



The EAACI Exam in Lisbon

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.

Photo credit:
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