Introduction

In January 2003, a workshop entitled ‘Asthma in animal models: allergy, infection and therapy’ was organised in Hannover by the Fraunhofer Institute for Toxicology and Experimental Medicine and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft-Sonderforschungsbereich 587 ‘Immune reactions of the lung in infection and allergy’.

Some contributions to the workshop are published in this special issue of *Pathobiology* to document the controversial aspects in this field of the pathophysiology of these frequent diseases by using animal models.

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