HISTORY
I. General data

The idea of a closer collaboration at the European level in the field of Allergy, was for the first time suggested during the 1st European Congress on Allergy, held in Paris from May 31 to June 1, 1950 and organized by Pasteur Vallery Radot, B.N. Halpern, and P. Blamoutier.

On that occasion, the representatives of the European Allergy Societies created a European Council with the task of organizing the next European Congress.

The 2nd European Congress, entrusted to the Danish Society for Allergological Research, and organized by E.B. Salen and E. Bruun, was held in Copenhagen on May 20-23, 1953.

Although both the said Congresses were extremely successful, it was nevertheless evident that a closer cooperation was necessary, not only for organizing meetings, that were important but occasional, but also for ensuring a continuous exchange of views and information, and that this could be done only through the creation of a specialized European Society.

After a hard preparatory work, this objective could be finally attained during the 3rd European Congress of Allergy, organized in Florence by A. Lunedi and U. Serafini, on September 1956.

The delegates of the 13 Allergy Societies, and the representatives of the countries still without an established Society of Allergy, convened in Florence, during that Congress, and passed the following resolutions:

1) Name of the Society:
   The European Academy of Allergy

2) Purpose:
   European cooperation in the field of allergy (training, meetings, research).
3) Nomination of Officers:

President: Prof. U. Serafini
Vice Presidents: Drs. E. Bruun, F. J. Farrens-Co, D. A. Williams
Secretary: Dr. W. Quarles van Ufford

Main Advisory Committee:

Prof. Z. Eriksson Lihr, Prof. B.N. Halpern, Prof. K. Hansen, Prof. C. Jimenez Diaz, Prof. A. Lunedi, Prof. Pasteur Vallery Radot, Prof. V. Spoujitch.

Fig. 1: Speakers at the 1st European Congress of Allergy (Paris, 1959): from left to right: E.B. Salen, B. Halpern, E. Bruun, A. Tzaneck, C. Frugoni, Pasteur Vallery Radot, U. Serafini, G. Bickel, P. Bordet, F. M. Rackeman.


5) Official languages: English, French, German.


7) Nomination of Honorary Member: Sir Henry Dale and Prof. Cesare Frugoni.

It was pointed out that the Academy, although accepting individual members, had as its basic object the grouping together of all the already existing European Societies devoted to the study of allergy and which together had some fifteen hundred members. In addition it was resolved that outstanding workers in the field of Allergy from countries lacking a specific Society should be invited to join the Academy.

During the following years the Academy underwent a remarkable growth: at present, 20 national Societies are officially represented in EAAACI, and the individual members amount to some 500.

The Academy's Constitution and By-laws were drawn up in Utrecht in 1957. Some amendments to them were however made through the years.

The name of «European Academy of Allergology» (1959-1971) was changed into «European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology», owing to the close relationship existing between these two fields of study and also in view of the possibility of establishing a cooperation between them.

A special agreement was reached with «Acta Allergologica», which became the official organ of the Academy as well as of the Northern Society of Allergology. Some of the most important works of the Academy have been reported in this Journal, such as the proceedings of the Brussels Meeting and of the London and Copenhagen Congresses.

Special care was devoted by the various Executive Committees to the organization of congresses and meetings, in order to attain the best possible coordination of the European activities in the field of allergy.

The Florence Congress was followed by the 4th European Congress in London (1959), organized by R.S. McDowall and D.A. Williams; the 5th European Congress was held in Basel (1962) and was organized by R. Schuppli; the 6th European Congress, organized by S. Hellerström and S. Kraepelien, took place in Stockholm (1965); the 7th European Congress was held in Berlin (1968), organized by H. Herxheimer and E. Stersemann; the 8th European Congress was held in Marseilles (1971), organized by J. Charnpin; and, lastly, the 9th European Congress was held in London (1974) and was organized by K.M. Citron and R.S. Bruce Pearson.

As the European Congresses, owing to their international character, were held at rather long intervals, annual meetings («small» meetings) were organized in between congresses, with the object of improving and updating knowledge in selected fields of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. Here follows a list of the annual meetings held so far:

Brussels (1957); The Hague (1958); Belgrade (1959); Barcelona (1960); Berlin (1961); Prague (1962); Bologna (1963);
Brussels (1966); Prague (1967); Geneva (1969); Oslo (1972); Pamplona (1973); Rome (1975).

With regard to the Academy's constitutional aim of "encouraging and assisting international cooperation among European workers in the field of allergy", special care was given to the formation and function of various Committees, which were established with the object of developing scientific and practical knowledge in specialized fields.

Ten scientific committees were set up between 1956 and 1959, to deal with such subjects as: Occupational Allergy, Food Allergy, Education in Allergy, Climate and Allergy, Airborne Allergens, Drug Allergy, Standardization, Allergy and Insurances, Pharmacology and Drugs, Testing Procedures. Several other committees were added during the period 1959 to 1962, such as: History and Allergy, Autoimmunity, Allergy and Nervous System, Allergy and Rheumatism, Pediatric Allergy, Lung Function Tests. Three workshops were organized in 1962: Physiotherapy, Rehabilitation in Allergic Diseases, Social Measurements and Allergic Diseases.

Some reports by these Committees and Workshops have been published. After a few years, the activity of many Committees was discontinued.

The Lexicon Allergologicum, (Johann Ambrosium Barth, Leipzig, 1964) was published with the support of the Academy. It was edited by Dr. J.K. Wilken-Jensen with the valuable collaboration from Drs. J. Duchaine, W. Gronemeyer, R.S. Bruce Pearson, A.W. Frankland, U. Serafini, A. Ado, and includes the translation of the principal technical and scientific allergological terms in six languages (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Russian).

II. National societies and honorary members

National Societies

Allergy Section of the Hungarian Society
Association des Allergologes de Yougoslavie
Austrian Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology
British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology
Czechoslovakian Allergy Society
Danish Society of Allergology and Immunology
Finnish Society of Allergology and Immunology
German (BRD) Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology
Hellenic Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology
Italian Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology
Netherlands Society of Allergy
Norwegian Society of Allergology and Immunopathology
Portuguese Society of Allergology
Société Belge d’Allergologie et d’Immunologie Clinique
Société Française d’Allergologie
Société Roumaine d’Allergologie et d’Immunologie Clinique
Société Suisse d’Allergie et Immunologie
Society of Clinical and Experimental Immunology of the GDR
Spanish Society of Allergology
Swedish Association for Allergology
Honorary Members

Sir H. Dale * (Great Britain)
Dr. J. Freeman * (Great Britain)
Prof. C. Frugoni (Italy)
Prof. A. Grumbach (Switzerland)
Prof. B. Halpern (France)
Prof. W. Jadassohn * (Switzerland)
Prof. C. Jimenez Diaz * (Spain)
Prof. H. Kämmerer * (Germany)
Prof. H. Löffler * (Switzerland)
Prof. R. J. S. McDowall (Great Britain)
Prof. Pasteur Valery Radot * (France)
Prof. P. Portier * (France)
Dr. Prausnitz-Giles * (Germany)
Prof. Ch. Richet * (France)
Dr. D. A. Williams (Great Britain)
Dr. E. Bruun (Denmark)
Prof. H. Herxheimer (Germany)

* Deceased
III. Scientific and organizing activity (1956-1975)

1956 Florence, 12-15 September, III European Congress

Organized by A. Lunedei (President) and U. Serafini (Secretary General)


EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1956-1959)

President U. Serafini Italy
President Elect D.A. Williams Great Britain
1st Vice President E. Bruun Denmark
2nd Vice President J.F. Farrerons-Co Spain
3rd Vice President H. Storck Switzerland
Secretary General W.J. Quarles van Ufford Netherlands
Treasurer J. Jamar Belgium
Historian S. Kraepelien Sweden

Main Advisory Committee: Prof. Z. Eriksson Lihr, Prof. B. Halpern, Prof. K. Hansen, Prof. C. Jimenez Diaz, Prof. A. Lunedei, Prof. Pasteur Valerly Radot, Prof. V. Spouijitch.
Meeting in which the European Academy of Allergy was established

Scientific sub-committees: a) Occupational Allergy, Chairman: Prof. Dr. W. Jadassohn (Switzerland); b) Food Allergy, Chairman: Prof. Dr. V. Spoujitch (Yugoslavia); c) Education, Chairman: Dr. K. Wilken-Jensen (Denmark); d) Climate and Allergy, Chairman: Dr. R.S. Bruce Pearson (Great Britain); e) Airborne Allergens, Chairman: Dr. D.A. Williams (Great Britain); f) Drug Allergy, Chairman: Prof. Dr. H. Storck (Switzerland); g) Standardization, Chairman: Prof. Dr. G. Mellli (Italy); h) Allergy and Insurances, Chairman: Dr. J. Jamar (Belgium); i) Pharmacology and Drugs, Chairman: Prof. B.N. Halpern (France); j) Testing procedures, Chairman: Prof. Dr. K. Hansen (Germany).

ANNUAL MEETINGS

— Brussels, 30 May - 2 June 1957, organized by the Belgium Allergology Society. J. Duchaine (President), J. Jamar (Secretary General).

The Proceedings were published by Acta Allergologica, Suppl. V, 1958.

— The Hague, 14-24 May 1958, organized by the Netherlands Society of Allergy in cooperation with the Netherlands Institute for Preventive Medicine and the Netherlands Society of Occupational Allergy. Presidents were Prof. H.A.E. van Dishoeck and Prof. J.W.H. Mali. Dr. Quarles van Ufford was Secretary General.

Subjects: Occupational Allergy (course).
The Proceedings were published by the Publishing Company of H.E. Stenfer Kroese N.V. Leiden 1959.

— Belgrade, 19-21 May 1959, organized by Prof. I. Djuricic (President) and Prof. V. Danilovic (Secretary General).

Subjects: Prophylaxis of Allergy with Special Regard to Occupational Allergy - Food Allergy.
The Proceedings were published by Folia Allergologica vol. VII n. 1, 1960 and by Serbian Journals.
1959 London, 14 September, IV European Congress.

Organized by J.S. Mc Dowall (President) and D.A. Williams (Secretary General).


EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1959-1962)

President  D.A. Williams  Great Britain
Past President  U. Serafini  Italy
President Elect  E. Bruun  Denmark
1st Vice President  B.N. Halpern***  France
2nd Vice President  H. Herxheimer  Germany
3rd Vice President  H. Storck  Switzerland
Secretary General  W.J. Quarles van Ufford  Holland
Treasurer  J. Jamar  Belgium
Historian  S. Kraepelien  Sweden

*** In March 1962 Dr. B.N. Halpern resigned. The second Vice President Prof. H. Herxheimer then became first Vice President and Prof. H. Storck became second.

Main Advisory Committee. All members were re-elected. Prof. B.N. Halpern resigned, Dr. R.S. Bruce Pearson was elected to this office.

Scientific Committees. New Committees were established: Allergy and Ophthalmology (Chairman: Dr. V. Walker) — History and Allergy (Chairman: Prof. R.J.S. Mc Dowall) — Autoimmunity (Chairman: Prof. U. Serafini) — Allergy and Nervous System (Chairman: Dr. R. Panzani) — Allergy and Rheumatism

ANNUAL MEETINGS

— Barcelona, 3-4 June 1960, organized by Prof. C. Jimenez Diaz (President) and Dr. J. Farrerons Co’ (Secretary General).


— Berlin, 28-29 April 1961, organized by Prof. H. Herxheimer (President) and by Dr. H. Michel (Secretary General).

Subjects: Differential Diagnosis of Bronchial Asthma and Destructive Emphysema of the Lung - Neurodermatitis and contact eczema.

Proceedings published on Acta Allergologica.

— Prague, 1-2 June 1962, organized by Dr. Hodek.

Subjects: Pharmacology of allergic reactions — Delayed-type hypersensitivity.


1962 Basel, 8-11 October, V European Congress.

Organized by R. Schuppli.

Main topics: Genetic Factors in Allergy—Allergy in Collagen and Vascular Diseases—Pollinosis in Various European Countries — New Methods of Specific Desensitization—Fixed Antibodies—Free Subjects.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1962-1965)

President E. Bruun Denmark
Past President D.A. Williams Great Britain
President Elect H. Herxheimer Great Britain
1st Vice President H. Storck Switzerland
2nd Vice President J. Farrerons-Co' Spain
3rd Vice President W. Gronemeyer Germany
Secretary General J. Sclafer France
Treasurer J. Jamar Belgium
Historian U. Serafini Italy

ANNUAL MEETINGS

— Bologna, 3-5 October 1963, organized by Prof. G. Sotgiu (President) and Prof. L. Rosa (Secretary General).

Subjects: Diseases with Antinuclear Autoantibodies — The Treatment of Bronchial Asthma.


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1965 Stockholm, 5-9 September, VI European Congress.
Organized by S. Helleström (President) and S. Kraepelen (Secretary General).

Main topics: Mast Cells and Basophils in Allergy — The Importance of Inhalation Tests in the Etiological Diagnosis of Allergic Diseases of the Bronchi and in the Evaluation of the Effects of Specific Hypersensitivity — Allergic Contact Eczema in Theory and Practice. Proceedings published in local and foreign journals of Allergy.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1965-1968)

President H. Herxheimer Germany
Past President E. Bruun Denmark
President Elect H. Storck Switzerland
1st Vice President K.O. Vorlaender Germany
2nd Vice President S. Kraepelen Sweden
3rd Vice President R. Suriyach Spain
Secretary General J. Sclafer France***
Treasurer J. Jamar Belgium
Historian U. Serafini Italy

*** In 1966 the Secretary General Dr. J. Sclafer was compelled to resign for reasons of health. He was succeeded by Dr. E. Musso (Switzerland).

ANNUAL MEETING

— Brussels, 6-8 October 1966, organized by Dr. J. Duchaine and Dr. J. Jamar.

Subjects: Autoimmune Diseases; Enzymes and Allergy; Diabetes and Allergy to Hormones. Proceedings published in local and foreign journals of Allergy.

— Prague, 5-8 June 1967, organized by Dr. B. Hodek and Dr. V. Spicak.

Subjects: Immunological Aspects of Allergy; Childhood Allergy. Proceedings published in local and foreign journals of Allergy.
1968 Berlin, September 30 - October 3, VII European Congress.

Organized by H.W. Spier and H.H. Naumann (Presidents); E. Stresemann and F. Klaschka (General Secretaries).

Main topics: Morphology of the Immunity Reaction — Progress in Applied Immunology and its Importance for the Practice of Medicine — Allergic Reaction of the Nose, Sinuses and Bronchi — Allergy of the Skin — Corticosteroid Therapy of Allergic Diseases and its Side Reactions.
Proceedings published in local and foreign journals of Allergy.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1968-1971)

President J. Duchaine Belgium
Past President H. Herxheimer Germany
President Elect S. Kraepelien Sweden
1st Vice President J. Charpin France
2nd Vice President R. Surinyach Spain
3rd Vice President R.S. Bruce Pearson Great Britain
Secretary General E. Musso Switzerland
Treasurer J. Jamar Belgium
Historian U. Serafini Italy

Main Advisory Committee was abolished.
Constitution is changed in Berlin (1968) and Geneva (1969).

ANNUAL MEETINGS

— Geneva, 2-5 October 1969, organized by Dr. P. Rentchnick P.D., Dr. A. de Weck P.D., Dr. F. Wortmann; Secretary General: Dr. E. Musso P.D.

Subjects: Physiologic and Pathologic Function of Immunoglobulins — Mites as Allergens — Retard Corticoids or Desensitization? Proceedings published in local and foreign journals of Allergy.

1971 Marseilles, 18-21 October, VIII European Congress.

Organized by Prof. J. Charpin.

Main topics: Basic Immunology — Techniques of Immunology Applied to Clinical Allergy — Atopic Dermatitis — Evolution and Prognosis of Asthma in Childhood — Immunosuppressive Treatment of Status Asthmaticus — Objective Criteria in Results of Desensitization Treatment — Panel on Food Allergy.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1971-1974)

President S. Kraepelien Sweden
Past President J. Duchaine Belgium
President Elect J. Charpin France
1st Vice President R. Surinyach Spain
2nd Vice President M. Werner Germany
3rd Vice President A.W. Frankland Great Britain
Secretary General E. Musso Switzerland
Treasurer J. Jamar Belgium
Historian U. Serafini Italy

ANNUAL MEETINGS

— Oslo, 21-22 August 1972, organized by Prof. P. Berdal.
Subjects: Immunological Advances of Significance for Clinical Allergy - Biochemical Advances of Significance for Clinical Allergy.
Proceedings published in local and foreign journals of Allergy.

— Pamplona, 1-2 June 1973, organized by Prof. A. Oehling.
Proceedings: published in Allergologia et Immunopathologia (Pamplona), (Suppl.).
1974 London, 8-13 September, IX European Congress.

Organized by K. M. Citron (President) and R.S. Bruce Pearson (Secretary General).


Proceedings not yet published.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1974-1977)

President Prof. J. Charpin  France
Past President Dr. S. Krapeleen  Sweden
President Elect Dr. A.W. Frankland  Great Britain
1st Vice President Dr. J. Girard  Switzerland
2nd Vice President Dr. E. Fuchs  Germany
3rd Vice President Dr. F. Ortiz  Spain
Secretary General Dr. J. Jamar  Belgium
Treasurer Dr. F. Wortmann  Switzerland
Historian Prof. U. Serafini  Italy

ANNUAL MEETING

— Rome, 26-28 May 1975, organized by Prof. U. Serafini (President), Prof. E. Errigo and Prof. C. Masala (General Secretaries).


Proceedings will be published in Folia Allergologica et Immunologica Clinica (Rome) n. 4, 1975.

Rome, May 1975
Prof. Umberto Serafini
Historian of EAACI