

PRESS RELEASE

The International Meeting "Pediatric Allergy and Asthma" organized by EAACI - European Academy for Allergy and Clinical Immunology opens today in Venice, Italy

Venice, 12 November 2009 – Over 900 among the world's most renowned specialists and allergy experts gathered in Venice today for the opening of the EAACI International Meeting "Pediatric Allergy and Asthma" with the aim of evaluating new tools for the early diagnosis of allergies and a better treatment of the diseases.

Experts from European and U.S. pediatric societies, including the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology and the National Institute of Health (NIH-USA) took part in discussions on the latest developments of the basic mechanisms of allergies and their impact on treatment.

At the opening day, the role of allergens, the response of the immune system and new tools for allergy diagnosis were the focus of the debates.

In particular, the use of "purified" allergenic proteins and molecules to identify allergy in the child and how to evaluate cross-reactions were among the newest approaches to diagnosis discussed at the Meeting.

"EAACI is making a great effort to provide health care professionals with the latest findings in scientific research and education," said EAACI President Jan Lotvall, who moderated the Meeting's main plenary session together with Congress Chairman Antonella Muraro, also a member of the Board of Officers of EAACI.

Tomorrow, the Meeting will feature a fully dedicated panel to swine flu and allergic patients, while the preliminary results of ongoing clinical trials, as well as new approaches to find a "cure" for allergy will be the topic of the next days.

About EAACI:

EAACI - The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology is a non-profit organisation active in the field of allergic and immunologic diseases such as asthma, rhinitis, eczema, occupational allergy, food and drug allergy and anaphylaxis. EAACI was founded in 1956 in Florence and has become the largest medical association in Europe in the field of allergy and clinical immunology. It includes 5'500 individual members from 107 countries, as well as 40 National Allergy Societies.



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