



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Little Airways Big Voices

New Initiative Brings Voice of Families Impacted by Childhood Asthma to the Forefront of Drug Development

Four nonprofit organizations collaborate to bring “Little Airways, Big Voices” to the FDA

Washington, D.C. — September 15, 2021 — The Allergy & Asthma Network, American Lung Association, American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders, and Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America are collaborating on a new initiative — [Little Airways, Big Voices](#). The initiative aims to amplify the patient and caregiver voice to inform the future of treatment for asthma in children.

The collaborative will host an externally-led patient-focused drug development (EL-PFDD) meeting on September 20, 2021, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. EDT. The goal of the meeting is to gather patient and caregiver insights about living with and managing pediatric asthma to share with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as researchers, clinicians, and drug developers.

“The patient voice is sometimes forgotten during the long and strenuous drug development process,” states Kenneth Mendez, CEO and president of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. “We are honored to co-host this event to ensure that future innovative therapies are developed and reviewed based on input from real families living with chronic asthma, especially in children.”

Anyone who has experience living with and/or managing asthma in childhood is invited to attend the [Little Airways, Big Voices EL-PFDD meeting](#). Participants will be invited to call in, submit written comments and questions, and take polls.

Patients and caregivers can also add their voice to the initiative by [completing a brief survey](#) or [submitting written comments](#) about their experiences living with and managing asthma in childhood.

“There are more than six million children living with asthma, making it the most common chronic condition and one of the leading causes of school absenteeism,” said Albert Rizzo, M.D., chief medical officer for the American Lung Association. “Strategic partnerships like Little Airways, Big



Voices are critical to advancing our research, treatment, and overall care for children with asthma.”

All the information gathered from this EL-PFDD meeting, survey, and written comments will be analyzed and summarized in a Voice of the Patient report to be released in 2022. The report will help inform the FDA, researchers, clinicians, and drug companies about what is important to people living with and managing asthma in children.

To learn more about the Little Airways, Big Voices initiative, visit littleairwaysbigvoices.org.

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ABOUT THE ALLERGY & ASTHMA NETWORK

The Allergy & Asthma Network is the leading nonprofit patient education and advocacy organization for people with asthma, allergies, and related conditions. The patient-centered network unites individuals, families, healthcare professionals, industry, and government decision makers to improve health and quality of life for Americans with asthma and allergies. The organization specializes in making accurate medical information relevant and understandable to all while promoting evidence-based standards of care. Learn more at allergyasthmanetwork.org.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education, and advocacy. Their work is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; champion clean air for all; improve the quality of life for those with lung disease and their families; and create a tobacco-free future. Learn more at lung.org.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP FOR EOSINOPHILIC DISORDERS

The [American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders \(APFED\)](http://American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED)) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to passionately embrace, support, and improve the lives of patients and families affected by eosinophil-associated diseases through education and awareness, research, support, and advocacy. Learn more at apfed.org.

ABOUT THE ASTHMA AND ALLERGY FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

Founded in 1953, the [Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America \(AAFA\)](http://Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)) is the oldest and largest non-profit patient organization dedicated to saving lives and reducing the burden of disease for people with asthma, allergies and related conditions through research, education, advocacy, and support. AAFA offers extensive support for individuals and families affected by asthma and allergic diseases, such as food allergies and atopic dermatitis (eczema). Through its online patient support communities, network of local chapters and affiliated support groups, AAFA empowers patients and their families by providing practical, evidence-based information and community programs and services. Learn more at aafa.org.

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