

Report about the 3. EAACI/UEMS Examination in Allergology/Clinical Immunology

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Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier, Chairperson of the EXAM Task Force
Luis Delgado, EAACI Vice-President, Education & Specialty

On 5 June 2010 the 3rd European Examination in Allergology and Clinical Immunology took place in London. 52 candidates applied for the Exam, 43 candidates from 23 countries took the Exam: 10 from Switzerland, 4 Greece, 4 Germany, 3 Spain, 3 Slovenia, 2 France, 1 Romania, 1 Portugal, 1 USA, 1 Belgium, 1 UK, 1 Russian Federation, 1 Italy, 1 Saudi Arabia, 1 Slovakai, 1 United Arab. Emirates, 1 India, 1 Ireland, 1 Czech Republic, 1 Trinidad & Tobago, 1 Turkey, 1 The Netherlands, 1 Canada. All applicants entered the examination via the EAACI path, none via UEMS path.

Participation from Switzerland was high, as 5 candidates from Switzerland took this examination as the written part of their national examination, and 3 used it for self-evaluation. On average, 72.8 % of the possible 115 points were achieved with a standard deviation of 6.6 % and a range between 59.1 % and 80.0 %. The standard (cut-off point) was set at 73 points or 63.5 % (correct answers). 13 of the 15 candidates (86.7 %) were successful.

The quality of the examination (i. e. its internal consistency) under consideration of its small sample of candidates was high: the measurement reliability (Cronbach-Alpha) was 0.75 (0.8 would be the internationally required minimum for high stakes examinations with more candidates).

The examination was based on revised questions from the question pool and on many new questions prepared by the task force members and from different centers (particular thanks goes to Edward Knol, Werner Aberer, Elena Borzova, Arthur Helbling, Benno Schnyder, Maija Hytönen, Olle Lowhagen, Beatrice Bilo). The questions were evaluated by WJP and the IML (Institute for Medical Teaching, Bern), and 117 questions were finally selected by the task force chairman (WJP) and the IML for this examination.

The selection process followed the blueprint, indicating the required knowledge for the examination: It comprised some questions about basic immunology and some questions 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, issues like pregnancy and allergology, professional allergies, eosinophilic disorders, mastocytosis, CI-INH deficiency, etc.). The examination consisted of type A questions (one answer of 5 is correct), and type Kprime questions (4 answers of which each one might be correct or false). As revealed by the report of IML, the examination itself had a high standard.

The 4th EAACI/UEMS Examination in Allergology/Clinical Immunology will take place during the EAACI annual Congress in Istanbul, on Saturday, 11 June 2011.

Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier
EAACI Exam/Knowledge Test
Task Force Chairman

Luis Delgado
EAACI Vice-President Education and
Specialty