCAN

The Merck Childhood Asthma Network, Inc., (MCAN), is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization established in 2005 to address the complex and growing public health problem of pediatric asthma. MCAN's mission is to support and advance evidence-based programs that improve the quality of life for children with asthma and their families and to reduce, through dissemination of effective interventions, the burden of the disease on them and society. MCAN was established with funding from The Merck Company Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Merck & Co., Inc.

## MCAN Leadership



MCAN is led by Floyd J. Malveaux, MD, PhD, a nationally recognized expert in asthma and allergic diseases and former dean of the Howard University College of Medicine. Dr. Malveaux has worked extensively to address health disparities and improve the quality of healthcare and health outcomes, especially among low-income, urban and underserved populations.

## MCAN's Translational Research Mandate

MCAN seeks to apply and measure effectiveness of evidence-based interventions by supporting five childhood asthma programs, chosen through a national competitive application process:

### Chicago: Respiratory Health

Association of Metropolitan Chicago's Addressing Asthma in Englewood Program in partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago



### Los Angeles: Los Angeles Unified School District's Comprehensive Asthma Program



### New York: New York Presbyterian

Hospital's WIN (Washington-Heights Inwood Network) for Asthma program in partnership with Columbia University's College of Physicians & Surgeons, Mailman School of Public Health and local community-based organizations



### Philadelphia: Philadelphia MCAN Project

in partnership with Health Promotion Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc., Thomas Jefferson University and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



### San Juan, Puerto Rico: RAND

Health and the University of Puerto Rico's School of Public Health's La Red de Asma Infantil de Puerto Rico Program



MCAN also supports peer-reviewed childhood asthma research in a significantly challenged environmental public health setting: New Orleans

## Head-off Environmental Asthma in Louisiana (HEAL)\*\*:



The purpose of HEAL is to evaluate the effectiveness of novel case management/environmental interventions and to learn about the effects of mold and other indoor allergens on children with asthma in post-Katrina New Orleans, including inherited differences in children's response to mold and indoor allergens.

*\*\*This collaborative research project is being conducted by the Tulane University Health Sciences Center and the New Orleans Department of Health along with Rho, Inc., as the data coordinating center. The project is funded through a partnership managed by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health between MCAN, the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of the National Institutes of Health*



## MCAN Advocacy Initiatives

Through its advocacy initiatives, MCAN seeks to serve as a catalyst in assembling the expertise needed to identify and address factors contributing to childhood asthma morbidity in general and to specific high risk populations where identifiable.

### **State of Childhood Asthma & Future Directions: Strategies for Implementing Best Practices –**

MCAN convened a roundtable of experts and thought leaders from multiple disciplines which identified, discussed and proposed best practice strategies to close the gap between recommended and actual asthma treatment and management. Findings were disseminated to healthcare providers, the scientific and public health community, as well as the general public.

### **National Collaborative for Healthy Children *with asthma* –**

MCAN is contributing financial support to and serving as a founding member of a new multi-stakeholder entity that will improve quality, access, and equity in asthma care through rapid guideline implementation and the advancement of a “healthy children *with asthma*” policy agenda at community, state and national levels. This was a major recommendation made by attendees of the State of Childhood Asthma & Future Directions conference.

**Neighbor of Choice** – The Merck & Co., Inc. (Merck) “Neighbor of Choice” program, funded by The Merck Company Foundation, aims to build trustworthy and sustainable relationships with key individuals and groups in locations where Merck facilities are located. MCAN works with the program by lending its expertise to advance comprehensive community-based asthma education and approaches that facilitate the adoption of effective intervention programs.

### **Estimating the Impact of Improving Asthma Treatment: A Review and Synthesis of the Literature –**

MCAN is partnering with RAND, a non-profit think tank, to summarize available evidence on quality of asthma care and its impact on various endpoints



## About Childhood Asthma

Childhood asthma is a significant burden on children, parents and society.

- More than 6 million children in the United States have asthma.
- Asthma is the leading cause of chronic illness among children, and the third leading cause of hospitalization.
- Asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism due to chronic conditions, accounting for nearly 15 million lost days of school annually.
- Asthma costs the United States about \$19.7 billion annually (as of 2007) in direct medical costs and indirect costs (i.e., lost work days, premature death).
- Low-income and medically underserved populations, minorities, and children living in inner cities suffer disproportionate burdens of asthma.

## For More Information...

Please visit [www.mcanonline.org](http://www.mcanonline.org) to get more details on all of MCAN's activities

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## The Merck Childhood Asthma Network (MCAN)

*Enhancing Access to Quality Asthma Care for Children*

