EAACI Celebrates 100 Years of Immunotherapy
EAACI Focused Meetings
New EAACI Communication Tools
... and more!

EAACI – excellence in allergy

www.eaaci.net
Editorial

Back to the Future

No, it’s not about the classic movie! But it suits this time of year and what is happening now in our Academy: We are re-evaluating and respecting the work that has already been done, even as we aim at continual improvement.

This year we celebrate a century of immunotherapy. Our specialty has grown spectacularly in recent years, in terms of the numbers of practising allergists, in the quality of our professional meetings and educational programmes, and in public recognition. The EAACI measures its success by organising the best Allergy Meetings, by the efficiency of its accessibility for its members, by the respect it receives from other specialists, as well as from society generally at all levels. As both our President and Secretary General point out, the EAACI has always insisted on basing its approach to policies and progress on the proposals and aspirations of its members. In the years to come, EAACI President-Elect Cezmi Akdis will promote scientific excellence, democracy, and teamwork.

Communication is a major part of the outreach strategy initiated by the EAACI leadership. To address unmet needs for communication with our patients and the public, the new EAACI public website www.infoallergy.com features basic information on allergic diseases, a pollen map and videos on specific topics, and also allows users to interact with allergy experts. Theallergynews.com is a highly successful and valuable information site. The new online journal Clinical & Translational Allergy has also been launched, while the National Societies and Sections and Interest Groups maintain a constant presence in the Newsletter.

Education is also a top priority of our Academy. The EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Examination is steadily increasing the number of its enthusiastic participants. Highly successful Allergy Schools were organised last year and many more are planned. In 2010, China and Russia hosted two PAPRICA Symposia, and more are planned for 2011. For the newly introduced Newsletter educational topic “Ask the Expert” we are grateful to have an excellent paper on immune tolerance by Mübeccel Akdis.

We are re-evaluating and respecting the work that has already been done, even as we aim at continual improvement. The EAACI has always insisted on basing its approach to policies and progress on the proposals and aspirations of its members. In the years to come, EAACI President-Elect Cezmi Akdis will promote scientific excellence, democracy, and teamwork.

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To ad...
When this EAACI Newsletter is published, there will be only one month remaining in my term of mandate as President of the EAACI (the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology; www.eaaci.net). Holding the position of president of your Academy has been an amazing experience, and hopefully this service will not come to an end when I hand over the responsibility for the presidency to Cezmi Akdis on 13 June.

I can assure you also that serving the Academy has been an exceedingly educational experience.

When I started to play an active part in the Executive Committee in 2001, the EAACI already rested on a strong and good foundation, but the association was in comparison to many other associations in other fields still quite small, with attendance at annual congresses of around 3,000 participants. Since 2001, the Academy has grown and developed in both size and output, as a result of collective work by many leaders, and initiatives by individual members with very specific ideas. As one single measure of success, the EAACI Congress currently boasts attendance of around 8,000 participants, and this number continues to grow.

Bottoms-up: The EAACI has always believed in what we could call a “bottoms-up” strategy to develop new activities and even new policies, taking ideas and suggestions from members to our boards and committees. What we call position papers constitute one such example. Individuals with ideas in specific fields bring forward their ideas, receive funding for Task Forces, and get very much productive work done. These positions become very strong scientific messages from the Academy, and can have a substantial impact on society.

Embracing ideas: The Academy has been very open to new ideas from individuals. Some examples include the EAACI Focused Meetings, including the Pediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting (PAAM), the International Symposium on Molecular Allergology (ISMA), the EAACI website (eaaci.net), many Allergy Schools, and our new Clinical & Translational Allergy Journal (CTA-Journal). These initiatives comprise just some of the examples that illustrate the ability of the Academy to embrace new ideas.

Passion: All the leaders of the Academy that I have had the pleasure to work with over the last few years share one thing in common, and that is passion. They share their passion for the Academy, their passion for the field of allergy, and of course also their passion for getting things done. I will expand on this in future blogs, but passion is a driving force that can move mountains.

The result is communication: The result of this openness, passion, and creativity within the Academy is an amazing toolbox for communication. That is exactly what our Academy is about, communication, or to be even more specific, about providing platforms for communication. Thus, scientific communication is provided through platforms such as the EAACI scientific meetings and the EAACI journals, and educational communication is provided through platforms such as the Schools and the website. Communication with the public and the media happens during both scientific and educational activities, but will soon be complemented by a new platform in the form of the new EAACI (www.infoallergy.com) website. The number of tools used by the Academy in reaching and furthering our goals has grown enormously, and will provide us with a fantastic platform for even more effective communication in the allergy field over the next few years.

The strategy: We have embraced the passion of our members and leaders to build the platform for a strong Academy pulsing with ideas, an Academy with a clear vision. And maybe we start to think and ask the question, what is the reason for all this? What is the ultimate goal of the EAACI? Well, it may not be spelled out very often, but we do have one goal, and one goal only:

To support improvements in the health of people affected by allergic diseases.

Jan Lötvall
EAACI President
Blog: janlotvall.wordpress.com

If You Build It, They Will Come – Why It Is Amazing to Serve an Academic Association
**Goodbye to Silvia Schaller**

“When I started to work with EAACI, my goal was to build up the EAACI Headquarters in Zurich. There was not even a chair when I first came to this office and now: Look!” Silvia Schaller not only built up the EAACI Headquarters, but also, during the more than two years that she has been the Executive Director of EAACI, she has guided the team she put together to make this Academy the most important organisation in the field of Allergy.

We would like to thank her for all the time that she has spent helping, teaching, and supporting each one of us. She was always there for us.

Silvia, from our hearts, we all wish you the very best in your future "Abenteuer"!

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**The EAACI Headquarters Team**

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**Meet the Person Behind**

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**EAACI EVENTS 2011**

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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>30.02 - 6.02 Winter School - Davos, Switzerland</td>
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<td>10.02 Early fee deadline for the EAACI Congress 2011</td>
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<td>10.02 - 12.02 Marathon Meeting for the upcoming EAACI Congress (finalising Scientific Programme)</td>
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<td>17.02 - 19.02 Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting (FAAM) - Venice, Italy</td>
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<td>24.02 Summit - Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<td>25.02 - 26.02 1st Meeting of Scientific Programme Committee for the EAACI Congress 2012</td>
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<td>• Call for nominations for Sections and IGs board members</td>
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<td>• Call for nominations to all individual members and member societies for the Members at Large elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>31.03 - 3.04 Allergy School - Saariselkä, Finland</td>
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<td>• Voting for Sections and IGs board members</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>1.04 Application deadline for the EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Examination</td>
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<td>• Communication of voting results to members of Sections and IGs</td>
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<td>• Election of Section and IG chairpersons and secretaries</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>10.05 Deadline for middle registration fee for the EAACI Congress 201</td>
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<td>• Communication of voting results for chairpersons and secretaries to Sections and IG smembers</td>
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<td>• BoO nominates two IG representatives for the ExCom</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>11.06 - 15.06 EAACI Congress 2011 - Istanbul, Turkey</td>
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<td>11.06 EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Examination - Saturday at 11:00 during the EAACI Congress 2011</td>
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<td>13.06 EAACI General Assembly</td>
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<td>• Postcards for the EAACI Congress taking place in two years distributed</td>
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<td>• Election of the Members at Large during the EAACI Congress 2011</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>• There are no events planned</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>10.09 Pediatric Allergy &amp; Asthma Meeting (PAAM) - Abstract submission deadline</td>
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<td>15.08 PAAM - Early fee registration deadline</td>
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<td>18.08 - 21.08 Allergy School - Krakow, Poland</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>15.09 - 18.09 Allergy School - Edinburgh, Scotland</td>
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<td>21.09 - 23.09 Allergy School - Verona, Italy</td>
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<td>• Secretary General, Treasurer, and Vice-Presidents</td>
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This calendar is intended to inform EAACI members about some of our Academy’s most important dates, which may vary slightly.
I could no longer tell if I was in Byzantium, Constantinople, or Istanbul. I realised that I made a trip where I traversed three civilisations and three periods at the same time."

This is how Umberto Eco, the Italian writer, expressed his feelings when he was in Istanbul. On a trip through Istanbul, you see art in its modernity and antiquity, experience the past and the present, feel the unique harmonisation of different cultures and religions in the museums, in the streets, in the cafés and restaurants. Everywhere.

We would like you to experience a similar atmosphere in the scientific halls of the Istanbul Congress Centre. The year 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of immunotherapy. In the opening plenary session, we will start our congress with a brief history of the past 100 years of immunotherapy, allergy, and asthma treatment and then continue with findings in the modern science of allergy and try to further inspire our delegates for future research in the field. The Scientific Programme Committee has made every effort to produce a scientific programme for clinicians and basic scientists; for specialists and general practitioners and family physicians; a programme that covers all aspects of the science of allergy and clinical immunology. Please note that we have a one-day pro-

The flagship event of the year, the EAACI Congress 2011 in Istanbul, is only three months away. The congress will be the culmination of more than three years of careful planning, and it is likely to be the largest allergy meeting ever. The details of the scientific programme, from plenary sessions, specialised symposia and workshops to postgraduate courses and meet the experts sessions have been a long time in the planning. The Scientific Programme Committee is delighted to confirm that nearly all of the invited speakers have accepted our invitation to come to Istanbul and share with the delegates their vast expertise and experience on various aspects of clinical and basic science in our field. The details can be found in the Preliminary Programme, which is displayed on the congress website:


However, one critically important ingredient was still to be added: The free communication sessions in which original research is presented by the investigators from around the world, presented orally, in poster discussion sessions, or as thematic posters. This final important piece of a puzzle was finally put in place at the so-called Marathon Meeting held in Istanbul on 11 – 12 February.

The Marathon Meeting has its name for a very good reason: Almost 1'800 abstracts, previously graded by the members of the boards of Sections and Interest Groups, are discussed in detail again, and assigned to oral abstract sessions, poster discussion sessions, and thematic poster sessions. This enormous task was carried out by a dedicated group comprising members of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) and the Local Organising Committee. As a co-ordinator of the SPC, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to everybody involved in this huge task. My thanks also go to the colleagues from the Sections and IGs that read and graded all the abstracts and laid the foundation for completion of this task. At the end of the Marathon Meeting, we proposed 36 oral abstract sessions (each with six oral presentations), 13 poster discussion sessions (with ~12 presentations), and more than 75 thematic poster sessions. We anticipate some more sessions with late-breaking abstracts; thus, the annual meeting will have close to 2'000 free presentations at the forefront of science. In addition, the travel grants were awarded and chairpersons allocated to all sessions; as a result of this huge effort by a large number of colleagues, the Final Programme for the EAACI Congress 2011 will soon go to print. I would like to welcome all of you to Istanbul to participate in the exciting Scientific Programme.

In the last week of February, the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the annual EAACI Congress 2012 in Geneva met for the first time for a two-day planning meeting for the Scientific Programme. The SPC comprises representatives of all Sections and Interest Groups in the EAACI and the LOC is a broadly recruited group of Swiss and French scientists. During the meeting, a set of initial proposal for the meeting sessions was generated. This proposal will be fine-tuned and optimised during the coming months so it can be finally approved when the SPC and LOC meet again at the Istanbul Congress in June 2011.

Lars K. Poulsen
EAACI SPC Co-ordinator
Very few medical treatments can claim to be a century old, however this is the case of allergen immunotherapy. But don’t be misled and think that being “old” means that it is “old fashioned”! On the contrary, the field of allergen immunotherapy has experienced a quantum leap in the last years, and it is still on the move in order to improve safety, efficacy, and “comfort” for the allergic patient.

In 1911, The Lancet published the first original paper by Leonard Noon describing the use of allergen extract injections to treat hay fever in a similar style to the recently established vaccine strategy to prevent infectious diseases. To celebrate the anniversary of allergen immunotherapy, the EAACI has developed a number of initiatives.

In February, the 2011 Summit on allergen immunotherapy took place in Geneva, gathering some experts in the field, but also other stakeholders such as patient representatives, regulators, and allergen manufacturers. The current status of different issues regarding immunotherapy was discussed, assessing certainties and controversies, identifying niches for further research, while established knowledge was set “black on white.” The resulting output will be published soon and be available for all.

A document titled the “European Declaration on Allergen Immunotherapy” has been prepared in order to provide a robust statement on the use of immunotherapy, availability for allergic patients, and the need for resources to fund research, among other points. It has been signed by national and supranational allergy societies, patient organisations, allergen manufacturers, and other third parties. The aim is to be able to use this document to increase awareness of immunotherapy among regulators and politicians and to lobby in favour of it in different scenarios.

Finally, in a celebratory spirit, the EAACI has made a call for the “Leonard Noon Award” which will be granted to an outstanding personality in the field of immunotherapy.

So, Noon was 100 years ago and the dawn is now!

Victoria Cardona
EAACI Vice-President
Communication & Membership
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 the scientific achievement of young scientists working in the field of allergy and encourage their engagement in further research. Therefore the Award is open to members of the EAACI, and in particular Junior Members, 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 2009/2011, together with a covering letter detailing the extent of the applicant’s contribution to the research, and curriculum vitae including a full list of publications. The applications will be considered by an ad hoc Commission nominated by the EAACI Executive Committee and Allergopharma. The twelfth Award will be presented during the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Congress, Geneva 2012.

Applications should be submitted before 31 December 2011 electronically to both the EAACI Headquarters (info@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 Headquarters, 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.
Allergology is developing at a rapid pace in Europe. Several major pan-European and international research projects are currently up and running. Providers are motivated to supply specialist allergy services that are well informed, essential, and humane, despite the difficulties of our time. The EAACI is a central force facilitating, guiding, and informing these processes.

Of course, any organisation is only as good as its members! We have enjoyed long-term success mostly due to the dedication and intellectual capacity of thousands of physicians and scientists in Europe and beyond that have joined forces in the context of our Academy. Since its establishment, the EAACI has followed a bottom to top approach, designing its policies based on the proposals and aspirations of its members. With an increasing number of members and a constantly expanding scope, we intend to continue this policy of progress based on the suggestions and ideas of our members, and try to involve even more members in the core life of our Academy.

To meet this goal, the Executive Committee decided in 2010 to expand the Interest Group Boards as well as the Junior Member Group. We had an extensive election process to fill more than 120 positions for new or continuing officers. This is the next generation of EAACI leaders. They are individuals that with their combined interests, knowledge, and passion will shape the scientific and medical field of allergy in the years to come. I warmly welcome them all into the heart of the EAACI family.

For me, perhaps the most satisfying result is the expansion in Junior Member participation. The activities of this group continuously bring us fresh ideas: the very essence of success when it comes to research! It gives me significant motivation to remain an ‘honorary junior’ and I’m sure many more of you feel the same.

Furthermore, we welcome increasing participation from nations at the borders of Europe and beyond. We are now more than 6’500, coming from 120 countries. And new tools, such as our Facebook profile, can further strengthen our sense of community. Science and a passion for a deeper understanding of what it is to be human can be a strong, common, international currency. It is not inconceivable that major social changes, seemingly required for the world to be a better place, may start from the scientific world, in which borders have little significance. Let’s be there. Of course we start with goals nearer home, such as the upcoming Congress in Istanbul. Once the centre of the world, Istanbul will be, this year, the centre of the world of allergy. Let’s be there as well!

Nikos Papadopoulos
EAACI Secretary General
Getting Closer to the Patients!

The EAACI has developed many tools to communicate with members and healthcare professionals in recent years. Despite this, there remained a perception of an unmet need in our communications with our patients and the public. Accordingly, we took the decision to develop a website to inform and help lay persons searching for information about allergic conditions.

This new website is called www.infoallergy.com, and it includes descriptions of allergic diseases and possible causes, reviews how diagnostic techniques and treatments are used, and even allows internet surfers to place questions which will be answered by experts! Other utilities include a pollen map of the world with information about pollen counts. One of its most innovative resources is videos on specific topics, which will provide in an informal and entertaining manner trustworthy information on how allergy professionals perform and apply different tests and treatments! Initially, the website will be in English, but we plan to make it available in more languages.

Don’t forget it: infoallergy.com and get closer to patients!

Victoria Cardona
EAACI Vice-President
Communications & Membership

News from National Societies Romanian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

The Romanian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology celebrated its 20th anniversary at the National Conference in Sibiu in May 2010. Our national society of allergy and clinical immunology, SRAIC, was formed 21 years ago with 20 members under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Rodica Jeana Radu. We have doubled our membership in the last five years to 140 members, whose mean age is 32 years.

Our members hold regular meetings. In April 2010 we held a workshop on specific immunotherapy in Brasov, in July 2010 we organised a workshop about asthma in Eforie, and in November 2010 we held a workshop about rhinitis-asthma correlation at Suncuius. We collaborated with the Romanian Pediatri Society on the publication of a guide for rhinitis in childhood, and also published books on immunology and allergy in 2010 and 2011. We plan to hold meetings in March and April 2011, ahead of our National Congress in May. These meetings help to expand our network of friends and colleagues in our Society.

We also work hard to maintain our Scientific Journal, but unfortunately, due to financial restraints, have been obliged to discontinue our journal with information for GPs.

One current project is the 100 years of Specific Immunotherapy that will be convened at the 2nd Congress of Allergy at Cluj-Napoca on 6–8 May 2011. We continue to collaborate with the Romanian Society of Pneumology, and held a joint Conference with the Romanian Immunology Society in 2010.

Some research projects are under development between our members and overseas research groups in France, Hungary, Italy, Sweden, and Turkey in the fields of drug allergy, lymphocytes and bacteria in the blood and stools in newborn children and infants, and hereditary angioedema. The number of our members participating in international meetings increases with each year, and our Society was able to provide a small number of scholarships for young residents to attend the EAACI Congress.

All our hard work for SRAIC makes for a bright future for our Society, in terms of our activities as well as the hoped for development in research and publication in our area.

Diana Deleanu
President of SRAIC

EAACI Membership Information

- Total EAACI Members: 6,549
- EAACI Full Members: 4,402
- EAACI Junior Members: 2,147
- Dual AAAAI-EAACI Members: 1
- Dual ERS-EAACI Members: 126
- Dual ERS-EAACI Junior Members: 0
- EAACI Asthma Section Members: 1,684
- EAACI Dermatology Section Members: 401
- EAACI ENT Section Members: 377
- EAACI Immunology Section Members: 1,356
- EAACI Pediatrics Section Members: 1,194

Visit the EAACI Booth at the Istanbul Congress and meet the staff, ask questions, find out about the latest news, and more!

If you have not yet booked your flight and/or accommodation for the EAACI 2011 Congress in Istanbul, click on www.eaaci2011.com to find out about some special offers.

Drop by the dedicated EAACI Membership lounge during the Istanbul Congress.

Verify your membership status under “Member Login” at www.eaaci.net.

 Checkout the Allergy School presentations and the Winter School reports at www.eaaci.net. Here you can also take a look at the pictures of all schools!

Get involved in the Academy’s life: Join the EAACI General Assembly and your Section/IG annual meeting! Checkout the Final Programme for more information.
New EAACI Journal Publishes Your Science

Clinical and Translational Allergy

The new EAACI open access journal Clinical and Translational Allergy (www.ctajournal.com) has now been launched in the first half of 2011. This gives YOU a new platform to publish YOUR scientific papers within the EAACI community.

The EAACI Executive Committee reviewed the need for additional tools for communicating research in the field of allergy, and decided that an open access journal was something that provided lots of new opportunities. Open access is certainly the future of publishing science, and many funding sources now require that the research they support is published in open access journals.

CTA aims to process manuscripts very quickly, with reviews and editorial decisions provided as fast as possible. Once a paper is accepted by CTA, it will be published online in its final version within a matter of weeks. Biomedcentral is the platform chosen for this journal, both for its significant experience in publishing open access journals and its provision of efficient publication tools for authors and editors.

To have a manuscript considered for publication in CTA, we have set up a series of requirements, which include:

1) The research needs to be scientifically sound
2) The paper or the research must not be published elsewhere
3) Experiments, statistics, and analysis need to be of a high technical standard
4) Conclusions are presented appropriately and supported by the data
5) The manuscript should be well written in standard English
6) The research meets all applicable standards for ethics
7) The paper should ideally, but not absolutely, adhere to appropriate reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, MIAME, STROBE, EQUATOR) and standards for data availability
8) The submission may also be an EAACI Position Paper, an EAACI guideline report, an EAACI consensus report, or an EAACI Task Force Report that has undergone thorough internal review within the EAACI.

Single case reports will not be accepted by CTA. All submitted papers will of course be Peer Reviewed, unless lacking any of the points above.

The launch of CTA means that the EAACI expands its platforms for communicating science to the world. It is a complement to the other platforms, including our print journals Allergy and Pediatric Allergy and Immunology. CTA journal will require a nominal fee for publishing, which is standard within the allergy field.

Go to www.CTAjournal.com, and check out the new EAACI scientific journal.
EBAACI: A New Step in CME Accreditation

The formation of the E.B.A.A.C.I. (European Board for Accreditation in Allergology and Clinical Immunology) was announced on 7 June 2010 in London. The new board will accredit meetings and postgraduate training in allergology and clinical immunology, and was two years in discussions before reaching final agreement.

Presidents Jan Lütvall (EAACI) and Jan De Monchy (UEMS Allergology S&B) joined Luis Delgado (EAACI Vice-President of Education) in signing the letter of agreement that confirms the UEMS – EAACI collaboration to manage CME accreditation in the field of allergology and clinical immunology. Accreditation is an integral part of quality control in medical graduate and postgraduate training.

The new board will integrate the EAACI Accreditation Committee, the UEMS Section and Board, and the EACCME (UEMS Accreditation Board). It aims to control quality in the CME (continuous medical education) accreditation process by attributing credit points to individual events based on their scientific level and duration. Doctors earn CME credit points each time they attend events accredited by CME, which debuted in Europe in 1993. The UEMS (Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes) set up the European Accreditation Committee for CME (EAACME) in 1999, and it went into operation in 2000. In 2004, the UEMS criteria for CME accreditation were established and reciprocity and equivalency were negotiated between the European Union, Canada, and the United States. The EAACI created the CME Accreditation Council (Prof. W. Canonica) in 1997 and published the first European Guidelines for CME in allergology and clinical immunology.

The EAACI ushers in a new era of professional and scientific co-operation:
- The EAACI will guarantee the quality of scientific content.
- The UEMS Allergology S&B will also do this, as well as the formal and professional aspects, and impartiality.
- UEMS patronage in Brussels is required for the process’s validation and reciprocity.

The procedure was ratified in Brussels at the end of 2010 with the signatures of UEMS President Dr. Zlatko Fras and Secretary General Dr. Bernard Maillet. The EBAACI will comprise six members: three from the EAACI CME Accreditation Committee, and three from the UEMS Allergology Section.

The EBAACI is at your disposal. It has been launched for you and is made as accessible as possible.


Enjoy this new breakthrough in our profession! Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Jacques Gayraud, MD
EAACI CME Accreditation Committee member
UEMS Allergology Section Secretary

News from the CME Committee

Continuing Medical Education (CME) and awarding related credits is becoming increasingly relevant worldwide. Clear evidence was provided by the 1,742 participants from 72 countries at the EAACI London Congress that required CME credits. It is a mandate for an international scientific society such as the EAACI to provide its members and all physicians involved in allergic and immunologic diagnosis and treatments with the opportunity of accredited educational events developed in accordance with CME international procedures.

The EAACI CME Committee collaborated with the UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists) Section of Allergology in 2010 to provide accreditation for 16 international events in eight countries, awarding a total of 138 credits. We are delighted and proud to inform you that the EAACI, the UEMS Allergology Section and Board, and the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EAACME) have reached an agreement to develop a joint Committee named the European Board for Accreditation in Allergology and Clinical Immunology (EBAACI).

The role of the EBAACI is to independently evaluate the accreditation of international activities in the field of allergology and clinical immunology. Each party to the agreement will contribute its specific competence to UEMS-EACCME (EBAACI: scientific quality evaluation; EACCME: managing the accreditation process and granting European CME credits).
1911
1st publication of AIT in The Lancet

1950s
1st controlled studies in subcutaneous immunotherapy

1980s
1st DBPC studies in sublingual immunotherapy

2000s
Sublingual tablet registered as a licensed medication.

2011...
innovating for patient benefit

100 YEARS in Allergen Immunotherapy
together, keep on writing the story

Stallergenes
Allergen vaccines worldwide

Learning from yesterday, innovating for tomorrow.

100 YEARS AIT

EAACI
Celebrating 100 Years of Immunotherapy in Allergy
1911-2011
Partner of EAACI in the Initiative
We are sure that many of you will remember the 2009 PAAM meeting in Venice, which exceeded all our expectations and was enjoyed by nearly 1,000 participants.

The Pediatric Section of the EAACI would like to welcome you to the Pediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting in Barcelona in October 2011. The meeting will follow a similar format to our previous one. There will be a mixture of Plenary Sessions and Symposia, including joint sessions with the ERS Pediatric Assembly and ESPGHAN. The PAAM will also feature a wide range of Interactive Clinical and Practical Sessions, which we know are appreciated. The meeting aims to deliver clinically orientated sessions that feature the best of current pediatric allergy and asthma research. The faculty will comprise leaders in the field from Europe and around the world.

The scientific programme addresses not only specialists in pediatric allergology, but also pediatricians in general and many other specialists, general practitioners, and researchers dealing with children with allergic diseases as well as young doctors with interest in this field.

Why Barcelona? This active and dynamic city is well connected with all major cities in Europe. Its pleasant mean temperature of 17°C (63°F) and its long hours of daylight (11 hours of average sunlight) in October invite you to discover its streets, monuments, and shops. The venue is in central Barcelona, just off the main thoroughfare Las Ramblas, and just a four-minute walk to the nearest underground station.

Barcelona has nine World Heritage sites, including its gothic Cathedral and quarter and Gaudi’s modernist architecture. Barcelona’s seafront, with its rejuvenated harbour, more than 4 km of beaches and Olympic Marina, is full of bars and restaurants for gastronomic pleasure or a lively night out. The city has a rich cultural life of exhibitions, musical events, museums, and theatres – no surprise for a city that was home to such great artists as Picasso, Dali, and Joan Miró, who have all left their mark. The busy streets and the hospitable people of this multicultural city will make your stay unforgettable.

Further information about the PAAM can be found at www.eaaci-paam2011.com.

Susanne Halken
PAAM 2011 Chair
Antonella Muraro,
Angel Mazon Ramos,
and Graham Roberts,
PAAM 2011 Co-Chairs
Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting
FAAM 2011, Venice, Italy, 17 – 19 February 2011

The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, the EAACI has just successfully closed its very first meeting entirely dedicated to the field of Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis held in Venice, 17 – 19 February 2011. This extremely important topic gathered the most prominent and distinguished stakeholders in the field and was aimed at helping those who suffer from this often crippling disease.

FAAM 2011 was organised by Dr. Antonella Muraro, Paediatric Allergist working at the Food Allergy Centre, General University Hospital in Padua, and EAACI Treasurer.

This Meeting was dedicated to food allergy and anaphylaxis, with the focus of increasing understanding of food allergy, its implications of the quality of life of the sufferer and his/her family. Outstanding, well-known speakers gave presentations in the fields of food allergy, immunology, anaphylaxis, as well as nutrition. The splendour of the Hilton Molino Stucky in Venice, Italy, reflected the excellence of the scientific programme.

A special highlight was the very successful meeting of the patient organisations with other stakeholders in the field, including the food industry, pharmaceutical representatives as well as global marketing experts, to highlight and give a voice to patients who are often overlooked.

FAAM proved to be a huge success: 550 participants from more than 49 countries attended this meeting. A total of 252 abstracts and 80 invited speakers including very interactive discussion, debates, round-tables and social meetings made FAAM a meeting to remember in the beautiful city of Venice.

Crisp spring evenings, the backdrop of one of the most romantic and historic cities proved to be the magical combination to ensure the huge success of the first FAAM meeting. Once again we would like to take the opportunity to thank all who participated. Without your valuable contributions FAAM wouldn't have been the hit it was!

We hope to see you again at FAAM 2013 – SAVE THE DATE! ●

Antonella Muraro, FAAM 2011 Chair

ERAM/SERIN 2010 Report
Brussels, Belgium, 4 – 6 November 2010

The Airways clearly matter, as we have to deal with an increasing number of patients suffering from often severe persistent disease! With the newest study results from surveys performed all over Europe, we now appreciate the frequency of upper and lower airway diseases – it is breathtaking! Fortunately, significant progress has been made recently in the understanding and clinical management of airway disease, which will benefit patients with both upper and lower airway inflammation most.

The first-ever European Rhinitis and Asthma Meeting (ERAM) was organised in collaboration with the Asthma and ENT Sections of the EAACI, together with the 8th SERIN (Symposium on Experimental Rhinology and Immunology of the Nose) in Brussels, the capital of Europe, in November 2010. The SERIN has a long tradition of creating opportunities for the scientifically working rhinologist; it was founded by Claus Bachert in Düsseldorf, Germany in 1993 and has since taken place in several European cities every two to three years.

This first-of-its-kind meeting was dedicated to both basic and clinical aspects of inflammatory disease of the upper and lower airways. The focus was to increase the understanding of airway disease by learning from each other; the organisers brought together outstanding scientists working in the fields of upper and lower airway diseases, immunology, and genetics. The meeting provided information on the newest epidemiological results achieved in Europe from the GA²LEN survey and sinusitis cohort studies. Based on inflammatory and remodelling patterns, rhinosinusitis may be phenotyped beyond the clinical signs and investigations in the near future, predicting the severity of disease, recurrence rates, lower airway comorbidity, and response to innovative treatment opportunities e.g. biological approaches.

The highlight of the meeting was the accumulating evidence for an important role played by Staphylococcal superantigens in especially severe airway disease, nasal polyps, and asthma from childhood to adulthood.

Superantigens have been demonstrated to induce a polyclonal activation of T and B cells, leading to a highly eosinophilic inflammation with polyclonal IgE production. This pattern is different from atopy, leading to a rather oligoclonal IgE formation with a less prominent inflammation and clinical disease expression.

The meeting was well attended with 340 participants from more than 40 countries, 78 abstracts and 49 invited symposium speakers, and was very interactive with discussions, debates, round-tables and – not to forget – social meetings in the European capital of Brussels. The Square proved to be a great meeting place in this vibrant city: picturesque medieval streets, lively squares, beautiful boulevards, impressive monuments, spacious parks, cozy cafés and restaurants, and an active cultural life. The “common airway” colleagues made new friends in this high-profile scientific atmosphere! ●

Claus Bachert, Ghent, Belgium
Adnan Custovic, Manchester, UK
Livije Kalogjera, Zagreb, Croatia
EAACI Activities

4th International Symposium on Molecular Allergology (ISMA) 29 – 31 October 2010 in Munich, Germany

ISMA 2010 – Molecular Allergology now under the umbrella of the EAACI as a Focused Meeting
The 4th edition of ISMA was organised as a thematic EAACI Focused Meeting for the first time in Munich. The success of the previous ISMAs in Rome (2006 and 2007) and Salzburg (2008) as well as the rapidly growing interest in the field of Molecular Allergology encouraged the EAACI to promote ISMA as one of its Focused Meetings. The EAACI had already given generous support to previous ISMA meetings. ISMA 2010 was jointly organised by the EAACI Interest Groups Allergy Diagnosis (iGAD) and Food Allergy. The scientific committee of ISMA 2010 was chaired by Markus Ollert, Adriano Mari, and Stefan Vieths, and generated a unique programme emphasising the innovative, translational, and “cross-sectional” nature of the topic. Markus Ollert headed a dedicated organising team in Munich, and thanks are due also for the excellent support of the EAACI Headquarters in Zurich, which provided excellent local organisation for ISMA 2010 within the newly renovated lecture hall buildings of the Faculty of Medicine/Klinikum rechts der Isar, the clinical centre of the Technische Universität München (TUM).

EAACI-ISMA 2010 – Continuously growing interest in a hot topic
A record high number of 339 scientific participants from 33 countries participated in the 4th ISMA 2010 meeting in Munich. Together with EAACI Junior Members (JMAs), ISMA dedicated a special slot on the opening day primarily for interested junior members, with two educational post-graduate workshops on the Allergome project (www.allergome.org) and on recombinant allergens, as well as a JMA scientific oral abstract session. In the opening session and in six subsequent thematic sessions, 28 invited talks were given by our experts, amongst them the current EAACI President Jan Lötvall and EAACI President-elect Cezmi Akdis. Each session started with an extended lecture on a topic of more general interest, followed by three thematic lectures on current trends and aspects in molecular allergology. A total of seven short oral presentations were selected from the 96 submitted abstracts for poster presentations, which were discussed during two separate poster sessions on a wide range of topics in Molecular Allergology (www.eaaci.isma2010.com/scientific_programme.htm).

EAACI-ISMA – The future
As a result of the excellent organisation of ISMA 2010, including a well received social programme, the true dedication of the meeting’s faculty and the enthusiasm of the participating audience, the 4th ISMA became a true success. The participants and most of the faculty followed the entire meeting with great interest, discussing science, interacting with colleagues and peers, and making new friends. The 5th edition of ISMA is in the planning stages – again as an EAACI Focused Meeting – for 2012 in Italy.

Markus Ollert, ISMA 2010 Chair
Adriano Mari, ISMA 2010 Co-Chair
Stefan Vieths, ISMA 2010 Co-Chair

SAM – a New and Promising Focused Meeting of the EAACI
SAM 2010 – Skin Allergy Meeting
Venice Italy, 11 – 13 November 2010

The headline for SAM 2010 was “for clinicians, by clinicians” meaning that the focus was directed at the clinical situation. Therefore, clinical cases presented by participants and hands-on sessions were included with the lectures. Young colleagues in training in the field(s) of allergology and dermatology benefitted particularly from their participation in SAM 2010. The active and close exchange with the speakers and experts presented at SAM and the limited number of participants provided personal, stimulating exchanges between faculty and participants.

SAM was organised for the first time by the entire board of the Dermatology Section led by Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier as Chair, with excellent local support from Antonella Muraro, EAACI Treasurer. Venice was the perfect place to hold this meeting because of its very special, almost mystical character in the month of November, when the city presents its very own “facettes” with much reduced numbers of tourists than in full season.

SAM was dedicated to allergic skin diseases including atopic eczema, urticaria, and contact dermatitis. The aim was to bridge the most recent insights with very practical approaches in the diagnosis and therapy of these diseases. The scope was expanded to include the presentation of diseases mimicking allergic conditions such as hereditary angioedema and mastocytosis.

A total 289 participants from more than 50 countries attended this meeting. The number of submitted abstracts totalled 94, and the programme was led by 22 invited speakers. SAM 2010 was a very interactive meeting with discussions, debates, round-tables, and social events in the beautiful city of Venice. A great meeting! We hope to see you again at SAM 2012!

Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier
SAM 2010 Chair

image1

image2

image3

image4
**Report on the 2010 PAPRICA Symposia in Russia and China**

Two PAPRICA Symposia were organised in 2010. The first took place in Tomsk, Russia, on 24 November 2010 and addressed primarily pediatricians but also allergists from Central Siberia. Tomsk is a leading academic centre in Siberia, and hosts one of the best Medical Universities in Russia. This symposium offered a unique opportunity to network with colleagues working not just in regional hospitals, but also in academic centres with a high level of clinical care and academic skill. It was organised thanks to the kind and efficient help provided by Lyudmila Ogorodova and Olga Fedorova, and included lectures by EAACI experts and Russian colleagues. The 185 participants were unanimously pleased by this unique occasion to enrich their clinical practice with state-of-the-art lectures in the field of food allergy, atopic dermatitis, immunotherapy, and respiratory allergy.

The second PAPRICA Symposium was a joint symposium with the Chinese Society of Allergology held on 4 December during the Annual Congress of the Society in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province, in south-western China. The audience of 400 delegates mostly comprised allergists from different regions of China. Allergology is a rapidly growing specialty in one of the fastest growing economies of the world, and both our Chinese colleagues and the EAACI representatives present at the meeting, including President of the Chinese Society of Allergy Prof. Yin Jia and EAACI President Prof. Jan Lötvall, felt that this symposium was a perfect start for further collaboration.

Philippe Eigenmann  
Co-ordinator of the PAPRICA Programme

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**Report from the 9th EAACI Winter School, 3 – 6 February 2011, Davos Switzerland**

This year’s EAACI Immunology Winter School was organised by Edward Knol and Carsten Schmidt-Weber. The meeting targeted young doctoral and postdoctoral scientists active in allergy and clinical immunology research. A total of 70 participants from 16 countries and from four continents was selected of 134 abstracts based on the quality of their submitted work. In total, 26 abstracts were presented as oral presentations and 44 were presented as posters.

In the first keynote talk, Adrian Hayday (UK) addressed how not only dendritic cells (DCs) are important in the response to stress or antigens from the external milieu, but focussed on epithelial cells, such as keratinocytes, as well as the γδ T cells. The second keynote lecture was given by Robert Lechler (UK). He discussed the mechanisms of immune tolerance from the point of view of transplantation medicine, and extended this to other immune reactions in which a deranged tolerance response might lead to disease. The lecture by Andre Gessner (Germany) introduced the novel signalling pathways of the IL4 receptor. The structured talk led the audience through the jungle of signalling pathways in a comprehensive, educative manner. Theo Geijtenbeek (The Netherlands) described the so-called C type lectin receptors. These receptors bind specific sugar structures and this results in specific signalling in, for instance, DCs, which leads to a shaping of the adaptive immune response. Importantly, many allergens contain these C type lectins. Vijay Kuchroo (USA) presented the keynote lecture on the topic of novel T cell subsets. The concept of T cell differentiation was revisited and highlighted the new Th17 and Th9 subset with special focus on the transcription factors. Particularly novel was the aspect of the podoplanin (gp39) expression of Th17 cells. Tolerance in the gut system and its implications for food allergy was discussed by Per Brandtzæg (Norway). The mechanisms that dampen immune responses to commensal microbiota and food allergens are tightly regulated. Unfortunately, it is still difficult to dissect the mistakes in the immunoregulatory network that lead to food allergy.

The meeting was a great success as indicated by participant evaluations. On a scale of zero to five, where five indicates satisfaction, the meeting was rated on average at 4.4. A typical remark on the evaluation form was: “The best meeting for young scientists in allergy.”

Edward Knol, Carsten Schmidt-Weber, Gunnar Nilsson, Claudia Traidl-Hoffmann & Barbara Bohle  
9th EAACI Winter School Organisers
Diagnostic Approaches to the Allergic Patient
Kusadasi, Turkey, 30 September – 3 October 2010
EAACI/GA²LEN Allergy School

The EAACI/GA²LEN Allergy School, titled Diagnostic Approaches to the Allergic Patient, took place 30 September – 3 October 2010 in Kusadasi, Turkey at The Hotel Pine Bay Holiday Resort, located in a beautiful bay surrounded by magnificent nature.

This Allergy School was organised successfully by the EAACI Pediatric Section and The Turkish National Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (TNSACI).

The aim was to provide young physicians with the education and updates within the field of diagnosing IgE mediated allergic diseases in children and adults. The Allergy School was attended by 17 faculty members and 54 participants from 19 countries, providing an excellent opportunity for fruitful discussions of scientific, cultural, and social issues.

The course featured lectures that communicated basic and advanced knowledge including basic principles, clinical manifestations, indications for allergy testing, diagnostic methods, interpretation of results, and innovative diagnostic tests. The first day was devoted to basic principles in allergy testing. An interactive practical session with demonstrations of skin prick tests, in which the participants tried to perform and interpret skin prick tests, was much appreciated.

The next two days were devoted to sessions on in vitro diagnostics, diagnosis in allergic respiratory diseases, drug allergy, and food allergy. Clinical sessions with discussions of clinical cases from faculty and participants gave rise to constructive discussions.

All 13 abstracts submitted and accepted for poster presentations were presented orally, five in the clinical case presentation sessions, and eight in a poster discussion session. All posters and presentations were of high quality.

Our Turkish hosts organised a very interesting cultural social programme with two tours in the afternoons after the scientific programme. On day two we had an amazing tour to Ephesus, an ancient Greek city which was for many years the second largest city of the Roman Empire. On day three we visited The House of the Virgin Mary, a Christian and Muslim shrine located on Mt. Koressos in the vicinity of Ephesus, and Sirince, a beautiful hill town near Ephesus, south of Izmir.

Participants as well as speakers enjoyed these active days in a comfortable climate and atmosphere, which was also reflected in a very good evaluation of the course.

Susanne Halken, EAACI Pediatrics Section Chairperson
Dilsad Mungan, TNSACI
New EAACI Interest Group: Ocular Allergy

Hello all EAACI Members!

It is our great pleasure to introduce ourselves as the new Interest Group of Ocular Allergy (IGOA).

During the EAACI Congress in Poland, guidelines prepared by the Polish Allergy and Ocular Society were presented and Prof. Luis Delgado from the EAACI ExCom pointed out that they constituted a good platform to work on a consensus document for the EAACI. At the same time, in France, the Groupe Ophthalmo Allergo (GOA), working with allergologists and allergists, prepared consensus documents for French clinicians. Other European countries may have similar papers, yet none has reached the European level. Therefore, the IGOA has been recreated, according to EAACI bylaws, to work on the European Consensus of Ocular Allergy.

We regard the task in the field of ocular allergy topic as huge. Why? Ocular involvement is estimated to be present in 40–60% of allergic patients. Allergic conjunctivitis is frequently associated with rhinitis, but it also often happens that is the only or the prevalent allergic sensitisation. This disease ranges in severity from mild forms to severe and the latter involve the risk of impairment of visual function. Sometimes ocular allergy is not well recognised and treated by ophthalmologists, allergists, or general practitioners. Some ocular pictures may mimic the ocular allergy, including tear film dysfunction, acute and chronic infections, toxic and mechanical conjunctivitis, or immunological disorders.

As a consequence, the IGOA has to work with scientists and clinicians, allergists, and ophthalmologists in achieving the following goals:

1. To unify the definitions and classifications of ocular allergy diseases.
2. To prepare the algorithm(s) for diagnosis of ocular allergy, whilst taking into consideration the general practitioner, ophthalmologist, and allergologist references. The group to prepare the Ocular Allergy Position Paper was founded in Zurich in November 2010.
3. To stimulate research to explain current gaps in knowledge about ocular allergy, e.g. the dependence between the dry eye and the allergic eye.
4. To assess the specificity and sensitivity of current diagnostics methods in ocular allergy, especially the CAC, the SPT, the lacrimal, and serum slgE.
5. To prepare recommendations for available treatment of ocular allergy.

We need enthusiastic people! Join us and come to our business meeting in Istanbul during the EAACI Congress or contact us at our email addresses. ●

Ewa Bogacka
MD, Wroclaw, Chairperson
bogacka@alergia.gigabox.pl

Jean-Luc Fauquert
Clermont-Ferrand, Secretary
jfaquert@chu-clermontferrand.fr

Asthma Section Activities

The Asthma Section, the largest of the EAACI Sections with its more than 1,500 members, traditionally offers its members a wide range of activities (e.g. Meetings, Mini-Congresses and Allergy Schools). For a number of years, our Section has supported the very successful WIRM meetings: the first meeting in which the Section was involved in 2010 was WIRM-IV, held in Davos in March 2010. As a result of careful planning by the Asthma Section Board, based on suggestions by Section members, the EAACI annual meeting in London in June 2010 offered a wide range of asthma-related sessions and PG courses. The London Congress was followed by the Allergy School titled Lifestyle Interventions in Allergy and Asthma, held on Sardinia, Italy in September 2010. EAACI members from 16 countries attended; apart from the standard format of lectures and poster presentations by the JMA’s participants were also able to attend practical sessions with demonstrations in a small lung function laboratory built specifically for the course.

Another new EAACI initiative took place in Brussels, Belgium in November 2010. The Asthma and ENT Sections jointly organised the ERAM-SERIN meeting, and both Sections look forward to making the meeting on allergic airway diseases a new bi-yearly tradition. Recently, WIRM-V 2011 was another great success, with an exceptional scientific programme and an outstanding list of speakers.

An excellent scientific programme with a wide variety of asthma-related sessions and international opinion leaders has been planned for the upcoming congress in Istanbul, where we look forward to meeting you all at one of the largest allergy congresses ever. The Section Board is already working on planning the Geneva 2012 scientific programme, and we welcome all suggestions from our members.

The Asthma Section has made a strategic decision to put Junior Members at the centre of our future activities. We will substantially increase the number of Asthma Section JMA dedicated travel grants, and plan scientific sessions dedicated to and run by our JMA’s.

Section Members are contributing to two important Task Forces: Lifestyle Interventions in Allergy and Asthma (jointly with the IG on Allergy, Asthma and Sports), and Work-Related Asthma (with the IG on Occupational Allergy). The final documents are almost complete.

And time flies; again, in June 2011, the Asthma Section Board will face changes in its organisation: elections will nominate new Board members that will, without doubt, serve the Section and the EAACI to the best of their abilities. ●

Adnan Custovic, MD PhD FRCP
Asthma Section Chairman

Stefano del Giacco, MD
Asthma Section Secretary
The IG Food Allergy aims to promote and spread new evidence-based information on food allergy to interested target audiences, including basic scientists, clinicians, and allergic patients.

The IG Food Allergy is actively involved in the organisation of EAACI meetings such as the ISMA Meeting that took place in Munich, Germany in October 2010, where the Chairperson of the IG, Prof. Dr. Thomas Werfel (TW), was a member of the organising committee.

For the FAAM Meeting in Venice Italy, on 17–19 February 2011, both Chairperson T. Werfel and Prof. Dr. Karin Hoffmann-Sommergruber (KH), secretary of the IG, were members of the organising committee to provide a highly interesting meeting with topics from basic science and clinical research, and offer post graduate courses.

The IG Food Allergy supports a new task force aiming to update the EAACI guidelines on food allergy; both T. Werfel and Karin Hoffmann-Sommergruber are members of the steering committee.

The current Task Force activity within the IG Food Allergy on updating knowledge about food allergies and immunological cross-reactions with common inhalant allergens is near completion, and upon approval of the ExCom will be published as a state-of-the-art paper. New Task Force activities are already in the pipeline, and one about histamine intolerance is already planned to start soon.

Thomas Werfel
EAACI Food Allergy Interest Group Chairperson

Karin Hoffmann-Sommergruber
EAACI Food Allergy Interest Group Secretary

The ENT Section Activities

The contribution of the ENT Section to the scientific achievements of the EAACI grows each year. Membership in the ENT Section has risen steadily to total 928 members at the time of the EAACI Congress in London in 2010. One third of our members are JMA members. Some 49 countries are represented and Germany, Belgium, Turkey, Sweden, The Netherlands, and Spain have the greatest number of members in the section. Although still the smallest section in the EAACI, the ENT Section is rapidly catching up in terms of size with the Dermatology Section.

The ENT Section is one of the co-founders of the European Academy of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery, and its collaboration with the European Rhinological Society is also well established. The ENT Section is active in research with GA²LEN (the Global Allergy and Asthma European Network), which is a consortium of leading European research centres specialising in allergic diseases. The ENT Section has been principally involved in the Rhinosinusitis and Nasal Polyps and HANNA projects. The newest epidemiological results achieved in Europe from the GA²LEN survey and pan-European sinusitis cohort studies were presented at the ERAM/SERIN meeting in Brussels in November 2010, organised jointly by the ENT and Asthma Sections. The results of epidemiological studies clearly demonstrated that comorbidity of inflammatory disease between the upper and lower airways has impact on the severity of symptoms, and further collaboration between ENT specialists and chest physicians is encouraged to increase understanding of this important interaction process.

The ENT Section has been also active in creating EAACI Task Force documents, such as EPOS, the European Position Paper on rhinosinusitis and nasal polyps, which was published first in 2005, revised in 2007 and is now being prepared for a new revision in 2011 to be published in 2012. This document offers an evidence-based approach to the diagnosis and treatment of rhinosinusitis and nasal polyps and is available for free distribution on its own website www.ep3os.org. The Section also completed another Task Force document, Diagnostic Tools in Rhinology, in 2010, which is to be published in spring 2011. The ENT Section is also involved in joint Task Forces with the Pediatric Section: Airway Disease in Children, the Infection, and the Allergy IG: Superantigens and Allergy Management in Primary Care. As the ENT Section extends its activities even further, new EAACI ENT members, including Junior Members, are very welcome.

Thomas Werfel
EAACI Food Allergy Interest Group Chairperson

Karin Hoffmann-Sommergruber
EAACI Food Allergy Interest Group Secretary

Livije Kalogjera
EAACI ENT Section Chairperson

Peter W. Hellings
EAACI ENT Section Secretary
Immunology Section Activities

The EAACI has supported the successful 9th Immunology Winter School organised by the Immunology Section on 3–6 February 2011, in Davos, Switzerland, where the meeting was founded by current EAACI President Cezmi Akdis. The major goal of this meeting, focusing on basic immunology research in allergy, and clinical immunology, was to combine excellent science with exciting winter sport activities because “mens sana in corpore sano”! Excellent junior researchers took the opportunity to interact and discuss their work with our experts and faculty in a warm and relaxed atmosphere – be it on ski slopes or during the keynote sessions and poster sessions until late into the night.

The invited speakers were Per Brandtzæg (Norway), Andre Gessner (Germany), Theo Geijtenbeek (The Netherlands), Adrian Hayday (UK), Vijay Kuchroo (Boston, USA), and Robert Lechler (UK). The best 70 of 132 submitted abstracts from 34 countries were selected and their authors were invited to attend the 9th Winter School, with 25 abstracts chosen for oral presentations and 45 abstracts discussed in two active poster sessions with dessert and drinks. A stimulating and educational meeting!

In addition, the Immunology Section will again organise a postgraduate course on the first day of the upcoming annual EAACI congress in Istanbul. Members of the Immunology Board will provide an introduction of the available tests in children, and will present a differential diagnosis of types of specific NSAIDs.

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We look forward to an exciting 2011 in terms of innovative scientific and clinical findings and warmly welcome you all to attend our future activities!

On behalf of the EAACI Immunology Board, ●

Barbara Bohle
EAACI Immunology Section
Chairperson

Drug Hypersensitivity Interest Group Activities

The Interest Group on Drug Hypersensitivity, based on the European Network on Drug Hypersensitivity (ENDA), remains active and we invite all EAACI members to join the activities of the group in the following projects:

Projects

The ENDA has three ongoing multicentre studies: Allergic Reactions to Radio Contrast Media (project leader: K Brockow); The Oxalatplatin and Chemotherapeutic Desensitisation Protocol (project leader: M Pagani), and a new multicentre study on Skin Test Standardisation (location, positivity criteria, amount to inject, etc.) (project leader: A Barbau). In addition, Gabriele Cortellini and Sergio Testi propose to collect data on acetylsalicylic acid desensitisation before coronary stenting in allergic patients, and Torsten Zuberbier and Guido Burbach present a new project regarding teledermatology. They invite all ENDA members to send in pictures and cases, so a programme can be developed to recognise drug allergic reactions of the skin, and present a differential diagnosis as well. For further information contact sergio.testi@asf.toscana.it, or info@encad-telederma.net, respectively.

Task Forces

The Task Force on Desensitisation in Drug Hypersensitivity is developing guidelines for desensitisation in non-immediate (delayed) drug hypersensitivity.

The Task Force on Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drug (NSAID) Hypersensitivity writes a position paper and several reviews of subparts for diagnosing types of specific NSAIDs.

The Task Force on Drug Hypersensitivity and Mast Cell Disease collects data regarding the prevalence of mastocytosis in patients with drug-induced anaphylaxis and writes a review and/or position paper in the course of the Task Force activities.

The Task Force on Skin Test Concentrations in Drug Hypersensitivity reviews the literature and own data on optimal test concentrations for all available drugs, and writes a position paper.

The Task Force Drug Allergy in Children is collecting data about epidemiology and presenting symptoms of drug allergy in children and the validation of the available tests in children, and will write a review article.

Upcoming meetings

IG meeting during the EAACI Congress in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2011
V Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting in Munich, Germany, planned for 11–14 April 2012.

Ingrid Terreehorst
EAACI Drug Hypersensitivity Interest Group Secretary

Contact: info@eaaci.net
The Interest Group on Hymenoptera Venom Allergy aims:

- To promote knowledge about the epidemiology, natural history, and risk factors of insect venom allergy
- To endorse further investigation into the immunological mechanisms of the early and long-term efficacy of venom specific immunotherapy (VIT)
- To increase the accuracy of diagnostic tools
- To increase the safety of VIT and provide safer criteria for ending it
- To study new strategies for VIT.

The forum of the IG designed and completed a multicentre study for one of these aims. The Tryptase in Hymenoptera Venom Allergy Study examined risk factors for severe sting reactions and for significant side effects during VIT. The first part of this study (1) examined risk factors for severe systemic reactions (SRs) to hymenoptera stings in untreated patients, demonstrating that baseline serum tryptase concentrations are associated with the risk of severe anaphylaxis and that preventive measures should include the substitution of angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors. The second part of the study (2) evaluated risk factors for side effects during the buildup phase of venom immunotherapy, demonstrating that the frequency of emergency interventions for vespid VIT is associated with an elevated baseline serum tryptase concentration.

Although the sensitivity and specificity of the current diagnostic tests are good, some pitfalls remain in venom allergy diagnosis. Recent studies (3, 4) by some members of the IG demonstrated that the current availability of recombinant venom allergens may contribute to a "component resolved diagnosis" also in the field of hymenoptera venom allergy and subsequently to a more accurate prescription of VIT. In fact, a combination of two or three nonglycosylated recombinant bee and wasp venom major allergens (rApi m1, rApi m2 and rVes v5) enabled clinicians to diagnose the vast majority of venom allergic patients (3, 4).

Subcutaneous VIT is a highly effective treatment and probably the most effective form of immunotherapy available to physicians. It can lessen the risk of a subsequent systemic reaction, prevent morbidity, and mortality. However, large local and even severe SR side effects may occur. Thus, defining the risk factors for systemic reactions to VIT (2) would be helpful in reducing their occurrence. In this context, a recent article reviewed the literature on the safety and effectiveness of purified venom preparations and compared them with non-purified extracts (5).

M. Beatrice Bilò
Insect Venom Hypersensitivity Interest Group Chairperson.

References


EAACI Webcasts

- Webcasts are an interactive e-learning application combining sound, image and script.
- Experts and outstanding researchers present their work and share their views and ﬁndings in a flash format.
- Find all the Academy’s major events.
- This resource is for EAACI members only.

www.eaaci.net/resources/web-casts
Pediatrics Section Activities

The Section has currently around 1,100 members, and the Board of the Section comprises Susanne Halken, Chair, Graham Roberts, Secretary, Ángel Mazon Ramos, Webmaster, Susanne Lau, Paolo Rossi, Ondija Rudzviciene, Luis Miguel Borrego, and Maria Xatzipsalti, JMAS.

The section was involved in many activities in 2010 on education, research, and scientific meetings in collaboration with other sections, Interest Groups (IGs), and sister societies as reported in the Annual Report on the Sections website.

The Education and Training Committee in Pediatric Allergy (ETC-PA) continues to evaluate pediatric allergists in order to harmonise standards according to the Training Syllabus for European Pediatric Allergists. At present, five European Centres and more than 300 colleagues in Europe are certified.

At the EAACI Congress 2010 in London, many pediatric sessions were organised successfully and more than 150 pediatric abstracts were accepted. At the Business Meeting Bobby Gaspar, UK, gave a very interesting keynote lecture: Clinical approach to the patient with suspected immunodeficiency.

The Section has jointly with other Sections and IGs organised different Task Forces (TFs). The Allergic Child in the School TF published a position paper in Allergy June 2010. The Food Allergy Clinical Practice Guidelines TF, jointly with the Food Allergy IG and the Section on Dermatology, aims to develop guidelines on the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of food allergy, and the Food Allergy Anaphylaxis Meeting was organised in Venice in February 2011. A new TF, Pediatric Rhinitis, is organised jointly with the ENT and Asthma Sections, and the section is involved in two new TFs, Pediatric Contact Allergy and Drug Allergy in Children, organised by the Dermatology Section and Drug Allergy IG, respectively.

Jointly with the Turkish National Society of Allergy, and Clinical Immunology, the Section successfully organised the Allergy School Diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of food allergy, and the Food Allergy Anaphylaxis Meeting was organised in Venice in February 2011. A new TF, Pediatric Rhinitis, is organised jointly with the ENT and Asthma Sections, and the section is involved in two new TFs, Pediatric Contact Allergy and Drug Allergy in Children, organised by the Dermatology Section and Drug Allergy IG, respectively.

Aerobiology and Air Pollution Interest Group Activities

In the past year, our Aerobiology and Air Pollution IG has redoubled its efforts to increase knowledge about exposure to aeroallergens and their health effects by leading two Task Forces and initiating an entirely new Task Force.

First of all, the Task Force on the effects of climate change on respiratory allergic diseases and asthma prevalence, implemented with the European Respiratory Society (http://www.eaaci.net/activities/task-forces/climate-change-on-respiratory-diseases), was very successful. It led to the publication of a position paper in Allergy containing 1) a state-of-the-art view of environmental factors (and their inter-relationships) affecting asthma and atopic diseases; 2) a comprehensive evaluation of the influence of weather variables on environmental factors such as pollens and moulds and the possible effects of current climate change scenarios; 3) the possible effects of climate change on the prevalence of asthma and atopic diseases, on the basis of current hypotheses (Hygiene Hypothesis) and studies (effects of air pollution on lung development, etc.); and 4) the interventions able to mitigate negative effects.

The second Task Force, on monitoring allergens in Europe, responds to the real needs of knowledge in Europe on the distribution of allergens. This Task Force is supported by the HIALINE initiative. The Health Impacts of Airborne Allergen Information Network (HIALINE), which receives funding from the European Union, aims to document the daily pollen count at nine locations in Europe and simultaneously record the daily pollen count at nine locations in Europe and simultaneously record the daily pollen count at nine locations in Europe.

The new TF on monitoring occupational and environmental aeroallergens is a concerted action by the Occupational Allergy IG and the Aerobiology and Air Pollution IG. It aims to appraise exposure to high-molecular environmental and occupational allergens for the discussion on exposure limits and the evaluation of allergen reduction strategies. During the upcoming meeting in Istanbul, aerobiology and air pollution will feature in several sections.

Our Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14 June 2011 at 10:30 a.m., and will include an outstanding lecture on allergen avoidance in asthma and allergies by Thomas Platts-Mills.

Lorenzo Cecchi
Aerobiology and Air Pollution IG Chairperson

Isabella Annesi-Maesano
Aerobiology and Air Pollution IG Secretary
Mechanisms of Immune Tolerance to Allergens

Allergic inflammation takes place as a result of the development of an immune response induced by allergens in sensitised subjects leading to several diseases including asthma, allergic rhinoconjunctivitis, anaphylaxis, urticaria, and atopic dermatitis. The immunologic mechanisms underlying allergic diseases can be divided into two main phases: 1) sensitisation and memory and 2) effector phase, which can be further subdivided into immediate and late responses. Sensitisation to an allergen depends on the capacity of the allergen to prime Th2 cell response in which Interleukin (IL) 4 and IL13 drive IgE antibody production by initiating immunoglobulin E (IgE) class-switch in B cells. Allergen-specific IgE binds to the high-affinity FcεRI complexes on sensitised mast cells and basophils, thus leading to the patient’s sensitisation. During this step, a memory pool of allergen-specific T and B cells is also generated. The effector phase is initiated when a new encounter with the allergen causes cross-linking of the IgE-FcεRI complexes on sensitised basophils and mast cells, thus triggering their activation and subsequent release of anaphylactogenic mediators responsible for the classical symptoms of the immediate phase (Type I hypersensitivity). Recently, identified cytokines such as IL25, IL31, and IL33 have been shown to contribute to the Th2 response and inflammation. In addition, newly identified T cell subsets, such as Th17, Th22, and Th9 also play certain roles and more data has been accumulating concerning their relationship with allergic inflammation.

In addition to the effector Th cell subsets, T cells with immunoregulatory properties exist and are broadly referred to as T regulatory (Treg) cells. The importance and functions of Treg cells to induce tolerance have been explicitly studied during the last 15 years. The major role of Treg cells in immune tolerance was clarified in murine studies directly, or adoptive transfer of Treg cells. They prevent or cure numerous T cell-mediated disease models, including asthmatic lung inflammation, autoimmune diseases, and allograft rejection, by achieving immune tolerance to responsible allergens, self-antigens, or alloantigens.

In healthy individuals, the immune response to allergens has included a lack of responsiveness of T cells or allergen-specific T cells, leading to diminished effector T cell-mediated cutaneous late-phase responses in parallel to decreased allergen-specific T cell proliferation and Th1 and Th2 cytokine secretion. At the end of the beekeeping season, peripheral T cell response returns to baseline level within two to three months. Also, in nonatopic individuals, active suppression against allergens is mediated by T1 cells or CD4+ CD25+ Treg cells.

Allergen-specific immunotherapy is experiencing several exciting and innovative developments for the treatment of allergic and autoimmune diseases. Changes in frequencies of antigen-specific T cells with a loss of Th2 cells and acquisition of IL10-producing Treg cells are associated with allergen SIT.

Conclusion

Treg cells with different types – the naturally occurring, thymic selected CD4+CD25+FoxP3+ Treg cells, the Tr1 type Treg cells control diverse steps of inflammation in various diseases as well as allergen-specific immune response via the suppression of antigen-presenting cells, the inhibition of the development of Th2, Th1, and Th17 responses, the suppression of allergen-specific IgE and induction of IgG4 and IgA, the suppression of mast cells, basophils, and eosinophils, interference with tissue fibrosis and remodelling, and impairment of induction of Th0/Th1 cells (Figure 1). The identification of new molecules implicated in these processes is emerging, and is expected to contribute to the design of more efficient and safer treatments of allergic diseases in the near future.

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Further Reading:

Multiple functions of Treg cells in allergen tolerance