The primary study arm showed a 70% rate of pulmonary colonisation in the Untreated Severe Asthma population, which differs significantly to the 9% rate of positivity seen in the control population. The rate of PCR positivity fell to 23% in the SAFS population who were receiving treatment. The secondary arm showed that Itraconazole removed fungus from the airways of 9 patients; this was correlated with a decrease in patient’s total serum IgE.

Discussion The 70% rate of PCR positivity in the untreated SAFS population supports the concept that patients with SAFS have pulmonary colonisation with Aspergillus. The study has also shown that the antifungal agent Itraconazole removes this fungus from patient’s airways and that is correlated with an improvement in patient’s disease control. This study supports the use of Itraconazole in patients with SAFS.