EAACI President-Elect
Cezmi Akdis

EAACI Fellowships
Awards 2010

Science in Brief:
Immunotherapy
and more...

EAACI – excellence in allergy
Dear readers,

Here we are at the end of the summer of 2010! I hope you enjoyed part of it as a member of our EAACI family. The Academy invited us all to the largest Allergy & Clinical Immunology Congress ever – more than 8,000 people registered for the meeting from more than 100 countries. The Congress featured 375 speakers, more than 2,000 abstracts, and 224 separate sessions, a challenging knowledge examination (43 candidates from 23 countries took part in this high-standard examination), 5 Allergy Schools, and 2 portals to the latest and hottest news (the EAACI website and Allergy News) to surf on.

This Newsletter issue opens a new window to show you the huge amount of activity and the fast pace of progress within our Academy, from the Scientific Programme Committee to the Communication Council, from EAACI leadership to our Sections, Interest Groups, and JMAs. It’s easy to see that the vision that EAACI President Jan Lötvall has for the EAACI, of reaching out and achieving excellence in Allergy, is becoming a reality.

Stay tuned! There is more to come: topic-focused meetings in October and November, the 2011 EAACI Congress in Istanbul aiming to help Allergy research to cross all borders, new web-based journals, new collaborations with the WAO and the AAAAI, applications for the 2011 EAACI Fellowships, the course “How to prepare for the EAACI Knowledge Exam”, elections in the Section and IG boards and other EAACI governing bodies. How to choose? We have sketched an EAACI events calendar pinpointing the main events in the busy life of our Academy.

The EAACI path to success continues – Cezmi Akdis, EAACI President-Elect, announces a very ambitious plan for our Academy in the spirit of scientific excellence, democracy, and teamwork, for the years to come.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank all my collaborators for their hard work and dedication. I hope you enjoy the reports from the London Congress, the reports with a special focus on allergen-specific immunotherapy, the updates offered by our Sections and IGs, and the JMA guide for their new colleagues joining the EAACI.

Ioana Agache
Editor of the EAACI Newsletter
The highly successful 2010 EAACI Congress in London attracted audiences from 109 countries. It was the largest Allergy Congress ever organized in the world, with more than 8,000 delegates and 2,000 presented abstracts. This extraordinarily strong presence shows that clinicians and scientists in the field of allergy, throughout the world, are reaching out to the EAACI to communicate their science, to be inspired, and to obtain extended training. This of course means that the EAACI must do the same – we must reach out beyond our previous limits. And that is exactly what the EAACI is doing right now, in several vital ways.

The EAACI is arranging additional Mini-Congresses in addition to the annual Congress, to reach out beyond the traditional EAACI audience. This year, three additional events include the International Symposium of Molecular Allergology (ISMA, Munich Germany, 29th-31st October 2010), the European Rhinitis and Asthma Meeting (ERAM, Brussels Belgium, 4-6th November 2010), and the Skin Allergy Meeting (SAM, Venice Italy, 11-13th November 2010). The EAACI will also organize a Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting (FAAM) in 2011, as well as the second Pediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting (PAAM). The EAACI targets these important events at creating additional platforms for communicating science and clinical education in every field connected to allergy. The strategy behind arranging these additional EAACI events is simply to provide platforms to spread knowledge about all aspects of allergic disease beyond our previous audiences.

The EAACI is also intensifying its communications efforts in several ways, including broadening its online presence, again with the aim of reaching out to the world. The EAACI website www.eaaci.net underwent a major facelift last year, and innovative websites that complement www.eaaci.net are being developed, including the recent interactive scientific news-site www.theallergynews.com, while a third website aiming to reach a public audience is under development. Furthermore, the EAACI is establishing additional journals to complement our major journals Allergy and Pediatric Allergy and Immunology. The new EAACI journals will again be web-based and all content will be open access. In establishing all these communications platforms, once more EAACI reaches out to scientists, doctors, and patients other than those that come to the EAACI Congress or Mini-Congresses.

The EAACI is also liaising with major international organizations in the allergy and asthma field, and we have good collaboration with the World Allergy Organization (WAO) and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI), while collaboration with other organizations is being initiated. Specifically, in 2013 the EAACI Congress will be arranged in collaboration with the WAO in Italy, and the Scientific Programme Committee is currently being established. The EAACI is also closely collaborating with the AAAAI in a programme called Practical Allergology (PRACTALL), which focuses on the practical aspects of managing allergies. A PRACTALL meeting discussing the phenotypes of asthma was organized in January 2010, and other PRACTALL activities are planned. These examples of successful collaboration clarify how exceptional the relationship is between international allergy associations, and that our goal is largely the same. My personal vision is that a substantially extended international collaboration in the field of allergy and asthma among these and other organizations can grow much further, and would strengthen the awareness of allergy on a global basis. I will dedicate a substantial portion of the last year of my Presidency to achieving this specific long-term goal. The EAACI is reaching out.

Jan Lötvall
EAACI President
Meet the Person Behind

This issue features Susanne Rothschild, EAACI Congress Manager

Tell us about yourself

I was born in Sweden and have lived my whole life in Stockholm – except for the two years that I spent in Paris – before moving to Zurich at the beginning of September last year. I speak and write English, German, and French in addition to my mother tongue, which is Swedish. I have always loved communicating with people – if possible in their own language – and when I was a young teenager I started travelling around Europe to meet people from other countries. Before joining the EAACI I worked as a PCO (Professional Congress Organizer) with Congrex Sweden, where I was Project Manager for the annual EAACI Congresses from 2000. As a result, I was very familiar with EAACI Congresses when I was hired to work at the EAACI HQ in 2009!

What kinds of responsibilities are covered by the Congress Manager umbrella?

Tell us about the different areas of your work.

As Congress Manager of the EAACI, I am responsible for finding the right venues for the Congresses and especially for the new Mini-Congresses. I also negotiate the contracts with PCOs and then I follow up the budgets, etc. during the entire process of planning the Congresses. I am the main contact with the PCOs, the Organizing Committees, the venues, etc. I promote the Congress at other meetings as well as being responsible for the EAACI booth at each Congress.

I am the contact person for our Founder Sponsors, who are our preferred partners when it comes to funding our Congresses. An association such as the EAACI also holds many internal meetings, where I am also responsible for the practical organization.

Why does it take up to three years of planning to organize an EAACI Congress?

This is actually a quite interesting question, one that I have often heard before. Some people seem to think that organizing congresses only involves registering the names for the badges and ordering the coffee! However, if you imagine bringing 8,000 people into a Congress venue, where you have rented a completely empty building, you can probably understand that there is a lot more to it than that! At least three years before the Congress, you need to start planning the number of rooms that you will need, to invite speakers, and to start making plans for the exhibition area. Then you have to start promoting the Congress, producing printed material, and spreading information about it around the world. Hotel rooms have to be booked for thousands of people and the social programme has to be planned.

How do you research your venues?

I travel to places that could be interesting for our Congresses. I negotiate prices with the venues and make sure they have the necessary room facilities – including an international airport, sufficient number of hotel rooms, etc. I also negotiate with city authorities.

Are there any challenges in your job?

As in many other jobs, of course there are challenges. When it comes to organizing huge meetings for people from different countries and cultures there are always a lot of things that can happen. There are deadlines to be kept, but when you depend on other people it is not always easy to be sure that you can keep them ... Cities may have different political issues that we have to deal with... and others may have fewer hotel rooms than originally promised.

Are you an EAACI Member?

Here are just a few of the benefits Members receive:

- Discount on registration fees to EAACI annual congresses.
- Subscription to ALLERGY Journal and the Pediatric Allergy and Immunology Journal including supplements.
- Online access to the official EAACI journals.
- The EAACI Newsletter.

For more information contact: info@eaaci.net | www.eaaci.net
EAACI 2010 was a huge success, by any standards. More than 8,000 people registered for the meeting, more than 2,000 abstracts were submitted, and there were 2,24 separate sessions to choose from. Despite volcanic ash, threatened transportation strikes, and global economic worries, people came to London from more than 100 countries. Fortunately, the main problem for delegates at the Congress was how to choose from all that was on offer!

From the nurses’ programme and the postgraduate courses on Saturday to the closing sessions on Wednesday, the halls were busy with lively discussions and challenging debates. I particularly enjoyed the excellent plenary talks on the hygiene hypothesis and asthma phenotypes, and the outstanding Jack Pepys Lecture on anaphylaxis by Estelle Simons. Another personal highlight was the cases and clinical wisdom at the “bring your own patient” sessions. Press interest in the meeting was high, with more than 50 journalists attending the Congress, and many articles were published and broadcast, during the meeting and afterwards.

Our science and commerce were complemented by a varied social programme. The opening ceremony celebrated British choral and orchestral music, finishing with a rousing rendition of “Land of Hope and Glory” with enthusiastic audience participation. Afterwards the Bootleg Beatles gave us further opportunities to sing old favourites and dance the evening away. On Tuesday evening our Junior Members went on a boat trip along the River Thames with dining and disco – judging by the photographs everyone had a great time.

Elly Simons. Another personal highlight was the cases and clinical wisdom at the “bring your own patient” sessions. Press interest in the meeting was high, with more than 50 journalists attending the Congress, and many articles were published and broadcast, during the meeting and afterwards.

Our science and commerce were complemented by a varied social programme. The opening ceremony celebrated British choral and orchestral music, finishing with a rousing rendition of “Land of Hope and Glory” with enthusiastic audience participation. Afterwards the Bootleg Beatles gave us further opportunities to sing old favourites and dance the evening away. On Tuesday evening our Junior Members went on a boat trip along the River Thames with dining and disco – judging by the photographs everyone had a great time.

The business of these pre-Congress SPC meetings includes the search for overlaps, the assigning of speakers, and the rearrangements of sessions to provide a smooth and convincing flow of subjects at every Congress. The meeting analysed all sessions and their flow as well as placement in the Congress programme and modifications were suggested, where needed.

This work also includes the search for interesting provocative titles as well as the elimination of spelling errors and other minor mistakes. All SPC members unanimously supported and praised the final, almost complete programme, and Lars Poulsen was congratulated for his leadership amid general agreement that the Executive Committee made an excellent choice in choosing him as the new SPC Coordinator.

All in all, the SPC concluded that the Istanbul Congress will be exciting if not even slightly overwhelming in its programming, with a balanced content from review sessions to cutting-edge science in the field of Allergology and Clinical Immunology.

The SPC meets again in February 2011 for the so-called Marathon Meeting, in which the programme is finalised and oral abstract and thematic poster sessions added. EAACI members, as well as everybody working with allergy and immunology, are encouraged to submit your work in the form of abstracts for the Istanbul Congress.

We look forward to seeing you there and learning about your work and research.

Cezmi Akdis
EAACI President-Elect
EAACI Vice-President

Christian Virchow
EAACI SPC-Coordinator

Lars Poulsen
EAACI SPC-Coordinator-Elect
Fellowship Awards 2010

Exchange Research Fellowship Award

Long Term

Marija Macesic, Croatia

Medium Term

Chaido-Niki Makrinioti, Greece

Short Term

Aleksandra Szczepankiewicz, Poland

Martin Schwarzer, Czech Republic

Sidsel Johnsmark, Denmark

Mario Blekic, Croatia

XiangDong Wang, China

Dries Van Hemelen, The Netherlands

Virginia Bellido Linares, Spain

Youcef Shahali, France

Clinical Fellowship Award

Ayten Kazimova, Azerbaijan

Katerina Lagara, Greece

Mariela Milla Pimentel, Peru

Evangelia Stefanaki, Greece
The Award was first established in 2000 on the initiative of Allergopharma Joachim Ganzer KG and in collaboration with the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. It is intended that the Award should recognize scientific achievement on the part of younger members of the EAACI in the field of allergy and encourage their engagement in further research. Applications for the Award are therefore restricted to members or affiliates of the EAACI, under the age of 40 years, who have conducted their research in a European centre.

An application for consideration for the award shall take the form of a full research paper published in an international peer reviewed journal in 2008/2010, together with a covering letter and curriculum vitae including a list of publications. The applications will be considered by an ad hoc Commission nominated by the EAACI Executive Committee and Allergopharma. The eleventh Award will be presented during the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Congress, Istanbul 2011.

Applications should be submitted before 31 December 2010 electronically to both the EAACI Head-quarters (silvia.schaller@eaaci.net) and Allergopharma (oliver.cromwell@allergopharma.de). The research paper, curriculum vitae and a covering letter should be included as three separate attachments. If this is not possible, then postal applications can be sent to EAACI Head-quarters, Genferstrasse 21, CH-8002 Zurich, Switzerland (Tel.: +41 44 205 55 33).

Allergopharma Joachim Ganzer KG is committed to furthering excellence in allergy diagnosis and specific immunotherapy through investment in scientific research.
Communicating is the main business of the EAACI. We communicate science among our peers at our annual Congress, where we act as a platform to forward all the very newest research, as well as serving as a very good meeting point for interaction between many professionals working in Allergy and Clinical Immunology. But we also employ other communication tools, which are the result of the efforts of the Communication Council. I will highlight just some of the developments of the last year.

As you all know, our website eaaci.net underwent a major overhaul in autumn 2009, led by Website Editor Chrysanthi Skevaki, updating the design and facilitating easier navigation for the user. It provides all the relevant information regarding the activities of the EAACI, direct links to our Congress and Mini-Congress websites, and also handouts from our Congress. Our second EAACI website theallergynews.com was launched in March. This is an extremely useful tool, since it provides the most recent papers published in the field of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, with very frequent updates. These can easily be consulted online, using the website to link directly to the abstract, and even post comments for discussion! And as you know, the EAACI has expanded its profile to Facebook and Twitter, making communication fast and easy. So don’t forget to become a fan!

Regarding our official journals, both Allergy and Pediatric Allergy and Immunology (PAI) have undergone some changes. I would like to thank the previous editors, Jean Bousquet and John Warner, for their work. The new editorial teams are led by Hans-Uwe Simon and Thomas Bieber in Allergy and by Ulrich Wahn in PAI. The covers and the layout have been updated to provide a fresher image for the journals – and the figures show us that these are high-quality publications. The 2009 Impact Factor for Allergy is 6.380, making it second of 21 in the category of Allergy; for PAI, it is 2.676, ranking it seventh in the category of Allergy and eleventh of 94 in Pediatrics.

I would like to congratulate the new editor of this Newsletter, Ioana Agache, who is implementing many good ideas to make this publication a window to show our members (and also non-members) what the EAACI is doing. It is not an easy job, since it is difficult to get contributions from collaborators (and to get them in time!). I must also thank Claus Bachert for all his work as previous editor of this Newsletter, as he set the guidelines for making it the fine communication tool it is today.

Last, but not least, you must have noticed that the EAACI has extensively updated its image. Since the 2009 Congress, when the new logo was presented, our new branding has reached all corners of the EAACI, building a strong and coherent identity for our Academy. And this has been possible thanks to the work of our Communications team at Headquarters, Panthea Sayah and Cristina Achiaga.

We are already planning some new developments for next year, so stay tuned!

Victoria Cardona, EAACI Vice-President Communication & Membership
The 2011 EAACI Congress in Istanbul will bridge culture and science and cross borders in all disciplines related to allergic disease.

The Congress will strongly emphasise the fact that allergology, as a discipline, does not have any frontiers. As multi-organ, multi-system diseases, allergic diseases are related to several medical disciplines. Allergy research recognises no frontiers and is related to many areas of research. Our Scientific Programme Committee and Local Organizing Committee have been working very hard to present the best scientific programme that can highlight these concepts.

The scientific programme at the next Congress will address not only allergists, but also many specialists and general practitioners. We aim to show that allergic patients can be served best when we cross the borders between medical disciplines. The 2010 EAACI Congress in London featured more than 8,000 participants from 110 countries all around the world – showing that our EAACI Congresses accept no geographic or cultural boundaries.

Istanbul is a gate and connecting point between the East and the West. It will provide a platform for inclusion for many more members from around the world. The city will make a wonderful venue for our EAACI Congress. The congress centre is located right at the heart of the city, featuring a bed capacity exceeding 10,000 within walking distance. This never-sleeping city boasts fantastic cuisine, history, cultural sites, and geographic sights.

Cezmi Akdis
EAACI President-Elect
EAACI Vice-President Congresses
Mission Statement
Our Academy has showed very significant growth and become the worldwide leading association in Allergy during the last decade. We aim to continue to nurture this startling success and healthy growth, focusing in particular on improving certain areas to better serve the Allergy and Clinical Immunology community.

I intend to focus especial attention on Education and Speciality, working to build online education opportunities, Task Forces in strategic areas, new Interest Groups in epidemiology, and the integration of the education of general practitioners, the public, and patients. I will pay additional attention to communication and membership, on how to improve communication with individual members, general practitioners, and non-member specialists, and to provide a new dialogue to continuously receive feedback. My special focus in democracy and the dissemination of information will be to involve and embrace all members in the decision-making and scientific programming of our Academy. We need to discuss and collect feedback concerning whether and how we should extend transparency and elections to other bodies of our Academy.

It goes without saying that the EAACI will continue to organize the best annual congresses with the most up-to-date scientific and social programmes to guarantee total participant satisfaction. We will continue our tremendously effective collaboration with other international allergy societies, building a shared successful future on our shared strengths.

I believe in teamwork, transparency, education, and the wider distribution of leadership. We shall build on our shared strengths to move our dynamic Academy into the future.

It is my very great honour and pleasure to take this active role in our Academy.

Cezmi Akdis
EAACI President-Elect
EAACI Vice-President Congresses

www.theallergynews.com is a one-stop portal to the absolutely latest and very best scientific publications in the field of Allergy. On this site, we list only the most interesting articles immediately after their publication in the top allergy journals. No matter which key field of Allergy interests you, it is a matter of moments before you find papers you did not even know you were looking for!

The site is divided into four fields: Asthma & Rhinitis; Skin, Food and Drug Allergy; Immunotherapy/Allergen; and Immunology in Allergy. The most recent publications in each field are listed with the title on the front page. You can link straight to the abstract, and then in a second step to the journal website and the original publication. With www.theallergynews.com you are always up to date with the latest in allergy science, every day, 365 days of the year.

Jan Lötvall
EAACI President
Editor www.theallergynews.com
On 5th June, the 3rd European Examination in Allergology and Clinical Immunology took place in London. Applications were initially received from 52 candidates. A total 43 candidates from 23 countries sat the exam: 10 from Switzerland, 4 from Germany, 4 from Greece, 3 from Slovenia, 3 from Spain, 2 from France, and 1 candidate from each of Belgium, Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Turkey, the UK, and the U.S. A total six participants from outside Europe took the examination, from Canada, India, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates, and the U.S. All applications were made via the EAACI, none via the UEMS. For most Arab Emirates, and the U.S. All applications were made via the EAACI, none via the UEMS. For most nations, participation is facultative; however the examination is mandatory and an integral part of the examination process.

A total six participants from outside Europe took the examination, from Canada, India, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates, and the U.S. All applications were made via the EAACI, none via the UEMS. For most Arab Emirates, and the U.S. All applications were made via the EAACI, none via the UEMS. For most nations, participation is facultative; however the examination is mandatory and an integral part of the official board exam in Allergology and Clinical Immunology in Switzerland.

On average, 67.0% of a possible 112 points was achieved with a standard deviation of 11.0% and a range between 38.4% and 87.5%. The standard (cut-off point) was set at 65 points or 58.0% (correct answers). A total 35 of the 43 candidates (81.4%) passed the examination.

The quality of the examination (its internal consistency) in consideration of its relatively small sample of candidates was high: the measurement reliability (Cronbach-Alpha) was 0.89 (0.8 would be the internationally required minimum for high stakes examinations with more candidates).

The examination was based mainly on revised questions from the question pool used in 2009 and new questions prepared by Task Force members and different centres (particular thanks goes to Gabriella Pauli). The questions were evaluated by Werner Pichler, Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier, and the IML (Institute for Medical Teaching, Bern), and 117 questions were finally selected by the Task Force chairman and the IML for this examination.

The selection process in 2009, on which the 2010 examination is based, followed the blueprint, indicating the required knowledge for the examination. It comprised questions about basic immunology and some about clinical immunology (autoimmunity and immune deficiency), at about 15% of all questions for each of these fields. The majority of questions (ca. 70%) covered all topics of allergology (allergens, dermatological and respiratory allergy, anaphylaxis and venom hypersensitivity, drug hypersensitivity, food hypersensitivity, pediatric allergology, issues such as pregnancy and allergology, professional allergies, eosinophilic disorders, mastocytosis, CI-INH deficiency, etc.). The examination comprised type A questions (one answer of 5 is correct), and type Kprime questions (4 answers of which each one might be correct or false). As revealed by the IML report, the examination itself had a high standard. Candidates were allowed to use dictionaries to facilitate linguistic understanding.

Candidates were offered the opportunity to comment on the exam in general and the questions in detail. Many general comments were very positive, citing balanced questions, a pleasant atmosphere, and excellent facilities. Some criticism was made of the time allowance and some specific questions that were too focused on certain details. All this feedback is very much appreciated to further improve the EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Exam.

Significant appreciation goes to Sladjana Scepan from EAACI Headquarters, who organized not only the Exam but also the applications, correspondence, and all related matters; Tina Schurter from IML Bern for a very proper and detailed statistical analysis of the Exam; and the London LOC for assigning us an excellently prepared room with perfect sitting facilities – and with super views of the docks for moments of reflection when not answering questions.

For the future, the TF for the EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Examination will update the blueprint and create new, actual, and relevant questions for the pool. A course on “How to prepare for the EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Exam” will be held during the annual EAACI Congress in Istanbul to enable candidates with limited experience of answering MC questions to pass an exam successfully.

And last, but not least: The 4th EAACI/UEMS Examination in Allergology/Clinical Immunology will take place during the annual EAACI Congress in Istanbul, on Saturday, June 11th 2011.
# EAACI Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Abstract deadline for upcoming EAACI Congress  
• Deadline for Travel Grant application for upcoming EAACI Congress  
• EAACI Newsletter | • Marathon Meeting for upcoming EAACI Congress (finalising scientific programme)  
• Early Fee deadline for upcoming EAACI Congress  
• First meeting of Scientific Programme Committee for EAACI Congress following year  
• Winter School |  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|  | • Section Board member election - email voting (odd years: 2011, 2013, etc.)  
• Deadline for middle registration fee for upcoming EAACI Congress  
• EAACI Newsletter | | • EAACI Congress  
• EAACI General Assembly  
• EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Examination - Saturday at 11:00 during EAACI Congress  
• Postcards for EAACI Congress taking place in two years distributed |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|  |  | • Deadline for budget requests for activities in the following year  
• EAACI Newsletter |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Call for topics for EAACI Congress in following year | • Call for abstract submission for Winter School  
• Abstract deadline for Winter School  
• Yearly budget approval by the Executive Committee  
• Online registration opens for upcoming EAACI Congress  
• Online abstract submission opens for upcoming EAACI Congress  
• Preliminary Programme for following EAACI Congress published  
• Postcards for EAACI Congress taking place in two years distributed with Preliminary Programme for upcoming EAACI Congress |  |

This calendar is intended to inform EAACI members about some of our Academy’s most important dates, which may vary slightly from year to year.
**ISMA 2010**

4th International Symposium on Molecular Allergology

29 – 31 October 2010 · Munich, Germany

**Topics to be presented:**
- Pathophysiology - Clinical Picture and Management of Atopic Dermatitis
- Contact Dermatitis - Cutaneous Drug Allergy - Food Allergy and Skin
- Cutaneous Mastocytosis - Occupational Dermatitis - Urticaria/Angioedema

**www.eaaci-sam2010.com**

---

**ERAM/SERIN 2010**

European Rhinitis and Asthma Meeting

SQUARE Brussels Meeting Centre
Brussels, Belgium, 4-6 November 2010

**Highlights**
- Upper-lower airways interactions
- Epidemiology of co-morbidities
- The natural course of airway disease
- Phenotypes – phenotypes – phenotypes!
- Treatments for both asthma and rhinitis
- Pediatric rhinitis/rhinosinusitis
- Severe chronic airway disease
- T cell signatures in airway mucosa
- Dendritic cells and the epithelium
- Genetics and Epigenetics of airway diseases
- Innate immunity: PAMPs and DAMPs
- Viral impact on airway disease
- Superantigens in airway disease
- Chronic infection in the airways

**www.eaaci-eram-serin2010.com**

---

**First Announcement**

**SAM 2010**

SKIN ALLERGY MEETING

Venice, Italy, 11-13 November 2010

**Topics to be presented:**
- Pathophysiology - Clinical Picture and Management of Atopic Dermatitis
- Contact Dermatitis - Cutaneous Drug Allergy - Food Allergy and Skin
- Cutaneous Mastocytosis - Occupational Dermatitis - Urticaria/Angioedema

**www.eaaci-sam2010.com**
In modern allergy diagnosis, the responsiveness to allergen suggested by the clinical history of an allergic patient should be confirmed by ex vivo or by in vitro tests. These laboratory tests come under the area of interest of the Interest Group for Allergy Diagnosis (IGAD). The commonly used in vitro test is the determination of specific IgE, whereas the ex vivo test may be histamine release or up-regulation of surface molecules CD63 or CD203c on basophil granulocytes, known as BAT, the basophil activation test.

In the last decade, specific IgE testing has expanded from using only standardised extracts of allergen sources to more precisely defined purified natural or recombinant allergens. This gives the allergist access to knowledge about the identity of allergenic molecules recognised by specific IgE. Are they members of one large Pan-allergen group such as PR-10 allergens with Bet v1 on basophil granulocytes, known as BAT, the basophil activation test.

The symposium will cover aspects of allergenic molecules with an emphasis on the transition from complex extracts to molecular entities. Top international experts will address topics covering the structural, allergenic, and diagnostic aspects of molecular allergology. Furthermore, the participants at the meeting will discuss contributions on the application of other technologies such as microtechnologies and Information Technologies. Check through the programme for the ISMA on the banner on the www.allergome.org website or on www.eaaci.isma2010.com directly.

Measuring specific IgE is a step in the right direction, however, we still only measure one interaction between IgE and an allergen, whilst an allergic response requires two simultaneous interactions of allergen with IgE on the same effector cell. This is simulated in the ex vivo tests based on basophil granulocytes.

Edward Knol and IngeTerstappen arranged the 3rd EuroBAT meeting on 14-15th October 2009 in Rotterdam, Netherlands, with 67 participants from 17 countries, together with the ENDA meeting. Preliminary reports of a European collaboration, and the application of the BAT in food and drug allergy (no, this is not the new FDA!), and insect sting allergy were the major topics at the meeting. Two invited lecturers on basic basophil biology broadened the horizon of the participants beyond p-values in clinical trials. The basophil activation group is really divided into one camp that wants to develop the best ex vivo test, and the other group that is willing to use more time to explore the responsiveness of the basophil more thoroughly. No doubt both approaches are valid, but are useful in different scenarios.

Bernadette Eberlein and an international group of BAT enthusiasts will arrange the next EuroBAT meeting on 31st October-1st November 2010 in Munich, Germany, just after the ISMA 2010. Visit www.basophil.org to see the programme.

We look forward to meeting you all at the EAACI Congress in London – attend our business meeting to meet people you share an interest with, and get involved!

Hans Jürgen Hoffmann
Denmark
Adriano Mari
Italy
Markus Ollert
Germany
The ABC Guide for new Junior Members & Affiliates (JMAs)

Activities The EAACI organizes activities such as Congresses, Mini-Congresses, and Winter/Summer Allergy Schools every year. As a JMA, you may submit your abstracts and apply for travel grants that provide free registration and coverage of travel and accommodation expenses. JMAs operate their own sessions (JMA Poster Session, Scientific Symposium, Educational Session, Case Reports Session, Practical Courses, Business Meetings, and social events) during the annual EAACI Congresses, as well as during other smaller meetings.

Become active: Your own DOI-registered Case Report can now be published on the EAACI website! Just contact Dr Chrysanthi Skevaki (JMA Chairperson and EAACI Website Editor cskevaki@allergy.gr) or Dr Rodrigo Rodrigues Alves (JMA webmaster rodrigosalves@gmail.com) for more information. Use this opportunity to challenge your international colleagues with interesting cases from your daily clinical practice.

Contact the JMA Working Group: For any query, problem, or suggestion, do not hesitate to contact us at jma@eaaci.net and we promise to take fast action!

Don’t forget to take part in the JMA Games and Quiz™ series periodically published on the EAACI website under Juniors. Participation provides you with the chance of winning renowned scientific textbooks and travel grants to Congresses.

Exam: All JMAs are entitled to a discount on the fee for taking the EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Examination in Allergology & Clinical Immunology. The exam takes place every year during the annual EAACI Congress and serves as a self-evaluation tool, a means of increasing the standard of this specialty in Europe, and facilitating the exchange of young people trained in Allergology and Clinical Immunology across the continent.

Fellowships: The EAACI offers the opportunity to JMAs to win annual Clinical and Research Fellowship Awards. These awards aim to support the research and training of JMAs, increase the mobility of young researchers within Europe, and spread the implementation of new techniques between European laboratories. Open calls and requirements are published on www.eaaci.net.

The JMA Working Group

Send us your suggestions for the remaining letters in the English alphabet to jma@eaaci.net!
The Pediatrics Section has concentrated its efforts on education, research, and scientific meetings collaborating with other sections, interest groups, and sister societies.

The Education and Training Committee in Pediatric Allergy (ETC-PA) continued to evaluate pediatric allergists according to the Training Syllabus for European Pediatric Allergists. Applications are made by contacting national delegates: a list is available from Jose Lopes Dos Santos, the Secretary of ETC-PA. The Section is participating in the accreditation activity established by EAP (former CESP), which evaluates and approves training centres for pediatric allergology in Europe. This process started in Spain, where to date five centres have been certified according to the “European Visitaton Programme of Centres in Paediatric Allergology” and more than 200 colleagues in Europe have been certified. Arne Høst, Philippe Eigenmann, and Antonella Muraro have started revising the syllabus, and national delegates at the ETC-PA are welcome to participate in this work.

Two Task Forces have been active. The Task Force on The Allergic Child in the School has collaborated with GA²LEN, with the aim of providing guidelines for dealing with the allergic child at school, and this will soon be published as a position paper. The Section plans to implement the recommendations across Europe with the help of the members of the Section. The Task Force on Food Allergy Clinical Practice Guidelines, jointly with the Food Allergy Interest Group and the Section on Dermatology, aims to develop guidelines to assist medical practitioners and other professional and lay organizations in diagnosing and treating food allergy.

Much attention has been paid to the topic primary dietary prevention of allergic diseases in recent decades. Differing recommendations, some with very restrictive prolonged diets for high-risk infants, and extensive reviews were published. Some of these show conflicting results, which may in part be ascribed to differences in design, methods, inclusion criteria, diagnostic criteria, intervention diet and duration, and the population involved. As it is not possible to randomise breastfeeding versus bottle-feeding and because of many possible confounders, it is difficult to reach the highest level of evidence. The EuroPreval group [1] published another review article on infant feeding and allergy prevention in 2009. This paper focussed on the diversity in European national feeding guidelines and on the lack of evidence for these. Additionally, comprehensive reviews were also published by an expert group set up by the EAACI Section on Pediatrics [2,3], GA²LEN [4], ESPGHAN [5] and AAP [6]. They agree on evidence-based recommendations for dietary prevention of allergic disease in the first four months of life only. Breastfeeding is recommended for all infants irrespective of atopic heredity. A dietary regimen is recommended as being effective in preventing allergic diseases in high-risk infants, particularly in early infancy, for food allergy and eczema. For high-risk infants only, the recommended dietary regimen is breast-feeding exclusively for four to six months or, when breast milk is not available, formulas with documented reduced allergenicity combined with an avoidance of solid food and cow’s milk for the first four months. There is no evidence for a protective effect of maternal exclusion diet during pregnancy or lactation, nor is there evidence for a preventive effect of dietary restrictions after the age of four months.

In 2009 the most significant pediatric event was The Pediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting (PAAM) in Venice, November, which was a great success. We would like to thank arranger Antonella Muraro for her vast amount of enthusiastic work.

Susanne Halken
EAACI Chairperson Section on Pediatrics

Graham Roberts
EAACI Secretary Section on Pediatrics

References
Lifestyle and Allergy

The rate of increase of allergic diseases continues. Since approximately one in every four people has an allergic problem, allergy is a significant public health problem. The problem is even more significant among children and adults living in the inner city, where asthma prevalence, morbidity, and mortality rates are much higher.

The increasing prevalence of asthma and allergy might be related to diet, particularly in developed countries. Many studies have been undertaken to assess the association between way of life and allergy.

In terms of dietary factors, it was seen that increased consumption of vegetables, fruit, and fish was associated with a lower lifetime prevalence of asthma, whereas high trans-fatty acid-high consumption was associated with a higher lifetime asthma prevalence, although none of the food items was associated with allergic sensitisation.

Another aspect observed is the high incidence of childhood asthma in poor urban areas with low socio-economic status. Globalisation and high urbanisation are causes of worsening urban environments and the way of life in cities can affect the correct development of the immune system.

Trends of childhood allergies change with age. For example, children aged 6-7 years have a high prevalence of asthma but this rate decreases as they get slightly older. In the same way, there are different rates of allergy related with ethnic factors, being minority populations who have higher prevalence.

The rate of food allergy is increasing in Europe and severe reactions to food are becoming more common. Food allergy due to primary gastrointestinal sensitisation is more frequent in children, including milk, egg, wheat, soy, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, and shellfish main allergens. Allergy also results from crossreactivity after primary respiratory sensitisation to aeroallergens. Typically, this is present in young people and adults and is referred with no severe reactions.

The still insufficient number of studies in this area suggests an inverse relation to the intake of fruit and vegetables, food that is rich in vitamins E and D as well as...
antioxidants, folic acid, and polyunsaturated fatty acids during pregnancy and the development of allergic diseases in babies.

Patients and their families relate the negative impact of allergy on their quality of life, and sometimes these reactions are potentially life-threatening.

The most critical aspect of food allergy is education about avoiding risky foods and the use of medication in emergencies. Avoidance can be complicated, as these allergens are ubiquitous in the diet and may not be detected. Furthermore, only some 40% of patients with severe reactions carry epinephrine. Only some 26% of schools stock it, and those schools are not always well trained in how and when to apply it. Special interest must be paid to adolescents, characterised as a risk group, and their family and teachers should be involved in offering support.

In conclusion, we need more studies to understand the different rates of allergy disease and the risk factors among diverse populations.

Take-home messages: The Mediterranean diet is a good option to avoid allergy developing in young babies. Education about avoiding food allergens and the use of emergency medication is the best therapeutic strategy. More studies are necessary to predict future food tolerance and to develop new ways of treatment.

Virginia Bellido Linares
Unidad de Gestión Clínica de Alergología
Hospital Universitario Virgen Macarena
41009 Seville
Spain

Immunotherapy at EAACI 2010 in London

The London Congress was held just one year before the centenary of the discovery of Specific Allergen Immunotherapy by Leonard Noon, and therefore it represented a special occasion for all clinicians and researchers involved in the field.

Specific allergen immunotherapy (SIT) figured largely at this meeting, with one plenary symposium (dedicated to the future of immunotherapy), three symposia, two workshops, three pro-con sessions, three meet-the-expert sessions, and 10 abstract sessions. At all these sessions, special attention was paid to current and future development in SIT, including new routes of administration (e.g. intralymphatic or epicutaneous), perspectives for new indications (e.g. food allergy or atopic dermatitis), and recent advances in the mechanisms of action. One symposium was dedicated to the state of the art of sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT). Many JMA posters featured immunotherapy, testifying to the viability of interest among our younger colleagues.

Probably for the first time ever, one session was entirely dedicated to the regulatory aspects of SIT in Europe. This is a very relevant topic, which involves the problems of standardisation, named patient products, and the methodology for conducting trials for the new products. It is becoming clear that the EAACI and the SIT Interest Group will have to tackle these problems in a systematic manner in the near future.

The business meeting of the SIT Interest Group was extremely well attended, with more than 80 members, including representatives of manufacturers. Canonica gave an introductory lecture on the SLIT (sublingual immunotherapy) Position Paper by the World Allergy Organization (WAO) and its implications for the future. Points that came up for discussion at the meeting included establishing a standardised symptom score for clinical trials and modifying the recently released indications for paediatric clinical trials.

In addition, the Task Force on the dose dependency of the effects of SIT (chaired by Moises Calderon) produced an advanced version of the document, which is planned for publication in the first months of 2011. This paper will be part of a series of articles published on the occasion of the centenary of SIT. Another Task Force has been approved, with the aim of conducting a pan-European prospective survey on the side effects of SLIT and subcutaneous immunotherapy (SCIT). This ambitious project will involve the use of the more recent grading systems for side effects in association with the definitions of the MeDRA dictionary. Some members of the Interest Group are currently involved in the preparation of a grading system for the side effects of SLIT, which will be part of a WAO initiative. Three summer schools on basic and clinical aspects of immunotherapy have been approved for 2010-2012.

In summary, the 2010 EAACI Congress represented a solid basis and preliminary platform for the forthcoming celebrations of the centenary of SIT in Istanbul 2011, to which it is our pleasure to invite all members of our Academy.

Giovanni Passalacqua, EAACI Chairperson Interest Group on Immunotherapy
Moises Calderon, EAACI Secretary Interest Group on Immunotherapy
Clinical progress in the field of specific immunotherapy was summarized in the last EAAI Newsletter by the EAACI Interest Group on Immunotherapy. However, the future of Specific Immunotherapy (SIT) in Europe depends on the regulatory framework and its implementation. Allergens were subjected to European pharmaceutical legislation in 1989 by the Directive 89/342/EEC [1] reviewed in Lorenz et al. [2]. Directive 2001/83/EC [3] defines an allergen product as “any medicinal product that is intended to identify or induce a specific acquired alteration in the immunological response to an allergizing agent”. Article 2 of this Directive as amended by Directive 2004/27/EC [4] states that “shall apply to medicinal products for human use intended to be placed on the market in Member States and either prepared industrially or manufactured by a method involving an industrial process”. This definition includes almost all products marketed as so-called “Named Patients Products” (NPPs).

Article 6 of Directive 2001/83/EC as amended [5] states that “No medicinal product may be placed on the market of a Member State unless a marketing authorisation has been issued by the competent authorities of that Member State in accordance with this Directive or an authorisation has been granted in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 726/2004...”.

In summary, this regulatory framework defines that:
1. Allergens are medicinal products, and
2. Medicinal products require marketing authorisation.

A specific exemption in the German Medicinal Products Act allows the marketing of preparations for specific immunotherapy as NPPs. To align the German Medicinal Products Act in this regard as much as possible with Directive 2001/83/EC, Germany implemented the “Regulation for Therapy Allergens” [6], which subjects NPPs prepared from industrially manufactured bulks of a number of clinically important source materials to marketing authorisation. The appendix to the regulation lists these allergen sources and preparations containing only one of these allergens alone, as well as mixtures containing one or more allergens from this list are subject to marketing authorisation. The allergens concerned are pollen of grass species from the Poaceae family excepting Poa mays, pollen from Betula sp. (birch), pollen from Alnus sp. (alder), pollen from Corylus sp. (hazel), Dermatophagoides sp. (house dust mites), bee venom, and wasp venom.

Despite the fact that the regulatory framework in the EU is intended to facilitate harmonisation, differing national approaches still exist. In France, for example, a registration procedure for NPPs, but no marketing authorisation process, is implemented for such products. So-called “Umbrella Marketing Authorisations” covering a number of different allergen products without a detailed assessment of quality, efficacy and safety of the products, have been granted in several EU countries other than Germany. Nevertheless, there is a general trend towards an increased impact of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and reduced influence of the national regulatory bodies and thereby towards harmonised marketing authorisations in several EU Member States. The only regulatory process still taking place at the national level is granting national marketing authorisation in a single EU Member State. However, even for this procedure – as well as for decentralised and centralised procedures – Paediatric Investigation Plans (PIPs) approved by EMA’s Paediatric Committee (PDCO) are required for acceptance of marketing authorisation applications [7]. As soon as extension to another Member State is planned, EMA becomes involved as co-ordinator, and EMA is directly involved in decentralised and centralised procedures [summarised in 2].

A new EMA guideline on the quality of allergen products, including recombinant allergens, came into effect in 2009 [8], and a revised Monograph on Allergen Products of the European Pharmacopoeia in January 2010 [9]. Both documents contain augmented requirements for the quality of allergen products similar to a level that applies to other biomedicines. In parallel, the first-ever EMA guideline for the clinical development of products for specific immunotherapy was established and came into effect also in 2009 [10].

Taken together, these changes in the regulatory field will have significant impact on the future of specific immunotherapy within the EU. However, the detailed influence of these changes is difficult to assess. In the author’s opinion, the following effects are likely to occur:
1. Improved quality and better standardisation of allergen products.
2. Clinical development programmes according to the state of the art for biologics, resulting in confirmed and probably higher efficacy and safety.
3. A need for manufacturers to prioritise and reduce product portfolios.
4. Lower diversity of products.
5. Lower availability of mixtures and reduced use of mixtures.
6. Clearly higher development costs for allergen manufacturers.

To outline in more detail the third bullet point, increased demands on the clinical development and in part on the quality of products will likely make it impossible for manufacturers to simultaneously offer, such as, for example, non-modified allergens and allergoids and/or sublingual and subcutaneous immunotherapy such as, for example, birch pollen allergy. This reflects the fact that the costs for ensuring product diversity will be very high. Thus, one likely effect in the near future will be the specialisation of manufacturers. It is difficult to predict the winners and losers in this situation, or the position of recombinant allergen products.

Stefan Vieths, Paul Ehrlich Institut, Head of Division of Allergology

References
Welcome to the

30th Congress of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, 2011

11th – 15th June, 2011

Istanbul, Turkey

www.eaaci2011.com

Abstract Submission Deadline
12 January, 2011