

Report on the 6th EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Examination in Allergology/Clinical Immunology, Saturday 22 June 2013, Milan, Italy

The EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Examination is growing more popular every year and has achieved an excellent reputation among National Societies and specialists. In 2013, a total of 50 candidates from 20 countries participated in the exam. This is the highest attendance rate since the launch of the annual examination in 2008. As well as 42 candidates from Europe, this year also saw several candidates from further afield, including Australia, Chile, India, Israel, Kuwait, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates, USA and Zimbabwe.

The results were calculated using 115 of the 120 questions (as 5 questions were deemed non-discriminatory or defective). On average, 69% of a possible 108.5 points was achieved with a standard deviation of 28.48 and a range between 47% and 96% of achieved points. A total 41 of the 50 candidates (82%) passed the examination.

The pool of questions was evaluated by the EAACI Exam Committee chaired by Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier, and the IML (Institute for Medical Teaching, Bern, Switzerland), and the exam questions were finally selected by the Exam Committee chairperson and the IML for this examination.

The selection of questions follows the blueprint, which every year compiles a list of topics to facilitate the preparation for the exam based on the UEMS recommendations for teaching allergology and clinical immunology (Allergy. 2004; 59:579-88).

About 70% of the examination covered topics of allergology and referred to e.g. food and drug hypersensitivity, anaphylaxis, allergic respiratory and skin diseases and other topics, complemented by questions regarding diagnosis and therapy.

The immunological questions included immunodeficiencies, autoimmunity, therapeutic approaches and other topics.

The examination is based on multiple choice questions and comprised two different types: Type A questions (one answer of 5 is correct), and type Kprime questions (4 answers of which each one might be correct or false). As revealed by the IML report, the examination itself had a very high standard. Candidates were allowed to use dictionaries to facilitate linguistic understanding during the 3-hour exam. All candidates have received a detailed summary of their tests and, if successful, a valued EAACI/UEMS certificate.

EAACI is also considering new modalities, such as an online version allowing the exam to be taken from distant locations, as well as other possibilities to reflect the different medical backgrounds of participants. In collaboration with JMA and EAACI HQ, example questions will be regularly published to facilitate exam preparation. Interest Groups and Task Forces will prepare 2 questions on recent guidelines and consensus papers, so that the current state of the art will become an integrated part of the exam. Anyone else willing to contribute is welcome to contact the Exam Committee

The **7th EAACI/UEMS Examination in Allergology/Clinical Immunology** will take place during the annual EAACI Congress in Copenhagen on **Saturday, 7 June 2014**. **Application** will be open **from 1 February until 1 April 2014**.

Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier
EAACI Exam Committee Chairperson

Pascal Demoly
EAACI Vice President Education and Specialty

Viviane Knerr
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