

Abstract Submitted
for the MAR06 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Measurement of Flow Patterns and Dispersion in the Human Airways¹ FRANK E. FRESCONI, AJAY K. PRASAD, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Delaware — A detailed knowledge of the flow and dispersion within the human respiratory tract is desirable for numerous reasons. Both risk assessments of exposure to toxic particles in the environment and the design of medical delivery systems targeting both lung-specific conditions (asthma, cystic fibrosis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)) and system-wide ailments (diabetes, cancer, hormone replacement) would profit from such an understanding. The present work features experimental efforts aimed at elucidating the fluid mechanics of the lung. Particle image velocimetry (PIV) and laser induced fluorescence (LIF) measurements of oscillatory flows were undertaken in anatomically accurate models (single and multi-generational) of the conductive region of the lung. PIV results captured primary and secondary velocity fields. LIF was used to determine the amount of convective dispersion across an individual generation of the lung.

¹Sponsored by Philip Morris USA Inc. and Philip Morris International

Ajay K. Prasad
Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Delaware

Date submitted: 22 Dec 2005

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