



Guest Editors

Michael J. Cox

Michael J. Cox is a microbial ecologist and postdoctoral research associate in the Genomic Medicine section of the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London (London, UK). He trained in the marine microbial ecology of atmospheric trace gases at the University of Warwick (Coventry, UK) and Plymouth Marine Laboratory (Plymouth, UK) in 2005, following this with work on marine polysaccharide degrading bacteria at the University of Liverpool (Liverpool, UK). In 2008, he moved to the University of California San Francisco (San Francisco, CA, USA) as a visiting research fellow on the microbial ecology of CF, returning to the UK and Imperial College London in 2010. Here he has established the microbiome sequencing pipelines at the National Heart and Lung Institute and works on applying microbial ecology techniques to understanding the respiratory microbiome in chronic and acute respiratory diseases. He is a co-director of the recently established Microbiome@Imperial network, an editor at *FEMS Microbiology Letters*, a member of the Society for Applied Microbiology and is active in public engagement, and equality and diversity, establishing www.shenotespeaker.org to promote the visibility of women in respiratory, cardiology, vascular and critical care research.



Markus J. Ege

Markus Ege is a professor of clinical respiratory epidemiology at LMU Munich (Munich, Germany). He trained as paediatrician and epidemiologist at the universities in Ulm (Germany) and Munich. His major research interest is the environmental determinants of childhood asthma and allergies, and their interaction with genetic background. He has worked on asthma and allergy protective effects through bacterial and fungal exposure, with particular focus on the farming environment.



Erika von Mutius



Erika von Mutius is a professor of paediatric allergology and holds a degree in epidemiology from Harvard School of Public Health (Boston, MA, USA). She is head of the Asthma and Allergy Department at the Dr. von Hauner Children's Hospital in Munich (Germany). Since 2017, she has lead the Institute for Asthma and Allergy Prevention at Helmholtz Zentrum Munich – German Research Center for Environmental Health (Neuherberg, Germany). She is also a member of the German Centre for Lung Research (DZL).

Erika von Mutius is a fellow of the European Respiratory Society and was a member of the editorial board of the *New England Journal of Medicine* until the end of 2018. In 2010, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Helsinki (Helsinki, Finland) and in 2013, she received the Gottfried-Wilhelm-Leibniz Prize of the German Research Foundation, the most important research award in Germany.

Erika von Mutius and her working group have been actively involved in the design, implementation and data analysis of many large Pan-European multicentre and interdisciplinary projects, addressing the potential role of genetic and environmental factors for the development of allergic diseases. The group has furthermore developed expertise and gained excellence in the conduct of studies aimed at elucidating the role of the human and environmental microbiome for the development of allergies and asthma. Erika von Mutius has published widely on different aspects of the disease and is a sought-after speaker at congresses all over the world.
