Asthma Gene Discovery Brings Hope:

BBC News Health Section reported this on Feb. 21 2001 : Asthma Gene Discovery Brings Hope. Its opening sentence stated that, “Scientists have discovered an asthma gene which could lead to the development of better treatments.” The break down of statements made in the article is as follows:

**Abstract Statements (What was the goal of the study?)**

“Discovered an asthma gene which could lead to the development of better treatments”

**Introductory Statements (How is this study placed in context?)**

“Asthma affects 3.4 million people in the UK alone and is the most common chronic childhood disease”

“One in seven children have asthma symptoms which need treatment”

**Methods Statements (How the study was conducted?)**

“More than 300 families of asthma sufferers from the South Coast volunteered to take part in the project and were screed for the gene. “

**Results Statements (What led them to their conclusions?)**

“Found five potential candidates for the gene”

**Discussion Statements (What implications does this have?)**

“This gene could account for as many as 40% of asthma cases”

“The scientists… hope to use this information to create drugs to fight the disease”

**Quotations**

1) “The discovery of this gene is an important advance in our understanding of the genetic causes of asthma” –Prof. Stephen Holgate

2) “In the 25 years since I have been doing asthma research this is the biggest discovery that’s been made. Its going to change the whole way we look at the disease” –Prof. Stephen Holgate

3) “This gene was very, very strongly linked to asthma- like a million to one.” –Prof. Stephen Holgate

4) This was a big surprise. Usually with a complex disease there are so many genes with a small contribution, but this is a major one. It could account for 40 % of clinical presentations.” –Prof. Stephen Holgate

**Information density:** Very Mild

**Audience:** Common Reader

**What Does The Title Suggest:**

The discovery of the function of a gene could lead to asthma treatments

**Subject Matter Breakdown:**

**Heavy:** Quotes, implications for study

**Medium:** Asthma prevalence,

**Light:**  Methods and Data