



# Los Angeles PRISMS Center

An mHealth Platform for Predicting Risk of Pediatric Asthma  
Exacerbation Using Personal Sensor Monitoring Systems

Sep 2018 | ASIC Meeting

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**UCLA**



**USC**

# Outline

- Asthma
- Design of the platform
- Deployment of the platform
  - Preliminary pilot data

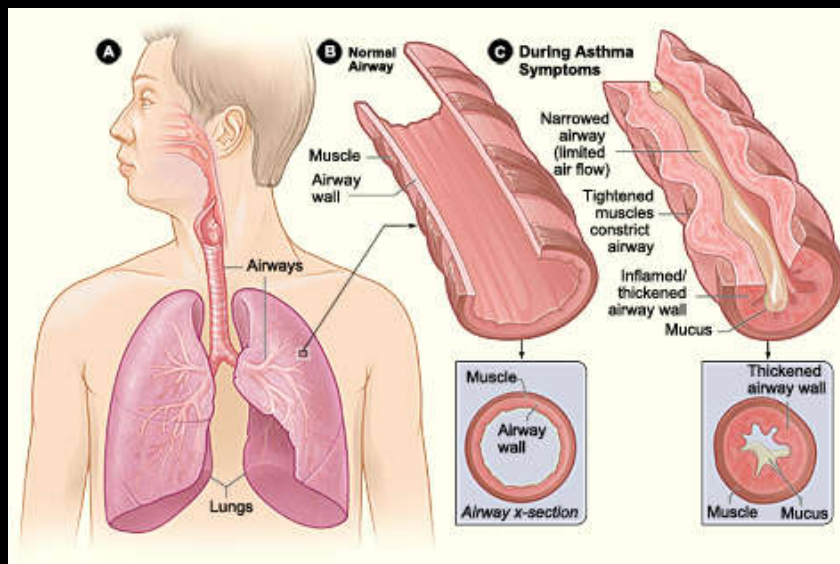
# Air Pollution as an Underappreciated Cause of Asthma Symptoms

George D. Thurston, ScD

David V. Bates, MD

**JAMA** The Journal of the  
American Medical Association

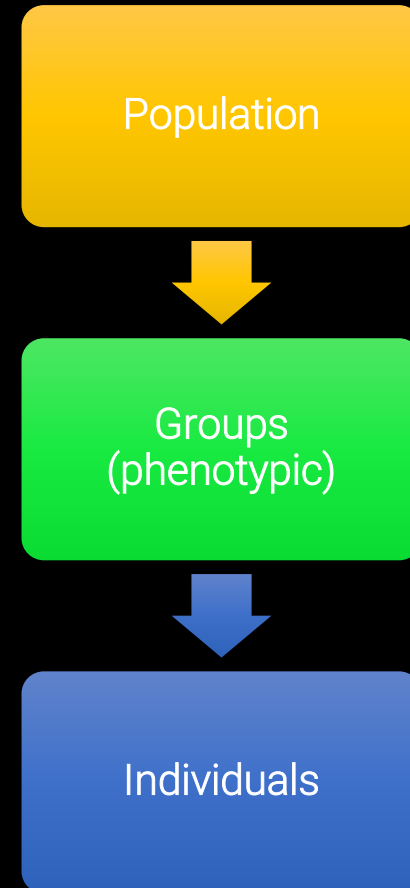
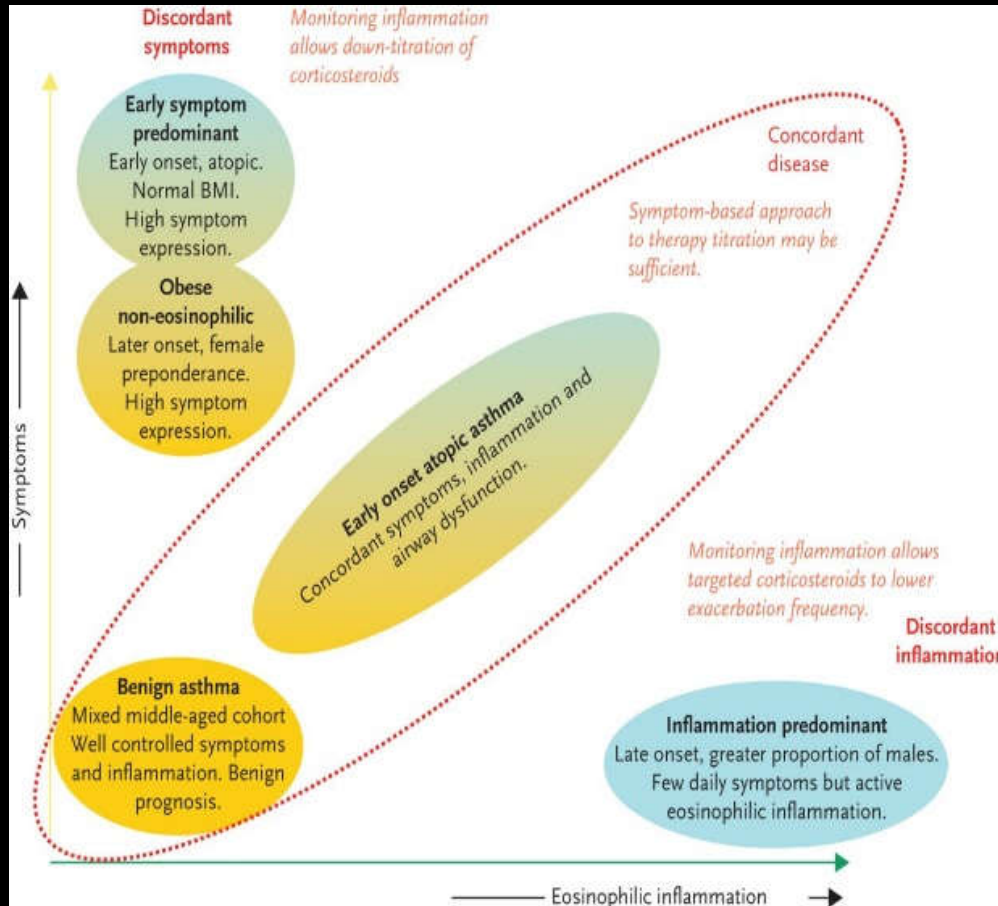
**EDITORIALS**



*“While physicians no doubt recognize that they cannot do much about modern urban air pollution **on an individual level**, they can make recommendations to patients with asthma to help them avoid the potentially adverse effects of air pollution.”*

Thurston, G.D. and Bates, D.V.,  
2003. *JAMA*, 290(14), pp.1915-1917.

# Pediatric Asthma



Clementine Bostantzoglou et al., Clinical asthma phenotypes in the real world: opportunities and challenges. *Breathe* 2015;11:186-193

# The Los Angeles PRISMS Center



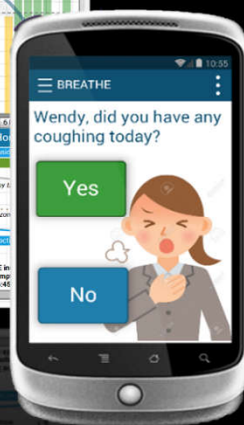
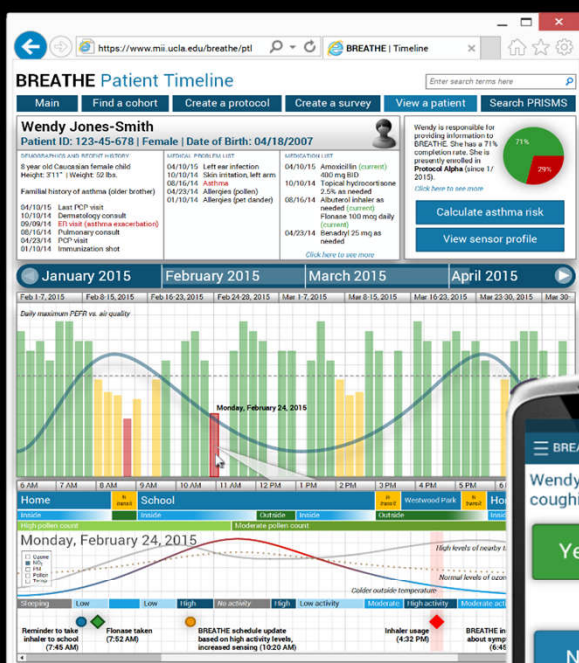
What if you could predict ahead of time, for a given individual, an asthma attack, and mitigate if not prevent it?



Los Angeles PRISMS Center  
PI Alex Bui (UCLA)

Project 3, Real-Time Air Pollution and Asthma Study  
PIs Habre and Gilliland

# The Los Angeles PRISMS Center

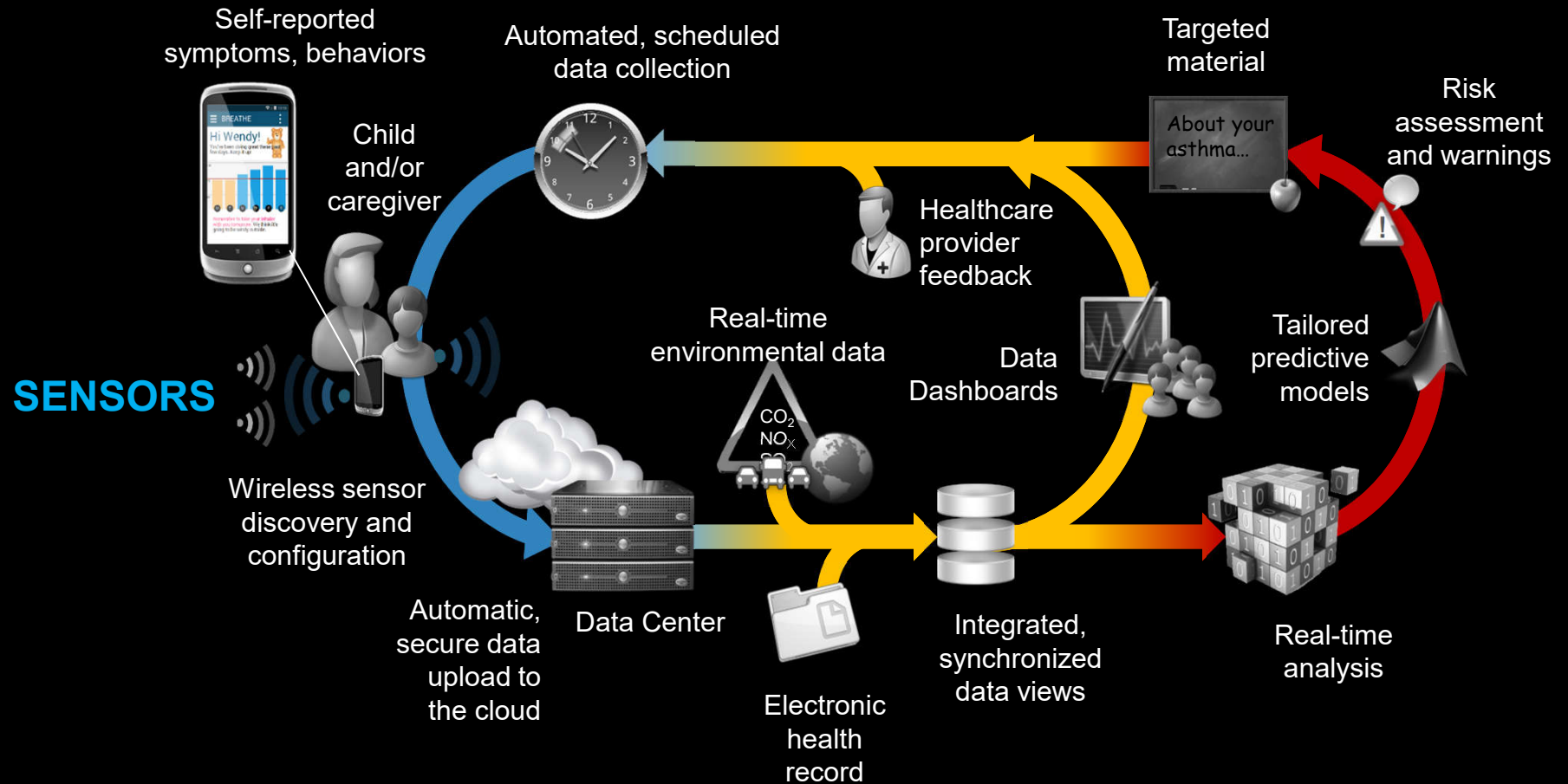


- Build a secure, non-invasive, sensor-based informatics platform for pediatric asthma environmental health studies
- Enable individualized 'trigger discovery'
- Advance our scientific understanding of
  - Time lag between exposure and response
  - Relevant dose metrics for asthma (peak exposures vs average?)
  - Role of multiple exposures and behaviors in context
  - Variation in personal exposures and risk at short temporal and fine spatial scales

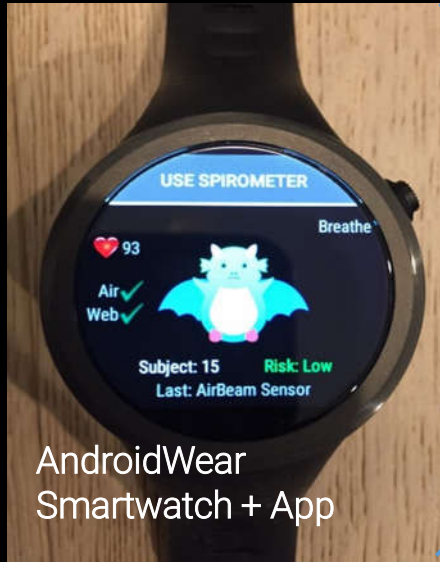
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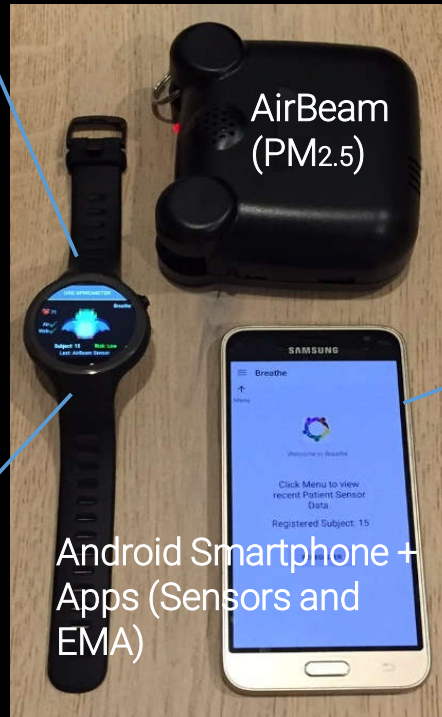
# The Los Angeles PRISMS Center BREATHE Informatics Platform for Epidemiological Studies of Pediatric Asthma



# Breathe Kit



AndroidWear  
Smartwatch + App



AirBeam  
(PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

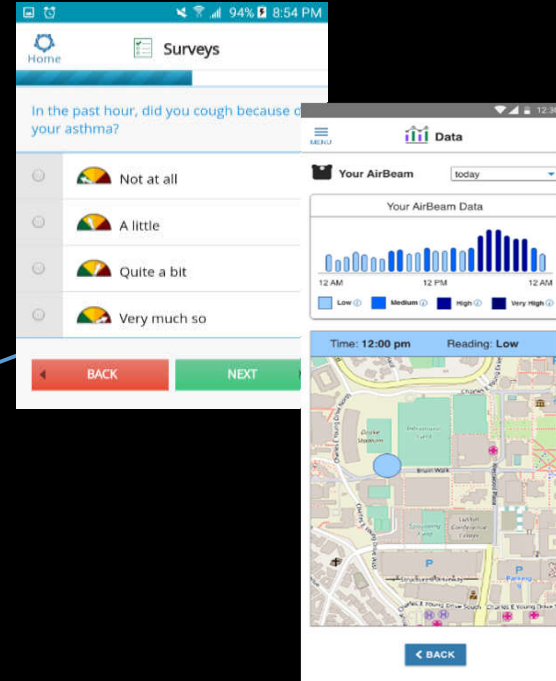
Android Smartphone +  
Apps (Sensors and  
EMA)



Inhaler



Spirometer



Ecological Momentary  
Assessment (EMA) Surveys  
+ mobile dashboards

***BREATHE Kit: Biomedical REAL-Time Health Evaluation***



# Data Integration

## Sensors

- GPS
- Spirometry
- Inhaler usage
- Activity monitoring (accelerometry to classify lying, sitting, standing, walking, running, etc.).
- Environmental measures (PM, NO<sub>2</sub>, etc.)

## Self-reported measures

- Ecological momentary assessment (EMA) for asthma symptoms, stress
- Questionnaires (health status, physical activity, etc.)

## U01 Sensors (2019)

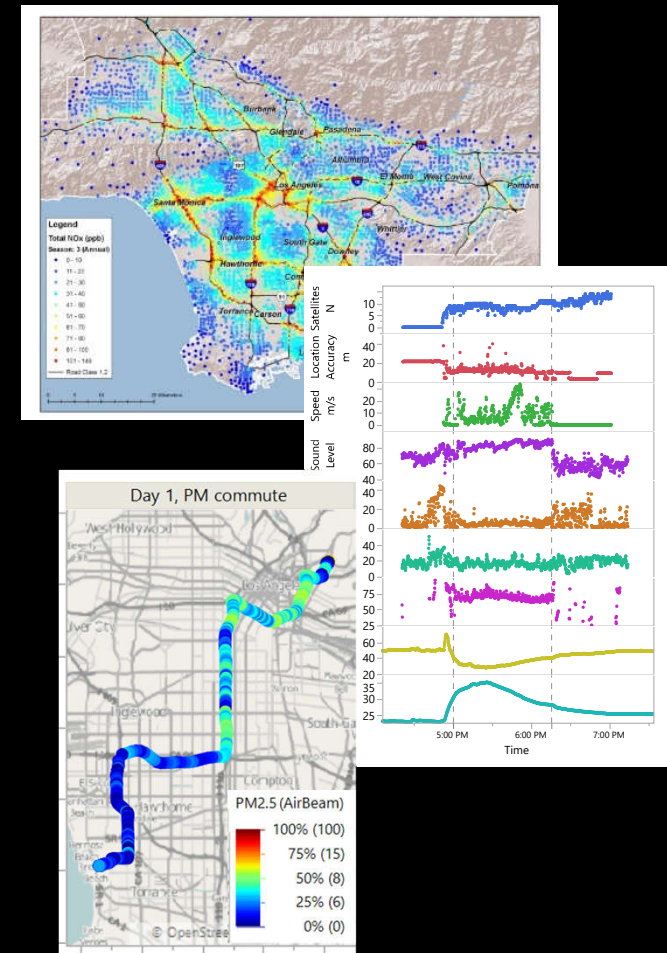
- Black/brown carbon MA200 (Columbia)
- Particle sensor (UW)
- Ozone and VOCs sensor (ASU)

## Geospatial data

- Weather
- Pollen
- Air quality indices
- Nearby traffic volumes
- Indoor/outdoor metrics

## Electronic health record

- Demographics, vitals
- Medications
- Allergies and documented triggers
- Health status and comorbidities
- Pulmonary function tests, other labs
- Past exacerbations (e.g., ER visits)



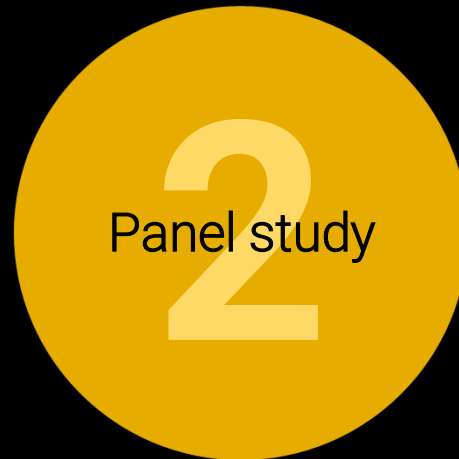
*High spatial and temporal resolution*

# Breathe Kit Deployment in Asthma Study

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*Today's talk  
n=20, 1-week monitoring,  
baseline Breathe Kit sensors*



*Starting 2019  
n=40, 2-week monitoring,  
integrating U01 sensors*

# Clinic-Based Recruitment



Study coordinator reviews medical records ahead of time to determine eligibility and medications. On day of appointment, recruitment, informed consent, in-clinic questionnaire and explanation of the study and the kit take place in the clinic during the doctor's visit.



Dr. Sande Okelo

Two Pediatric Pulmonology clinic sites led by Dr. Sande Okelo  
Westwood and Santa Monica

# Participant Timeline



**Day 1**  
Consented, **in-clinic** questionnaire, monitoring started

**Day 2**  
**Baseline** questionnaire conducted over the phone

**Day 14**  
Monitoring ended

**Day 15**  
Breathe Kit and devices mailed back, **exit survey** conducted over the phone, gift card sent over email



**Throughout the monitoring period**  
Regular contact and verification of data flows through BREATHE researcher dashboards and 24/7 support on standby

# Data Collection

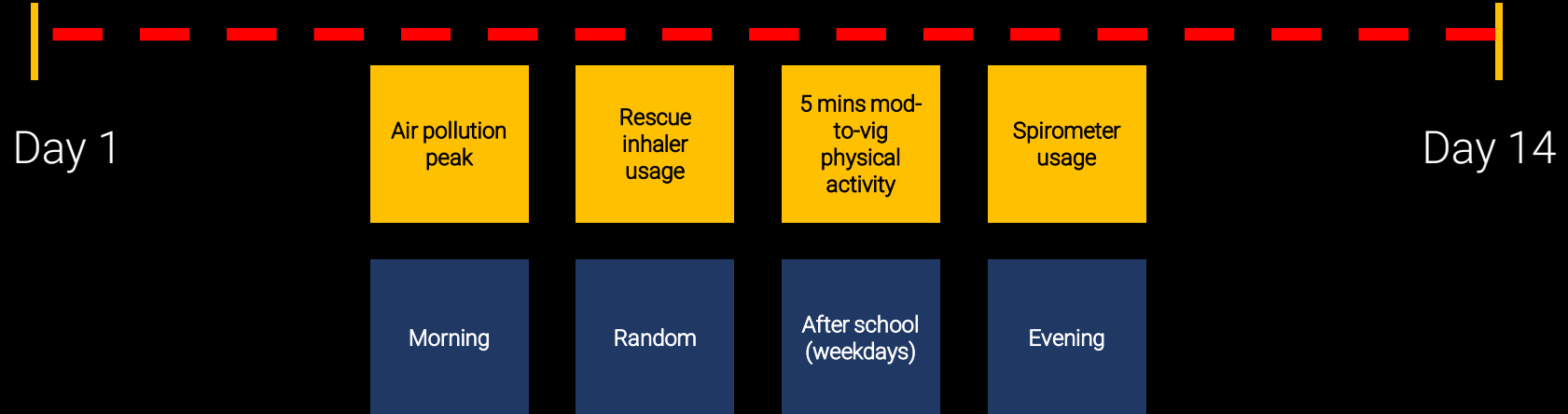
Air pollution exposures, heart rate, respiration rate, physical activity, GPS, etc... streaming *continuously, in real time*



Controller and rescue medication captured *every use*



**Spirometry** measurements (FEV<sub>1</sub> and PEFR) *2x/day* (morning and evening)

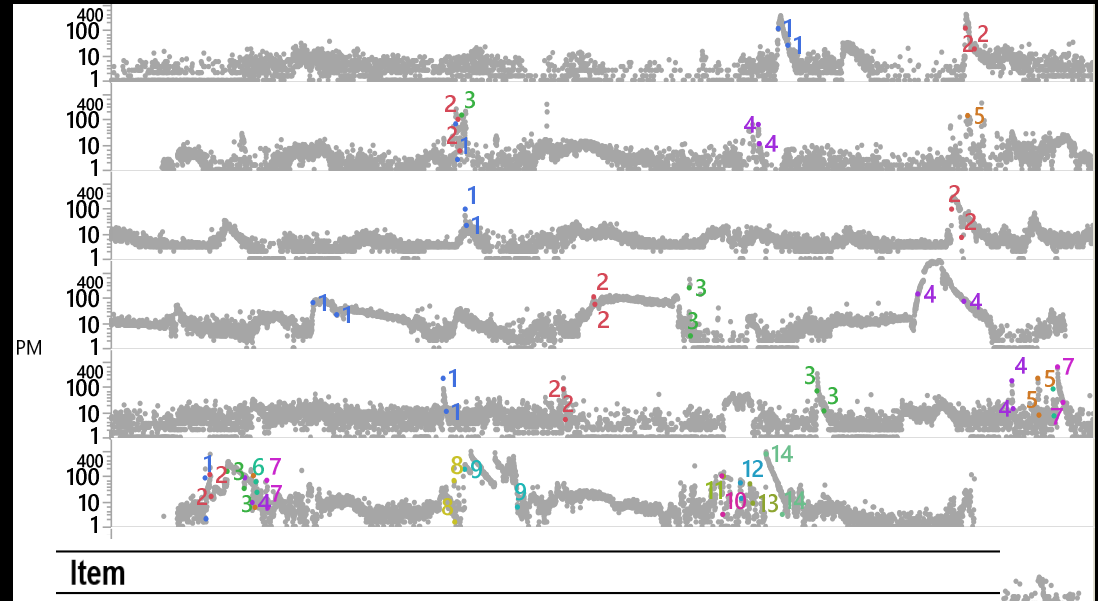
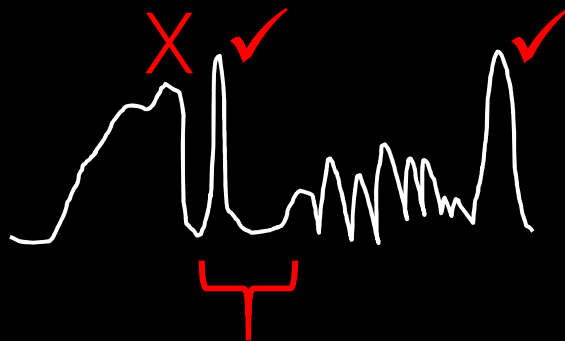


**Symptoms**, context, physical activity, etc.. with **random** and **context-sensitive** EMA surveys *5-8x/day* with tailored suppression logic and prioritization scheme to manage participant burden and select for suspected triggers (PM<sub>2.5</sub> peaks from primary combustion sources, high physical activity, etc..)

# Context-Sensitive Data Collection

Capture exposures and behaviors in real time (proximal to outcome) and in context to formally evaluate as potential asthma triggers

eg, PM<sub>2.5</sub> peaks from primary combustion sources



Item

Were you near any of the following just before the phone alert appeared?

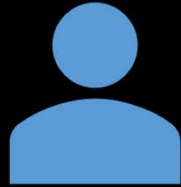
## Response Choices

- Traffic (cars, buses or trucks)
- Cigarette smoke
- Vaping/e-cigarette vapor
- Cooking or barbecuing (BBQ)
- Lit fireplace (burning wood or gas)
- Space heater (burning fuel)
- Burning candles or incense
- Other smoke

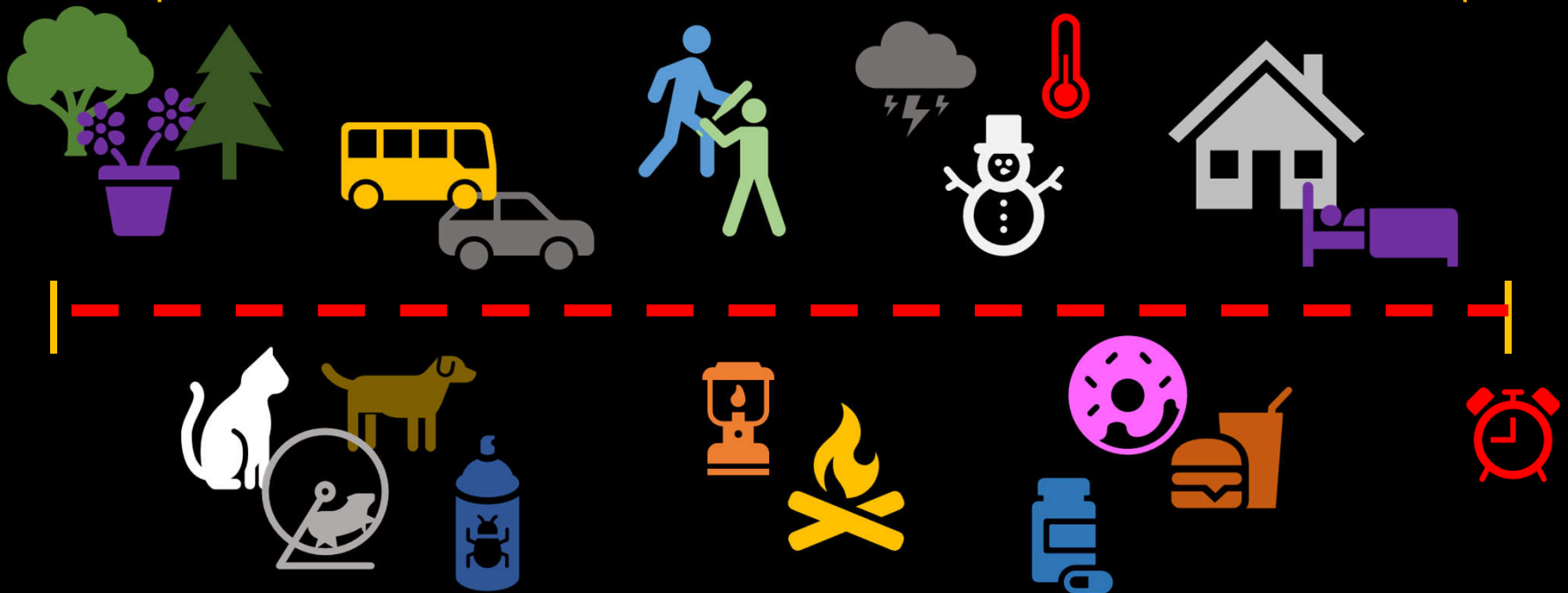
Between-person



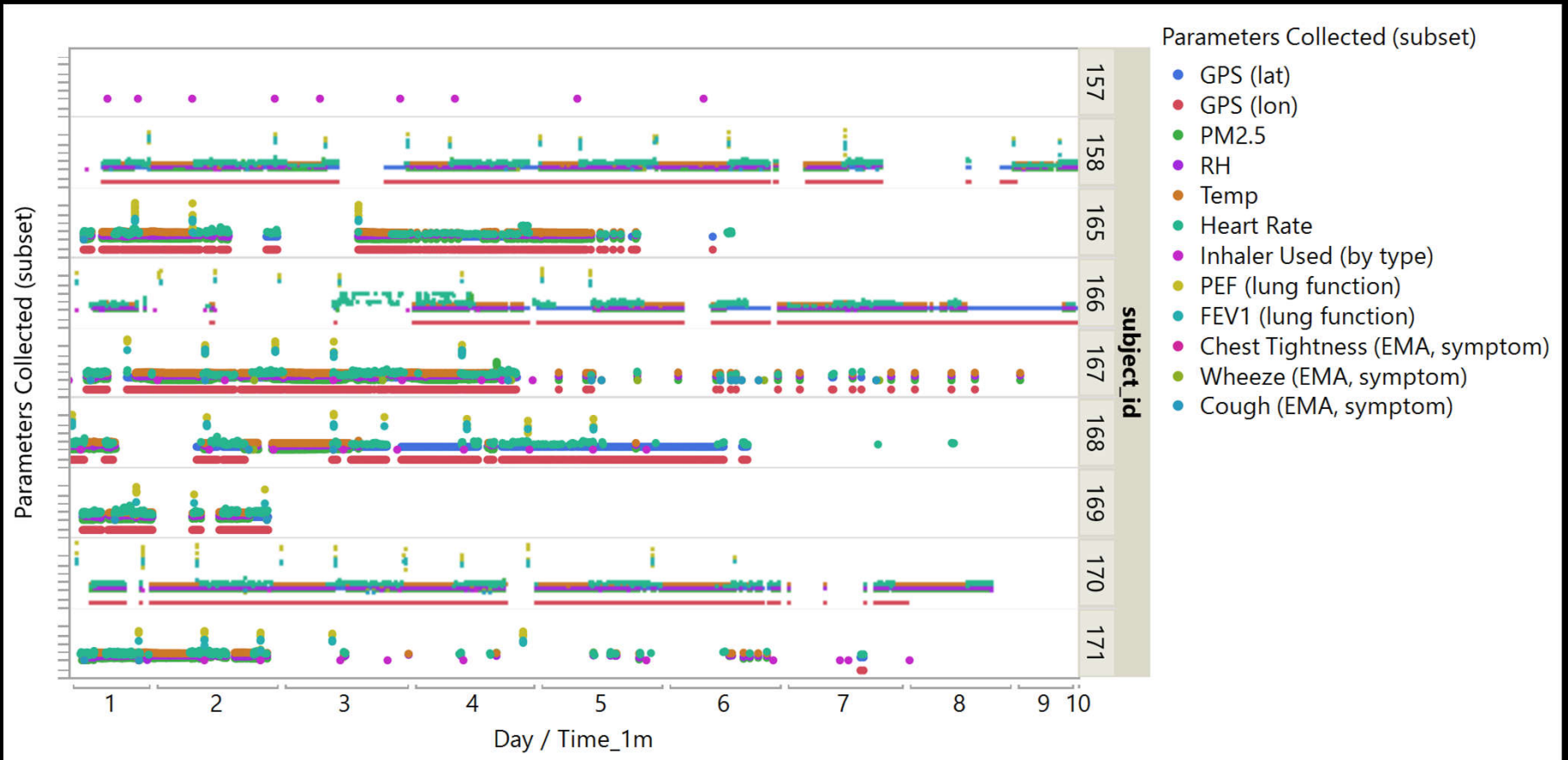
Within-person (over time, eg. days)



Within-day (within-person)

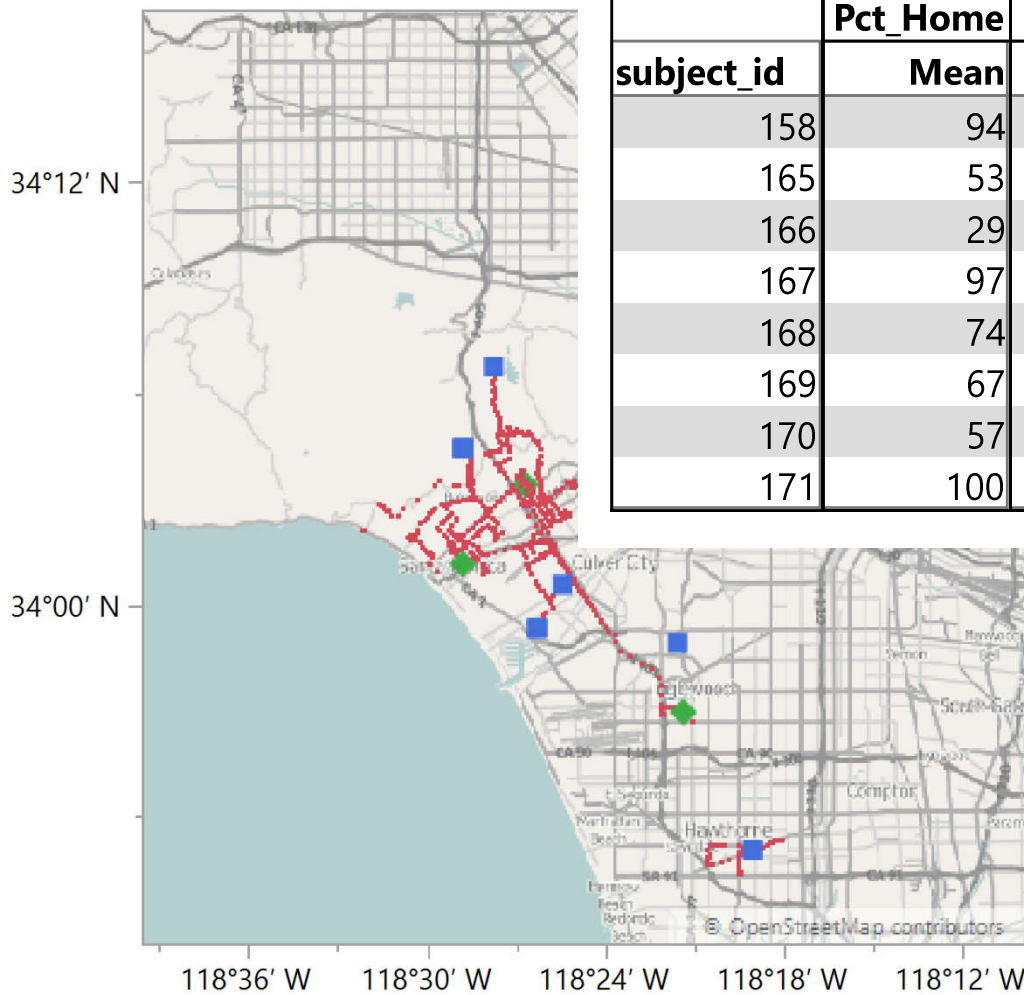


# Preliminary Data Explorations (n=9)



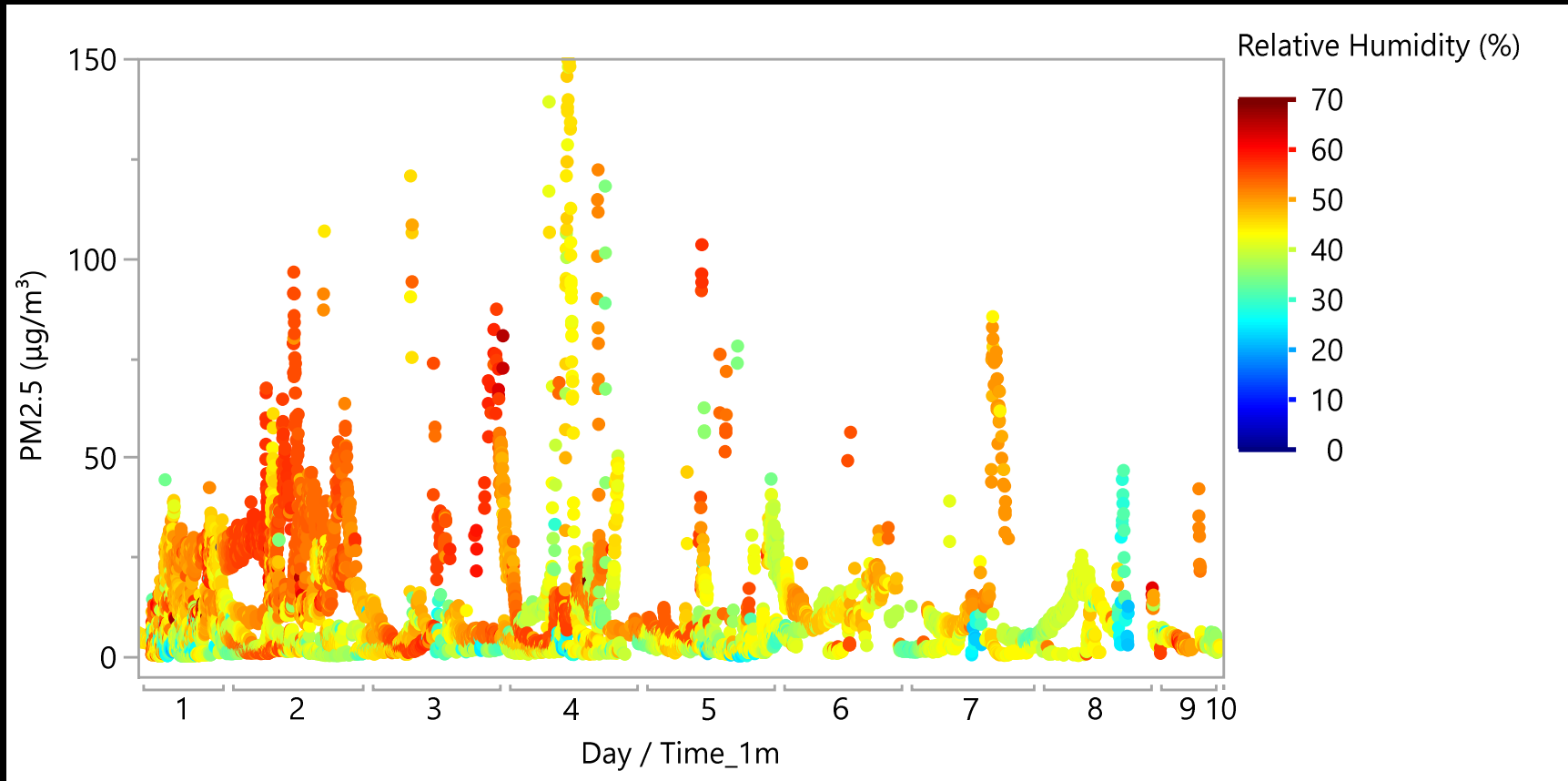


# GPS



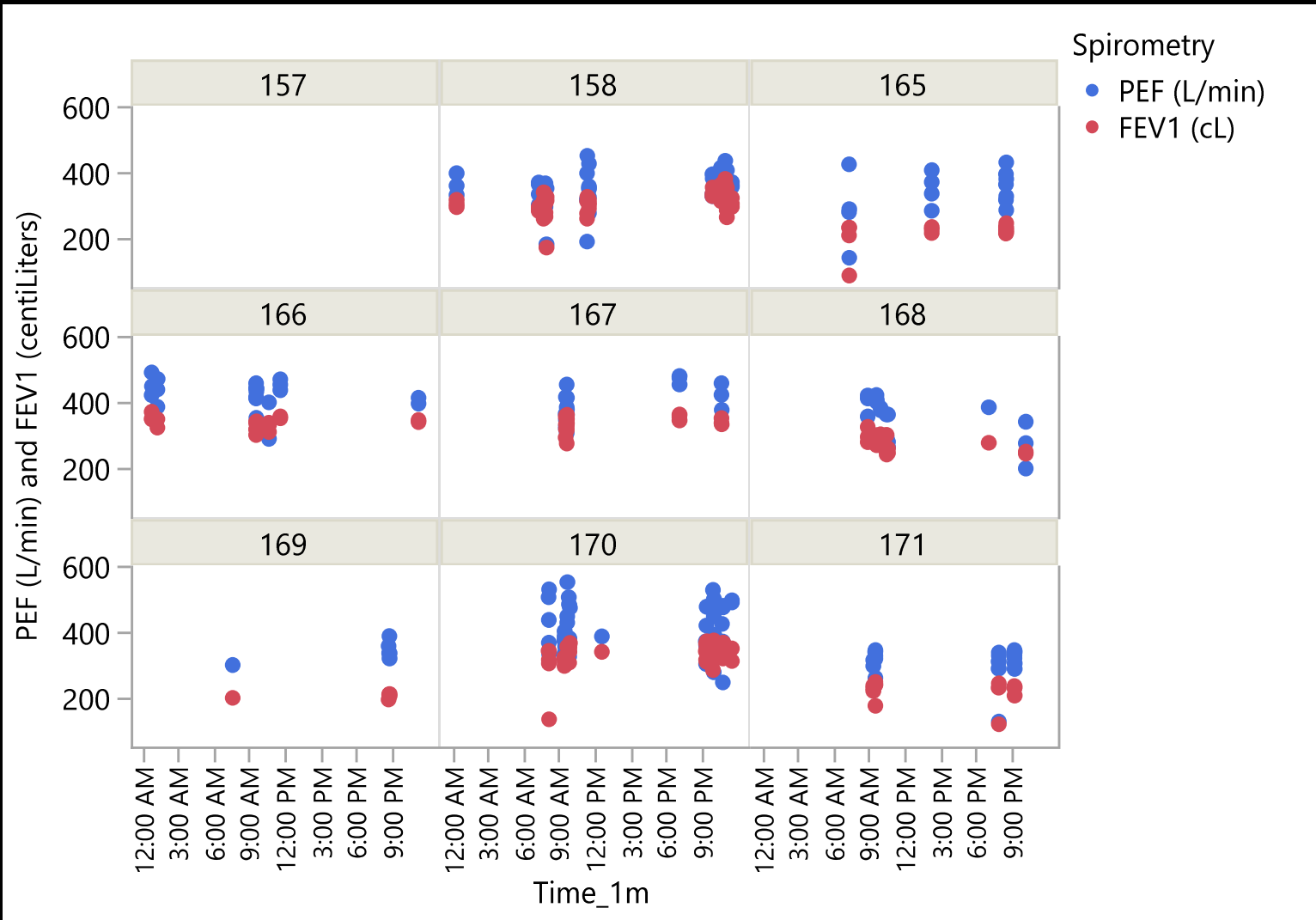
	Pct_Home	Pct_Second_Place	Pct_Indoors
subject_id	Mean	Mean	Mean
158	94	0	95
165	53	43	96
166	29	60	89
167	97	0	97
168	74	1	75
169	67	0	67
170	57	26	83
171	100	0	100

# AirBeam, Personal PM<sub>2.5</sub>

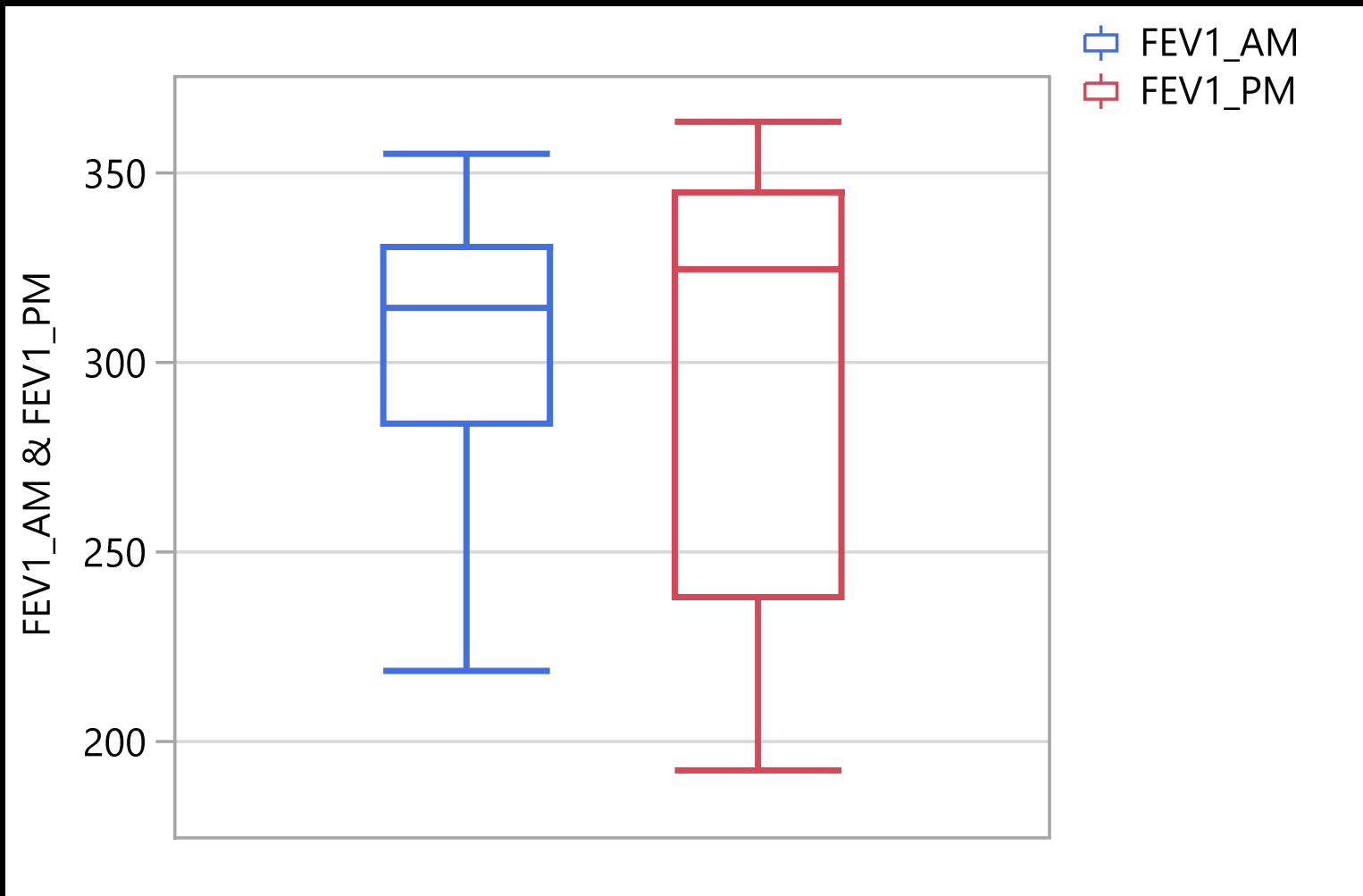


\*NOT calibrated yet

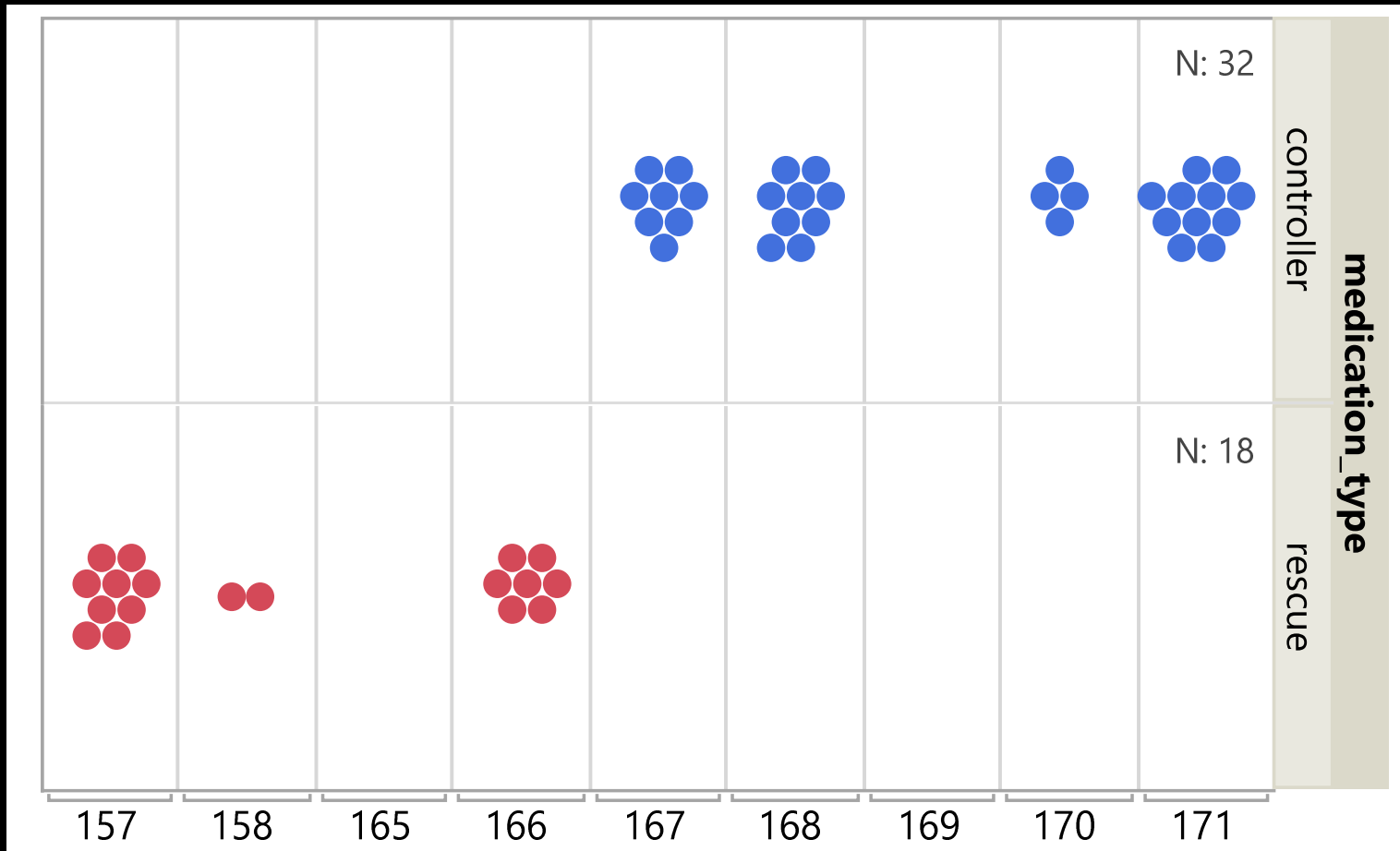
# Lung Function



# Diurnal Variability in Lung Function



# Controller and Rescue Medication Use



Propeller sensors

## **\*\*Preliminary\*\* Health Models (n=9)**

- Basic mixed effects model at day-level (j), random intercept for subject (i)

$$Y_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_i + X_{ij} + \varepsilon$$

- PEF lability or % diurnal variation as marker of airway responsiveness (Redell et al, BMJ. 1999; 319(7201): 45–47)

PEF Lability, n=13 person-days			
Effect	Est	Std Error	Pr >  t
Intercept	-12.6052	5.3777	0.0661
<b>lag_PM</b>	<b>0.7834</b>	<b>0.4691</b>	<b>0.1459</b>

Please do not cite.

# **\*\*Preliminary\*\* Health Models (n=9)**

- FEV<sub>1</sub> (PM, afternoon)
- Cough Score

## **FEV1 (PM), n=25 person-days**

Effect	Est	Std Err	Pr >  t
Intercept	296.67	21.5493	<.0001
<b>PM</b>	<b>-0.9281</b>	<b>0.4526</b>	<b>0.0570</b>

## **Cough, n=16 person-days**

Effect	Est	Std Err	Pr >  t
Intercept	-2.2467	1.7899	0.2777
<b>lag_PM</b>	<b>0.1750</b>	<b>0.1485</b>	<b>0.2659</b>

## **Cough, adjusted for % time spent indoors, n=16 person-days**

Effect	Est	Std Err	Pr >  t
Intercept	10.9610	29.3630	0.7337
<b>lag_PM</b>	<b>0.7172</b>	<b>0.3631</b>	<b>0.0765</b>
Pct_Indo ors	-0.2214	0.3601	0.5524

Please do not cite.

# Innovation for Pediatric Asthma Research



- Very promising early exploratory findings with very limited, small sample size pilot data
- Individualized 'trigger discovery' at high time and space resolutions, looking at *multiple* environmental *exposures, behaviors* and *psychological factors in context*
- Need sensor-based health studies to answer research questions – minutes to hour scales
  - Need health outcomes assessment at matching time resolution!
  - Repeated measures designs are very powerful

**BREATHE: Biomedical REA-Time Health Evaluation**



# Thank You

- Questions? [habre@usc.edu](mailto:habre@usc.edu)
- Acknowledgements
  - The Los Angeles PRISMS Center team, led by Dr. Alex Bui (UCLA), NIH U54 EB022002
    - Majid Sarrafzadeh and Anahita Hosseini (P1)
    - Rose Rochio and the OIT Mobilize Team
    - Frank Gilliland, Sandrah Eckel, Genevieve Dunton and the USC team
    - Sande Okelo and the UCLA Pediatric Pulmonology team
    - <http://www.mii.ucla.edu/research/projects/prisms/>
  - The NIH/NIBIB PRISMS Program: Pediatric Research Using Integrated Sensor Monitoring Systems
    - <https://www.nibib.nih.gov/research-funding/prisms>