Istanbul – World Capital of Allergy

100 Years of Immunotherapy: Noon Award, European Declaration on Immunotherapy

Meet the new Vice-Presidents of Congresses and Education & Specialty

....and more!

EAACI – excellence in allergy
Facing new frontiers

How does it feel to belong to the world’s leading Allergy Society?

Don’t rush into an answer before checking the evidence: the EAACI is clearly setting unique standards by organising the best allergy meetings as an efficient platform to communicate good science, by developing high-quality efficient communication platforms, and by delivering accurate and up-to-date education for allergy practice. This is the outcome of many years of teamwork and communication. The Strategic Plan presented by newly elected EAACI President Cezmi Akdis opens new frontiers for the EAACI, raising the standards for professionalism, innovation, competence, friendship, democracy, and dedication. It feels good to see new and old friends gathering around the EAACI with the aim of raising the profile of allergy specialty in the community. During the EAACI Congress in Istanbul, a General Practitioner and Family Physician meeting was organised, with 95 participants from 43 countries. In order to strengthen avenues of communication a new platform including 23 Patient Organisations from across the world was created. “Virtual” friends also joined and the newly launched public website www.infoallergy.com is intended to provide fundamental information for allergic patients and the general population. During the visit to the National Societies Village, the EAACI and National Societies leaders discussed how to further improve the bidirectional translation of allergy science and education from national to pan-European.

As always, the EAACI Annual Congress was THE ALLERGY EVENT of 2011! The beautiful scenery of Istanbul was the backdrop for the four-day Allergy marathon attended by 7,940 delegates from 106 countries. Again, the EAACI set an innovative standard by transforming the old capital of the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman empires into the Allergy capital of the world. More challenging meetings are planned for the years to come: EAACI 2012 Congress (Geneva) and 2013 (Milan), EAACI topic-focused meetings, Allergy Schools, and an Asthma Summit. The “success recipe” of all these meetings is the EAACI membership itself with its brilliant and enthusiastic proposals, initiatives, and active participation in shaping the meeting programme and the meeting itself. In Istanbul, 1,886 abstracts were presented and 391 speakers gave excellent presentations in no fewer than 232 sessions! The EAACI Scientific Programme Committee works very hard in organising the leading Allergy and Clinical Immunology meetings by gathering world-renowned experts with promising young scientists, basic researchers with clinicians, allergists with pneumologists, dermatologists, pediatricians, immunologists, ENT, ophthalmologists, and general practitioners.

Bridging the past, present, and the future under the EAACI umbrella confirms the Academy’s dedication both to science and humanity. One century after Leonard Noon, followed closely by John Freeman, published the first reports on allergen immunotherapy in The Lancet, the EAACI celebrated their pioneering research by organising an impressive Immunotherapy Summit in Geneva and by launching the European Declaration on Immunotherapy. At the Opening Ceremony in Istanbul, in a deeply moving emotional moment, William Frankland was awarded the Noon Award for a life dedicated to immunotherapy. And the EAACI and National Societies Village, the EAACI and National Societies set an innovative standard by transforming the old capital of the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman empires into the Allergy capital of the world. More challenging meetings are planned for the years to come: EAACI 2012 Congress (Geneva) and 2013 (Milan), EAACI topic-focused meetings, Allergy Schools, and an Asthma Summit. The “success recipe” of all these meetings is the EAACI membership itself with its brilliant and enthusiastic proposals, initiatives, and active participation in shaping the meeting programme and the meeting itself. In Istanbul, 1,886 abstracts were presented and 391 speakers gave excellent presentations in no fewer than 232 sessions! The EAACI Scientific Programme Committee works very hard in organising the leading Allergy and Clinical Immunology meetings by gathering world-renowned experts with promising young scientists, basic researchers with clinicians, allergists with pneumologists, dermatologists, pediatricians, immunologists, ENT, ophthalmologists, and general practitioners.

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How do we manage to achieve all these high standards? Our strength comes from effective communication, education, and friendship. As a link between the EAACI and its individual members, between the EAACI and National Societies, and as a true and accurate voice of the EAACI, the Newsletter is your loyal companion in your quest of achieving excellence.

Ioana Agache
EAACI Newsletter Editor
Message from the President

Strategic Planning for the Next Two Years

It is my great pleasure and honour to serve as the president of our Academy, the EAACI. We have just experienced the beautiful 30th Annual Congress in Istanbul and Academy elections. Our growing EAACI family, including the Executive Committee, boards for our Sections and Interest Groups, JMAbs, past presidents, and colleagues at Headquarters, now totals more than 170 members. One of the key strategies of our Academy will be to build a strong administrative structure that can help the EAACI grow and further develop our long-term vision. The objective of our new Headquarters will be to take extensive administrative responsibility for all EAACI activities and form a sound base for the increasing professionalism of our Academy.

The EAACI Congresses have developed into the largest global congresses for the number of participants and total number of submitted abstracts in the field of allergy, asthma, and clinical immunology. The two Congresses that follow Istanbul will take place in Geneva (2012) and Milan (2013). The EAACI Congresses will give the entire world of allergy, asthma, and immunology an efficient platform to communicate good science and novel developments in our field. The EAACI has organised several smaller congresses over the last decades, which are now called Focused Meetings. We will be working very hard to strengthen these Focused Meetings, with the aim of establishing them as leading meetings in their respective and focused fields. Our goal will be to bring experts in these topics to the EAACI platforms to further strengthen our Academy.

Europe needs high standards of education in allergology, which should be disseminated to all European countries. All EAACI events will have a strong educational focus. In addition, we will continue to provide a strong basis of training through our Allergy School activities and will provide extended online education. The knowledge test in allergy and immunology will continue to further support this development. We currently have approximately 40 running Task Forces educating our community.

Our communication strategy will further develop to increase worldwide education, awareness, and understanding of allergic diseases and asthma. We will continue to expand resources aimed at the research into, education of, and care of allergic diseases and asthma by targeting politicians and other stakeholders. This will include advocacy at local, national, and international levels with public education for the improvement of the overall health of individuals with allergic diseases and asthma.

The healthy financing of our Academy is crucial for its successes in all areas with the highest priority. The Pharma industry’s perspective is changing on education, marketing, and R&D. There is a need to adapt to this changing environment by implementing strategies to address the needs of new potential targets. In addition, the increase of public awareness of the importance of research and education in our field as well as the increased profile of our Academy in the community will allow the establishment of partnerships with other resources such as foundations, national societies, and patient organisations in order to support specific projects.

We believe that a worldwide consensus between the major academies and national societies is essential. An outreach body for a co-ordinated effort in communication on allergic diseases and asthma, as well as developing international consensus in many fields of allergology, is needed. In this consensus, the EAACI will pursue these aims: to promote basic and clinical research; to collect, assess, and disseminate scientific information; to act as a scientific reference body for other scientific, health, and political organisations; to encourage and provide training and continuous education; and to collaborate with patient organisations to achieve these goals.

The EAACI shall continue to hold open and transparent elections, which is currently being implemented by electronic voting for Section and Interest Group Boards. We will focus on keeping gender balance and regional balance in our committees, Sections, and Interest Groups.

Our detailed strategic planning is published at www.eaaci.net. I believe in teamwork, transparency, communication, and feedback, which will bring us efficiency, quality, and success. I look forward to working with all our members to strengthen our Academy on solid grounds. ●

Cezmi Akdis
EAACI President
1. Tell us about yourself, please
I am 50 years old and have been a regular visitor to EAACI congresses since 1988. I am a pulmonologist by training but I also have a board certification in internal medicine, intensive care medicine, and allergology. I am currently head of the department of pneumology and intensive care medicine at the University Medical Clinic in Rostock, Germany. My research interest for many years has been the pathogenesis and regulation of inflammation in obstructive airway diseases, especially intrinsic and allergic asthma.

2. What are your objectives as Vice-President Congresses?
I have had the pleasure of serving the Academy for the past four years as Scientific Programme Co-ordinator, which has been a very interesting experience. The last four congresses, including the latest one in Istanbul, have received a lot of attention in the medical community and have consolidated the Academy’s reputation of being the world’s leading organisation in the field. My aim is to continue the excellent work that Prof. Akdis has started in making our Congresses and also our Focused Meetings scientifically as interesting and as up-to-date as possible, to secure a healthy and strong financial basis for these meetings, and to provide delegates and speakers not only with the best science but also with slices of European culture. Since there is and will be clear and increasing demand and need for such personal meetings as our Congress, our Focused Meetings, and our Allergy Schools we will establish a strong event management group at our Headquarters in Zurich. The new Vice-President Education and Specialty, Prof. Demoly, and myself will work closely together to also incorporate the Allergy Schools’ organisation into this event management so that our congress organisation from smaller schools up to the big congress is managed as professionally and effectively as possible.

3. Tell us about your experience working with EAACI Congresses
People that are not directly involved can hardly understand the enormous work but also the entrepreneurship that is involved in organising and executing these congresses. I therefore applaud the staff in Zurich but also the previous VP Congresses for the great work they have performed in the past and on which my efforts can hopefully build. One thing that I greatly appreciated in my previous experience with the congress organisation is the spirited team approach where everybody does his or her best to make the final result really good.

4. Could you give us an overview of congress activities?
Our congress activities are regularly listed on our website and I strongly encourage people to visit this. In addition, EAACI members are regularly informed about upcoming meetings. We are currently evaluating venues for the big congress for 2014 and will discuss this with the Executive Committee in the autumn, which we will also make public.

5. Tell us about the challenges of being Vice-President Congresses
One of the main challenges is to incorporate this interesting activity into the schedule of a busy clinician. In addition, it involves not only questions of science and education but also a lot of organisational, operational, and financial aspects that are not the primary domains of university professors. Therefore, one of the main challenges I can see is to collect and search for good advice in this area, preferably from a congress/event management team that should, eventually, be able to take care of many of these issues automatically.
Meet the VP Education & Specialty, Pascal Demoly

1. Tell us about yourself, please
I am a professor of pulmonary medicine at the University Hospital of Montpellier, France and became an EAACI member in 1997, after my mentor, Prof François-Bernard Michel, a past president of the EAACI, convinced me to join the Academy. I have attended every EAACI meeting since 1994, further to my postdoctoral fellowship in the U.S. (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda and Cornell University, New York). At the same time, I joined the EAACI Drug Allergy Interest Group as secretary (1997–2003) and then became the chairperson (2003–2008). During these 10 years of dedication to drug hypersensitivity/allergy within the EAACI, I learnt how to work for the Academy, and when, in 2007, President Prof Roy Gerth van Wijk opened two new positions within the Executive Committee to represent the Interest Groups, I applied and was elected for a two-year period which was renewed for two further years. Having organised and/or participated in several Task Forces and Allergy Schools, it seemed natural to apply this year as a candidate for the position of Vice-President for Education and Specialty.

Besides my EAACI activities, I also have several other duties, including:

1) the management of a large pulmonology and allergy department (comprising four professors, three assistant professors, 17 other senior doctors, 10 residents and almost 100 additional employees)
2) allergy teaching and research responsibility at the University of Montpellier, France
3) the Presidency of the French Allergy Society, which we have completely reshaped over the last few years
4) one associate editor post for ALLERGY

2. What are your objectives as VP Education & Specialty?
Our Congress is very successful and has become the number one allergy congress in the world. It is THE place to ensure Continuous Medical Education (CME). The EAACI has developed Focused Meetings over the past years and these should host very educative clinical workshops, based on case reports, as is the case in Allergy Schools. The latter should not reproduce lectures that we can find at our Congress but give the details, providing attendees with numerous take-home practice messages and recipes. The CME credit system needs to be strengthened, as well as the EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Examination.

With regard to allergy as a specialty/discipline, this is mainly a national issue. It is often very emotional, and related/linked disciplines are frequently against it as they are nervous about losing professors/power. There are indeed countries where allergy is a discipline, countries where it was and is no longer, and countries where it has never been. I strongly support the allergy discipline and hope that all countries will eventually obtain it.

3. Do you have any input about the future collaboration of the Education & Specialty area of the EAACI in the Newsletter?
The EAACI Newsletter is one of the links between individual members and the Academy; it should also be a link between National Societies and the Academy. Our campaigns, position papers, focused meetings, Allergy Schools, and our Annual Congress should all be exemplified, spread, and advertised at national levels.

Professor Fabienne Rancé during the EAACI Congress 2011 in Istanbul

Homage to Professor Fabienne Rancé

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of our dear colleague Professor Fabienne Rancé.

Professor Rancé carved out a magnificent career in the field of pediatric allergy and in food allergy. She authored or co-authored more than 250 articles in medical journals and contributed more than 50 chapters to textbooks. Due to her outstanding work in the field she held more than 200 invited lectures at national and international congresses.

She was the first woman to serve as Editor of Revue Française d’Allergologie, the French National Allergy Society Journal.

Her exceptional dedication to the field did not go unnoticed by her patients and colleagues, who admired her dedication to research in an effort to improve the quality of life for all suffering from this affliction.

All that had the privilege of being in her presence, if only for a short while, will remember her elegance, intelligence, and her passion for her work. She has given to all of us a distinguished legacy that we will cherish long into the future.

The entire scientific community is in debt to her for the value of her research and for honouring us with her friendship.

The EAACI Family
The New EAACI ExCom 2011–2013

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This calendar intends to inform EAACI members about our Academy’s most important dates. Note that it may vary slightly as at the time of printing this Newsletter dates for some planned EAACI events have not been confirmed.
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.org) 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.

Further Informations can be obtained from: Allergopharma Joachim Ganzer KG, 21462 Reinbek near Hamburg, Germany
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I have never doubted that the scientific community is one of the most progressive, forward-thinking, and open-minded communities of our society. Despite the financial crisis (an intense experience in several countries), scientific groups are keeping active and even intensifying their efforts to collaboratively discover truths that may change our understanding of the world and make it a better place. With increasing speed, more and more research activities are undertaken by group efforts and this approach appears to be fruitful in Europe and around the world. EAACI, a perpetual pioneer, is steadily opening doors and offering increasing opportunities for education and development to scientists and physicians in the field of allergy/clinical immunology, bringing together diverse cultures, promoting understanding among peers, while unpretentiously balancing uniformity with diversity. Several of our active Task Forces, such as the Food Allergy Management and Allergy Management in Primary Care TFs, are certainly looking deeply into the causes of diversity and the potential management strategies arising from or associated with different environments. Task Forces are action groups proposed by the EAACI membership, evaluated by the Executive Committee, and aiming at producing a Position Paper: an official Position of the Academy towards an issue of current controversy and importance. It is a scientific process in which elements of evidence-based medicine meet with social understanding and sensitivity, while keeping a sharp awareness of the need for democratic consensus. The amount of work undertaken is enormous, with more than 40 groups actively engaged at this moment. Although the process may be slow at times, the results are trustworthy and influential, making a difference in the practice of Allergology globally. This effort is worth expanding and the Executive Committee is paying considerable attention towards its further elaboration. Finding ways to make science work for the benefit of patients and society is an acquired trait, requiring effort, inspiration and dedication, all of which characterise the EAACI community. Often, I wonder (rather naively), whether this is not an example for wider domains, such as politics or economy, to follow…

Nikos Papadopoulos
EAACI Secretary General

EAACI News

News from the EAACI
Secretary General:
Taking the Right Position

To accomplish the mandate, a financial plan will be developed by 2014, and a membership survey project has been undertaken to evaluate EAACI members’ needs and expectations for the future. The result of these activities will be appraised and a monitoring system will be put in place. EAACI dedication has greatly improved overall scientific knowledge and medical results. In spite of these successes, allergy is neither a recognised disease nor is it a specialty in many countries where allergists represent a sub-group within other medical fields. The challenge is to overcome this and further improve allergy diagnosis and treatment. This can be achieved through the harmonisation of knowledge setting scientific standards: In this regard resources have been allocated to the EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Examination and to developing the guidelines, which serve to improve health standards and as a reference for policymakers as well as for payer organisations such as insurance companies.

The increased level of competence will support the establishment of stronger links between research centres, clinical allergists, and different stakeholders in vertical and horizontal networks. Opportunities to strengthen avenues of communication have been implemented in a platform including 23 Patient Organisations from across the world. This platform may lobby on a European level for the importance of health economics, demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of prevention and the early diagnosis of allergy compared to the treatment of subsequent chronic diseases.

Antonella Muraro
EAACI Treasurer

News from the EAACI
Treasurer

EAACI has been highly successful in the past years. Innovation, power, and dedication have led to an increase in members and superior participation particularly at the EAACI Annual Congresses. Nevertheless, it’s obvious that a new strategic approach is needed to bring the EAACI to a new level of recognition. Current activities should focus on building a longer-term vision that allows the EAACI to grow and to develop its full potential and long-term viability.

In the last two years, EAACI has focused on resource optimisation processes and integrated business planning, resulting in organisational alignment to the strategic development.

Success is defined as driving the scientific platform as outlined by the Constitution. In order to align ourselves with its goals, four objectives are considered crucial:

1. Ensuring long-term viability, transparency, and timely and accurate financial data
2. Achieving membership satisfaction
3. Efficient use of resources
4. Strengthening corporate culture communication streams among different groups

For forces are action groups proposed by the EAACI membership, evaluated by the Executive Committee, and aiming at producing a Position Paper: an official Position of the Academy towards an issue of current controversy and importance. It is a scientific process in which elements of evidence-based medicine meet with social understanding and sensitivity, while keeping a sharp awareness of the need for democratic consensus. The amount of work undertaken is enormous, with more than 40 groups actively engaged at this moment. Although the process may be slow at times, the results are trustworthy and influential, making a difference in the practice of Allergology globally. This effort is worth expanding and the Executive Committee is paying considerable attention towards its further elaboration. Finding ways to make science work for the benefit of patients and society is an acquired trait, requiring effort, inspiration and dedication, all of which characterise the EAACI community. Often, I wonder (rather naively), whether this is not an example for wider domains, such as politics or economy, to follow…

Nikos Papadopoulos
EAACI Secretary General
News from the Scientific Programme Committee

The Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) comprises chairpersons or secretaries of the Sections and Interest Groups of the Academy. Moreover, key members of the Local Organising Committee and future and past chairpersons of the annual meetings are members. When the SPC met in Istanbul before the Congress, all work was already done. The programme was printed, all the speakers were invited, the chairpersons were appointed, the abstracts were selected, etc, and we now know that also from a scientific point of view the Istanbul Congress was a great success.

The subject of the SPC meeting was not this year’s Congress, however, but the Annual Congress in Geneva 2012, where Philippe Eigenman will serve as Chairman and Francois Spertini as General Secretary. The SPC met for the first time in February 2011 to discuss the Geneva programme, based on many suggestions from individual Academy members, Sections, and Interest Groups. When the SPC met again in Istanbul, an almost finished suggestion had been compiled, and all subjects, speakers, and lecture titles were meticulously reviewed to produce the best possible mix for the coming meeting. After some final proofreading, the invitations to speakers will go out during the summer.

It is still too early to comment on individual symposia, but it can be mentioned that the overall structure of the Geneva Congress will be the same as in London and Istanbul: Two large morning plenary sessions of clinical and basic allergology for the Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, and a common translational plenary on the Wednesday. The remaining time will be covered with symposia, workshops, pro and con discussions, and other sessions and importantly also the many free presentations based on the abstracts that are to be submitted before 18 January 2012.

The SPC has to look even longer into the future, however. During the Istanbul Congress, there was also time for the very first meeting on the 2013 Congress in Milan, Italy. This will be a joint event between the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology and the World Allergy Organization, and even though many delegates from outside Europe already attend the EAACI Congresses, we expect even more international delegates in Milan. At the meeting in Istanbul an overall roadmap was decided, by which both organisations will work hard toward the Annual Congress in June 2013.

Lars K. Poulsen EAACI SPC Co-ordinator

Bulgarian Society of Allergology

The Bulgarian Society of Allergology (BSA) is a non-profit organisation of allergologists and medical professionals involved in the field of allergy and clinical immunology. It comprises some 120 members, most of whom are certified in the specialty Clinical Allergology, which is recognised by the Bulgarian Ministry of Health. Many of the members are also specialists in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Oto-rhino-laryngology, Dermatology, Toxicology, and Immunology. The objectives of BSA are to organise CME activities for its members in order to maintain a high level of professional qualification, to stimulate scientific research in the field of allergy and clinical immunology, and to promote co-operation with similar foreign societies for accelerating scientific exchange. The Society has a constitution and by-laws. It is headed by a Board of Directors with Vasil Dimitrov (vasdim48@gmail.com) acting as President and Ted Popov (ted.popov@gmail.com) as General Secretary, and is headquartered in Sofia. The Society meets at least four times annually in different venues across Bulgaria and holds its major congresses every fourth year, with the next congress planned for 2012. The BSA partners with the Bulgarian Ministry of Health and the National Health Insurance Fund in shaping the health policy of the country in the field of allergy and asthma. It maintains contacts with other Bulgarian medical societies in overlapping medical areas and organises joint interdisciplinary meetings and research activities. It has its own journal, Allergy, Hypersensitivity Asthma (AHA), and until recently published in English a regional journal by the same name. The BSA collaborates with the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) with special emphasis on regional activities in South-Eastern Europe. It organised, with the support of the EAACI, a European School in Sofia in 2003 attended by 150 participants from Europe, most of whom came from neighbouring countries. It is also an active member of the World Allergy Organization.

Ted Popov, General Secretary

EAACI Membership Information

- Total EAACI Members: 6,805
- EAACI Full Members: 4,499
- EAACI Junior Members: 2,306
- Dual AAAAI-EAACI Members: 0
- Dual ERS-EAACI Members: 95
- Dual AAAAI-EAACI Junior Members: 0
- Dual ERS-EAACI Junior Members: 1
- EAACI Asthma Section Members: 1,721
- EAACI Dermatology Section Members: 412
- EAACI ENT Section Members: 394
- EAACI Immunology Section Members: 1,402
- EAACI Pediatrics Section Members: 1,233
Communication is the Central Activity of EAACI

The new Communication is the central activity of the EAACI: communication to educate, to inform, and to discuss. In recent months, our portfolio of communication platforms has increased with two new additions.

The first is the new open access e-journal Clinical & Translational Allergy www.ctajournal.com. This third scientific journal complements Allergy and Pediatric Allergy & Immunology, which are currently unable to accommodate the large demand for publications they receive. As is the case with most open access publications, manuscript management fees are paid by the authors; nevertheless, if authors fulfil the requirements, they may apply to waive the fee.

The second platform is the public website www.infoallergy.com, which is intended to provide rigorous information for allergic patients and the general population. At this stage, the first version is in English, but we plan to have it translated to other languages in the future. We invite National Societies and patient associations to collaborate in this challenging project!

But don’t let these two new “babies” make you forget the other very useful resources we offer you. At the EAACI website www.eaaci.net you will find a lot of information on all our activities. Now you can find the European Declaration on Immunotherapy, which is a document stating the present situation of this unique form of treatment for allergic diseases, and which reflects the need to widen the use of allergen immunotherapy and to increase the resources dedicated to research in the field. We would like National Societies to support this positioning, to translate it to their own languages, and to encourage members to forward it to politicians and regulators. We would also like to highlight the Handouts of the 30th EAACI Congress, which are available on the website.

Furthermore, if you did not have enough time to see all the posters you wanted during the Congress, consult www.postersessiononline.eu/congreso.asp?cod=604503810 where you will find a very useful poster gallery.

And remember to stay tuned for the latest papers in the field by regularly consulting www.theallergynews.com. This “choice” of articles will keep you updated on the hot topics in respiratory allergy, immunotherapy, skin, food and drug allergy, among others, without having to browse through all the relevant journals.

So, dear members, please note these resources and make the most of them!

Victoria Cardona
EAACI
Vice-President Communications and Membership
100 Years of Immunotherapy

In 1911, Leonard Noon, followed closely by John Freeman, published the first reports on allergen immunotherapy in The Lancet. One century later, EAACI celebrates this pioneering work by developing different initiatives, in order to highlight the importance of this initial work, which has led to state-of-the-art allergen immunotherapy.

The EAACI Summit 2011 100 years of immunotherapy in allergy. From Noon till dawn...

The EAACI Summit, the central activity of the celebration of 100 years of immunotherapy, took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 24 February 2011. This initiative gathered a group of European experts in the field of allergen immunotherapy and had three main purposes: (1) to actively and critically discuss several controversial issues in the field of allergen immunotherapy; (2) to provide an output of the discussions in the form of several papers to be published; and (3) to provide worthy actions to be used in different media to disseminate knowledge about allergen immunotherapy among healthcare professionals and the general population. Among six working groups one expert acted as a discussant “for” and another “against.”

One of the EAACI initiatives to celebrate the 100 Years of Immunotherapy was the presentation of the Noon Award to Dr William Frankland during the Opening Ceremony of the 30th EAACI Congress in Istanbul. Dr Frankland holds a special place in the history of allergy and immunotherapy as a pioneer in the development of immunotherapy. In 1946, he joined St Mary’s Hospital in London and later worked with John Freeman, who, along with Noon, was another leader in immunotherapy. Dr Frankland took over Freeman’s pollen farm and founded the St Mary’s Allergy Clinic, treating thousands of patients every year. Together with Rosa Augustin, he undertook the first controlled clinical trial of immunotherapy. Dr Frankland also developed the concept of the pollen count, and through countless media interviews he continues to explain allergy to the public.

William Frankland received the Noon Award from Prof. Jan Lötting, EAACI President 2009-2011

The Noon Award is dedicated to a scientist/doctor/researcher that has made an outstanding contribution to the field of immunotherapy.

Dr William Frankland winning the Noon Award for a life dedicated to immunotherapy

EAACI presents the European Declaration on Allergen Immunotherapy

The EAACI presented the European Declaration on Allergen Immunotherapy during the EAACI Congress 2011 in Istanbul. This document aims to provide a robust statement on the use of immunotherapy, its availability for allergic patients, and the need for resources to fund relevant research. Even though immunotherapy could be the most rewarding field in terms of return, translational value, and European integration, and a field in which Europe is recognised as a worldwide leader, it has not yet received adequate attention from European institutions or research funding bodies. Evaluation and surveillance of the full cost of allergic diseases are still lacking and are impaired by the variety of health systems across Europe.

Victoria Cardona, EAACI Vice-President Communications and Membership, Cezmi Akdis, EAACI President, and Nikos Papadopoulos, EAACI Secretary General

The EAACI would like to call upon Europe’s policymakers to co-ordinate actions and improve individual and public health in allergy by: Promoting immunotherapy awareness, Updating national healthcare policies to support allergen immunotherapy, Prioritising funding for immunotherapy research, Monitoring the macroeconomic and health economic parameters of allergy, and Streamlining medical disciplines and specialties. The EAACI believes that the effective implementation of the above policies has the potential for a major positive impact on European health and well-being in the next decade. You can find the European Declaration on Allergen Immunotherapy on www.eaaci.net.

Unified standard for allergen potency and each European manufacturer defines its own standardisation method and allergen units, making it impossible to switch between products during treatment. In the U.S., the FDA established a standard potency test and reference extracts for certain allergens to which allergen manufacturers have to compare their batches of allergen extracts [1]. Other important topics included the ratio between dose-efficacy and safety of sublingual immunotherapy and subcutaneous immunotherapy, differences in particular schedules of up-dosing, approaches in polysensitised patients, and the long-term efficacy and preventive effect of SIT. A new and exciting world of recombinant allergen proteins for treatment is about to open its doors for clinical trials that will bring a new era to Specific Immunotherapy, as well as future immunotherapy (Fig 1). The innovative meeting format allied to the excellent organization allowed a fruitful interaction between participants and determined the success of this EAACI Summit on specific immunotherapy.

JMA Summit participants
Dr Rodrigo Rodrigues Alves
Portugal
Dr Michael Rudenko
United Kingdom

Fig 1: Future forms of immunotherapy

References
Fellowship Awards 2011

**Exchange Research Fellowship Award**

**Long Term**
- Vladimir Andrey Giménez Rivera
- Agnieszka Wegryn

**Medium Term**
- Pegah Teymourpour

**Short Term**
- Corina Bocsan
- Lkhagvaa Battur
- Aikaterini Chairakaki
- Mariana Couto
- Roman Fishchuk
- Katharina Marth
- Brinda Subbarayal
- Felix Weber

**Clinical Fellowship Award**

- Anca Mirela Chiriac
- Catalina Dumitru
- Janni Hjortlund
- Lina Jankauskaite
- Alexandros Sakellariou
- Diana Pereira da Silva
Memories of the Istanbul Congress

After many years of hard work it is a great pleasure to see that the 30th Congress of the Academy has ended successfully. The Congress itself has been as intensive as the preparations. I hope that we have kept our promise and have been able to bridge science and culture successfully during the four-day Allergy marathon and send you back home fully equipped with science and inspiration as well as with pleasant memories.

In keeping with the theme of our Congress, there was an extremely diverse representation of the world population. We had 7,940 delegates from 106 countries, and we are very grateful to all the 391 speakers that gave excellent presentations in 232 sessions and to our delegates, who presented a total of 1,886 abstracts. Despite the attractions offered by Istanbul, we were very pleased to see that the session halls and the exhibition were packed the entire time. We are very thankful to all our exhibitors that occupied a record large space of 1845 square metres in Rumeli Hall.

On behalf of the Turkish National Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology and the Local Organising Committee, I would like to say that it has been a great pleasure to host this congress in Istanbul. We are looking forward to hosting you all again on another occasion.

Greetings from Istanbul,

Ömer Kalayci
EAACI Congress 2011
President

General Practitioners Day Report

The EAACI 2011 Istanbul Congress hosted the very first General Practitioner and Family Physician (GPFP) meeting.

Allergy and allergic diseases are increasing worldwide, and patients with allergic disease are treated not only by specialists in allergy but also by GPFPs in clinical practice and the healthcare systems of many countries. This one-day GPFP programme supplemented the main scientific programme of the EAACI Annual Congress by aiming to provide practical information to the physicians that treat allergic persons in primary care settings.

A total 95 GPFPs from 43 countries met in the scientific hall of the Istanbul Congress Centre in the beautiful historical city of Istanbul. During the scientific programme, participants had the opportunity to hear about the practical approaches to common problems in allergy including asthma, rhinitis, food allergy, urticaria and angioedema, anaphylaxis, drug allergy and immunodeficiencies by the experts in these topics. After the programme, the participants joined the closing ceremony and buffet dinner along with live music, all of which were very enjoyable.

Finally, we would like to remind GPFPs about a new website, www.infoallergy.com, which was recently announced by Victoria Cardona, EAACI Vice-President Communications & Membership. Although this website targets lay persons, we believe that GPFPs can find responses to their questions about allergy and allergic diseases since the new website includes descriptions of allergic diseases and possible causes, and reviews how diagnostic techniques and treatments are used.

The EAACI always welcomes new and enthusiastic participants and the contribution of GPFPs will increase the strength of our specialty in the community.

Sevim Bavbek, MD
EAACI LOC 2011, Scientific Chair
Ömer Kalayci, MD
EAACI Congress 2011 President

From left to right: Luigi Fontana, SIAIC Past-President, Cezmi Akdis, EAACI President, Massimo Triggiani, SIAIC President, Nikos Papadopoulos, EAACI Secretary General, and Victoria Cardona, EAACI Vice-President Communications and Membership

EAACI Leadership Visit to the National Societies Village

EAACI President Cezmi Akdis, EAACI Secretary General Nikos Papadopoulos, and EAACI Vice-President Communications and Membership Victoria Cardona visited the National Society Village during the EAACI Istanbul Congress with the managers and junior managers of the EAACI Headquarters.

They discussed with the National Society leaders how the education on allergy, public awareness, patient organisations, National Society congresses, Allergy Schools, and the representation of the National Societies in the EAACI can be improved and a better collaborative atmosphere can be established. President Cezmi Akdis declared that “efficient interaction with the national societies is essential in the provision of better service to the entire allergy community.”

Greetings from Istanbul,
Each year, the EAACI honours outstanding European researchers and clinicians that have contributed significantly to the development of innovative diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for the control or prevention of allergic diseases, to the understanding of the pathophysiology of allergic disease, and to the strengthening of allergology as a specialty in Europe. The EAACI Executive Committee is the responsible of selecting the EAACI Medal Award winners for these four different categories: the Clemens Von Pirquet Award, the Daniel Bovet Award, the Paul Ehrlich Award, and the Charles Blackley Award.

The 2011 Awards were presented during the Opening Ceremony of the EAACI Congress in Istanbul by Professor Jan Lötvall, EAACI President 2009 – 2011.

The Clemens von Pirquet Award 2011 for Clinical Research was awarded to Professor Gabrielle Pauli

The Daniel Bovet Award 2011 for Treatment and Prevention was awarded to Professor Erika von Mutius

The Charles Blackley Award 2011 for Promotion of the Specialty of Europe was awarded to Professor Anthony J. Frew

The Paul Ehrlich Award 2011 for Experimental Research was awarded to Professor Gianni Marone

Report on the 4th EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Examination in Allergology/Clinical Immunology, 11 June 2011, Istanbul

A total of 33 candidates from 15 countries participated on the 4th European Examination in Allergology and Clinical Immunology, which took place in Istanbul 11 June, during the EAACI Congress 2011. 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, 65.3 points (64.65%) of a possible 101 points was achieved with a standard deviation of 13.14 points (13.01%) and a range between 40 points (39.6%) and 87 points (86.1%). The standard (cut-off point) was set at 59 points or 58.4% (correct answers). A total 25 of the 33 candidates (75.75%) 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 questions were evaluated by the EAACI Exam Committee chaired by Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier, and the IML (Institute for Medical Teaching, Bern), and 120 questions were finally selected by the Task Force chairperson and the IML for this examination.

The selection process in 2009, on which the 2011 examination was based, followed the blueprint, indicating the required knowledge for the examination. It comprised about 30% questions about basic immunology and some about clinical immunology (autoimmunity and immune deficiency). 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, but also issues such as pregnancy and allergology, occupational allergies, immunodeficiencies as well as eosinophilic disorders, mastocytosis, CI-INH deficiency, etc.). The examination comprised type A questions (one answer of five is correct), and type K′prime questions (four answers of which each one might be correct or false). As revealed by the IML report, the examination itself had a very high standard. Candidates were allowed to use dictionaries to facilitate linguistic understanding.

The 5th EAACI/UEMS Examination in Allergology/Clinical Immunology will take place during the annual EAACI Congress in Geneva, on Saturday, 16 June 2012.

Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier
EAACI Exam Committee Chairperson

Pascal Demoly
EAACI Vice President Education and Specialty

Sladjana Scepan
EAACI Manager Education and Specialty
Slovenia is ideally located in Europe, and despite its relatively small size, offers varying landscapes from Alpine mountains to the Mediterranean Sea. Since the country joined the EU, in only a few years, pediatric allergy in Slovenia has fully integrated itself into the European medical community. There are currently 17 pediatricians educated in pediatric allergy, for a population of close to 2 million, who mostly work in university hospitals or polyclinics and provide state-of-the-art care to the pediatric population of the country. Slovenian pediatric allergists and the EAACI recently organised a PAPRICA Symposium for primary care pediatricians on 21 May in Ljubljana. The topics ranged from the prevention of allergy, atopic dermatitis, food allergy and drug allergy to respiratory allergy, including immunotherapy and were presented as state-of-the-art lectures including practical clinical recommendations. The faculty comprised international speakers (Antonella Muraro, Italy, Thomas Werfel, Germany, Marina Atanaskovic Markovic, Serbia, Ioana Agache, Romania, and Philippe Eigenmann, Switzerland), as well as Slovenian speakers (Vesna Vodusek, Vesna Glavnik, Dušanka Lepej, and Anja Koren). The total 60 delegates from many countries expressed significant interest in these lectures and vivid discussions after the lectures and during the breaks resulted in most interesting exchanges.

Within the frame of the PAPRICA programme for continuous education of primary care physicians, a symposium will be held in Braşov (Romania) on 8 October 2011. News from this symposium will be published in one of the forthcoming issues of the EAACI Newsletter!

Philippe Eigenmann, PAPRICA Co-ordinator
Vesna Vodusek, Local Organiser

Allergy and Immunotherapy – From Tolerance to Early Intervention, 31 March – 3 April 2011, Saariselkä, Finland

The second EAACI-GA²LEN Winter School, organised by EAACI Immunotherapy Interest Group and the Finnish Society of Allergology and Immunology, took place at a charming Finnish village called Saariselkä. The first session was devoted to the epidemiology and environmental factors of allergic diseases. The hot topics of the session included the symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of allergic rhinitis, the prevalence of positive allergy skin-prick testing, insulin and sex hormones of female asthmatic patients, and hormone replacement therapy in asthma. The evening continued with a get-together party and a Finnish buffet. The second day’s lectures were on basic immunology and antigen characterisation, the identification of patients suitable for allergen specific immunotherapy, allergens, tolerance, and specific immunotherapy. The evening was followed by an off-site dinner in an exotic Lapland restaurant. On the third day, the topics discussed were the practical issues during immunotherapy, the predictors of severe systemic anaphylaxis in hymenoptera venom allergy, the adverse events of immunotherapy, duration and resolution, post-marketing surveillance, possible risk factors for anaphylaxis due to SLIT, and the history of allergy and immunotherapy.

In addition to the high-quality scientific programme, there were opportunities for winter sports between the morning and the evening sessions. All the JMA’s and professors had a great opportunity for skiing, hiking, and taking a spa. To summarise the impressions of the participants and lecturers, I would conclude that the EAACI Allergy School in Saariselkä was very successful. On behalf of all participants I would like to thank the EAACI and the LOC for their excellent organisation, which made this school a great success.

Lilit Hovhannisyan
Official Representative of EAACI Dermatology Section, Junior Members and Affiliates Working Group, Institute of Molecular Biology of Armenian National Academy of Sciences

Contact: allergyschools@eaaci.org

*More Schools are being planned for 2012, information will be soon available in www.eaaci.net.
Preparations for PAAM 2011
EAACI Pediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting, 13 – 15 October 2011

The very successful 30th EAACI Congress in Istanbul is now behind us, and we are getting very close to the next most important and exciting EAACI meeting, the Pediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting – PAAM 2011 – which will take place in Barcelona, Spain, on 13 – 15 October 2011.

This second PAAM will be attended by internationally renowned speakers from Europe and around the world, and the scientific programme addresses not only specialists in Pediatric Allergology, but also general pediatricians, specialists in Pediatric Pulmonology and Gastroenterology, general practitioners, and researchers dealing with children with allergic diseases. Most importantly, we aim to attract young scientists and clinicians to this meeting – preparing a new generation to take over this important field in the future.

We have done our utmost to produce a very exciting scientific programme with a mixture of plenary sessions and symposia, including joint sessions with the ERS Pediatric Assembly and ESPGHAN, as well as a wide range of Interactive Clinical and Practical Sessions. The meeting aims to deliver sessions that feature the best of current pediatric allergy and asthma research. Spanish symposia and practical sessions are also included.

The topics are wide ranging and include several aspects and hot news topics on asthma, rhinitis, food allergy and gastrointestinal allergic manifestations, atopic dermatitis and urticaria, the development of allergic diseases, new data on prevention, as well as specific immunotherapy and drug allergy. Please visit the website to see the detailed scientific programme.

This meeting also provides you with an excellent opportunity for meeting and interacting with colleagues and friends from Europe and around the world. You will also be able to enjoy Barcelona, a wonderfully dynamic city with a perfect climate in October and excellent cultural and social opportunities.

We cordially invite everybody to participate in this second PAAM and to contribute to its success. Don’t miss the chance for this exciting meeting and register now for PAAM 2011.

For more information on PAAM 2011, please visit: www.eaaci-paam2011.com

We look forward to seeing you in Barcelona.

Susanne Halken
PAAM 2011 Chair
Antonella Muraro
Angel Mazon Ramos
Graham Roberts
PAAM 2011 Co-Chairs
Preparations for DHM 2012, EAACI Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting, 11 – 14 April 2012

It is our pleasure to invite you to the Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting 5 (DHM5 2012), which we are going to host in Munich, Germany, on 11 – 14 April 2012.

The Meeting will be the prime event of the year in the area of drug hypersensitivity. It is aimed to give up-to-date information for clinicians and researchers and will cover basic, translational, and clinical aspects.

We are extremely honoured and privileged to have several Keynote speakers from top level international institutions on the organisation committee planning the sessions. The first programme draft is ready and includes clinical topics helpful in the practice of drug hypersensitivity as well as the basic background needed for a better understanding of the disease and its mechanisms. This programme will be further discussed and adapted.

The meeting will be developed to present an excellent opportunity to learn about and to share major developments, novel ideas, and unprecedented progress in this area. We strongly believe that interest in this topic continues to increase, and we hope that the meeting in Munich will also be successful and informative. It is the first time that the meeting will be organised by the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

We will welcome you to the heart of Bavaria, its capital Munich, and the recently renovated lecture hall buildings of the Faculty of Medicine/Klinikum rechts der Isar, the clinical campus of the Technische Universität München (TUM) – just a stone’s throw from the Maximilianeum, home to the parliament of the German Federal State of Bavaria, and near the city centre offering rich socio-cultural, historic, and modern-life aspects of Munich hospitality. The welcome party is planned either at the Maximilianeum or as a Bavarian evening in front of the lecture hall.

We look forward to further developing the meeting and to welcoming you to Munich.

Knut Brockow
DHM 2012 Chair
The Asthma Section of the EAACI has identified that the critically important missing link in our asthma portfolio lies in the area of severe asthma and asthma exacerbations. We will address this by developing an EAACI Statement on asthma exacerbations and severity, which will serve as a perfect extension of the PRACTALL initiative on asthma endotypes. We will organise a meeting linking the endotype concept with severity and exacerbations in Athens on 10 – 11 November. Of the 20 experts invited to share their views on controversial topics, a number of key opinion leaders has already confirmed their participation: Elisabeth Bel, Peter LeSouef, Ian Pavord, Sebastian Johnston, Mina Gaga, Sejal Saglani, Mika Makela, Paul O’Byrne, Fernando Martinez, Nikos Papadopoulos, Jan Løtvall, Christian Virchow, Cezmi Akdis, Pascal Demoly, and Adnan Custovic. Forty Asthma Section Junior Members will be awarded travel grants of 500 Euro to cover their expenses, the only criterion for awarding the grants being the quality of abstracts on the topics: severity, exacerbations, endotypes/phenotypes. Junior Members will attend the Round Table to witness the process of developing a consensus statement. We wish to use this opportunity to call on our Junior Members to submit their work and take part in something truly unique.

Adnan Custovic
Asthma Section Chairperson

The EAACI Epidemicology Interest Group launched in Istanbul

Although a lot of the ongoing work and research represented within the EAACI Sections, IGs and the annual conferences is related to epidemiology, there has so far not been an official voice within the organisation for those who have a particular interest in population-based studies and clinical trials.

We therefore launched the EAACI Epidemicology Interest Group, following acceptance by the Executive Committee.

The main aims of our IG are:

- to organise educational activities on study methodology and statistics to help improve the quality of epidemiological studies
- to foster research collaborations between epidemiologists in the allergy field across Europe, and
- to plan and organise surveys, registries, population-based studies and clinical trials in the context of EAACI, supported by links between us and other IGs and Sections.

We encourage the EAACI membership to contribute to the activities of our IG, to join our educational activities and to gain experience in the field of epidemiology.

Although a lot of the ongoing work and research represented within the EAACI Sections, IGs and the annual conferences is related to epidemiology, there has so far not been an official voice within the organisation for those who have a particular interest in population-based studies and clinical trials.

We therefore launched the EAACI Epidemicology Interest Group, following acceptance by the Executive Committee.

The main aims of our IG are:

- to raise the profile of population-based studies as well as clinical trials through dedicated epidemiology-related sessions during the annual EAACI Congress
- to organise educational activities on study methodology and statistics to help improve the quality of epidemiological studies
- to foster research collaborations between epidemiologists in the allergy field across Europe, and
- to plan and organise surveys, registries, population-based studies and clinical trials in the context of EAACI, supported by links between us and other IGs and Sections.

We encourage the EAACI membership to contribute to the activities of our IG, to join our educational activities and to gain experience in the field of epidemiology.

We are keen to collaborate with other IGs and Sections on joint projects and look forward to hearing from you.

Dr Carsten Flohr
MD PhD MSc (Epi)
IG Chairperson
London

Dr George Konstantinou
MD PhD MSc (Biostat)
IG Secretary
New York
Basic Mechanisms: Subcutaneous Versus Sublingual Immunotherapy

Studies on the mechanisms of allergen-SIT outline targets that determine the efficacy of SIT that may be used for further improvement. Our understanding of the mechanisms underlying allergic diseases and curative treatment possibilities has made exciting advances during the last three decades, and several mechanisms have been proposed to explain the beneficial effects of immunotherapy. The process of treating allergy during the course of SIT involves these mechanisms working in concert either simultaneously or sequentially (Fig. 1), and whether or not SLIT utilises the same mechanisms of tolerance induction as SCIT has long been a matter of controversy. Current data do not provide full evidence of the mechanisms triggered at different stages of SIT (Fig. 2). For instance, SLIT has not been investigated in the models of rapid tolerance induction.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Studies in several clinical trials in allergen-specific immunotherapy demonstrate that the induction of a tolerant state of T cells against allergens during the first 12 months of both SLIT and SCIT in many ways represent a key step in the development of a healthy immune response against allergens. T cell tolerance seems to be central, and different types of Treg cells control several facets of allergic inflammation. They regulate IgE versus IgG4 and favour the allergen-specific antibodies towards the non-inflammatory and non-anaphylactic constellation. In addition, they directly or indirectly affect mast cells, basophils, and eosinophils so that these effector cells cease to contribute to allergic inflammation. Increased local numbers of Foxp3 express CD25⁺ cells within the sublingual mucosa after SLIT. Several cellular and molecular mechanisms have been demonstrated: the increase in the allergen-specific suppressive capacities of both inducible subsets of CD4⁺CD25⁺Foxp3⁻ T regulatory and IL10-secreting Type 1 T regulatory cells in peripheral blood; and the suppression of eosinophils, mast cells, and basophils.

Ab isotype changes from IgE to IgG4 observed in the first months of SIT are crucial in long-term tolerance and the eventual cure for allergy. Although similarities exist between the mechanisms of SLIT and SIT, additional local mechanisms are also likely to be involved. The oral mucosa is considered a site of natural immune tolerance. Oral Langerhans Cells (oLCs) express high levels of MHC Class I and II molecules. Costimulatory molecules such as CD40, CD80, CD86, and FcγRI/II are also expressed. oLCs constitutively express high levels of FcεRI and produce IL10 in a TLR4-dependent manner. Tolerance induced by SLIT might involve cross-talk between Langerhans Cells, epithelial cells, and monocytes capable of producing IL10, TGF-β, and activins. During SLIT a lower increase in allergen-specific IgG and IgG4 as compared to SIT is observed. Grass pollen-specific IgA1 and IgA2 increase during the pollen season in SLIT-treated patients, but not in placebo-treated patients. However, no changes in allergen-specific IgG2 and IgG3 antibody levels following SLIT, in contrast to findings observed in subcutaneous immunotherapy, are observed. This may be due to the high expression of high-affinity IgE receptors on the professional APC favouring IL10 production after allergen cross-linking.

However, the rapid induction of T cell tolerance is always the basic requirement for an allergen vaccine in achieving successful SIT without risk of anaphylaxis (Fig. 3). The understanding of the mechanisms underlying SIT and SLIT foster studies targeting the improved efficacy and safety of allergen-SIT, such as the use of recombinant proteins, peptides, fragments, and hybrid allergens.

Further reading
European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology
16 – 20 June 2012
Geneva, Switzerland

EAACI Congress 2012

Abstract Submission Deadline: 18 January 2012

www.eaaci2012.com