



# Expanded Residency Educational Sites within the VA-UCLA Allergy and Immunology Fellowship Program: Care of Veterans with Allergy and Immunology Concerns

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## Introduction

Residency educational opportunities for the Allergy and Immunology care of Veterans were expanded in 2023 with establishing new Allergy and Immunology clinics located at the Sepulveda VA and the LA Outpatient VA.



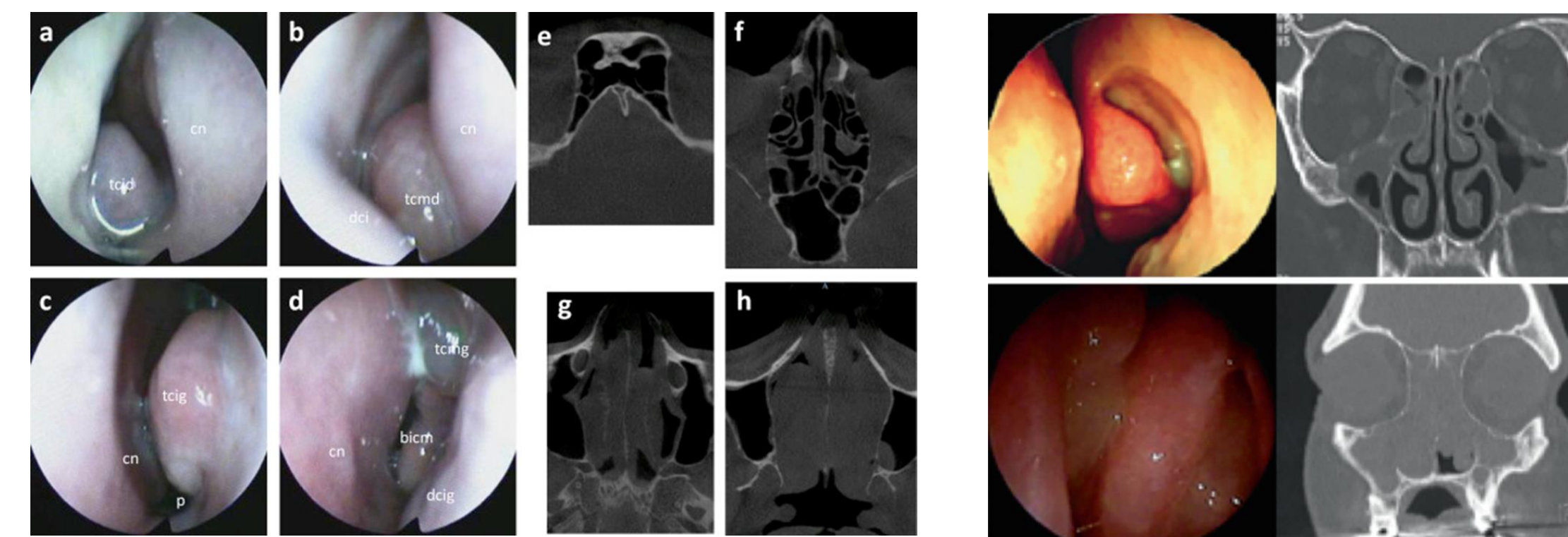
VA-UCLA Allergy and Immunology Fellowship clinical sites: West LA VA (top left), UCLA Health (top right), Sepulveda VA (bottom left), LA Outpatient VA (bottom right).

## Background

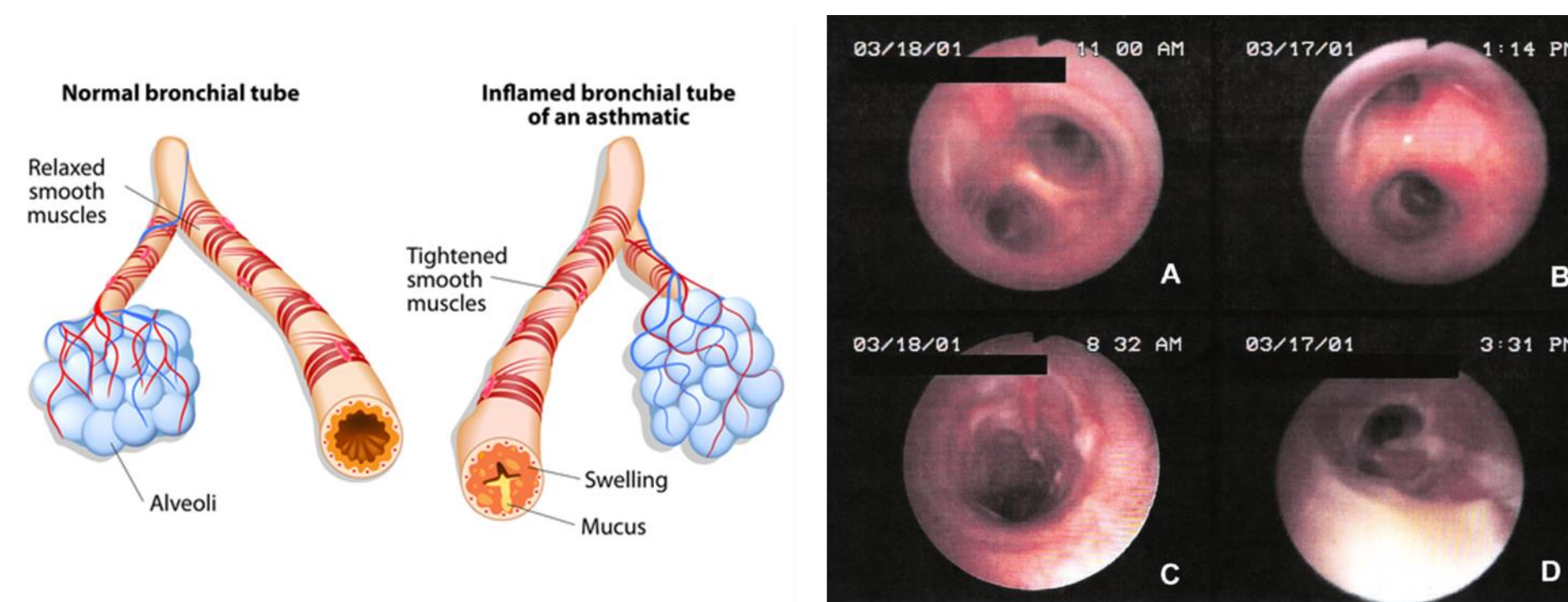
The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (PACT Act) was passed in 2022 to improve healthcare access and benefits for Veterans affected by military toxic exposures. Two years since its passing, 5.7 million Veterans have undergone toxic exposure screenings through the VA Health System, 739,421 Veterans were enrolled in VA health care, and 161,706 of these enrollments were due to PACT Act authorities exclusively.

## Learning Objectives

The patient population at these sites include Veterans with a prior history of military burn pit and airborne hazards exposures who suffered from subsequent airways diseases including chronic rhinitis, chronic sinusitis and asthma.



Chronic rhinitis (left) and chronic sinusitis (right) on rhinoscopy and cross sectional imaging.

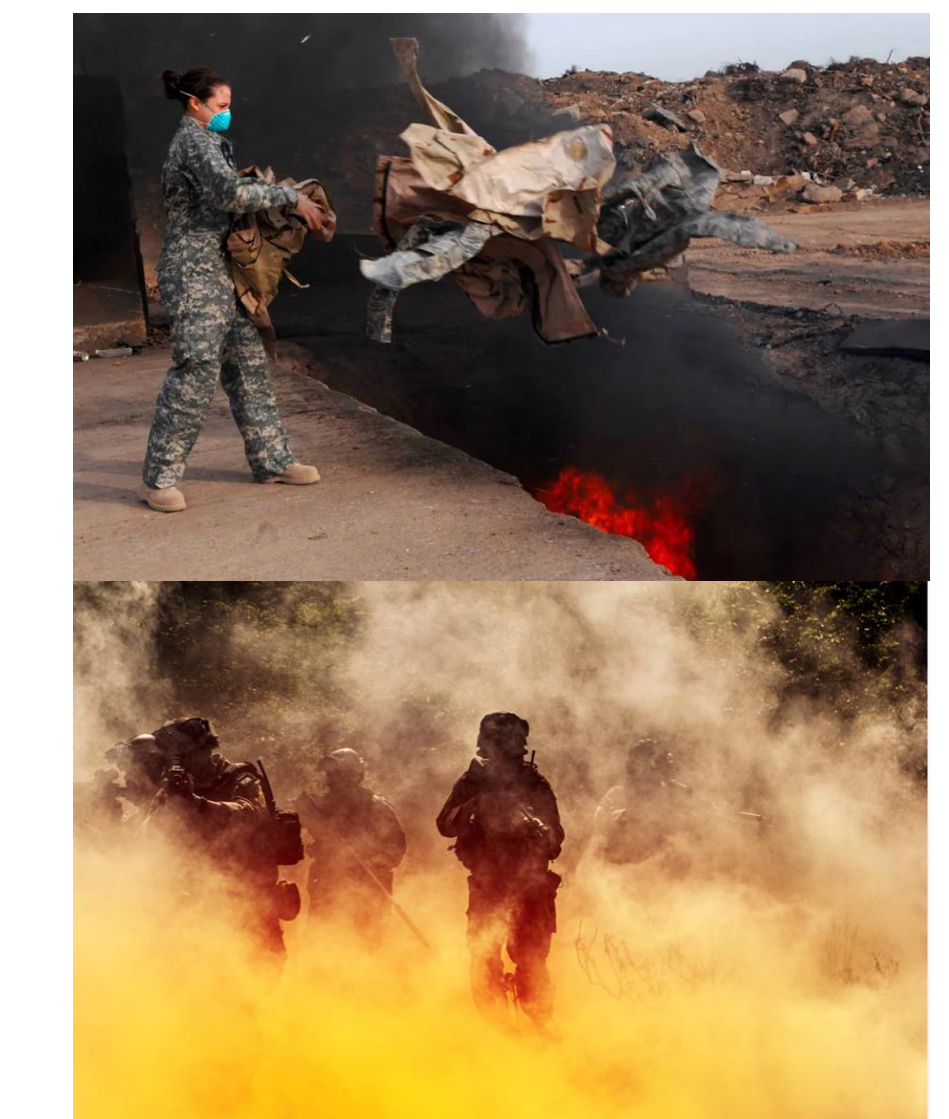
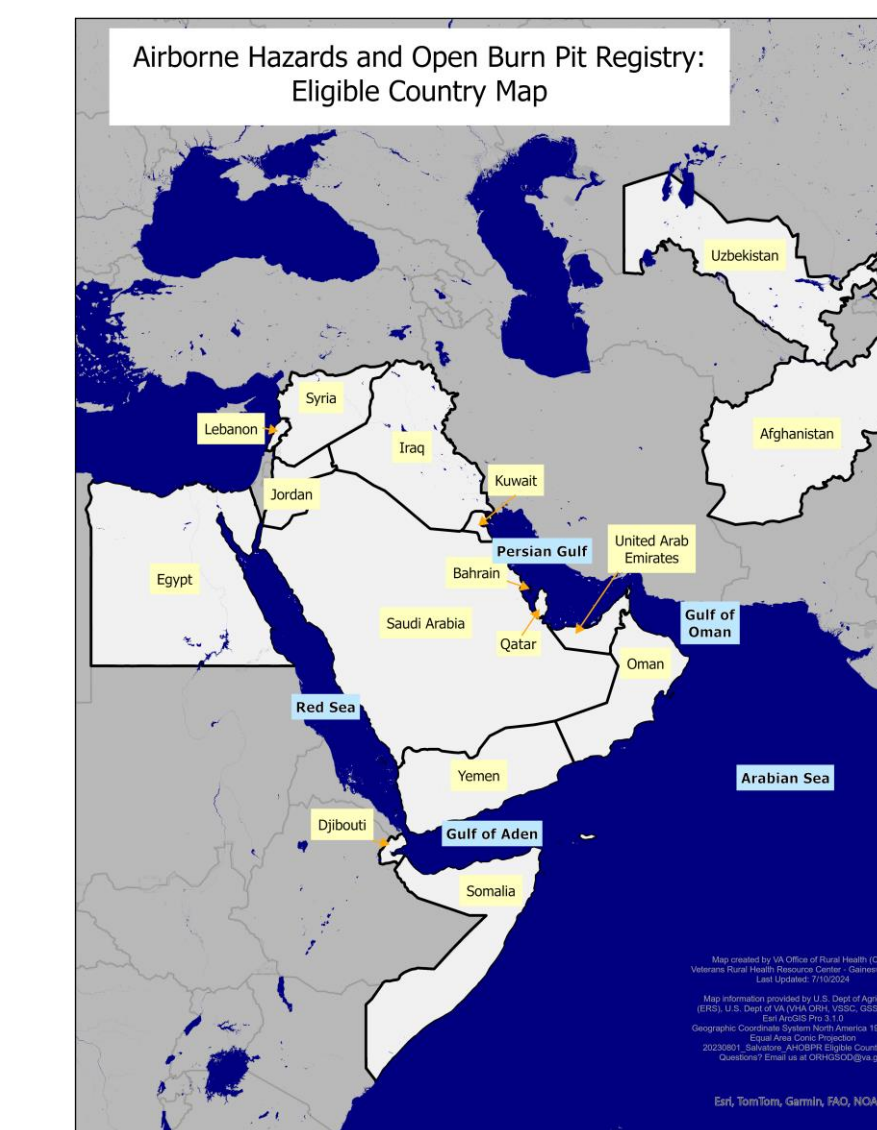


Asthma pathophysiology (left) and airway obstruction seen on bronchoscopy (right).

Continued awareness of these conditions will continue to foster care that is aligned with the unique needs of our Veteran population. Residents rotating through these expanded services have increased exposure to the field of Allergy and Immunology and develop familiarity with patient aligned care for this special Veteran patient population.

## Discussion

The presence of a coexisting Allergy and Immunology training program is not accessible to many Internal Medicine residency programs, and this expansion enhanced the breadth of educational opportunities provided by the VA-UCLA fellowship program. The new clinic sites improved access to care and alleviated the need to utilize community care services for Allergy and Immunology specialty care in the VA GLA Health System.



Countries recognized under AHOBPR (left), military burn pits located in Iraq (right).

## References

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Photos from Iraq 2008, <https://www.militarytimes.com/news/burn-pits/2022/03/29/>.