

**2018 Annual Congress of the
European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology**

Diesel Gate – Cleansing Storm or Dogmatic Politics?

Munich, Germany, 28 May 2018 – EAACI Congress 2018

Hot Topic Session; The Diesel Gate Affair, Monday 28 May 10:45 – 12:15

Embargo policy lifted: 28 May 2018 – 12:15

Diesel gate and its role in allergic airway disease

The recent turmoil on closing the inner-cities for diesel cars across many locations within Germany indicates how politics is dealing with the issue of air pollution. During the annual congress of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), taking place in Munich, there will be a “Hot Topic Session” on air pollution in cities and its effect on allergic diseases. Discussion will surround the epidemiological facts on the relation between diesel pollution and allergy, along with more general detrimental effects of diesel on our immune system.

In recent years we have learned that allergic diseases and asthma are increasing worldwide. This dramatic rise has resulted in a large number of people being affected to the extent that it is now causing a substantial burden to healthcare systems. Absenteeism due to insufficiently treated allergy costs an estimated €55-150 billion per year in Europe¹ with 70 million Europeans having asthma². Part of this increase is due to environmental risk factors such as pollution, including diesel exhaust emissions. To date, much is already known about the detrimental impact of diesel particles on our immune system. This comes not only from animal models, but also from the effect on several immune cells and even, in great detail, to the effect of diesel particles on specific molecules that drive our immune response. Alongside diesel, other pollution factors might also be involved in the increases occurring. The EAACI session will therefore also address the unsafe inner-city air quality caused by excessively high nitrogen oxide levels.

We are now becoming more and more aware of the detrimental effects of environmental pollution on our health including allergic airway diseases. This has led to the very dramatic decision to ban diesel cars from inner-cities but the question remains if this will help, or must we do more?

EAACI Congress 2018 in Munich.

The scientific programme of the EAACI Congress 2018 will present the best in science with educational sessions from distinguished researchers from across the globe. An expected attendance of 8000 participants from more than 80 countries, including more than 450 invited speakers, will address major advances and novel challenges in the field. Covering key topics on allergic diseases and asthma the EAACI Congress provides a multidisciplinary forum for allergists, pulmonologists, ENTs, dermatologists, internists, pediatricians, gastroenterologists, clinical immunologists and primary care physicians, allied health professionals and patients organisation representatives.



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 over 60 national and international member societies.

Over the past 62 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.

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1 - Zuberbier T, et al. (2014, October), *Economic burden of inadequate management of allergic diseases in the European Union: a GA²LEN review*, Allergy 2014, 69(10):1275-9, retrieved from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24965386>

2 - EAACI, (2016, March), *Tackling the Allergy Crisis in Europe – Concerted Policy Action Needed, Advocacy Manifesto*, revised version, retrieved from http://www.eaaci.org/images/media/EAACI_Manifesto_brochure_Interactive.pdf