



New communication structures in EAACI for the Allergy National Societies

In addition to the Business Meetings held between National Allergy Societies (NAS) and EAACI representatives each year at the EAACI Congresses, the new NAS Forum aims to highlight contributions from NAS with national flavour but of potential interest to other member societies. The first NAS Forum took place at the EAACI Congress in Barcelona on Monday 8 June 2015, and was attended by representatives of 50% of our member societies.

At the Forum, EAACI President Antonella Muraro explained EAACI's Strategic Plan for 2015–2017, prioritising collaboration between the NAS and EAACI, and aiming for closer cooperation.

The presentations of NAS programs started with a talk from Nanna Fyhrquist on the Finnish Allergy Program, which builds on Finland's very successful Asthma Program. Harald Renz introduced current projects in the German Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology aimed at improving the management of allergic diseases, among them a project for comprehensive allergy centres at institutions where different disciplines are active in allergy management. Darío Antolín-Amérigo introduced the Spanish Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, describing its unique and strong structures including its own ethical committee and an international journal.

Thomas Werfel, Chair of the new NAS Committee, and Ioana Agache, EAACI Vice President for Communication and Membership, presented the ideas behind the new structure: the NAS Committee shall be the central group of European NAS. Points of discussion on the NAS Committee include: current issues coming from local situations in Europe or affecting EAACI activities, such as National Allergy Programs or guidelines; public campaigns, lobbying for better recognition and care for allergic diseases at the National and the European level; difficulties and opportunities in implementing guidelines; the status of the allergy speciality; continuous medical education at the national level; and, last but not least, the preparation of the next NAS Forum.

The NAS Committee consists of a representative from each European NAS member of the EAACI, a Chairperson nominated by the Executive Committee, a Secretary elected by the committee's members, and the Chair of the International Societies Council. A first face-to-face meeting is already planned for the 4 September 2015 in Zürich. The NAS Committee will have an EU Subcommittee formed by the representatives of NAS from EU countries. A second structure created is the International Societies Council, consisting of delegates from all non-European country members of EAACI. The International Societies Council will focus mainly on joint educational and international cooperation projects.

Thomas Werfel
Chair NAS Committee

Ioana Agache
Vice-President Communication and Membership