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Washington DC

EAACI/AAAAI PRACTALL: The role of the microbiome

The PRACTALL program is a flagship common initiative of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. The goal of this joint project led by the Presidents of both the Academies is to share updated authoritative and evidence based recommendations for current hot topics relevant to our field.

This year's theme is focused on the role of the microbiome in asthma, atopic dermatitis and food allergy. Our understanding of the role for the microbiome in allergic diseases continues to evolve, with an increasing number of studies connecting changes in microbiome composition or activity with immunologically mediated disorders. Representatives from EAACI (Antonella Muraro, Liam O'Mahony and Benjamin Marsland) and AAAAI (Tom Fleisher, Donald Leung, Yvonne Huang and Supinda Bunyavanich) met together in Washington D.C. in early September to have a lively and interactive discussion about where we currently stand regarding the role of the microbiome in allergic diseases and what are the future research needs. Important knowledge gaps were identified and potential strategies were outlined to fill these gaps. In addition, progress in approaches used to manipulate the microbiome were reviewed, identifying what has and has not worked to serve as a baseline for future directions to intervene in allergic disease development and/or progression. Indeed, targeted and rational means to manipulate the microbiota will likely contribute to and build upon precision medicine approaches for allergy care.

Since this meeting, a manuscript has been prepared by the team and will be submitted for review in the coming weeks. In addition, 2 PRACTALL symposia with key findings and recommendations will be held at the Academies annual meetings in 2017: AAAAI in Atlanta and EAACI in Helsinki. We look forward to meeting you there to add to this discussion on the role of the microbiome in shaping the immune response in asthma, atopic dermatitis and food allergy.

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