Welcome to the Third Women in Science Symposium

By almost any metric, women have made great gains in closing the scientific gender gap but female scientists around the world still continue to face major challenges. One of the most persistent problems is that a disproportionate number of qualified women drop out of science careers in the very early stages. A big factor driving this trend is the lack of role models in the upper divisions of Academia, which has been slow to change.

With this in mind, EAACI is leading the way by promoting our Academy and female colleagues worldwide with outstanding achievements in the field of allergy, asthma and clinical immunology.

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to the third Women in Science Symposium. This year’s title is “The intrigues of the asthmatic lung”, and our invited speakers are Elisabeth Bel, Cathrine Hawrylowicz and Sally Wenzel.

I look forward to meeting you at the Symposium in Vienna.

ANTONELLA MURARO
EAACI President
Women in Science Symposium Chair

What counts as a good faith effort?

There is no single prescription but bringing more women into prominent positions at conferences will increase their participation in the scientific discourse overall. The rising tide of women joining our speciality will also encourage more young women into our field.

In the meantime, we should showcase successful female scientists through lectures and prizes, and retain young female researchers and clinicians by offering them the highly prized value of their EAACI membership.

IOANA AGACHE
EAACI Vice-President Communications and Membership
Women in Science Symposium Chair

Why should we attend the Women in Science Symposium?

Quite simply, we should attend this Symposium to listen to leading, cutting-edge science from three distinguished women scientists.

Gender equality in science in Europe has come a long way in the last few decades and we should give thanks to women scientists for their efforts over these years. Although progress is still slow, providing equal opportunities for women in science requires support and change at every level.

This Symposium will show that, today, science has no gender and when women have equal opportunities they can produce good science.

MÜBECCEL AKDIS
Women in Science Symposium Speaker and Chair

Sunday June 12, 10.30–12.00
in Room Strauss 3
Dear Friends

The celebrations for EAACI’s 60th anniversary are well underway and our 3-day European Parliament Event was a very special part of the Campaign, taking place on 26–28 April in Brussels, in collaboration with the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma, National Societies, EFA, EAACI Patient Organisation Committee and other stakeholders. These occasions are of great importance for EAACI: working together to fight allergic diseases all over Europe and within European Institutions, bringing these sorts of activities to the attention of MEPs, we are able to keep allergy on EU policy makers’ agendas. The event included an exhibition on the burden of allergic diseases as well as skin prick tests (405 people were tested by a medical team led by Secretary General Peter Hellings). Some National Societies, such as the Danish, even echoed the event at their own National Parliament. After a huge contact programme directed at Members of the EU Parliament, the Interest Group has now grown to have 25 members.

We thank those representatives of the National Allergy Societies who made great efforts to take part and we encourage them to establish partnerships at a national level, forming an allergy alliance across all European countries. A superb example of the power of the partnership between EAACI and the NAS is provided by the French Allergy Society: it appears that, further to EAACI’s letter countersigned by all EU National Societies, the French authorities are re-considering including the allergy speciality in the Academic program.

No doubt we will talk about this and more at the EAACI Congress 2016 in Vienna, which is just around the corner. The jam-packed programme is available online and includes exciting opportunities to be catch many cutting-edge findings in the field. The third Women in Science Symposium will be held on Sunday, 12 June, featuring women scientists making a difference in the field of immunology and allergy. This Symposium preceded (and now goes hand-in-hand with) the United Nations (UN) initiative to achieve full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls; to this end, the UN declared 11 February as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

In further Congress news, I take this opportunity to invite Section Chairs and Secretaries, Interest Group Chairs, Secretaries and Board Members designated by Chairs and Secretaries, to book your place at the inaugural postgraduate course, Applying 21st Century leadership skills in your daily practice, to be held on Saturday, 11 June. The course aspires to update and enhance members’ leadership skills, supporting the current leadership in its daily work at the Academy and providing opportunities for future EAACI leaders.

Looking beyond Vienna 2016, preparation is well underway for both the Food Allergy and Asthma meeting (FAAM 2016), to be held in Rome, Italy (13–15 October) and the International Severe Asthma Forum (ISAF 2016) in Manchester, UK (17–19 November). I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Drug Allergy IG and all involved in the very successful DHM that took place in Malaga recently – and which broke many records!

On a different note, I would like to update you on the EAACI Allergen Immunotherapy Guidelines. Thanks to the strenuous work of everyone on the AIT Guidelines team, the Systematic Review Protocols have all now been published and the last hurdles are being overcome. Currently the project is meeting its timelines and the reviews will be evaluated at a face-to-face meeting involving all groups, scheduled for 29–30 June.

The role of Precision Medicine in allergic diseases is another important initiative which we are pursuing, in collaboration with AAAAI, in the EAACI AAAAI PRACTALL. A first paper (on asthma, rhinitis and atopic dermatitis) will appear in the May issue of the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology; a second (on food allergy, anaphylaxis and drug allergy) will be published in the September issue of Allergy. This project is hugely pioneering and will hopefully help progress allergology overall, resulting in better opportunities for research in Precision Medicine for allergy and, ultimately, implementing an individualised cure for our patients.

Lastly, once again I invite members to add the EAACI 60th Anniversary logo to their activities and correspondence. The potency and drive of EAACI lies with its members. As President, I aim to ensure EAACI keeps being a successful organisation that fosters its members’ professional and personal growth.

Antonella Muraro
EAACI President

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Antonella Muraro
EAACI President
Dear Reader,

This year EAACI celebrates its “first 60 years” at the forefront of patient care and the study of allergies. Perhaps not everyone knows that EAACI was born in Florence in 1956 and started its activities even before the discovery of IgE. Thus, like IgE, EAACI has a long history – of excellence in research and education for allergy prevention and healthy living. In this issue you will find information about the “60 years of EAACI” campaign activities and how you can contribute to spreading awareness of the epidemiology of allergic diseases and their burden on individuals and society. The campaign will end in Florence in November with an official celebration at the Allergen Immunotherapy Summit.

But between now and then, we have the big event of the Annual Congress in Vienna, which this year has the exciting theme of “Waltzing with Allergens”, underlining the need to have research science embracing clinical practice, as if in a harmonious dance. The Congress programme will reflect this, proving all the latest news on basic and clinical research studies as well as practical activities. More than 1850 abstracts from 74 different countries have been submitted and transformed into oral abstracts, guided poster walks and E-poster sessions, and many travel grants will be awarded to young people. As in the past two years, the Clinical Village will allow visitors to improve their daily clinical practice, thanks this year to the help of our Austrian allergologist friends.

My message for the Juniors is to look at the JM programme in Vienna, which is full of “food for thought”, including a Poster session, JM Symposium, Educational Session, and Case Report Session. Still on the subject of young people, the 2016 Fellowship winners’ pictures are shown in this issue of the Newsletter; many congratulations to all of them and good luck.

The second National Allergy Societies Forum and Business Meeting will take place at the Vienna Congress, with the main aim of reinforcing the ongoing collaboration, interaction and exchange between the Academy and National Societies on many different aspects of our specialty, on scientific research and clinical work. Some societies have been invited to share their experience of some specific topic, such as allergy care in Austria, the national audit system of quality control and individual allergology practices in the Netherlands, or the anaphylaxis and allergen specific immunotherapy guidelines in Sweden.

There are also many novelties in Vienna! For the first time, a Postgraduate Course for Primary Care Doctors will take place. The course is designed mainly to discuss clinical cases reproducing real situations, facilitating interaction between PC doctors and experts in the field of allergy, together evaluating the best diagnostic and therapeutic pathways. It will be possible to take the course in either German or English, and it will be CME accredited.

Another novelty this year is the Postgraduate course, “Applying 21st Century leadership skills in your daily practice”, proposed by the President and ExCom, and aimed at empowering both senior and junior members’ leadership skills and their empathic communication. This inaugural session, by invitation, is offered to Boards of Officers, Executive Committee members, Section Chairs and Secretaries, Interest Group Chairs and Secretaries and board members, but in the near future it will be open to many other EAACI members.

As a woman I wish to invite you all to the third “Women in Science” Symposium where we will hear from three women scientists who have focused their hard work on the challenge of treating severe asthma patients, immune mechanisms controlling respiratory health, and on molecular phenotypes of asthma.

Finally, if you want to relax and clear your mind of science, you must take part in the “Allergy Run and Walk” which will take place in the Prater, the large public park which surrounds the “Messe Wien” Congress venue.

There are so many events to attend in Vienna that it is mandatory – not just for young people but all of us! – to download and use the Congress App.

Don’t miss the opportunity to be there. I very much look forward to meeting you all at the 2016 EAACI Congress.

M. Beatrice Bilò
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The long history of IgE

Next year, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the discovery of IgE. IgE was “born” in 1967 and given the nickname of IgND, after the initials of its father (the patient from which it was taken). In February 1968 the WHO International Reference Centre of Immunoglobulins in Lausanne welcomed the newborn and published the “birth announcement”.

The discovery of IgE has had a significant, positive impact on allergy not only of benefit for allergic patients but also for allergists. The knowledge that an immune-inflammation was causing asthma, rhinoconjunctivitis, food allergy, atopic eczema and anaphylaxis initiated many research activities and new approaches to therapy.

Our understanding of the disease and how immunological mechanisms can be evaluated and handled has broadened over the years. Hundreds of allergens and allergenic components have now been characterised, some being of key importance for the disease, whilst others are rather innocent cross-reactive proteins. New approaches to allergen-specific immunotherapy are under evaluation and the procedure used for the last 100 years (subcutaneous injection of a saline extract of the material containing the allergen, e.g. pollen or house dust) is increasingly questioned. Today, the injection of omalizumab, a humanised monoclonal antibody against IgE, can, if the dose is correct (i.e. balanced to the size of the IgE-antibody fraction), eliminate all IgE-antibodies involved in an inflammation responsible, for example, for causing allergic asthma, and one dose is also effective in multi-sensitised patients; it seems to be particularly useful in severe food allergy.

However, there are still problems left to solve. Not least, the allergen preparations used for skin tests and immunotherapy are still not adequately characterised and standardised: although a label can state a given number of units, the actual potency (of pollen extracts, for example) might differ by a factor of more than twenty. And, despite allergy being a common disease, we do not have enough allergy specialists to adequately take care of all allergic individuals. In some countries, other physicians such as pediatricians, get special training in allergy.

Even after having access to IgE for close to fifty years now, there are still some questions that need to be answered. What is the optimal way of preventing allergy from developing? What is the beneficial role of IgE? Clearly, we can look forward to another 50 years of research and clinical applications of IgE and IgE-induced inflammation.

S.G.O. Johansson
Past EAACI President
Department of Medicine, Immunology and Allergy Unit, Karolinska Institutet and Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden

References

Download your free copies at http://www.eaaci.org/resources
Tell us about yourself
I am a dietitian and have always worked at the Royal Brompton Hospital in London. I have spent much of my career managing many different services for the hospital but have always been involved in food allergy. I was awarded a doctorate in 2009 for research into the diagnosis and prevalence of pollen-food syndrome and became more involved in food allergy work, setting up a new food allergy clinic in 2009. In 2013 the hospital seconded me to develop food allergy services and in 2014 I was appointed as the UK’s first consultant allergy dietitian, allowing me to specialise in adult food allergy. I continue to undertake research and also lecture on Allergy MSc courses at Imperial College London and Southampton University.

What is your experience with EAACI?
My first EAACI conference was in Gothenberg in 2007. I presented a poster there and it opened up a whole new world to me. I joined EAACI as a member in 2010 and in 2011 was elected as an inaugural Board Member of the newly formed Allied Health Interest Group (IG). I served as Secretary for two years and then as Chair for two years. Following that, I applied to be an Interest Group representative on the Executive Committee and was delighted to be elected.

What is the role of an IG Representative?
The role of the IG reps is to liaise with the chairs and secretaries of the IGs, raising any issues or concerns at Council and trying to represent the IGs at other events as required. The IG reps provide feedback from the Executive meetings to the IGs to help them prosper and flourish. There are two IG reps and we are very much a team: Santiago Quirce, the other IG rep, is great to work with.

What are your objectives, and your future plans as IG Representative?
I want to help support all of the diverse IGs within EAACI, whilst helping to develop the structure of the IGs within EAACI so that they and the Sections can work in harmony. I would also like to make sure the President and ExCom are well informed about the activities of the IGs.

Tell us about yourself
I am currently head of the Department of Allergy at the University Hospital La Paz and Director of the Research programme on allergic diseases at the Hospital La Paz Institute for Health Research (IdiPAZ), Madrid, Spain. I received a degree and doctorate in medicine from the University of Cantabria, and I recently returned there to participate in the Distinguished “Alumni” Programme. My main research interests include asthma and occupational allergy.

What is your experience with EAACI?
EAACI is not only an outstanding scientific society at the forefront of the allergy field in Europe but also an extraordinary platform for networking and exchanging knowledge and sharing research opportunities with colleagues from all over the world. The achievements of EAACI in its 60-year history are very impressive and we should be proud of it. For me, joining EAACI has been very fruitful and has allowed me to work in collaboration with other colleagues interested in occupational allergy, asthma and food allergy. I have also had the privilege to serve as Secretary and Chairperson of the IG on Occupational Allergy and am now trying to facilitate the communication and the work of the IGs as one of their representatives on the ExCom.

What is your impression of the activities of the Interest Groups so far?
IGs are a very important part in the organisation of our Academy and they are very active in generating ideas, launching projects, promoting Task Forces, allergy schools and eventually publishing high scientific level reports and papers in EAACI’s journals. I think this is very impressive work. Many important goals have been accomplished by the IGs over the last few years and this should be acknowledged. It is also very rewarding to see how junior members are willing to join the IGs and become active and enthusiastic members.

What are the challenges, and your future plans, as Interest Group Representative? It is very important to make sure that the IGs are fully involved in EAACI and that they also link in with the appropriate Section. Isabel Skypala and I have recently asked the IG Boards for their input and ideas on how to improve the organisation and functions of the structure of IGs and Sections, trying to figure out how best their interests and ideas can be represented to help shape the future of the Academy. Challenges and future plans include facilitating communication and providing guidance when required on aspects of running an IG, aiming to promote basic and clinical research and professional development.
The Austrian Society for Allergology and Immunology (ÖGAI) was founded in 1971, and represents Austrian scientists and practitioners interested in the physiology and pathophysiology of the immune response, as well as in the phenotypic expression, diagnosis and therapy of all diseases involving the immune system. The society currently has 656 members.

The main activities of ÖGAI are to foster an understanding of the functioning of the immune system in general as well as the consequences of its aberrations and to advance the treatment and prevention of these disorders, thus reducing the burden of immunemediated diseases on the individual and also on society. Hence, ÖGAI promotes advances in both basic and applied research and their translation into clinical practice. ÖGAI supports excellence in education and training in the fields of allergology and immunology and further encourages the spread of specific information to the lay, legal and professional public on the vital importance of the immune system and its disorders, such as allergy, autoimmunity, immuno deficiencies.

Beyond its multicultural heritage, Austria (and especially Vienna) are a cradle of allergy and immunology research. Austrian scientists made major contributions to the emerging fields of allergology and immunology research from the early days. Clemens von Pirquet coined the term ‘allergy’ 110 years ago, conducted groundbreaking studies on serum sickness, and established tests for tuberculosis (the tuberculin reaction) and (together with Bela Schick) for diphtheria. At about the same time, Kari Landsteiner discovered the human ABO blood group system, identified the viral origin of poliomyelitis, made important contributions to the serodiagnosis of syphilis and (with Julius Donath) described the first autoantibodies.

More than 100 years of allergy and immunology research have, undoubtedly, saved millions of lives. However, many challenges remain ahead of us: How can we protect large populations from emerging infectious diseases? Which are the most effective and at the same time safe immunological therapies for tumours and autoimmune diseases? And how do we respond to the allergy epidemic, which is affecting up to 25% of our populations? Patients suffering from IgE-associated allergic diseases urgently need improved diagnosis (e.g. those based on recombinant allergens) and are thirsty for effective vaccination strategies to be developed against the major culprits (grasses, house dust mite, tree pollen, etc.). ÖGAI and their members are taking these challenges very seriously. To foster scientific progress and innovation by the exchange of ideas and expertise, ÖGAI is proactively connecting with international societies and their members, such as IUIS, WAQ, EFIS, FOCIS and EAACI. Moreover, ÖGAI (and Austria) has been the host of many international conferences, including two previous EAACI Congresses (in 1977 and 2006), the 4th European Congress of Immunology (ECI 2015) last year and, this year, the EAACI 2016 Congress. ÖGAI wishes you all a most memorable scientific, social and cultural stay in Vienna during the EAACI 2016 Congress! For more information on ÖGAI please visit our homepage: www.oegai.org.

Winfried F. Pickl
ÖGAI President

The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) is the peak professional body for allergy and clinical immunology in Australia and New Zealand. ASCIA is registered as a Company limited by guarantee. The Society was first established in 1990 by the amalgamation of the Australian College of Allergy (ACA) with the Australasian Society of Immunology (ASI) Clinical Immunology Group (CIG). Today, there are more than 600 ASCIA members including allergy and clinical immunology specialist physicians, other medical practitioners, scientists and allied health professionals (mainly nurses and dietitians) who work in the areas of allergy and immunology.

ASCIA is a member society of the World Allergy Organisation (WAO) and the Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APAAAACI). ASCIA is also affiliated with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) as a specialty society.

ASCIA’s mission is to advance the science and practice of allergy and clinical immunology, by promoting the highest standard of medical practice, training, education and research, to improve the health and quality of life of people with allergic diseases, immunodeficiencies and other immune diseases.

The main ASCIA activities for 2016 are to:
• Implement the first ever National Allergy Strategy for Australia, developed by ASCIA in 2015 in conjunction with the patient organisation ‘Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia’.
• Provide high quality continuing education for ASCIA members and other health professionals, including highly acclaimed, world standard ASCIA Annual Conferences.
• Develop and maintain high quality education programs including multiple award winning, free of charge e-training courses and information for health professionals, patients, consumers and carers.
• The ASCIA President is Melanie Wong and the President Elect is William Smith. The other ASCIA Directors are Jan Sinclair and Sam Mehr. Members of the ASCIA Council, committees and working parties are listed on the ASCIA website, where details can also be found of ASCIA’s past and future highlights and achievements: www.allergy.org.au. Details of the 27th annual ASCIA Conference can be found at www.ascia2016.com.

Jill Smith
ASCIA Executive Officer
EAACI Fellowships 2016

**CLINICAL FELLOWSHIPS**

Margaretha Faber  
Simona Kasinskaite  
Donatella Lamacchia  
Elena Raluca Lungoci

Emilio Jose Solano Solares  
Farah Hannachi  
Lise Brosseron

**RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS**

**LONG TERM**

Sebastian Felix Nepomuk Bode  
Nonhlanhla Lunjani  
Heleen Vroman  
Maria Vasileios Doulaptsi  
Ekaterina Khaleva

**MEDIUM TERM**

Peter Valentin Tomazic  
Hern Tze Tina Tan

**SHORT TERM**

Laura Martin Pedraza  
Joana Gomes Belo  
Judit Fazekas  
Natalia Aliakhnovich
In Memoriam: Professor Denise Anne Moneret-Vautrin

It was with deep sorrow that we received the sad news of Anne Moneret-Vautrin’s death at the end of March, earlier this year. Anne spent all of her life being a pioneer in the field of allergy, inspiring many of us with her dedication to science, continuous commitment to the allergic patient, and her strength in pursuing her goals and in fighting against the disease.

Denise Anne Moneret-Vautrin was Professor Emeritus of Allergology at the medical faculty of the Henri Poincaré Nancy University in Lorraine, France, and was a member of the prestigious French National Academy of Medicine. As a dedicated internist, allergist and scientist, she looked deep into the immunological mechanisms causing (food) allergic reactions, providing information and support to improve the quality of life of the allergic patient. She had a long track record in allergy research, reflected by more than 380 papers listed to her name in PubMed, and was a highly respected authority in France.

Professor Moneret-Vautrin was also the founder and President of the Allergy Vigilance Network, which indexes cases of anaphylaxis, provides data on actual prevalence of food allergies, and implements post marketing surveillance of the allergic risk of foods. This first model of an anaphylaxis registry prompted clinicians in other countries to establish similar activities. As a true European, she had recently joined forces with the German anaphylaxis registry to develop a European-wide registry, providing service for health-care specialists across Europe.

Professor Moneret-Vautrin trained more than one generation of clinicians and was, until her death, still actively investigating hot topics in food allergy. She was well-known for tackling up-to-date subjects, such as novel foods and new food products with allergenic risks, prompting a colleague to say: “Whenever you want to investigate new questions in food allergy, check first if it hasn’t already been published by Professor Moneret-Vautrin.” EAACI’s Clemens Von Pirquet Medal for Clinical Research was given to her last year, underlining the high standing she had achieved within our community.

Her death is a terrible loss for EAACI and for her patients. However, her legacy will live on not only in her outstanding contribution to allergy science, but also through the many of her fellows and colleagues who admired her, and for whom she set an example.

EAACI will make sure that the light and energy generated by Anne will also enlighten the next generations to come.

Antonella Muraro
EAACI President

EAACI EVENTS

June 2016
11 – 15 June – EAACI Congress 2016, Vienna, Austria
10 June – EAACI Executive Committee Meeting
11 June – 9th EAACI/UEMS Examination in Allergology and Clinical Immunology
11 June – EAACI Scientific Programme Committee Meeting – EAACI Congress 2017
13 June – EAACI General Assembly
14 June – EAACI National Allergy Societies Forum

August 2016
EAACI Newsletter

September 2016
22 – 24 September – Allergy School on Drug Allergy, Belgrade, Serbia

October 2016
1 October – Clinical/Research Fellowships 2017 application submission period opens
12 October – European Consortium on Application of Flow Cytometry in Allergy (EuroBAT), Rome, Italy
13 – 15 October – EAACI Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting (FAAM), Rome, Italy
21 – 22 October – Master Class on Translational Immunology, Zurich, Switzerland

November 2016
10 November – EAACI’s 60 years Anniversary Summit: On the road to prevention and healthy living, Florence, Italy
11 – 12 November – EAACI Executive Committee Meeting, Florence, Italy
17 – 19 November – International Severe Asthma Forum (ISAF), Manchester, UK
EAACI Newsletter

December 2016
31 December – Clinical/Research Fellowships 2017 application submission period closes

This calendar is intended to inform EAACI members about the Academy’s most important dates. Note that some final dates may vary slightly as a number of planned EAACI events are not confirmed at the time of printing.
Subcutaneous AIT

Allergopharma - the specialist in diagnosis and therapy of allergic diseases
Ethics Committee prepares for Vienna

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

In the last issue of the EAACI Newsletter we outlined what the Ethics Committee has done over the last four years to start building an ethical atmosphere embracing the whole of our European Academy in all its activities.

This year will be the fourth year in which an ethics session has been included in the Annual Congress programme. The sessions began with “Conflict of Interest” (2013), then “Research and ethics” (2014) and “Allergology practice: Free movement in Europe” (2015). The 2016 Vienna Congress ethics session invites you to come and share your experiences about environmental pollution in a session entitled “We are what we breathe: Ethics and fresh air.”

Frank Kelly, from King’s College London (UK) will introduce “Outdoor pollution and allergy”, whilst Isabella Annesi-Maesano, from Inserm, Paris (France) will share her experience of “Indoor pollution at school”. After each scientific talk there will be a presentation by an ethicist (Philippe Poulain, France) on the issues involved. The session will be chaired by Glenis Scadding (UK) and José Rosado Pinto (Portugal).

Practical situations will be discussed in which you and your families may be involved, including:

- Global climate change may produce major shifts in biomes for any given location: Are you ready to reduce your freedom and consumption to prevent it?
- Smoking in public spaces is forbidden. Is this a democratic decision?
- Your children’s school is not rich enough to effectively avoid mites in the classroom. Are you open to giving money for that?

Save the date for the Ethics session: Monday 13 June (13:45 – 15:15).

See you very soon in Vienna.

Jacques Gayraud
EAACI Ethics Committee Chairperson

Glenis Scadding
EAACI Ethics Committee Member

A few words from the Website Editor

What’s new…
The EAACI website is changing! In the next few months we plan to give it a new look: please keep an eye out for it. Things worth highlighting include:

- the website menu will be restructured to be more intuitive for users
- the ‘important deadlines’ box (showing final dates for registration or abstract submission for EAACI meetings) will be more visible
- the upcoming events calendar showing EAACI meetings will be more prominent
- the website is being updated each week with fresh stories and news
- a quick link list will help you to access Sections, Interest Groups and Junior Members areas more easily
- a tweet feed box will reflect what’s trending on twitter in real time on the home page
- we plan to make web pages simpler, less crowded and “lighter”, so loading time for the home page will decrease.

A huge effort is ongoing behind the scenes and we have already started the process of integrating all EAACI events websites onto the main eaaci.org platform.

Additionally, the “Job Centre” is now open. You can find current clinical/research job advertisements from all over the world in the field of immunology and allergology. If you are interested in advertising vacant positions at your Institute, please contact communications@eaaci.org.

Call for collaboration…
In the coming months, the EAACI Communications team will be working hard on improvements to our website dedicated to patients: http://www.eaaci.org/patients. If you think that you can help with that process, please feel free to contact us. The website belongs to all of us and please remember that your contributions to the site are more than welcome! Any suggestions, comments or ideas are highly appreciated and should be sent to webeditor@eaaci.org. All your e-mails will be responded to.

Contra facta non valent argumenta…
1. Every month, almost 9000 users visit the EAACI website.
2. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the homepage is the most visited page.
3. The average time users spend on the website is just over 3 minutes.

Sylwia Smolinska
EAACI Website Editor
Advancing Allergoids & Adjuvants

Join the Bencard Symposium
Adjuvants in Allergy: elevating efficacy

Featured Speakers:
- **Ralph Mösges**
  Ultra-short course immunotherapy
- **Randolf Brehler**
  Adjuvants in Immunotherapy
- **Thomas Kündig**
  Future immunotherapy: Virus Like Particles

**Sunday, 12th June 2016**
17:30 -19:00
Messe Wien
Exhibition & Congress Centre
Hall B / Base, Room B1
Promising outcomes at the European Parliament Allergy Awareness Event

EAACI, together with the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients Associations (EFA), recently organised an allergy awareness event (“Test, Inform, Prevent”) and exhibition (“Test Your Allergies 2016”) at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Initiated under the auspices of the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma and co-hosted by three of its members (Mrs Nessa Childers, Mrs Sirpa Pietikainen and Mr David Borrelli), the event (running from 26–28 April) started with an opening cocktail conference on the first day, at which fruitful discussions were conducted on how to better prevent and manage allergy in Europe.

With 405 people getting skin prick tested for allergies and visiting the exhibition site, the event successfully achieved its aim to raise awareness of the burden of allergies in Europe amongst EU policy-makers and the broader population.

Main highlights include:
• Allergy and asthma should be put at the forefront of EU Chronic Diseases policies given that they are the most common chronic diseases in Europe.
• Building on the momentum generated at EU level on food improvement and the promotion of healthy food in line with the current EU policy priorities, advocacy actions may integrate food allergy issues as a core topic. Preventive measures should be promoted regarding food allergens, especially targeting children.
• Enhancing collaboration with the patient community in advocacy should be considered an optimal means to achieve successful outcomes.
• Addressing air quality issues and raising awareness of pollution levels in urban settings needs to be amongst the focal points of further European policy actions.

In conjunction with the event, the EAACI Board of Officers had the opportunity to meet with key policy-makers in Brussels including Health attachés from national governments and Members of the European Parliament. The meetings provided an occasion to promote the Academy’s work and advocacy, to discuss improving the EU response to chronic diseases and allergy, and to foment research at a European level in order to relieve the burden of patients affected by allergy and asthma across Europe.

As a result of this impactful advocacy, EAACI was delighted to welcome three new members to the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma: Renate Sommer (EPP Group, Germany), Dubravka Suica (EPP Group, Croatia) and MEP Christel Schaldemose (S&D, Denmark).

Antonella Muraro
EAACI President

Peter Hellings
EAACI Secretary General

Ioana Agache
EAACI Vice-President Communications and Membership

Test Your Allergies 2016 in numbers

• Successful attendance rate, with 405 people getting skin prick tested for allergies
• 53% of people tested were sensitised and 15% reported lower respiratory symptoms
• At least 17 Members of the European Parliament and European Union officials visited the exhibition site and took the skin prick test
• The European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma gained 3 new members
• Highly positive feedback on the event was received from participants and the exhibition received press coverage in 3 EU policy media of reference (Politico, Parliament Magazine, Dods EU)

Dubravka Suica (EPP Group, Croatia) and MEP Christel Schaldemose (S&D, Denmark).
60 years of EAACI: Dedicated to allergy science, committed to your health

In 2016, EAACI is celebrating 60 years of excellence in research and education in allergy prevention and healthy living. To mark the occasion, EAACI is rolling out an information campaign to its members, national and international health stakeholders and policymakers with the aim of reframing the current conversation: from disease as a burden towards the chance for a healthy life.

Throughout the year, EAACI will be reaching out to the popular and trade press to raise awareness about the fact that the impact of allergies is detrimental to both individuals and society as a whole. The Academy is also engaging healthcare professionals and European policymakers to support the allergy speciality and to improve funding for allergy care and research, thus paving the way for better control of allergies.

On Tuesday 26 April the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma, with the support of EAACI and EFA, organised an Allergy Awareness Event at the European Parliament in Brussels, under the title: “Allergy at the forefront of EU chronic diseases policy: The road towards better prevention and management of allergy in Europe”. Representatives from National Allergy Societies, patient organisations, pharmacists and other health care professionals, and industry, together with policy makers, debated ways to improve the quality of care for patients with allergy and asthma. An exhibition and a skin prick test event (“Test, inform, prevent”) was also organised on 26–28 April offering more information on how allergies can be diagnosed, managed and prevented.

Campaign activities will continue at EAACI’s Annual Congress, where an exhibition dedicated to 60 years of EAACI’s history, in parallel with allergy discovery landmarks, will be organised.

The more of our expert EAACI voices are raised, the more likely it is that the message will be heard: allergies and asthma are preventable and controllable! Campaign resources can be found at: http://www.eaaci.org/outreach/eaaci-2016-campaign/campaign-english/campaign-resources.html

Join the campaign today and help EAACI build a convincing argument for prevention and healthy living!

Ioana Agache
EAACI Vice-President Communications and Membership
Scientific Program Committee Report

The Scientific Program Committee (SPC) is comprised of representatives from EAACI’s different Sections and Interest Groups, and plans and selects the scientific content for each annual EAACI Congress. The SPC is currently active in two different areas: finalising the 2016 Annual Congress in Vienna (11–15 June 2016) and laying out plans for the 2017 Annual Congress to be held in Helsinki (17–21 June 2017).

The SPC met in Helsinki on 11–12 February 2016 to construct the list of major topics and symposia for next year’s Congress. The SPC, with representatives from the local committee (LOC) and the new incoming SPC Chair (Susanne Halken), worked hard on more than 230 proposals that had been submitted by the EAACI membership. It was a demanding job selecting the best proposals, combining session proposals, or proposing new sessions and speakers for areas of interest that were not covered. The results of the meeting indicate that the 2017 Annual Congress will be another very interesting event.

On 19–20 February a selection of the SPC met in Vienna, with representatives of the Vienna LOC, for its marathon meeting. During that meeting, more than 1400 submitted abstracts were distributed into oral abstract, poster discussion and thematic poster sessions. Each abstract was reviewed by at least two experts before the marathon meeting and ranked, which was an important lead indicator to generate the different session types. Moreover, 100 travel grants were awarded and the chairs for the large number of sessions, ranging from plenary sessions to thematic poster walks, were selected.

Late breaking abstract submission was open in the first two weeks of March. This led to a record-breaking number of 438 late breaking abstracts being submitted: an impressive number, especially taking into account that the time slot for submission was two weeks’ shorter than in previous years. These abstracts were all scored, and the late breaking sessions were compiled in mid-April. Together with the presentations by our invited speakers, the abstract presentations will ensure you enjoy a fantastic meeting in Vienna in June.

This is my second year as SPC Coordinator and I appreciate now more than ever that it is the hard work of the SPC, EAACI headquarters and the KIT Group that is crucial for the success of the scientific program of our Annual Congress.

Edward Knol
EAACI SPC Coordinator

Take an active role in the life of the Academy: come to the EAACI General Assembly!

The General Assembly is the governing body of EAACI, representing all of the Academy’s members. Each year, all EAACI members are invited to attend the General Assembly at the EAACI Annual Congress. This year, the General Assembly will take place on Monday, 13 June 2015, from 08:00 to 09:00, at the Congress venue: Messe Wien, in Hall A2.

The Board of Officers will be present and will submit a report of all their activities since the last General Assembly which took place in 2015 in Barcelona, Spain.

All EAACI members are entitled to participate at the General Assembly and comment on the presentations of the Board of Officers, regardless of their voting rights (under Articles 4 and 5 of the EAACI Constitution). However, only members with voting rights (Article 4 of the Constitution) are entitled to vote at the General Assembly.

The General Assembly is an opportunity to be informed about current activities and future plans, and to actively participate in the life of the Academy. I therefore encourage your attendance at this important occasion and look forward to welcoming you there.

Peter Hellings
EAACI Secretary General
EAACI Congress: hints and tips

App Information
The EAACI smartphone app is an innovative tool that redefines the way you visit and experience the EAACI Congress. Using the app, you can explore the event programme and exhibition at your fingertips. The app allows you to:
• Browse, search and personalise the entire event programme.
• Search, and locate exhibitors in the Exhibition Hall.
• Access Congress abstracts and E-Posters (from 11 June 2016).
• Evaluate speakers and sessions to provide your valuable feedback.
• Vote in sessions that have polls.
The app is updated daily and allows users to access information offline to avoid roaming costs. It can be downloaded from your app store and works with iOS and Android. Search your app store for "EAACI" if you previously downloaded the EAACI App, just select the app, and it will work with "Available Events". A dedicated, free app for the Congress website (www.eaaci2016.org) from Wednesday, 22 June 2016. In order to download your certificate you will need your surname and the unique name badge code (for example: ABC123) as printed on your name badge. For more details, please check the website or ask at the Registration Desk in the main Entrance Hall.

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits
The EAACI Congress 2016 has been accredited with 27 European Continuing Medical Education credits (ECMECs) by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACME), an institution of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), in cooperation with the European Board of Accreditation in Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EBAACI). This covers the main Congress programme as well as Postgraduate Courses. You will be able to download your CME credit certificate after the Congress, and will need your surname and the unique name badge code for example: ABC123) printed on your name badge. Your badge will be scanned at the entrance to each session room for CME credits.

EAACI Counte
We invite you to visit the EAACI Counter located in the Entrance Hall, where information about the Academy, membership and future events is available. After the Congress, visit www.eaaci.org and catch up on the latest news about EAACI’s activities and publications.

Opening hours of the EAACI Counter:
• Saturday, 11 June 08:30 – 18:30
• Sunday, 12 June 08:30 – 17:30
• Monday, 13 June 08:30 – 17:30
• Tuesday, 14 June 08:30 – 17:30
• Wednesday, 15 June 08:30 – 12:00

EAACI Membership Services Desk
Come and visit the Membership Services Desk at the EAACI Counter located in the Entrance Hall. We will be happy to answer any questions you have regarding EAACI membership, or to assist you if you simply want to pay your membership fee.

Internet access
For WiFi access, choose the “EAACI free internet” network. No password is required.

Programme Search Tool (iPlanner)
A Programme Search Tool (iPlanner) for the full programme of sessions, speakers, chairs and abstracts is available online on the Congress website: www.eaaci2016.org. The iPlanner has a search function with which you can find speakers, topics, session types and much more. If you create an account, you can also build your personal Congress itinerary by selecting presentations and sessions from the programme, using the search tool. The itinerary can be exported as a PDF or MS Word document. It can also be exported to your calendar in various systems (such as MS Outlook and Apple iCalendar). It is also possible to find single abstracts. Alternatively, why not download the Congress app for full information on the Scientific Programme and more.

Badges
Each participant receives a name badge upon check-in at Registration. This badge should be worn at all times in order to gain entrance into session rooms and other events. Please note that access to any of the Congress areas will not be possible without an official name badge. If you have lost your badge, a new one can be purchased (with proof of your original registration) at the Registration Assistance Desk for EUR 60. Your badge will be scanned at the entrance to each session room: this is for internal EAACI statistical purposes and for CME accreditation.

Certificate of Attendance
Your Certificate of Attendance can be downloaded from the Congress website (www.eaaci2016.org) from Wednesday, 22 June 2016. In order to download your certificate you will need your surname and unique name badge code (for example: ABC123) as printed on your name badge. For more details, please check the website or ask at the Registration Desk in the main Entrance Hall.

Poster exhibition
Thematic posters are displayed in the poster area in the Exhibition Hall. Posters will be displayed for a full day on either Sunday, Monday or Tuesday. Each day, the posters are organised in thematic groups of 15 – 20 posters. At lunchtime, the presenters are required to stand by their posters and answer questions from delegates. During this time, two moderators per thematic group will also visit each poster and ask the presenters to briefly present their findings. Poster Discussion Sessions (PDS) will take place in four designated PDS Zones in the Exhibition Hall. These posters will be presented in electronic format only. Moderators will lead a discussion with the audience. Visit the Poster Help Desk for assistance.

Getting to Messe Wien Exhibition & Congress Center by public transport
You can reach the Messe Wien Exhibition & Congress Center using:
• Metro line U2 from Karlsplatz, direction Seestadt, exiting at the Messe/Prater station, which is just a short walk from Messe Wien Exhibition & Congress Center;
• Bus lines 11A from Heiligenstadt and line 80b from Kaiserebersdorf, direction Seestadt, getting off at Messe/Prater;
• Tramway line D, direction Südbahnhof to Schotten tor, then tramway line 5 direction Praterstern to Praterstern, changing there to the U2 metro line.

In the spotlight
Tempus fugit: Soon you will be waltzing with allergens!

The 35th EAACI Annual Congress, to be held in Vienna from 11–15 June, is fast approaching. When you read this, the scientific program will have been finalised and the Congress will be well on the way to being one of the major allergy events of 2016!

Record number of late breaking abstracts!

On 15 March, when the late breaking abstract submission closed, we had received more than 430 late-breaking abstracts. In total, more than 1850 abstracts from 74 different countries have been submitted and categorised into different types of sessions. The program is only completed after each abstract is reviewed by at least two referees.

During the EAACI Congress, you will have the opportunity to discuss data in guided poster walks, in E-poster or oral abstract sessions. Together with the plenary lectures, symposia and workshops, the content of all the abstracts submitted will provide a lot of “food for thought”. Year in Review sessions will update you with the latest developments in various fields. Learning Lounges on various aspects of clinical practice and basic research will foster close interaction and discussions with the respective experts. Pro/Con sessions and interactive workshops are set to allow lively discussions. Relevant aspects of daily clinical practice will be the topics addressed in the clinical village, to be held on Saturday and Sunday (11 and 12 June) from 2–6 pm, where well-known Austrian allergologists and their teams will share their expertise and perform hands-on demonstrations at 15 different booths.

So, let your brain be “fed and inspired” by discussions and demonstrations of existing techniques and procedures, as well as by the latest and possibly ground-breaking news in various fields of allergy and clinical immunology. You will definitely go home with a lot of memories and interesting, relevant information!

Download and use the Congress App!

To organise yourself in an optimum way, a continuously updated version of the EAACI Congress App will be provided. The easy-to-use app will help you to browse, search and personalise the entire Congress program, giving you easy access to all abstracts and E-posters. You can also use the Congress App to actively take part in interactive sessions and vote in polls.

Please note that you are invited to evaluate sessions and speakers: your feedback is indispensable to help us adapt EAACI’s largest annual event to the needs and suggestions of attendees. Don’t miss your chance to provide us with this valuable information!

Mens sana in corpore sana

In addition to “food for thought”, we also want to provide you with some physical activity and have planned an Allergy Run and Walk on Sunday, 12 June (starting time 20:00). The Allergy Run and Walk will take place in the Prater, the large public park which surrounds the “Messe Wien” Congress venue. The Prater, the green lung of Vienna, originally served as a hunting ground for the Habsburgs before Emperor Joseph II opened it to the Viennese public in 1766. Today, it is the largest recreation area open to all residents and visitors to Vienna, and is one of the ten best city parks in the world. To re-charge your batteries, we recommend a walk along the Haupthalle to the Lusthaus, a restaurant that was once an imperial hunting pavilion where you can enjoy a coffee or a “Gespritzer Wein”. You can also go jogging, rent a bike or simply explore the expansive area of meadows, woods and former Danube channels a few steps away from the Congress venue. Alternatively, why not visit the Wurstelprater, the oldest amusement park in the world, complete with its best-known attraction: the “Wiener Riesenrad”, a large ferris wheel.

Please do join us for these additional activities. Vienna is waiting for you and we are very much looking forward to welcoming you in June 2016 for a waltz with allergens! 

Barbara Bohle
EAACI Congress 2016 Organising Committee Chair

Patient Organisations Committee: Practical Allergy Management Workshop in Vienna

As part of the fast-approaching EAACI Annual Congress, the Patient Organisations Committee (EAACI’s platform for stakeholder integration) will be organising a Practical Allergy Management Workshop. The workshop, to be held on Monday, 13 June, will involve some challenging presentations by keynote speakers, which we hope will encourage lively audience interaction.

We will be repeating our most popular Barcelona activity at the Vienna Congress, where you are invited to take part in another diagnostic challenge in the Congress’s Clinical Village. Based on a patient’s story, you will have to make a diagnosis and explain how you came to it, before checking your assessment against the “correct” response.

You can also meet us at our booth in the National Allergy Societies Village, where we can tell you about our efforts to raise the quality of life of food allergic patients and answer your questions about how we can help you to guide allergic patients in your country.

The Patient Organisations Committee hopes all these activities will enrich your visit to the EAACI Annual Congress and we look forward to seeing you in Vienna.

Frans Timmermans
EAACI Patient Organisations Committee Chair
promoting collaboration with National Allergy Societies (NAS) is a high priority for EAACI. One step in this direction has been the establishment of the NAS Forum, to be held in addition to the yearly Business Meeting at EAACI Congresses. The aim of the NAS Forum is to highlight contributions from NAS with a national flavour and with potential interest to other societies.

The first NAS Forum was held in June 2015 at the EAACI Congress in Barcelona, where EAACI President Antonella Muraro explained the Academy’s strategic plan for 2015–2017, followed by presentations of NAS programs from the Finnish, German and Spanish National Societies. Moreover, Thomas Werfel (NAS Committee Chair) and Ioana Agache (EAACI Vice President for Communication and Membership) presented the idea of building a new central group of the European NAS; the NAS Committee (NASC) with the tasks of communicating current issues arising from local situations in Europe affecting EAACI activities and preparing the next NAS Forum.

The NASC had a successful launch meeting on 4 September 2015 in Zürich, where EAACI priority activities including health economics, the allergology and clinical immunology specialty, guidelines and EU lobbying were introduced to the participants, and a new NASC Secretary was elected. Since then, the NASC has communicated via teleconferences and started collecting information from its members on local aspects of guidelines and allergy care, with the aim of building registers which will eventually be reported in EAACI publications.

Another important task of the NASC has been the preparation of the second NAS Forum, to be held at the EAACI Congress in Vienna in June 2016. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, 14 June at 13:30-15:00 in the “Strauss 3” room. We are very much looking forward to the program (see BOX).

Second EAACI NAS Forum

Tuesday, 14 June at 13:30–15:00
in the “Strauss 3” room

- Allergy care in Austria: Merging clinics and science. Zsolt Szepfalusi (Austria)
- The Netherlands national audit system of quality control and individual allergology practices. Chris Nieuwhof (The Netherlands).
- Anaphylaxis and allergen specific immunotherapy guidelines in Sweden. Åke Davidsson (Sweden)

We wish you a warm welcome to the Second NAS Forum.

Nanna Fyhrquist
EAACI NAS Committee Secretary

Thomas Werfel
EAACI NAS Committee Chair

The following day (Sunday, 12 June), the first ever joint JM Symposium will be held, bringing together representatives from the Juniors Boards of four different Societies. Anders Bjerg (ERS) will talk about trends in allergic diseases while I will describe the evolution of IgE and IgG responses in childhood. Luciana K. Tanno (WAO) will present the progress made in updating ICD around allergy and, finally, Vanessa Bundy (AAAAI) will give an insight into stem cell therapies for patients with primary immunodeficiencies.

We have again reached that exciting time of the year when we are all counting down the days left before the EAACI Annual Congress begins. The Congress Scientific Programme is indeed promising but there are some other elements that will make your time in Vienna even more interesting: the activities dedicated to you, the Academy’s Junior Members!

The JM Programme will be launched by the JM Poster Session on Saturday, 11 June, just after the Opening Ceremony. Posters will be grouped by thematic topic and each category will be chaired by an EAACI Junior and Senior. Juniors will be able to present their work in a friendly environment and prizes will be awarded later on the same evening in a very lively atmosphere, as always!

The following day (Sunday, 12 June), the first ever joint JM Symposium will be held, bringing together representatives from the Juniors Boards of four different Societies. Anders Bjerg (ERS) will talk about trends in allergic diseases while I will describe the evolution of IgE and IgG responses in childhood. Luciana K. Tanno (WAO) will present the progress made in updating ICD around allergy and, finally, Vanessa Bundy (AAAAI) will give an insight into stem cell therapies for patients with primary immunodeficiencies.

At the JM Educational Session on Monday, 13 June, Juniors will have the pleasure of listening to informative and inspiring presentations from Seniors. A number of speakers will be sharing their experiences and expertise to help the audience understand: how to use the internet for research (J. Lotvall); the importance of international collaborations in allergy (N. Papadopoulos); the qualities needed to write or review a paper (C. Incorvaia); as well as how to make an optimal presentation (M. Calderon).

Ten Juniors will present case reports at the Case Report Session on Tuesday morning (14 June) and the three best will be awarded generous prizes. Later that day, you must not miss the JM Business Meeting, during which C. Skevaki, past JM Chair, will give a talk on innovative crowdfunding in research. Prominent Seniors will also be there to present the Congress Scholarship and JM quiz winners their certificates. Right after the Business Meeting we will all be heading off to the JM event, which will take place in a unique location in Vienna. Come to the Business Meeting and I will let you know all the details!

Olympia Tsilochristou
EAACI JM Chairperson

JM activities in Vienna
EAACI Talent Development Programme 2016 at the EAACI Annual Congress

EAACI is investing strongly in membership development, both in terms of the number of our members and in member satisfaction when taking part in EAACI activities.

Within this framework, we are launching a new initiative, aimed at empowering both senior and junior members of the Academy. The Postgraduate course ‘Applying 21st Century leadership skills in your daily practice’ will take place on Saturday, 11 June 2016 from 14:00–17:30. It targets emerging and future leaders as well as members in senior positions. The aim is to update and enhance members’ leadership skills, while strengthening the EAACI leadership pipeline and positioning the organisation to meet its needs effectively as expansion continues. The course is being held in conjunction with other opportunities for development which we hope to create in the near future for board members.

This inaugural session is by invitation only, namely for EAACI Board of Officers, Executive Committee members, Section Chairs and Secretaries, Interest Group Chairs and Secretaries and board members. The course will be developed through interactive discussions, exercises and role-playing, to expand leadership skills, and develop empathic communication and a problem solving attitude.

All members, and EAACI as an organisation, will benefit from the skills enhancement offered by this and other courses, as we hope to develop better and more confident leaders, and more effective influencers, and to achieve even greater cooperation and stronger working relationships within the Academy. I strongly encourage eligible members to take this great opportunity for personal development and to contribute to EAACI excellence by attending the course.

Antonella Muraro
EAACI President

EAACI Congress: Postgraduate Course for Primary Care Doctors

Organised by the EAACI Primary Care Interest Group, the upcoming Postgraduate Course for Primary Care Doctors at the EAACI Congress 2016 in Vienna is structured to mimic the real-life consultations of Primary Care physicians. Different clinical case scenarios will allow the exploration of various decision points during a consultation in a virtual and safe medical setting. The following clinical case scenarios will be discussed:

- a 27-year old man with complaints of a cough;
- a 6-year old child with anaphylaxis during a birthday party;
- a 36-year old female patient with intermittent itchy rash.

GPs and specialists will work together on these challenging cases, mirroring the diagnostic process and ultimately improving the diagnosis and treatment of allergic diseases, whilst also making the collaboration between first, second and third line medical care as efficient as possible.

A significant part of the course programme will be reserved for an interactive discussion with the panel and facilitators, allowing for an intense exchange between participants and the faculty on the three cases and beyond. This highly innovative and interactive format enhances the learning experience, allowing the teaching and development of a diagnostic and therapeutic pathway in a relaxed environment.

The Postgraduate Course, which is CME accredited, will run as a half-day course on Saturday 11 June, in German (in the morning) and in English (in the afternoon) at the EAACI Congress 2016 venue: the Messe Wien Exhibition & Congress Center.

Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier
EAACI Vice President Education & Specialty

Follow EAACI

| Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn | YouTube | Instagram |
Join the virtual conversation with #EAACI2016 on twitter

Whether you are attending the EAACI Congress in Vienna or not, you can help spread the word about it and be part of the virtual conversation by using the #EAACI2016 hashtag. If you are attending the Congress, using the hashtag will let you engage with other Congress delegates and follow-up on breakthrough studies presented in parallel sessions you can’t fit in to your already packed schedule. If you can’t be part of the Congress this year, following the #EAACI2016 hashtag will let you stay up to date with all important aspects of the meeting as if you were there.

Please do use and follow the #EAACI2016 hashtag: tweet, retweet, favourite and comment. Be a leader and drive some engaging discussions!

Twitter is a great platform for communication but also a gateway for educational scientific updates. EAACI, always in the centre of information flow and modern trends, will be setting up twitter boards at central spots in the Congress venue and will give delegates an opportunity to follow-up on all tweets using the hashtag #EAACI2016. Tweet and you, as well as all the other delegates, will see your tweet in real time on the twitter boards!

If you are on twitter, you are cordially invited to join the #AllergistsGetTogether welcome reception that will take place just before the EAACI Congress Opening Ceremony on Saturday, 11 June. Come and meet allergy twitter activists from around the world and discuss how twitter is becoming part of all of our professional lives. If you would like to attend, please RSVP using the link you can find on the @EAACI_HQ twitter account.

I am looking forward to virtually and physically meeting you at #EAACI2016.

Olympia Tsilochristou
EAACI Social Media Coordinating Editor

Driving recognition of unmet needs for allergy and asthma in Europe

Since the establishment of its EU Office in Brussels in 2014, EAACI has steadily increased its EU advocacy efforts to drive the recognition of allergy and asthma at a European policy level.

Leveraging the momentum gained in Brussels, a second high-level EU stakeholder lunch during EAACI’s Annual Congress will be organised in Vienna on June 13. The event will bring together, by invitation, representatives of the EAACI leadership, EU allergy patient advocates, EU decision-makers, EU health stakeholders, representatives from industry and from National Allergy Societies to jointly discuss how all stakeholders can work together to progress EU policies for the benefit of allergic patients in Europe.

The objectives of the lunch include:
• communicating to EU decision-makers the growing prevalence and existing challenges of allergy and asthma in Europe, and highlighting the urgent and unmet needs for EU actions;
• fostering partnerships and collaboration between EU policymakers and invited stakeholders to address allergy and asthma as a priority of EU chronic diseases policies; and
• incentivising greater EU research on allergy and asthma.

The programme will feature keynote speakers from the European Commission, the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma, the European Medicines Agency, the European Biopharmaceutical Enterprises and the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients Associations.

The event will provide an opportunity to celebrate EAACI’s 60 year anniversary of leading work in allergy and asthma, outlining its efforts advocating at the EU level for the discipline and for our patients.

Antonella Muraro
EAACI President
From 21–23 April, EAACI held its seventh biannual Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting (DHM) in Málaga, Spain, bringing together more than 500 leading specialists and researchers from all over the world: our highest number of participants ever. The three-day meeting, which was a tremendous success, aimed to increase understanding of drug hypersensitivity (DH), a topic regarded by many healthcare professionals as insufficiently understood.

Incorrect DH diagnosis and inadequate patient reporting can have serious negative outcomes in both outpatient and hospital care. The last few years have brought many new insights on disease mechanisms and have dramatically changed the view of hypersensitivity reactions with better protocols for diagnosis and management. Ever since the first meeting in 2004, DHM has successfully provided a unique multidisciplinary opportunity for clinicians, researchers and industry representatives to exchange knowledge and experience, and to share information about the unprecedented recent progress in this field.

Miguel Blanca has said that “drug allergy is an area of cooperation, not of competition”, and this year’s meeting had an action-packed programme which clearly represented this sentiment.

Highlights included presentations on new concepts for the interaction between drugs and the immune system (several talks, several authors, including Dean Naisbitt, UK), a newly discovered mast cell receptor which may be responsible for non-allergic anaphylaxis (Xinzhong Dong, USA) and on how genetics help to predict the most severe skin and other organ reactions to drugs (particularly from Munir Pirmohamed, UK). Practical issues were also addressed, including discussion of which reactions drugs are able to produce, the most relevant drugs, hypersensitivity to specific drugs (e.g. biological agents), exploring the causes of false negative skin tests and provocation tests (Knut Brockow, Germany), and an analysis of different strategies to battle hypersensitivity to penicillins and other betalactams in different geographical regions of the world, such as Spain (Maria Torres), Denmark/Scandinavia (Lene Heise Garvey) and the USA (Eric Macy). Abstracts from the meeting will be published in the journal Clinical and Translational Allergy.

Maria José Torres
EAACI IG on Drug Allergy Chairperson

Knut Brockow
EAACI Dermatology Section Board Member
The Neocate range for the dietary management of cow’s milk allergy and multiple food protein allergies.

Fast and effective symptom relief in 3 to 14 days\textsuperscript{1,2}


Allergy School on Allergen Immunotherapy 2016

In April 2016 the EAACI Interest Group on Immunotherapy, in collaboration with the Danish Society of Allergology, arranged the 5th Allergy School on Allergen Immunotherapy (AIT), following earlier schools in Germany, Finland, Spain and Greece. The aim of the Allergy School was to give a complete insight into the exciting specialty of AIT.

The school took place on the beautiful coast north of Copenhagen, Denmark, in the Rungstedgaard facility neighbouring the home of the famous writer Karen Blixen, and with a direct view to the coast of Sweden. This place is also close to the “Louisiana” museum of modern art, which hosted the welcome reception including an exciting tour of the special pop art exhibition.

The Allergy School focused on the education of young researchers and physicians with a specific interest in allergy as the cause of respiratory diseases and AIT, with the intention of stimulating the scientific and social contact between established scientists and next generation specialists.

The educational focus was on allergy and AIT, epidemiology, the immunological background and impact of specific diagnostics, allergen exposure and AIT. Implementation of AIT (including Hymenoptera allergy) in daily allergy practice was also discussed in detail.

A combination of presentations, discussions, workshops on practical issues (diagnosis and treatment), hands on activities and opportunities to discuss individual needs, and sharing knowledge with experienced researchers was the basis for a very rewarding Allergy School.

With 80 participants from Europe and further afield and with 20 very engaged speakers the school was a great success. On behalf of the Organising Committee I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to achieve this, and also give special thanks to the EAACI office representatives for their important role.

Lars Jacobsen
EAACI Immunotherapy Interest Group Secretary
Allergy School on Drug Allergy in Children: Belgrade, September 2016

The EAACI Drug Allergy Interest Group (IG) are delighted to announce that they are organising an Allergy School on Drug Allergy in Children in Belgrade on 22–24 September 2016.

The Allergy School will be an excellent opportunity for young clinicians and researchers interested in drug allergy to learn more about the basic principles of drug allergy in children as well as using a practical approach to diagnosing and treating children with possible drug allergy.

Allergic reactions to drugs are often reported in children but most of them are not confirmed as allergic. Infections can lead to skin eruptions and mimic allergic reaction to a drug, if a drug is taken at the same time. Children are then labelled as “drug allergic” for the whole of their life, after considering only their clinical history. Because of this, a diagnostic work up should always be performed on children with a suspicion of drug hypersensitivity.

Participants at the Allergy School will also gain knowledge of the theory of drug reactions in children and be able to assess indications and contraindications for both in vivo and in vitro tests. Attendees will be able to distinguish real drug allergy from coincidental virus infections in children. Participants will implement guidelines for the assessment of drug allergy in children and thus improve the quality of both drug allergy diagnosis and therapy.

Marina Atanaskovic-Markovic
Local Organising Committee Chair

Maria José Torres
EAACI Drug Allergy Interest Group Chairperson

Patrizia Bonadona
EAACI Drug Allergy Interest Group Secretary

Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting 2016

The next Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting (FAAM 2016) will take place in Rome from 13–15 October 2016 and aims to address the specialty with an out-of-the-box approach. The meeting will bring together basic scientists, food technologists, industry researchers, regulators and experts in legislation, as well as representatives from patient organisations. It will embrace a multi-disciplinary and multi-professional perspective on the latest findings in the field with the purpose of showcasing the holistic care of patients, which contextualises management at the community level.

FAAM 2016 addresses food allergy related issues including food allergen analysis and allergen risk assessment during manufacturing. It will facilitate an understanding of recent legislation, as well as the application of and attitudes to “may contain” labelling, including results from the EAACI Patient Organisation Committee’s Global Consumer Survey.

Latest insights on biomarkers of food allergy endotypes will be provided, correlated with diagnosis of the disease and immunotherapy options. Treatment of anaphylaxis in a digital era and proposals for a new harmonised severity score for anaphylaxis will be explored. A whole day of the conference will be set aside for cutting edge science of the microbiome and its relation to nutrition and immunomodulation.

With 12 symposia and workshops, a focus will be given to enhance integration and interaction between participants and researchers, in order to promote a dialogue and ultimately tackle the challenges facing food allergic patients.

Antonella Muraro
EAACI President
FAAM 2016 Chair

Clare Mills
EAACI Food Allergy Interest Group Chairperson
FAAM 2016 Chair

Master Class on Translational Immunology 2016

In 2016, for the first time, the EAACI Immunology Section and Biologics Interest Group will organise a Master Class on Translational Immunology. State of the art training in novel therapies and also current unmet needs in allergic disorders will be addressed. The target audience is clinicians working in the fields of allergy and asthma who want to know more about the link between clinical presentation and treatment options with biologics based on endotyping. Participants will receive the knowledge and training required to effectively use these immunological tools in the clinic.

During the first day, leading experts in the field will provide comprehensive updates on how to identify phenotypes and immunological endotypes in patients suffering from asthma, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, urticaria, food allergy, eosinophilic esophagitis and those patients undergoing immunotherapy. The basic immunological mechanisms underpinning these clinical phenotypes and endotypes will also be discussed. During the second day, there will be detailed clinical presentations on the use of anti-IgE, anti-IL-5, anti-IL-4 and anti-IL-13 in the clinic. Specifically, participants will learn how and when to use these biologics, how to prevent, recognise and manage side-effects and how to approach difficult to treat patients. Interactive sessions involving case presentations by faculty and participants will ensure that the new knowledge can be applied in a real world setting. Finally, novel immune targets and microbiome targets currently in development and clinical trials for allergy and asthma patients will be discussed.

You can now register for the Master Class at www.eaaci.org.

Liam O’Mahony
EAACI Immunology Section Chair
UPCOMING EVENTS

EAACI CONGRESS 2016
EAACI Congress 2016
11 - 15 June 2016
Vienna, Austria
www.eaaci2016.org

FOCUSED MEETINGS
Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting (FAAM 2016)
13 - 15 October 2016
Rome, Italy
www.eaaci-faam.org

ALLERGY SCHOOLS
Drug Allergy in Children
22 - 24 September 2016
Belgrade, Serbia

Winter School on Basic Immunology Research in Allergy and Clinical Immunology
26 - 29 January 2017
Sierra Nevada, Spain

MASTER CLASS
Translational Immunology in Allergic Diseases
21 - 22 October 2016
Zurich, Switzerland

European Consortium on Application of Flow Cytometry in Allergy (EuroBAT 2016)
12 October 2016
Rome, Italy
www.eaaci-eurobat.org

International Severe Asthma Forum (ISAF 2016)
17 – 19 November 2016
Manchester, United Kingdom
www.eaaci-isaf.org

Symposium on Experimental Rhinology and Immunology of the Nose (SERIN 2017)
30 March – 1 April 2017
Düsseldorf, Germany
www.eaaci.org/serin2017

Skin Allergy Meeting (SAM 2017)
27 – 29 April 2017
Zurich, Switzerland

For more information visit www.eaaci.org or contact events@eaaci.org
What’s new in venom hypersensitivity?

Hymenoptera venom allergy (HVA) is responsible for more than 10% of all cases of anaphylaxis. Recently, the European Anaphylaxis Registry confirmed that venom anaphylaxis accounts for 40% of known elicitors in the 13–17 years age group and 36% in children aged 6–12 years. Due to the serious nature of HVA, special attention is paid to patients with mastocytosis. The reported frequency of HVA in mastocytosis is 20–50%, rising to 60–80% in patients affected by indolent systemic mastocytosis without skin lesions. However, currently available tests are not able to distinguish between asymptomatic sensitisation, large local reactions and severe systemic reactions (SRs).

In recent times, a number of developments have taken place with regards to diagnosis of HVA which warrant improving the position of venom immunotherapy (VIT) as the model of allergen-specific immunotherapy. The first of these is that recombinant allergens can now improve diagnostic precision in the study of HVA. In particular, sIgE to additional honey bee venom (HBV) marker allergens such as rApi m 3 and rApi m 10 allows the detection of genuine HBV sensitisation in 46–65% of Api m 1 negative sera. These constitute clinically relevant allergens for some patients who had developed systemic reactions to HBV, especially in patients with double sensitisation to honey bee and yellow jacket venom (YJV). Until the end of 2016, five bee venom components (Api m 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10) will be available for routine diagnosis.

A recent study showed that high levels of sIgE to rApi m 1 and rApi m 2 could be predictors of the severity of a sting reaction, independently of sIgE to Api m 4. The investigators stated that high levels of sIgE to rApi m 2 were also significantly associated with relapsing SRs without direct influence of premedication. Apparently, the incidence of SRs was associated with sensitisation to Api m 4; multi-centre studies will be performed in order to clarify these results.

Another relevant issue is that rVes v 5-spiked, a YJV ImmunoCAP enhanced by spiking with rVes v 5, has demonstrated a more reliable detection of YJV sensitisation in patients with HVA, improving the sensitivity to 96.8%. But critical evaluation of standard diagnostic methods is necessary.

Another development is that we are now in the era of biomarkers and venom hypersensitivity focused research is increasingly reporting evidence. It has been demonstrated that serum concentration of CCL5/RANTES in insect venom allergic patients was significantly reduced in the course of allergen immunotherapy after 6 days of vaccination, considering that CCL5/RANTES in serum does not correlate with specific IgE. Moreover, an oxidative stress status occurs in patients suffering from HVA although VIT does not modify serum levels of oxidative stress biomarkers.

Comparing venom allergic subjects with non-allergic healthy controls, an up-regulation of CD26, CXCR4, CXCR3, CD154 and ICOS was found. Conversely, a down-regulation of CD30, CD154 and CD152 occurred upon immune intervention with immunotherapy. Also, VIT achieved a decrease of basophil degranulation and an increase of IFNγ levels in T-cells after the fourth month of treatment. Other authors have found that bee venom immunotherapy significantly enhanced the differentiation of FOXP3-expressing cells both from conventional naive CD4 T cells and mature CD4 thymocytes, a property that may contribute to the VIT’s capacity to expand circulating Tregs in allergic individuals.

To a great extent, allergy impairs the Quality of Life (QoL) of venom allergic patients. Specific questionnaires have been developed in English, Spanish and Polish. Statistical analysis has revealed the high test-retest reliability, internal consistency and external validity of the HRQLHA, the first validated questionnaire to include patients allergic to the Polistes species, which is common in the Mediterranean region.

Good results have been achieved by the Parents’ of Children with Hymenoptera Venom Allergy Quality of Life Scale (PoCH-VAQoLS).

Venant hypersensitivity has also reached Precision Medicine by means of the analysis of gene expression, to assess the effectiveness of treatment, minimal required time for VIT and the persistence of long-term tolerance induced by the treatment. Recent studies have enabled construction of a predictive model that could potentially be used in clinical practice to assess the efficacy of insect venom immunotherapy.

Efficacy is also a matter of adherence to treatment. A five-year follow-up study indicates high adherence to subcutaneous venom immunotherapy.

New clinical contraindications to allergen immunotherapy, addressed separately to VIT, were recently published; in comparison to previous ones, they are more flexible.

Moreover, new guidelines on VIT are in preparation, according to current standards.

Gunter Sturm
EAACI IG on Venom Hypersensitivity Chair

Ewa Cichocka-Jarosz
EAACI IG on Venom Hypersensitivity Secretary

Dario Antolin Amerigo
EAACI IG on Venom Hypersensitivity Board Member

References
