Task Forces:
fueling research, sharing knowledge

Discovering EAACI Congress 2020
Allergy Recent highlights
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This platform serves the central EAACI goals of promoting research, disseminating scientific information to encourage continuous education, and functioning as a scientific reference body for professionals and organisations involved in allergy, asthma and clinical immunology.

Learn more about the Media Library [here](#) with Karin Hoffmann-Sommergruber.
At the close of a year full of exciting developments for EAACI, I take this opportunity to thank all our Newsletter readers and members of the EAACI family worldwide. It is as a result of EAACI’s international outreach and its vast membership of over 12,000 dedicated researchers, clinicians, National Allergy Societies and allied health professionals all around the globe that, in 2019, we successfully “Mapped the New World of Allergy” at our Annual Congress in Lisbon with a record number of participants and an unparalleled scientific programme. Watching a wide range of experts sharing best practices and discussing challenges faced in clinics and research centres is something that can make us feel immense pride in being part of this Academy.

The opportunity to share knowledge and the most recent developments in our field was also achieved through all our fruitful focused meetings, master classes and allergy schools this year, attended by top level speakers and delegates. The topics covered included pediatric allergy, rhinallergy, skin allergy, molecular allergology, and many more.

EAACI continues to be the centre of excellence for state-of-the-art research on allergic diseases, asthma and clinical immunology, as documented by the numerous impactful publications produced in 2019.

The Global Atlas of Skin Allergy – the latest addition to our Global Atlas Series – is a comprehensive review of dermatological allergic diseases and was launched at the 2019 Congress in Lisbon. It has already been viewed online over 1300 times.

Our newest AIT Guidelines on house dust mite-driven allergic asthma were published in May 2019 and have been received with great interest by the international allergy community. We strongly recommend the use of EAACI guidelines in all your practices. Only with unified approaches to prevention, diagnosis and treatment can we really work together to reduce the impact and incidence of allergic diseases and asthma.

Our three EAACI journals – Allergy, PAI and CTA – continue to be in the spotlight as key reference points for allergy experts and researchers. Their impact factors have increased significantly, positioning them at the top of the scientific journals in our field. We thank all contributors to our journals and their respective editors and associate editors, who ensure the constant flow of high-quality output for our readers.

Twenty-one position papers were published this year by top level researchers, including “Prioritising research challenges and funding for allergy and asthma and the need for translational research—The European Strategic Forum on Allergic Diseases”: the outcome document of a high-level meeting held in Zurich in November 2018 where international institutions, regulatory partners, industry and EAACI sister societies convened to find solutions to the most pressing challenges for our specialty.

In this regard, advocacy efforts in the EU advance strongly: following parliamentary elections, a successful reorganising of the EU Parliamentary Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma shows the continuous or newfound support of several MEPs towards our cause. A meeting at the EU Parliament in November 2019 provided an opportunity for discussions between the EAACI Leadership, international organisations and MEPs on how to
efficiently integrate allergy into Europe’s political agenda and beyond.

Advocating for allergy would be incomplete without the involvement and empowerment of patients and Patient Organisations: EFA, our partner in activities at the EU level; our own committed Patient Organisation Committee composed of 30 organisations; and our newly launched task forces dealing with public outreach.

As a fast-paced organisation, we are constantly looking for new ways forward, and 2020 will be a year with many new initiatives that can only be achieved with your support. We are currently working on an update of the EAACI Global Atlas of Asthma, the translation of the Molecular Allergology User’s Guide in Spanish, new Guidelines on biologicals, atopic dermatitis and AIT guidelines for allergy and asthma, and an update of the anaphylaxis and food allergy prevention guidelines. We have approved over 50 task forces that will start 2020 with exciting new mandates and will certainly yield comprehensive position papers in the coming year.

A new EAACI Research platform aims to facilitate allergy, asthma and clinical immunology research through the coordination and support of the research community. High quality and reproducible data will be supported by leveraging resources into a joint information exchange network. Ultimately, it will boost top-notch experimental research through multi-centre collaboration and strengthen the validity of experimental medical results.

An innovative e-learning platform will provide the optimal conditions for Continuous Medical Education. Combining interactive e-learning modules (with webcasts, live streams, webinars, recommended reading and questionnaires), the platform will open numerous possibilities to acquire CME credits conveniently and from a reliable and renowned source.

And speaking of innovation, our Annual Congress 2020 which will be held in London from 6–10 June under the motto “Bridging innovations into allergy and asthma prevention” promises to be a hotspot for new developments in our field. From omics, mHealth, AI and big data to a clinical village exceptionally open to the public, the event will be an ideal meeting point to bridge our international innovations and pursue prevention together, and hence I would like to warmly invite you to London.

While wishing you a grand beginning to this new decade, I warmly thank you for your continued support of the Academy. May these new ’20s be truly roaring for EAACI, bringing a myriad of new accomplishments and a unified expert voice to allergic and asthma disease prevention worldwide.
Dear EAACI friends and members,

The year 2019 has seen a great deal of work undertaken, including projects, position papers and innovations implemented by EAACI, all undertaken to keep the EAACI family united, informed and positioned as the biggest allergy organisation, worldwide. The EAACI newsletter itself has changed its design so that it is now more interactive and includes embedded videos, links to documents and short cuts to register for EAACI events, travel grants and abstract submissions - features which I am sure will be very useful and time-saving for EAACI members and other readers.

At the beginning of the year, the 17th EAACI Winter School was held in Trysil (Norway), gathering 70 young scientists to discuss and share cutting-edge allergy and asthma related basic and clinical immunological research in a stunning environment. Later, in March, the first RHINA Meeting was held in Eastbourne (UK), and was a great success in encouraging scientific collaborations and facilitating translation of emerging discoveries in rhinology, allergen immunotherapy and ENT, and the use of biologicals in upper respiratory disciplines.

In April, two different EAACI activities were sold out: the Insect Venom Allergy and Mastocytosis Allergy School in Groningen (the Netherlands), which gathered around a 100 members and stakeholders to share up-to-date research and evidence in the hymenoptera venom allergy field, in a university setting within this charming city; and the Skin Allergy Meeting, which was held in Berlin (Germany), where both keynote speakers and delegates enjoyed fruitful discussions on skin diseases. The EAACI Annual Congress in Lisbon (Portugal) at the beginning of June was another success, with over 8000 delegates enjoying very interesting discussions about all aspects of allergy. Several EAACI Task Forces were initiated in Lisbon and some of them are introduced in this issue and the next. Stay tuned!

After the summer, the EAACI Pediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting (PAAM) was held in Florence (Italy), breaking records in terms of registrations (more than 1400) and abstracts. Other scientific activities in the last quarter of 2019 include the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting (FAAM) in Paris in December.

Once again, I invite all EAACI members to have a look at the EAACI Media Library (http://webcast.eaaci.cyim.com) where you will find outstanding talks and hundreds of posters from different EAACI events, providing extended dissemination of the information available during the live events – all to be enjoyed at your convenience. And have you had a look at the Job Center on the EAACI website yet? If you are a hospital, research centre or university and have positions open for recruitment, please do use the EAACI Job Center at: http://www.eaaci.org/resources/job-center/eaaci-external-positions.html. EAACI supports medical professionals from the beginning of their studies and throughout their professional careers.

In this issue, we also hear from Junior Member travel grant winners. Are you a JM? If yes, please read and be inspired by the successful candidates who were able to attend EAACI events!

Finally, I would like remind members of national allergy societies about the existence of the Dual Membership rate. Prospective EAACI members who are already national allergy society members are entitled to an annual EAACI membership for just 30 EUR. To date, 34 societies have agreed to take part in this very interesting opportunity. If you would like to apply, don’t forget to indicate which national society you are a member of and fill in your valid national society membership number. EAACI is dedicated to allergy science, committed to your health.

I wish you a happy and prosperous 2020, full of science, knowledge, innovation and improvement.
EAACI Events 2020

Annual Congress

European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

EAACI Congress 2020

entiful 10 June 2020

London, United Kingdom

Focused Meetings

DHM 2020
Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting

2 – 4 April 2020
Verona, Italy

EUROBAT 2020
European Consortium on Application of Flow Cytometry in Allergy

15 October 2020
Manchester, United Kingdom

FAAM 2020
Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting

15 – 17 October 2020
Manchester, United Kingdom

ISAF 2020
International Severe Asthma Forum

22 – 24 October 2020
Rome, Italy

Allergy Schools and Master Classes

ALLERGY SCHOOL on Anaphylaxis: Etiology, Prevention and Management

19 – 21 March 2020
Izmir, Turkey

MASTER CLASS on Perioperative Hypersensitivity

31 March – 2 April 2020
Verona, Italy

For more information visit www.eaaci.org
Improving the visibility of the allergic eye!

As a translational specialty, allergology overlaps with many other different specialties. Pneumology, dermatology, ENT, but also gastroenterology, are often involved, alongside pediatrics and, of course, immunology. So far, the allergic eye has remained the “poor cousin” of allergology. Therefore ophthalmology and allergology experts are now working hard to improve its visibility.

Encouraging results have emerged in recent years: the Ocular Allergy Working Group symposium is increasingly well-attended during the annual EAACI Congress: in Lisbon in June 2019, the room was packed for the first time.

Even if the eye is “as plain as the nose on your face”, examination of the ocular surface is far from systematic during examinations by allergists. Pruritus of the eye is the one constant sign of allergic conjunctivitis and thus an examination of the eye surface should be undertaken systematically. Macroscopic observation of the bulbar and the tarsal conjunctiva in particular is not difficult to perform after a gentle pull on the lower eyelid to observe the lower tarsal conjunctiva. Everting the upper lid is the one way to observe the upper tarsal conjunctiva. (Figure 1)

Although clearly described in the reference texts on food allergy (1), when taking the clinical history of patients with mediated food allergy IgE, physicians rarely record as initial symptoms the presence of ocular symptoms such as itching, tearing, conjunctival redness, periorbital edema (2). Similarly, the ocular symptoms that arise during tests for food reintroduction in hospitals are also often obscured, to the point of being considered negligible. Our daily experience of food and ocular allergy has allowed us to note the relative frequency of these symptoms when discovering nut allergies (7% of patients) while their frequency is high during food challenges, up to 21% depending on the allergen.

A recent study argues in favour of the pivotal role of ocular surface pathology in the characterisation of phenotypes of allergic respiratory diseases (3). It was from this perspective that the Eye Allergy Interest Group decided to work on “The eye as a sentinel for allergy” in order to clarify the arguments in favour of the role of ocular allergy in the spectrum of allergic diseases. The results of the associated Task Force will be presented at the EAACI Congress in London 2020.

The conjunctival mucosa can also be the site of unexpected side effects of newly available treatments. Dupilumab is an anti IL4R and anti IL13 biotherapy currently used to treat severe eczema. It is sometimes responsible for conjunctivitis, the mechanisms of which are of great interest to understanding ocular surface involvement in atopic patients. In 2020, the Ocular Allergy Interest Group will launch a Task Force focused on “Drug induced periocular and ocular surface disorders” including the mechanisms involved in the side effects of biotherapies.

REFERENCES
Immediate perioperative hypersensitivity reactions: a collaborative approach

Patients with a suspected hypersensitivity reaction during surgery and anaesthesia represent the most complex patient group in drug allergy investigation. Reactions are rare, often very severe and symptoms may be difficult to differentiate from other perioperative events. Many simultaneous exposures to drugs with potent effects – and “hidden” compounds such as disinfectants – means that identifying the culprit is a challenge and often not possible in an ordinary allergy clinic setting. Investigation thus requires expert knowledge in both allergology and anaesthesia: the allergist can plan investigations, interpret results and recommend suitable alternatives, whereas the anaesthetist can interpret the perioperative events, read the charts, suggest non-allergic alternative explanations and give advice for future anaesthetics.

A lack of standardisation of the investigation of suspected perioperative hypersensitivity reactions led to the formation of the EAACI Perioperative Hypersensitivity Task Force (TF), comprised of allergists, immunologists, anaesthetists and laboratory specialists. A position paper was published in Allergy in Spring 2019 with updated recommendations on many aspects of the investigation of these reactions. The TF also concluded that collaboration between allergists and anaesthetists, in specialised clinics if possible, is paramount for optimal investigation, and called for the formation of such collaborations not only locally but also nationally and internationally.

Other recent important advances in the field of perioperative hypersensitivity include work published in 2018 as a result of the sixth British National Audit Project (NAP6), which included surveys of practice of anaesthetists and allergists and a large prospective study of suspected perioperative hypersensitivity reactions in the UK. One of the key NAP6 recommendations was to expand the specialised perioperative allergy clinic service and to give the subject more attention in medical education.

After publication of the NAP6 findings, the British Journal of Anaesthesia (BJA) initiated an international working group including members of the EAACI Perioperative Hypersensitivity TF and other experts in perioperative hypersensitivity from many parts of the world. Several key articles on different aspects of perioperative hypersensitivity were produced and published in the BJA in July 2019. The working group is now aiming to expand and the main aims going forward are to promote collaboration between anaesthetists and allergists worldwide and to establish an international network. The group is currently approaching national and international societies of both anaesthesiology and allergology to get support for this initiative.

EAACI supports collaborations across specialties and is a key player in promoting the field of perioperative hypersensitivity by arranging a Masterclass on Perioperative Hypersensitivity, planned for Spring 2020, in connection with the Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting in Verona. The Masterclass is likely to attract both allergists and anaesthetists and will provide a good starting point for developing and consolidating a worldwide network of collaborators. Obtaining the support of local administrators to provide the logistical and economic framework for specialised services will be an important challenge for the future.

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ISMA 2019
Reports from Travel Grant Winners

Great opportunity for feedback
in a stimulating atmosphere

This year I was very fortunate to win one of the much sought-after travel grants for the ISMA meeting in Amsterdam. The ISMA meeting is a great opportunity to make contact with fellow researchers from all over the world and I am very grateful to the Scientific Programme Committee for choosing my abstract and awarding the travel grant.

It was my first time attending the ISMA meeting and I was looking forward to presenting our new data to the international community for the first time. We recently discovered the linear IgE epitope of a very hot topic allergen from bee venom, Api m 10. Interestingly, all of our tested patients were reactive to this epitope and hence we decided to have it patented. I was excited to receive feedback on the fresh data and to meet with colleagues again as well as developing new connections.

On the first day of the Symposium, I successfully presented our data in one of the first sessions and received a lot of very interesting and valuable suggestions. After giving my presentation, I was able to discuss cutting-edge science with new and old colleagues. The topics of the meeting were very well balanced and I enjoyed the stimulating atmosphere. I gained some new insights about the analysis of mass cytometry, the structure of antibodies and properties of allergens.

Overall it was a very nice experience and I hope that I will be able to also attend the next ISMA meeting in 2020! Thank you EAACI for this unique experience.

Amazing speakers and insightful feedback

Becoming an immunologist was always a great passion of mine. Throughout my education, I have been fortunate to travel to various laboratories, where I have been able to perfect both technical and interpersonal skills. Being in the final stages of my PhD program at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology at University of Cape Town, South Africa, I was excited to share my work with the international community.

The conference was a chance to obtain insightful feedback on my research on the role of IL4r on B cells in atopc dermatitis, as well as to get an update on the most recent knowledge in the field of molecular allergology from amazing speakers such as Prof. Frits Koning and Dr Alexandra Santos. At the same time, it was a great opportunity for a re-union with my former lab mates from the Netherlands.

I am grateful to the organisers for recognising my work and granting me this award.
An enriching experience

After having submitted my abstract for ISMA 2019, I received a message saying that I had been selected as a travel grant winner. Since all Junior Members who submit an abstract are automatically considered for the allocation of travel grants, I was particularly happy about being chosen.

Being a medical student, the grant enabled me to attend this symposium with top speakers in the area of my doctoral research project without missing important classes and also supported me financially. Due to the clearly structured form, the reimbursement process was very easy to handle.

Attending ISMA was a very enriching experience as it gave me the opportunity to hear the latest approaches and results in molecular allergology in a pleasant academic atmosphere that facilitated networking with experienced researchers. For all of these reasons, I am very thankful for receiving this travel grant.

In the Spotlight

I was first introduced to ISMA by my supervisor when I started my PhD. It is an important conference for me as a major part of my work deals in allergology and, being my first ISMA conference, I was really excited to go there.

I personally feel the topics covered gave a comprehensive overview of current know-how in the field and provided important insights into the domain of molecular allergology. I had the opportunity to present a poster, which was important for me as it not only provided a platform to present my work but also gave me an opportunity to meet people working in the same field and to have fruitful discussions. Moreover, it was a chance to enhance my presentation skills and get feedback on my work.

Winning a travel grant made the whole event even more alluring and I was highly motivated to be there. I would recommend the conference to anyone interested in knowing more about the latest work in the field of molecular allergology, and in sharing and discussing their findings as well.

To top it all, ISMA was in Amsterdam this year, a place that has been on my ‘to visit’ list for a long time! I hope to see some of you reading this at one of these conferences in the future.
The next Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting (DHM 2020) will take place in Verona on 2–4 April 2020. This biannual event started in Bern in 2004 and was then successfully held in Liverpool 2006, Paris 2008, Rome 2010, Munich 2012, Bern 2014, Malaga, 2016 and in Amsterdam in 2018.

The DHM is an interdisciplinary meeting, bringing together up to 600 researchers and clinicians from different disciplines and from all over the world, to exchange their most up-to-date data in this continually evolving field and to transfer them into clinical practice. It is the leading event of its kind.

As in earlier DHM meetings, we will be challenging old dogmas and discussing new problems. We begin on Thursday afternoon with a symposium dedicated to immediate reactions, in particular drug evoked anaphylaxis. In the second part of the afternoon, there will be both a basic science and a clinical session: the first is dedicated to the pathomechanisms of severe cutaneous drug reactions, whilst in the second, special attention will be paid to betalactams and drug desensitisation.

We will also have our well appreciated Meet the Expert sessions, in which participants can discuss topics with world renowned specialists in a friendly and open atmosphere. This year the topics will be: reactions to vaccine, hypersensitivity reactions to intravenous iron preparations, and reactions to Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs.

There will also be a new session, Clinical Cases, in which the speakers will bring their expertise with practical clinical cases to discuss with the audience.

In Amsterdam in 2018 we started a new tradition, inviting the authors of the best abstracts to present their data at the symposium. This was highly appreciated, both by presenters as well as by the audience and we will therefore continue this initiative at the Verona meeting.

Furthermore, a workshop will be held on mastocytosis, with special attention to management of mastocytosis patients in need of medication.

Highlights of Friday afternoon will include a session on delayed hypersensitivity reactions as well as new therapeutic approaches in drug hypersensitivity reactions.

Saturday morning will include another novelty, namely two Pro–Con sessions, in each of which two experts will battle for the support of the audience for their point of view.

And, of course, there will be ample opportunities for those interested in basic research to catch up on the very latest insights into developments in drug allergies, as well as the latest updates in diagnostic procedures.

The programme will start on Thursday afternoon and ends on Saturday at lunch time; however, we wholeheartedly invite you to come a day earlier or stay until Sunday evening to enjoy Verona, its beautiful old houses, the Arena and the many restaurants offering typical Italian food. The weather in spring in Italy is usually quite warm and enjoyable, so leave your winter clothes at home.

We hope to have the opportunity to welcome you to Verona in April!
Patient organisations globally are very concerned about the shortage of life-saving adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injectors and are taking action to raise this issue with policy makers and auto-injector suppliers. Adrenaline (epinephrine) is the first line of defence in emergency treatment of anaphylaxis but manufacturers of the medication are struggling to keep up with demand.

Globally, there are shortages of EpiPen® and Emerade® devices. These brands account for a significant portion of the adrenaline auto-injector supply worldwide. Since September 2017, there have been ongoing issues with the consistent supply of EpiPen®. In Canada, the supply of EpiPen continues to be in a managed allocation with no stated date of when the manufacturer is expected to fully meet market demand. EpiPen in the UK continues to be in restricted supply and Australia had no available stock of EpiPen Jr in early December 2019, leaving newly diagnosed patients and those who have used their EpiPen Jr without access to emergency medication. With this complete market shortage and no other supplier options, the Australian government accepted a batch of EpiPen Jr which was contaminated with pralidoxime, the active ingredient used for emergency management of acute poisoning with organophosphate pesticides.

In September 2019, the US announced a shortage of EpiPen 0.15 mg and 0.3 mg and of Adrenaclick®. In late October 2019, Symjepi® (a pre-filled syringe, not an auto-injector) became available for purchase by consumers in the US.

Compounding the supply issues with EpiPen is the recent recall and withdrawals by Bausch & Lomb of Emerade auto-injector stock from pharmacies in the European market, including in Sweden, Spain, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK, because of an injecting fault in a minority of Emerade auto-injectors. The UK recently put out a notice saying the potentially defective UK Emerade stock was not being recalled from patients because of the pressure that would put on an already struggling adrenaline auto-injector market. The UK has now accepted stock of Adrenaclick that has an Austrian label and instructions; these are being given to patients with separate instruction in English. Both EpiPen and Adrenaclick have had expiry dates lengthened in some countries to help ease the shortage crisis.

Patient organisations globally are calling on governments, clinicians, pharmacy bodies, manufacturers and suppliers of adrenaline auto-injectors and others to assist in improving access in the immediate and long-term future. They are also asking clinical immunology/allergy specialists and key medical allergy organisations including EAACI to work with patient organisations to improve access to emergency medication.
18th Immunology Winter School 2020: Chamonix, France

The 18th Immunology Winter School on Basic Immunology Research in Allergy and Clinical Immunology will take place from 23 to 26 January 2020, in the spectacular Alpine Winter sports resort Chamonix, France. Following the tradition of this EAACI School, the meeting will combine outstanding scientific lectures with winter activities in this world famous ski resort located on at the foot of Mont Blanc.

Due to the high number of applications, 70 EAACI Junior Members have now been invited after a very competitive selection process based on the originality and scientific quality of the submitted abstracts. We will have five morning and afternoon oral abstract sessions including the highest scored abstracts, and six poster sessions after dinner in the evening sessions. Each session is thematically grouped based on the topic of the abstracts. In a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, participants will share and discuss their research results with other Winter School participants and with renowned scientists invited as keynote speakers.

We are looking forward very much to the excellent presentations to be given by our invited keynote speakers who come from all over the world. Lydia Lynch from the United States will provide insights into the immune metabolism and Carsten Schmidt-Weber from Germany will present as yet unpublished data on Type 2 differentiation. Bernhard Ryffel from France will talk about lung injury and inflammation, while Domingo Barber (Spain) will cover immunological mechanisms in allergen immunotherapy. Caspar Ohnmacht from Germany will provide cutting-edge knowledge about the microbiota contribution to oral tolerance and Adrian Hayday from the UK will focus on mechanisms of tissue surveillance at body surfaces. This year, during the Friday afternoon session, participants will get the opportunity to attend a free practical course on big data analysis, which will be held by Domingo Barber, Milena Sokolowska and Jozef Janda.

The highly interactive set-up of the meeting will provide all participants with great networking possibilities. In addition, there will be free time for relaxation, sports and exploration of the alpine area between the morning and afternoon sessions.

Due to the generous support of EAACI, accommodation and registration costs will be covered for all participants of the Winter School. Additionally, ten authors of the highest quality abstracts have received travel grants. We very much look forward to the exciting and scientifically outstanding programme of the Winter School 2020 in Chamonix!
I’m Roxana Radulescu. I have been working for EAACI for a little over one and a half years now and I am currently a Congress and Events Officer.

I am actually the youngest member of the EAACI headquarters team – and that is one of the perks for me! I started out as an intern, immediately after I graduated from university with a degree in events management. Since then, I have learnt so much about putting theory into practice, improvising in unforeseen circumstances, being flexible and about always finding different, innovative ways to carry out tasks more efficiently.

After my internship ended, I was offered a junior position that meant more responsibility and more independence in my work. I think that having had the chance to learn from experienced professionals, who have taken their time with me and gradually brought me on board for all the projects I now manage on my own, has definitely helped me a lot in advancing so quick in such a short period of time.

Out of all the projects in which I am currently involved, I would say that the Winter School is for sure my favourite. I’m sure that having the opportunity to go skiing for work (outside of the meeting hours, of course!) is something not all employees can brag about. To me, the Winter School has a very special atmosphere where young researchers are offered the chance to present their work alongside highly reputed scientists, but it is also a place where attendees are encouraged to network in a more informal way.

Working for EAACI is and has been unquestionably a positive experience for my professional development. However, what I like the most about working here is the awesome HQ team. We have a really great professional collaboration but we are more than just colleagues: we are there for each other. We are friends outside of work and I think this familiarity improves our work relationship too.

I look forward to the great new challenges ahead!
It is our great pleasure to invite you to join us at the EAACI Congress 2020 in London, UK. The Congress will take place from 6 to 10 June 2020 and our Scientific Programme Committee has worked hard, in parallel with our global EAACI membership, sections, interest groups and working groups, to bring you what we are sure is an innovative and original programme.

The EAACI Congress 2020 will focus on the theme of “Bridging Innovations into Allergy and Asthma Prevention”. Keeping with this motto, Congress attendees will delve into current research and practice in allergy and clinical immunology to cultivate the future by uniting modern technologies with optimal patient care. We will explore contemporary allergology with topics such as the airway microbiome, trained innate immunity, exploring the exposome and its downstream effects, the use of big data and artificial intelligence to push technology forward, and focus on prevention rather than treatment as we move away from the previous archetype of treatment towards a modern perception and approach to allergic diseases.

The EAACI Congress 2020 programme has been designed to inspire delegates with more than 40 planned symposia and seven plenary symposia designed to stimulate scientific conversations with exceptional keynote speakers.

The Congress will kick off with two invigorating plenary symposia on Sunday, 7 June. One of them will focus on recent advancements in food allergy, focusing on the current burden of food allergy worldwide and how we can move towards prevention. George du Toit (Kings College London, UK) will begin by addressing the feasibility of tolerance following immunotherapy. As senior co-investigator of two National Institute of Health-funded research studies aimed at the prevention of peanut allergy, he will provide insight into the struggles of current therapies and how we can use prevention first. Wayne Shrefler (MassGeneral, Boston, USA) will then discuss the mechanisms of oral immunotherapy (OIT) and other approaches to food immunotherapy. His laboratory focuses on the effects of basophil anergy on reaching tolerance following immunotherapy for peanut allergy, as well as the development of a novel immunoassay for allergen-specific antibodies in food allergies. This will be followed by two short talks, first by Mimi Tang (Murdoch Children’s Research Institute, Australia) focusing on novel approaches to OIT to induce tolerance and then another by the chair of a patient organisation committee, Mary Jane Marchisotto (Food Allergy Research & Education Inc, New York, USA) discussing the needs and wants of patients following immunotherapy. A simultaneous plenary symposium will explore asthma development and prevention pathways in childhood. Benjamin Marsland (Monash University, Australia) will first provide an overview of the airway microbiome during asthma development. His group focuses on the interactions between allergy and asthma and the key determinants of asthma development. Irene Heijink (University of Groningen, The Netherlands) will then elaborate on epithelial cell dysfunction as a driver of asthma development. Her research focus is the respiratory system at a molecular level, looking most specifically at the lung epithelium. Clare Lloyd (Imperial College London, UK) will finish the session with a focus on how we can prevent asthma during early life. Her research focusses on pulmonary immunity in early life as well as immune regulation in the lung and lung remodelling.

On Monday, 8 June, another two plenary symposia will run in parallel. One session will focus on dermatology by targeting the skin immune response for disease prevention and control. Helen Brough (King’s College London, UK) will open the plenary, discussing whether skin care from birth can prevent allergy, based on current results. Her research interests are in the prevention of atopic eczema and food allergy, and in preventing the spread of nut and seed allergies. Emma Guttman-Yasski (Mount Sinai, USA) will then discuss novel targets for atopic dermatitis treatment. Working in both a clinic and her laboratory, her area of interest is inflammatory skin disease mechanisms and novel treatments. Marcus Maurer (Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany) will close this session, considering hereditary angioedema and how to prevent attacks. He works with the World Allergy Organization as both a dermatologist and allergist, studying allergic skin diseases. The other plenary will focus on basic and clinical immunology, focusing on
trained innate immunity and therapeutic targets of immune-mediated disease. Alberto Mantovani (Humanitas University, Italy) will present trained innate immunity and the regulation of inflammation by interleukin-1 related cytokines. He is considered the founding father of the inflammation–cancer connection, while also focusing on the role of chemokines in inflammation. Isabelle Meyts (University Hospitals Leuven, Belgium) will then discuss neutrophil dysfunction in immune deficiency and beyond. Her research focus is immunodeficiency and the genetic inborn errors of immunity. This will then be followed by Iain McInnes (University of Glasgow, UK) discussing JAK-inhibitors as new players in immune-mediated disease. His primary focus is inflammatory joint diseases such as arthritis, investigating the cellular and molecular pathways leading to development.

The plenary symposia on Tuesday, 9 June, will focus on severe asthma and food allergy in two concurrent sessions. The severe asthma plenary will begin with Fan Chung (Imperial College London, UK) presenting the link between the exposome and gene interactions in asthma. His interests include the impact of environmental pollution and nanoparticles on lung disease and the use of novel treatments such as antioxidant and anti-inflammatory therapies. Ioana Agache (Universitatea Transilvania, Romania) will provide an overview of big data and cluster analysis in asthma. Her area of interest surrounds asthma phenotypes and endotypes and the integrated management of allergic diseases using novel approaches. This will be followed by Pat Holt (Telethon Kids Institute, Australia) covering the trajectory of lung disease from childhood to adulthood. His group focuses on the immunological mechanisms and development of new immunotherapeutics of early-onset allergy and childhood asthma, and on developing new immunotherapeutic concepts. The parallel food allergy plenary will focus on prevention rather than cure with Gideon Lack (King’s College London, UK) presenting the current state of food allergy prevention. His research surrounds treatment for allergic disease, focusing specifically on severe childhood asthma and peanut allergy. Edmund Chan (BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute, Canada) will then outline the challenges of early introduction to allergenic food implementation. His research interests are dietary exposure and allergy prevention to bridge the gap between research outcomes and patient care, as well as eosinophilic esophagitis. This will be followed by Rosan Meyer (Great Ormond Street Hospital, UK) addressing the practical and psychological issues of oral tolerance induction. Her speciality is paediatric nutrition in food allergies and intolerance and its complications.

The final day of the Congress, Wednesday, 10 June, will explore artificial intelligence as an approach for the management of upper and lower airway disease for improving patient care in the context of ENT and AIT. Philippe Gevaert ( Ghent University, Belgium) will begin by presenting novel therapeutic approaches targeting severe upper airway disease endotypes. His work looks at local IgE expression and eosinophilic inflammation in allergic rhinitis and chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps. This will be followed by a talk by the EAACI President, Marek Jutel (Uniwersytetu Medycznego we Wroclawiu, Poland) in which he will discuss the emerging concepts of allergen immunotherapy for allergic asthma – from phenotype, endotype to theratype. His work concentrates on the mechanisms of antigen and allergen tolerance in immunotherapy, and he was a pioneer in the use of recombinant allergens as a treatment option for allergic diseases. Mohamed Shamji (Imperial College London, UK) will conclude the plenary sessions with a cutting-edge computational approach targeted at biomarker discovery and mechanisms for allergen immunotherapy. His group focuses on elucidating the pathophysiological mechanisms of allergic disease and its treatment with allergic specific immunotherapy.

The EAACI Annual Congress 2020 in London aims to shift the paradigm of allergology and immunology by stimulating ideas and creating a platform for a modern revolution in science. Join the dynamic conversation and contribute to the world’s largest allergy and clinical immunology event, where we will push the boundaries of science as we bridge innovations together. We look forward to seeing you all in London in June 2020.
National Allergy Societies Committee News

The National Allergy Societies Committee (NASC) is a platform which brings member National Allergy Societies (NAS) together in order to facilitate constant communication and improve collaboration on various issues and activities in the field of allergy and immunology. The NASC is made up of one representative from each European NAS member of EAACI, a Chairperson nominated by the EAACI Executive Committee, a Secretary elected by the Committee’s members, and the Chair of the International Societies Council.

Currently, there are 58 NASC members from 44 European countries, as well as 21 members of the International Societies Council from non-European countries. For more details, please visit the NASC website at: https://www.eaaci.org/organisation/national-societies/nas-member-societies.html. To date, NASC members from 34 countries have signed a Dual Membership Agreement with EAACI, giving the opportunity of reduced annual membership fees, in addition to other membership benefits.

NASC members join forces to disseminate public campaigns, and to lobby for better care and for the recognition of allergic diseases at national and European levels. The annual NASC Meeting along with the NAS Village and NASC Forum held during EAACI annual congresses are our leading events, attracting a great deal of attention. The NASC aims to increase collaboration between its members in every possible aspect. Our Working Groups on Education, Health Economics & EU Lobbying, Specialty & Quality Criteria, and Membership welcome all members into their activities. Promoting awareness of the benefits of dual membership and of the EAACI Speaker Support program, and working to highlight the regional needs for development of applicable policies for education, research, patient-oriented, diagnostic and therapeutic activities are all of essential importance for the NASC.

A former EAACI Junior Member, I have been involved in NASC activities for a number of years as the representative of the Academy of Pediatric Allergy and Asthma (CAAAD; Turkey) and was nominated as the NASC Chair (2019–2021) in June 2019. Along with my colleague Elena Bradatan (Belgium), the NASC Secretary, I am very happy to serve the NASC and will be pleased to answer any queries that you may have. We aim to continue the rising trend of interest in NASC activities and are enthusiastic about the idea of building on multiple levels, thus promoting the development of each NAS in an exuberant flowering of activity.

Professor Václav Špičák passed away on 11 September 2019 at the age of 90 years. Allergologists and pneumonologists from the Czech Republic and beyond have lost an excellent clinician and researcher, and a good friend.

Professor Špičák was a longstanding president of the Czech Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (CSAKI) and an active member of EAACI. From 1977 to 1980 he served as EAAci Vice-president and in 1977 he chaired the EAACI Congress in Prague. For many years, he was strongly involved in the activities of Interasma and GINA. He was a tireless organiser of hundreds of conferences, symposia, courses and congresses. However, above all else, he was an excellent clinician beloved by his patients.

Professor Špičák was a great personality who will be sadly missed by everyone who met him or knew of his achievements.

~ Petr Panzner, CSAKI President
Olive Pfaar, EAACI Excom Member, has been awarded the highly prestigious Science Prize by the German Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (DGAKI). The prize, presented at the DGAKI Congress in Hannover at the end of September 2019, was given in recognition of his achievements in the development of new innovative concepts for allergen immunotherapy (AIT), his involvement in several guideline projects worldwide and for setting standards for clinical trial design in AIT.

Within EAACI, Oliver Pfaar has been the Chair of the Immunotherapy Interest Group (IT IG) for many years and is currently Member at Large (for Central Europe). He has contributed to a variety of guidelines and Position Papers in AIT in allergic rhinoconjunctivitis and asthma and to further evaluation of efficacy and safety of both SLIT and SCIT in clinical trials. A special emphasis of his scientific and academic work is focusing on the evolution, standardisation and validation of clinical endpoints in AIT, the role of placebo effects or innovative challenge methods such as Allergen Exposure Chambers (AEC) for AIT. In addition, Oliver is also an associate editor of the EAACI journal Allergy.

Many congratulations to Oliver for this achievement.
Major innovations in the peer reviewing process

In the jungle of scientific publications, peer reviewing is the hallmark of the quality of a journal, giving an assurance that articles are correctly evaluated by the scientific community for relevance, scientific accuracy and excellence. Pediatric Allergy and Immunology fully adheres to the peer-review standards of scientific journals.

However, for many readers, the peer review process remains a mystery, and giving better information on the whole process as well as having open publication of comments is definitely an asset to understanding how studies are evaluated by reviewers. Our publisher, Wiley, has recently started a new initiative allowing publication of the whole process of peer reviewing on a journal’s website. PAI is one of the first journals published by Wiley offering transparent peer review, and it is now possible to see what comments reviewers have made and how the authors of a manuscript have handled those comments. Now, when submitting a manuscript, authors can choose if they agree that the peer review process is published on the website and reviewers can choose if their names are made public. We strongly believe that this initiative will give readers a better understanding of how a manuscript reaches publication. Also, it should improve the quality of the whole reviewing process. We are eager to hear how you rate this innovation!

A second new feature will be even more innovative. We are inviting manuscripts for a new type of publication: “Clinical letters to the editor”. These manuscripts should report original and innovative cases – a type of publication which has not been considered by PAI so far. These manuscripts will undergo post publication peer review. This implies that the editorial office will assess the quality of manuscripts based on the originality and the quality of the clinical report and, if warranted, manuscripts will be directly accepted and published. They will appear on the website, will be referenced similarly to all other published articles, and all readers will be able to make comments on them. This type of peer reviewing has been implemented by several other journals for similar original articles, with excellent results. We will work to select the best cases in order to have vivid clinical communications available for our readership – and no doubt we will come back at a later date to report how this new initiative has changed PAI.
Allergy wishes you a happy year ahead! As some refreshing reading to increase your knowledge of current hot topics in the field, here are some of the most interesting articles from the past three months, hand-picked by your editor.

**Future trends in allergic diseases**

Future research trends in understanding the mechanisms underlying allergic diseases for improved patient care

Breiteneder, H. Allergy. 2019; 74: 2293–2311

**Allergic rhinitis**

Evidence for the induction of Th2 inflammation by group 2 innate lymphoid cells in response to prostaglandin D2 and cysteinyl leukotrienes in allergic rhinitis

Tojima, I. Allergy. 2019; 74: 2417–2426
**Gut microbiome**

Thinking bigger: How early-life environmental exposures shape the gut microbiome and influence the development of asthma and allergic disease

*Sbihi, H. Allergy. 2019; 74: 2103–2115*

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**Chronic spontaneous urticaria**

Biomarkers and clinical characteristics of autoimmune chronic spontaneous urticaria: Results of the PURIST Study

*Schoepke, N. et al. Allergy. 2019; 74: 2427–2436*
Strategic Forum
Prioritizing research challenges and funding for allergy and asthma and the need for translational research—The European Strategic Forum on Allergic Diseases
Agache, I. et al. Allergy, 2019, 74: 2064–2076

Severe asthma
Severe asthma in children and adolescents
Hamelmann, E. Allergy, 2019, 74: 2280–2282
Biomarkers in asthma

Towards clinically applicable biomarkers for asthma – An EAACI position paper

Eosinophils

Eosinophils capture viruses, a capacity that is defective in asthma
Sabogal Pineros, YS. Allergy. 2019; 74: 1898–1909

Venom Allergy

Large local reactions to Hymenoptera stings: Outcome of restings in real life
Joining forces: *Allergy* collaborates with the JMA

The EAACI Junior Members Assembly (JMA) was established nearly 20 years ago with the aim of representing young researchers and clinicians in the Academy. The JMs, now numbering over 4000 and representing the best of today’s young scientists and future leaders, bring a fresh and innovative perspective on science and the educational needs of our specialty.

As soon as our new team took over the journal *Allergy*, we joined forces with the JMA to encourage active participation of JMs in the performance and dissemination of allergy and clinical immunology research. Indeed, we have developed many activities together to better involve JMs in the science and educational activities of our journal.

In collaboration with JMs, *Allergy* has implemented a new section in the journal, “News and Views: Groundbreaking Discoveries”, which highlights and summarises recently published research in high-tier journals. The first article in this series is already online and we aim to publish at least one article per issue. These articles are written by invitation only and are subjected to a maximum limit of 1,000 words, nine references and two figures and/or tables.

A new reviewers’ program has also been initiated under which JMs can actively participate in the journal by serving as peer reviewers. Their feedback to authors and comments to the Editor are essential for maintaining the quality and scientific integrity of the journal. In turn, reviewing provides JMs with an opportunity to impress the Associate Editors of *Allergy* with their scientific knowledge and critique of the paper, creating a presence in the allergy/immunology community. Annual calls for new reviewers for *Allergy* are organised by JMs. We are also pleased to welcome JMs who are well-established in the field as part of our Editorial Board.

We invite you to visit *Allergy*’s own website (journallergy.com) to read our JMs News Corner, which features posts written by JMs on news and highlights of past events. It also offers a platform for the JMA representatives to personally introduce themselves to the allergy/immunology community.

*Allergy* offers several educational articles and Powerpoint presentations targeting JMs, under the Author Guidelines on the journal’s website. Important information is available on topics that JMs will encounter as authors and reviewers, such as: “How to review manuscripts”, “How to write a point-by-point reply”, “How to write a cover letter”, “How to write an abstract”, “How to present data efficiently”, and “How to prepare Graphical Abstracts” according to *Allergy*’s specifications. A free Graphics Collection for *Allergy* is available, and we encourage you to use it when preparing your graphical abstracts and during your presentations.

Working alongside *Allergy*, JMs can help to shape the future of our specialty by promoting the journal, reviewing papers and contributing articles. During the annual EAACI Congress, *Allergy* organises a large Reviewers’ Retreat to disseminate the progress of the journal, and members of the JMA are cordially invited to attend.

We look forward to many future fruitful collaborations with the JMA of our Academy.

**ALLERGY–JMA COLLABORATION AREAS**

- Groundbreaking Discoveries
- JM Reviewers for Allergy
- JMs Corner on the Allergy website
- JMA Representatives on the Allergy Editorial Board
- Allergy Education Corner for Authors

Members looking forward to further Allergy-JMA collaboration in London 2020.

See Author Education at (https://journallergy.com/)
To vaccinate or not to vaccinate? To find out what a group of international scientists and experts of the immune system have to say about it #PAAM2019 #vaccination #immunization #globalhealth

#EAACI #2019 in Tweets
Great to be at #PAAM2019 in Florence with a strong scientific programme and the perfect opportunity to network! Don’t forget to download the App for all event information and come to our booth if you have any questions!

More than 5 million #PAAM2019 impressions on Twitter so far! Thank you top influencers of #PAAM2019 [@ProfGRoberts @GoAllergy @VenterCarina @EAACI_HQ @NoNutTraveler @KateKhaleva @KNewmanPhD @sheffkids65 @broughallergy @ruchisgupta]

Congratulations to Prof. Antonella Muraro, University Hospital Padua, for receiving the prestigious EAACI Pediatrics Award at #PAAM2019. A leading lady in science, offering an outstanding contribution to pediatric allergy in Europe. #pediatrics #allergy #asthma

Junior Members having a great time at the PAAM Junior Member Social Event at il Mercato Centrale in Florence! #PAAM2019 #EAAICIJM
The ally-advocate-activist spectrum in social media: **focus on allergy**

Social media has a great potential for garnering many allies, advocates and activists for allergy issues. In the online era, becoming involved in allyship, advocacy and activism is easier than ever. The journey does not have a single path: some may discover advocacy through allyship, and advocacy may lead to activism. At each stage, a personal transition from the online networks to the physical real world is possible. But even if there are differences between these terms, they are sometimes used interchangeably. Many active and responsible social media users self-identify on the allyship-advocacy-activism spectrum. Some advocates consider themselves as activists and vice versa, these terms being intertwined. The allergy community needs all of them to create synergy.

Allies are social media supporters who cooperate with or help others in a particular activity and for mutual benefit. The concept of allyship involves cooperation, combining resources and sharing the burden. Allies build interpersonal connections based on trust and accountability, receive constructive feedback, offer support and are recognised by the people they seek to ally with. A real allergy ally is sympathetic to the allergy cause, knows the values and aspirations of all those involved in the allergy community, and provides support in the ongoing efforts, with a sense of responsibility to make a positive change.

EAACI uses a range of the most widely used social media to improve access to information about its activities, programmes and campaigns, and its educational and scientific resources. Social media allies are welcomed and encouraged to interact, access, promote and disseminate high-quality information from EAACI social media accounts, respecting EAACI’s mission and its code of ethics.

Advocates are active and involved social media users who publicly support or recommend a particular cause or policy. To advocate means to initiate a series of actions addressed to leaders and other representatives, to influence views and lead to a positive change. Advocacy is a powerful tool for scientific and patient organisations, serving to voice the needs of patients and their carers, involving allergy and asthma patients in the decision-making process, influencing decisions and achieving change to empower patients to live active lives. The social media activities of patient organisations may reflect advocacy opportunities to participate in public events, to represent patients’ interests in projects, and to help create patient health information materials. Social media advocates are more than allies: they openly endorse and care about informing and educating others about allergy and asthma patients, knowing their aspirations and values. Public figures and social media personalities suffering from allergies, family members of allergic patients and of victims with severe allergies are all great advocates who can draw the attention of policymakers to ensure patients receive the right to quality care. National and international associations of clinicians, researchers and allied health professionals are
EAACI is an organisation which constantly uses its position to campaign for better awareness of allergic diseases. Over the past few years, EAACI has launched a number of successful campaigns, such as the Immunotherapy Campaign, the Food Allergy Campaign, the Written Declaration and Allergy Awareness Campaigns. Together with the EP IG on Allergy and Asthma and the EFA, EAACI launched the European political Call to Action “United Action for Allergy and Asthma” which was promoted via a pan-European campaign and supported online using the #CallAllergyAsthma hashtag by various allies and activists. Moreover, EAACI social media meetings, organised along with live-streaming #AllergistsGetTogether Tweetup events at the Academy’s annual congresses, allow allergy activists to have friendly face-to-face time and to engage in online #ContinuousAllergyAwareness. Allergy-focused social media activism, involving skilful and enthusiastic use of online platforms to grab attention, places and keeps allergy on the public agenda, and engages all activists, advocates and allies to support and promote allergy research, prevention, patient care, and assistance for people living with allergy and their families.
I was awarded the EAACI Clinical Fellowship 2019 and I spent three months at the Asthma UK Centre in Allergic Mechanisms of Asthma, at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London.

The aim of my fellowship was to broaden my knowledge of the adverse effects of inhaled α2-agonists. I took part in the MAELABA Study, which aims to examine which pro-inflammatory mediators are upregulated by beta agonists in the human lung, in vitro and in vivo. During my stay, I joined the first part of the study, which looked at stimulating bronchial epithelial cell (BEC) lines with all the commercially available α2-agonists to confirm upregulation of cAMP/CRE-dependent mediators (IL-6, IL-11, BDNF), to see which α2-agonists are most potent and to explore optimal time points for induction. Moreover, we tested not only Inhaled α2-agonists but also other drugs commonly used in the management of asthma. In particular, we evaluated the commercially available combination of α2-agonists and corticosteroids and ipratropium bromide, a short-acting inhaled anticholinergic agent.

Professor Johnston and all the team members made this experience unique and amazing. I have developed new skills, in particular in the field of molecular biology. I had the opportunity of working with clinical residents and scientists in a laboratory setting. I joined meetings to plan the experiments and to discuss the results. I learnt how to culture BEAS-2B BECs and to treat them with several drugs, with or without infection with RV-16. Moreover, I examined gene expression through qPCR (Taqman Chemistry), after RNA extraction from cell lysates.

As a result of the fellowship, I have improved my knowledge of the physiopathology of asthma and feel more confident of certain laboratory techniques, which will be very useful for my work. For the future, I hope to continue working in the field of asthma and actively contribute to understanding the disease and ameliorating patients’ quality of life.

I would like to thank EAACI for giving young allergists this opportunity to travel and meet colleagues, and share their different areas of expertise throughout Europe.

Francesca Losa
EAACI JM and 2019 Clinical Fellowship Awardee
A few words from the Website Editor

The end of the year is always a good time to make summaries. For me, December 2019 also marks the end of my time as Website Editor and I am happy to share with you some of the greatest achievements made during my mandate that I am very proud of:

**HONcode CERTIFICATE**
Finally received in 2018 and still maintained. Having this means that the EAACI website is recognised as a trustworthy source of information in our field and meets criteria in eight areas: authoritativeness, complementarity, privacy, attribution, justifiability, transparency, financial disclosure, and advertising policy.

**INTEGRATION**
of all EAACI events websites onto the main eaaci.org platform (in 2016). This was technically difficult but very important for optimisation and statistics, and helps to keep the website unified and informative.

**JOB CENTER**
opened in 2016 and still going. It’s a place where you can easily search for professional work positions and advertise them in the immunology field.

**EAACI MEDIA LIBRARY**
opened in 2018 and continuously improving. Here you can find webcasts, e-posters, videos from EAACI Congresses or Focused Meetings, as well as being able to access EAACI Newsletter, Position Papers, Books or Guidelines.

**PATIENTS’ WEBSITE**
reorganised and completely changed in 2018, it is still being optimised and new elements are being introduced. It is a website fully dedicated to patients.

**LANDING PAGE**
and changes to the internal webpages. The first big changes were launched in 2017 and then again in 2018. Hundreds of internal webpages have been changed and reorganised, as has the main menu. There is a new fresh visual look, with new content always updated, following trends in demand. But two pages deserve a special mention: the webpages for position papers and task forces. I hope you like them!

My term as Website Editor finished at the end of 2019 and I can honestly say that the last few years have been very exciting. I have learned a lot, not only about EAACI itself but also about communication, tolerating different views and dealing with stressful situations, as well as gaining an understanding of the needs and requirements that the Website Editor has to meet. That knowledge cannot be underestimated.

I would like to say thank you to the past and present Board of Officers, the Executive Committee and the HQ Team for all the support and trust they gave me, and for their high level of collaboration. I wish all the best for the soon to be elected new Website Editor. And all the best for 2020 to all of you!
When I wrote my letter of motivation for my 3-month clinical fellowship, I expressed the aim of making an in-depth study of the issue of immunotherapy in children for the treatment of respiratory and food allergies. At the end of my clinical fellowship project, I can express full satisfaction with what I experienced.

Normally working at the University of Verona, Italy, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to join colleagues in the Allergy Department at the Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Madrid, Spain, where I was based from August to October 2019. During the whole of my stay, I was actively involved in the weekly evaluation of patients undergoing oral immunotherapy for food allergy and allergen specific immunotherapy. I learned how to apply oral immunotherapy (OIT) for food allergies in the treatment of children affected by persistent egg or milk allergy. Concerning immunotherapy for the treatment of respiratory allergy (allergen immunotherapy - AIT), I also studied the EAACI guidelines for AIT in depth and learned how AIT represents the only tool to change the history of asthma and allergic rhinitis in children who don’t respond adequately to anti-allergic drugs.

Additionally, I attended the Pediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting (PAAM) in Florence where, based on the clinical experience which I acquired during my clinical fellowship, I presented a poster about the management of IgE mediated allergy to fish and the possibility of reintroducing canned tuna in the diet of children affected by this type of allergy. I am now working towards the future publication of this research work.

I would like to sincerely thank Dr Alberto Alvarez-Perea and his colleagues for their valuable guidance, willingness and patience in contributing to my training in pediatric allergy during the three months I was with them. Moreover, I would like to thank EAACI for choosing me for this clinical fellowship. It was a great and memorable experience that has changed my approach to routine medical care and has opened my horizons. At the end of this experience, I can affirm that it is totally worth it and my only advice to EAACI Junior Members is to take this experience if they have the chance.

Luca Pecoraro
EAACI Junior Member
EAACI is the largest allergy organisation in the world, with the main mission of improving the lives of patients with allergic diseases and asthma. EAACI is currently organised into seven Sections: Basic & Clinical Immunology; Asthma; Pediatric; Dermatology; ENT; Junior Member Assembly; and the recently created Allied Health & Primary Care Section. In addition, there are five EAACI Interest Groups (IGs): Food Allergy; Drug Allergy; Allergen Immunotherapy; Environmental & Occupational Allergy; and Allergy Diagnosis & System Medicine. There are also thirteen EAACI Working Groups (WGs) that are integrated into the different Sections or IGs, including the “Biologicals”, “Immunodeficiencies” and “Infections” WGs (Basic & Clinical Immunology Section); “Allergy, Asthma & Sports” WG (Asthma Section); “Ocular Allergy” WG (ENT Section); “Allied Health” and “Primary Care” WGs (Allied Health & Primary Care Section); “Eosinophilic Esophagitis” WG (Food Allergy IG); “Insect Venom Hypersensitivity” (Allergen Immunotherapy IG); “Epidemiology” and “Aerobiology” WGs (Environmental & Occupational Allergy IG); “Proteomics & Genomics” and “Comparative Veterinary Allergology” WGs (Allergy Diagnosis & System Medicine IG).

EAACI Sections, IGs and WGs have been dynamically and synergistically cooperating in the development of different multidisciplinary scientific and educational projects to promote basic and clinical research, to collect, assess and disseminate scientific information, to function as a scientific reference body for other scientific, health and political organisations, to encourage and provide training and continuous education, as well as to collaborate with patients and lay organisations promoting good patient care. Over the last years, EAACI has produced a large number of position papers, International Consensus (ICON) documents, Guidelines and Global Atlases, all grounded in evidence compiled after comprehensive systematic reviews and meta-analysis of literature. To ensure the continuation of this outstanding work, at the last ExCom meeting held in Zurich on 15–16 November 2019, many breakthrough projects and Task Forces (TFs) were approved and prioritised for 2020.

The update of EAACI Guidelines on Anaphylaxis, Food Allergy and Allergen Immunotherapy for Asthma, in which several IGs and WGs will actively take part together with the Sections, will be undertaken during next year. Remarkably, the development of the new EAACI Guidelines on Biologicals in Allergic Diseases and Asthma will also be implemented during 2020, with contributions from the Biologicals WG in cooperation with many other EAACI...
Sections, IGs and WGs in a multidisciplinary manner to ensure different perspectives and ultimately a high quality document.

Around 50 exciting TFs were prioritised to start or continue during 2020. The “Allergen Immunotherapy” IG and the “Insect Venom Hypersensitivity” WG will lead and cooperate in different projects with the aim of improving the awareness and practice of AIT, looking for novel biomarkers and better understanding of the underlying molecular mechanisms, improving knowledge in insect venom hypersensitivity, mastocytosis and rare insect allergy. Different important projects will be led by the “Food Allergy” and “Drug Allergy” IGs including, among others, food allergy and social media, and EAACI recommendations for drug allergy. The “Environmental and Occupational Allergy” IG and the associated “Epidemiology” and “Aerobiology & Pollution” WGs will initiate interesting TFs to map the pollen monitoring stations around the world, airborne fungal allergy, and environmental exposure and respiratory health effects. New TFs related to omics in allergy research or allergens in veterinary medicine will be initiated and/or continued during 2020 by the “Allergy Diagnosis and Systems Medicine” IG together with their associated “Proteomics & Genomics” and “Comparative Veterinary Medicine” WGs. Importantly, the WGs on “Biologicals”, “Immunodeficiencies” and “Infections” will work in cooperation with the Basic & Clinical Immunology Section and other EAACI partners in several relevant TFs and public outreach projects to better understand immunological mechanisms underlying allergies and asthma. Similarly, the “Allergy, Asthma and Sport” WG within the Asthma Section will elaborate consensus reports on the diagnosis and management of allergic and respiratory diseases in sport. Different relevant TFs will be led by the “Ocular Allergy” WG within the ENT Section to advance knowledge of the role of different types of allergy in the eye and their burden in secondary impaired vision. TFs to better define the role of non-allergy physician specialists in the management of allergic disorders, and the development of multi-disciplinary team approaches to the diagnosis and management of allergic disease will be led by the “Allied Health and Primary Care” WGs within the context of their Section.

In summary, we have an exciting year ahead in 2020 with many outstanding ongoing EAACI projects and TFs, all with the main aim of improving knowledge in the field and helping guide health care professionals by the provision of solid reference tools.
Organisation of EAACI

EAACI is a growing and diverse organisation and the illustration below provides a good overview of the Academy’s current structures.
EAACI has held the European Examination in Allergology and Clinical Immunology every year since 2008. Many candidates, including members of numerous national societies, have already successfully tested their knowledge in allergology and passed the examination.

Exam questions are taken from a pool of questions updated annually by the EAACI Exam Committee, which includes a member of each EAACI section or working group to cover all aspects of allergology. The questions are carefully formulated and reviewed by the Exam Committee along with the Institute of Medical Education (IML), University of Bern, Switzerland – a specialised professional institution which supervises the evaluation of the examination. The exam is also certified by the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS).

The exam lasts three hours and takes the form of multiple-choice questions. A quality check is undertaken to ensure that questions are: relevant; ask for understanding which needs the application of knowledge; are focused and have a clear, unambiguous correct answer; are simply phrased; and, finally, are not too difficult or specific so that the majority of candidates should be able to answer them without any problems.

From 2017–2019, the Exam Material Interest Group worked on a blueprint for the areas it felt important and relevant enough to be covered by the exam. As a result of their work, most questions cover allergology with dermatological, respiratory and pediatric allergy, anaphylaxis, venom, drug and food hypersensitivity. A smaller number of questions encompass relevant aspects of areas such as basic immunology, allergens, diagnosis, and clinical immunology (such as on immune deficiencies, vasculitis, or autoimmune diseases).

In 2019, the examination was offered in two different tracks:

- The EAACI Knowledge Exam – consisting of 120 multiple-choice questions in allergology (50–70%) and basic/clinical immunology, as well as allergens and allergy diagnosis (30–50%) with a focus on general allergology; and
- The EAACI Pediatric Track Exam – offered for the first time in 2018 and in collaboration with the EAACI Pediatric Section. This track (addressing colleagues with a pediatric background) also consisted of 120 multiple-choice questions, of which 100 questions were based on general allergology and basic/clinical immunology whilst 20 were specialised pediatric questions.

The 12th EAACI/UEMS Examination in Allergology and Clinical Immunology took place during the EAACI Annual Congress in Lisbon, on Saturday 1st June. In 2019, we received 74 applications with applicants coming from 15 European and 16 non-European countries (including Armenia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, Qatar and Sri Lanka). The greatest number of applicants came from Spain, Portugal, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Greece and India. From the original 74 applicants, 51 registered and 51 took the exam (47 EAACI members and 4 non-members), with 39 taking the Basic EAACI Knowledge Exam and 12 taking the EAACI Pediatric Track Exam. Just over 80% passed the exam. Ten applicants were granted UEMS support.

The continuous success of the exam is largely due to the enthusiasm, time and commitment given by the members of the EAACI Exam Committee and by the Headquarters staff organising it. We thank all those who have so actively contributed to the exam over the years by providing questions and welcome all colleagues who would be willing to contribute in the future.
Focusing on severe asthma

Following the growing success of previous International Severe Asthma Forum (ISAF) meetings (in Gothenburg 2012, Athens 2014, Manchester 2016 and Madrid 2018), the 5th edition of ISAF will be held in Rome on 22–24 October 2020. The aim of ISAF 2020 is to bring together scientists and clinicians from different specialties (i.e. allergy, respiratory medicine, immunology, ENT, paediatrics), as well as nurses, pharmacists and allied care providers, with a full range of professional experience, at a focused meeting entirely dedicated to severe asthma in both the adult and paediatric populations.

Patients with severe asthma account for 5–10% of asthmatics but their quality of life is significantly impacted and their care is estimated to cause more than 60% of the costs associated with the disease, therefore imposing a significant socio-economic burden. Considerable progress in understanding and managing severe asthma has been made in the last years, and the complexity and heterogeneity underpinning the disease is beginning to be revealed. Major advances include formulation of a standardised definition, identification of disease patterns, targets and biomarkers, updated evidence-based guidelines and the availability of novel personalised treatments.

ISAF is a cutting edge and evidence-based EAACI Focused Meeting with a scientific programme including a broad range of session formats designed to facilitate interactive and stimulating discussions. Key topics at the 2020 edition will include precision medicine, electronic-health, big-data, the microbiome, pharmacogenomics, medical devices, breathomics and regulatory aspects.

Special relevance will also be given to severe asthma in children and during pregnancy.

ISAF participation will hopefully facilitate the translation of emerging research findings into clinical practice and favour scientific collaborations. We encourage speakers and participants from all over the world to share their knowledge and expertise with us and take part in a truly iterative interdisciplinary dialogue.

We warmly invite you to ISAF 2020, confident that you will enjoy it all very much.
The members of the EAACI Executive Committee were proud to be able to publish a long list of important position papers during 2019. In addition, a number of other papers were accepted for imminent publication. The full lists can be found below.

The EAACI Position Papers and other publications represent an important and growing resource for members and our wider scientific and patient communities, and our thanks are due to all those who have worked so hard and contributed so many hours in their production.

The Allergy and Clinical Immunology specialty continues to grow and develop and I invite you to read the EAACI-WAO-AAAAI joint survey, which gives a snapshot of the current position. Mobile health usability, applicability and advances are also revealed in “The role of mobile health technologies in allergy care”.

More Position Papers are to be published within the next few months concerning allergy diagnosis, drug allergy, the use of chronic medication in rhinitis and rhinosinusitis, gender and occupational allergy, and discussing allergies in adolescents and young adults and their assessment.

Stay tuned to keep up to date!


Venter C, et al. EAACI position paper on diet diversity in pregnancy, infancy and childhood: Novel concepts and implications for studies in allergy and asthma. Allergy. 2019. Accepted Author Manuscript. doi.org/10.1111/all.14051

Caminati M, AntolinAmérgio D, Bonini M, et al.; on behalf of the EAACI JMs Assembly Board, the AAAAI FIT Committee, the WAO Junior Members Steering Group. The EAACI/AAAAI WAO Junior Members’ joint survey: A worldwide snapshot of