
Annual Congress of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) On the Road to Prevention and Healthy Living – EAACI Welcomes the World of Allergy at its Annual Congress in Helsinki

Helsinki, Finland, 17 June 2017 – EAACI 2017,

The official annual congress of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), the world's largest medical association in Europe in the field of allergy and clinical immunology, is being held from 17 to 21 June at Messukeskus in Helsinki, Finland. This year's congress edition is dedicated to the theme "**on the road to prevention and healthy living**". The highly regarded scientific meeting proves again, that EAACI stands as the primary source of expertise in Europe and beyond for all aspects of allergic diseases and asthma, bringing key stakeholders together.

Bringing Together Cutting-Edge Science and Patient Care

More than 7'000 scientists, clinicians, researchers, allied health professionals and industry innovators from around the world share the latest developments, research, and best practices in treating allergic diseases and asthma. A total of **1'850 research abstracts** from around the globe were selected for presentation by the Scientific Programme Committee. Over the full length of the congress, the delegates can benefit from 50 symposia, 6 "year in review" sessions, 5 hot topic sessions, 10 interactive workshops, 12 learning lounges, 10 postgraduate courses, 8 pro/con sessions and many more. An **Allied Health Day** and **Russian Day** (in Russian only) are planned for 17 June.

For the fourth year in a row, 20 EAACI member National Allergy Societies (NAS) will present their achievements in the **National Society Village**, creating a welcoming and casual networking atmosphere. On 17 and 18 June, the **Clinical Village** is open, where attendees can try out different procedures and equipment used in the field of allergy. This "research to touch" is an excellent opportunity to combine theory and practice and to get in contact with scientists and clinicians from hospitals and research centres. This year the Patient Organisation Workshop is dedicated to **practical allergy management**, where global representatives of patient organisations and other stakeholders share their experiences and discuss current issues in an interactive meeting set-up.

EAACI has also invested in the Interactio App to improve the quality of Thematic Poster Sessions (TPS). In Helsinki, delegates can listen to the TPS presentations on their own mobile device – undisturbed by other presentations held in the same area. Connected with the venue's WiFi, the user can simply choose the poster session via the app and tune in.

Scientific Excellence and Cutting-Edge Research Highlights

EAACI Congress 2017 covers a vast range of topics, including new aspects of basic and clinical research aiming to satisfy the audience's thirst for knowledge, including highly specialised doctors, basic scientists, allied health specialists, patients and primary care doctors.

In line with the congress theme "on the road to prevention and healthy living", the scientific programme offers the subject **prevention** in various settings and formats, tackling the issue from different angles with symposia

such as: **Allergy prevention: a broad perspective** and **skin as a gateway to allergy**, which are presented in plenaries. The **Women in Science Symposium** dedicates its focus on **early prevention of allergy**.

Microbiomes are currently being investigated in numerous studies in the field of allergy. As a trending and much discussed topic, it is well represented in the scientific programme in Helsinki. The plenary **microbiome in health and allergic disease**, a hot topic session about **united airways microbiome** and the EAACI-AAAI PRACTAL symposium are offering different approaches to microbiomes. Further highlighted topics are **biologicals** and **biomarkers**, which are subjects of discussions in numerous abstracts presented, such as in the symposium **biologicals in daily practice of allergy treatments**, during an interactive poster discussion **biologicals in respiratory and cutaneous diseases** and in oral abstract sessions about **biomarkers in asthma and food allergy mechanisms**.

Launch of the EAACI AIT Guidelines on Allergen Immunotherapy

Allergen Immunotherapy has a crucial role in the management of many allergic diseases. The evidence based guidelines were developed to support the practical implementation in the most optimal way to manage patients with allergic diseases and asthma. On **Sunday, 18 June at 13:30, in Hall 1**, the new EAACI AIT Guidelines Part 1 (systematic reviews) will be launched during the session “**EAACI Guidelines for Clinical Practice on Allergen Immunotherapy: Controversies and Challenges**”. AIT Guidelines Part 2 (practical recommendations) will be published in October. Finally, the huge effort of seven EAACI Task Forces (prevention of allergy, venom allergy, IgE-mediated food allergy, allergic asthma, allergic rhinoconjunctivitis, situational analysis in primary care, the regulatory of allergen products and the socio-economics of allergen immunotherapy) that started to work on the project in April 2015, will come to life.

United Action for Allergy and Asthma – A Political Call to Action in Europe

On 25 April 2017, the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma, in collaboration with **EAACI** and the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients’ Association (**EFA**), launched the **Political Call to Action United Action for Allergy and Asthma** during a policy symposium in the European Parliament.

At www.CallAllergyAsthma.eu, the Call to Action can be signed by individuals, non-profit organisations and policy-makers until 30 September 2017 – the more signatures that are collected by the allergy and asthma community and its peers, the higher its political weight and influence. The political aim of the Call to Action is to present policy recommendations to the EU Member States, the European Commission, the European Parliament and patient/civil society stakeholders to foster positive policy change and eventually improve the lives of allergy patients. The entire advocacy document, as well as all endorsing politicians and societies are listed on the [website](http://www.CallAllergyAsthma.eu).

The culmination of the political awareness campaign takes place during the EAACI Congress 2017 during the **Presidential High-Level EU Stakeholders Lunch** with panellists such as **MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen** (Chair of the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma), Prof. Tari Haahtela (Chair of the Finnish Allergy and Asthma Programme) and Prof. Pekka Puska (Member of the Finnish Parliament, former Director of the Finnish Institute of Health). The Stakeholders Lunch includes 70 participants, bringing together representatives from the EAACI leadership, national and international allergy societies, patient organisations and EU and national decision-makers.

About EAACI

The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) is a non-profit organisation, active in the fields 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, Italy and has become the largest medical association in Europe in the field of allergy and clinical immunology. It includes over 10'000 members from 122 countries, as well as 60 national and international member societies.

Over the past 61 years, EAACI has dedicated its resources to improving the health of people affected by allergic diseases and asthma. With experience and knowledge in allergy science, EAACI is the primary source of expertise in Europe and beyond for all aspects of allergic diseases and asthma.

The press release is also available in French, Spanish, Italian, German and Finnish on the [EAACI Website](#).

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