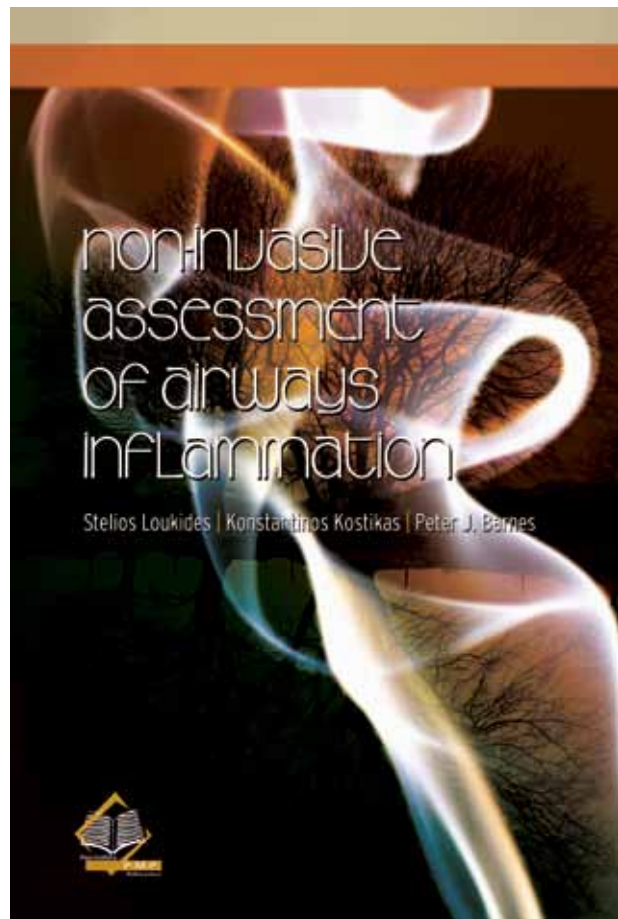


# "Non Invasive Assessment of Airways Inflammation in Asthma and COPD"

Stelios Loukides, Konstantinos Kostikas Peter J. Barnes, editors

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***Non-Invasive Assessment of Airways Inflammation in Asthma and COPD***, edited by Drs Stelios Loukides and Konstantinos Kostikas, from the University of Athens Medical School, Greece, and Professor Peter J. Barnes, from Imperial College and the National Heart and Lung Institute, London,

UK, provides updated information on the increasingly expanding field of the non-invasive assessment of airways inflammation in asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Airways inflammation is central in the development and evolution of asthma and COPD and represents the pathology underlying patients' symptoms and exacerbations. The long-standing gold-standard for the assessment of airways inflammation remains the bronchoscopic evaluation, including bronchial biopsies of airway mucosa. This method, however, continues to be difficult to perform repeatedly; thus the need for development and standardization of non-invasive techniques for the assessment of airways inflammation is imperative. This field is comprehensively covered in the context of this book.

The major topics that the authors have covered in this book include the testing of the fraction of exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO), induced sputum, and exhaled breath condensate (EBC). These three techniques constitute the most promising methods in use today and together are the subject of over 8,000 publications in PubMed in early 2011. The book starts with a chapter on the current situation entitled "Where do we stand today" by the editors, and continues with three parts providing information on technical considerations and normal values, and chapters on applications in clinical practice in asthma and COPD. In the corresponding chapters, the authors have attempted to explore the limitations and technical considerations of each of those modalities and to provide "normal" values that may be applied in clinical practice. The clinical applications of each of these biomarkers have been extensively reviewed, both in patients with asthma and those with COPD, which may be of use to both researchers and clinicians. A special chapter on exhaled biomarkers in children covers the same aspects in the paediatric population and provides useful clinical information for paediatricians. Other novel exhaled biomarkers are discussed in a special

chapter, while a perspective on the ability of non-invasive exhaled biomarkers to replace the invasive assessment of airways inflammation addresses that intriguing question. A final chapter on the future of non-invasive biomarkers, written by Professor Peter Barnes, provides an eye to the future of this field.

The book by Loukides, Kostikas and Barnes provides extensive coverage of a rapidly evolving field, with increasing research and clinical interest. The fact that many patients cannot tolerate invasive techniques due to the severity of their disease, and definitely cannot be submitted repeatedly to invasive procedures, supports the importance of the modalities discussed in this text. This book provides a unique opportunity to review rapidly and comprehensively the recent developments in the field of non-invasive assessment of airways inflammation in asthma and COPD, and constitutes a reference for basic researchers and clinicians with special interest in clinical research. The authors conclude that much still remains to be done towards the standardization of these techniques and their application in clinical practice, but this book may provide a common ground for the collaboration between international groups with common research interests. Further emphasis of the importance of this book is evidenced by the list of contributors, which includes the significant contribution of several researchers from Greece, in addition to an international faculty of recognized experts in the field, including D. Robin Taylor from New Zealand, Lieven Dupont and Renaud Louis from Belgium, Antonio Spanevello from Italy, Ildiko Horvath from Hungary, John Hunt from Virginia, USA, and Ian Pavord and Andrew Bush from the UK, among others.

In general, ***Non-Invasive Assessment of Airways Inflammation in Asthma and COPD*** is a modern, authoritative textbook that is highly recommended for both researchers and clinicians as an up-to-date reference in the field.