Presidential message: reinventing education
EAACI Fellowship winners
DHM 2014 highlights

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Reinventing education

Anybody working in the field of allergy will often have heard of the crucial need for education: continuous education for healthcare professionals, education for patients and parents in order to understand their disease and how to manage it in their daily lives, and even education for other groups, such as for politicians, teachers and restaurant workers.

It is clear that the EAACI family well understands the need to share and assimilate all the knowledge that reaches us at such a fast pace, through new research findings. The classical education model involves tutors, who have previously been educated themselves and ideally have personal exposure and experience of the topic, and students who follow the process. The system has worked perfectly well for thousands of years, with key prerequisites being that the tutors should be inspiring and the students interested. However, a number of limiting factors challenge our established educational approaches. The amount of information and the clash between information and knowledge is one, whilst the logistics of access is another. Time is the hardest and most absolute factor.

The huge amount of information produced today is a result of our society’s decision to continue accelerating and of the growth principle of ‘capitalism’. Even the best of creative minds cannot afford to slow down, as they need to increase their intellectual production to keep alive. The question of how to incorporate new information into a comprehensive knowledge system is frequently neglected. Novelty is frequently measured chronologically rather than semantically (i.e. how recent rather than how new a finding is). This inflation and eventual overflow of information requires new approaches to bring it into the educational arena. Specialization has been one of these approaches – clearly today one can become expert in only a quite specific domain. However, too much specialization endangers the cohesion of knowledge: a lot of overlap as well as bridges are needed to avoid a modernbabel of experts.

The globalization of information, international travel and the world-wide web have made information access appear to be a problem of the past. This is only partially true: if knowledge is the incorporation of information through experience, we are beginning to realize that an important imbalance exists between the incoming bits of knowledge and the opportunities for experience.

Time is the limiting factor here, in terms of both rate (the speed of incorporation) and absolute value (although a lot of research is going into changing this: the ambitious ‘European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing’ has promised to increase the average healthy lifespan in Europe by two years by 2020!).

Which leaves us with the following challenge: how to tightly pack information and deliver it in a hands-on context in a reasonable time. There are a number of things that the EAACI are either already doing or considering. To start with, various groups of experts within the EAACI family are systematically evaluating the available information in their fields and taking the juice out into position papers, of which there are currently over 100 in production! Of course, that is too many papers for most of us to read in their entirety, which is why in our current strategy we always include executive summaries (and translations in some cases) and try to widely disseminate them, i.e. bring them as close as possible to everybody interested.

We are also discussing, developing and researching opportunities to include as many stakeholders and as diverse a group as possible in the creation of position papers. The technology to bring thousands of people together and allow them to express their thoughts and contribute towards a knowledge procedure is already available. The Guidelines of the future will be the result of crowdsourcing!

Trying to keep a balance between protecting our environment and offering hands-on experience to as many people as possible, we organize Schools and Focused Meetings in an expanding range of locations, at a pace reflecting current needs. In the background, we are discussing and piloting a system for distance learning, with methodologies that will make sure information can turn into knowledge. Targeting and personalizing is within the remit of EAACI’s educational plans, according to our Strategic Plan for 2013–2015 and hopefully beyond!

Nikolaos G. Papadopoulos
EAACI President
Dear Reader,

This year’s second issue opens with an extremely important message from the President, Prof. Nikolaos G. Papadopoulos, who is a keen advocate of the important role of education for healthcare professionals and other groups. In his message he also underlines the need to implement already existing means and formulate new ones to process and disseminate the vast amounts of information produced today, not only in a hands-on context but also within a reasonable timeframe.

Today, as it was in the past, education and scientific output is one of the most important objectives of the Academy, which inevitably leads to improvements in the health of patients with allergic diseases. Nowadays, however, we have to cope with ballooning scientific findings which require new approaches to incorporate new information into a comprehensive education system.

Consequently, over recent years the Academy has approved numerous Task Forces to work on specific topics which have produced scientific publications currently being disseminated, implemented and translated. Interaction with national societies should facilitate this process.

Moreover, the EAACI position papers are on their way to becoming guidelines, as in the case of the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Guidelines. In this context I would also like to remind you of other projects, like the Global Atlas of Asthma, published last year and which is an essential reference book not only for physicians but also public and private decision makers, and the general public as a whole. The Global Atlas of Allergy will also materialize shortly and, again, is the result of much work by an international group of 170 top opinion leaders.

With a view to translating scientific findings into everyday clinical practice, research and clinical fellowships are strongly encouraged by the Academy. Allergy Schools and Focused Meetings provide other ideal opportunities for the transfer and exchange of basic and clinical knowledge as well as the fostering of international contacts. In a world with few financial incentives for the promotion of the education and training of fledgling physicians, the Academy will continue its determined effort to invest in young people.

Summer is approaching apace, and as usual, so too is the Annual Congress. This year the Copenhagen meeting is full of novelties! The exciting theme of the 2014 Congress is “Challenging Dogmas” in which many important hypotheses will be revisited and intense debates during the Pro & Con sessions are guaranteed. The Scientific Programme Committee has organised an event with numerous exciting sessions and with careful selection of the best presenters of the most novel and relevant scientific findings. The Postgraduate Courses will have a new format and be characterised by a more hands-on approach in the form of an Allergological Bazaar, where both junior members and more seasoned delegates will be able to train alongside each other in diagnostic and other procedures, including skin tests, a double blind placebo controlled food challenge, drug provocation tests, immunotherapy, bronchial challenges, and an anaphylaxis simulation with the use of adrenaline.

Finally, it is an honour as a woman for me to invite you all to the first “Woman in Science” session where we will hear from three women scientists who have worked extremely hard on the genetics and epigenetics of asthma and allergy.

Don’t miss the opportunity to be part of the Copenhagen Meeting!

I very much look forward to welcoming you to the 2014 EAACI Congress.

M. Beatrice Bilò
EAACI Newsletter Editor
President’s Desk

Reinventing education

Meet the Person Behind

Edward Knol: the new SPC Coordinator
Interviews with 2013 Fellowship winners

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EAACI Congress 2014

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Allergy School on Primary Care: A Holistic Approach
EAACI Immunotherapy Registry Launched in the Balkans
Dissemination and implementation of EAACI documents
New Brussels office to drive the Academy’s European affairs strategy

Science in brief

Recommendations for the Standardisation of Clinical Outcomes used in Allergen Immunotherapy Trials for Allergic Rhinoconjunctivitis: an EAACI Position Paper
Edward Knol: the new SPC Coordinator

1. Tell us about yourself
I am a biomedical scientist and immunologist trained at the University of Amsterdam with a long-standing interest in allergy. As a Master’s student, I was already characterising IgE-inducing T cell supernatants in 1985, just before interleukin 4 was described. Currently, I am working in the Departments of Immunology and Dermatology/Allergology in the University Medical Center in Utrecht, The Netherlands. My research interest is in food allergy and atopic dermatitis, as well as novel diagnostics in allergy. As part of my job, I am involved in the education and training of our infection and Immunology graduate school, where I also head the educational committee for the 50 Masters and 200 PhD students.

The first EAACI meeting I attended was in 1993 and I became more involved as the Scientific Secretary of the EAACI’s 2004 meeting in Amsterdam. Since 2007, I have been a board member, Secretary and the Chair of the Immunology Section. I live with my wife and two kids in a small suburb of Utrecht and enjoy my daily 10 km biking commute, which is a perfect brainstorming moment.

2. What is your impression of the Scientific Programme for the 2014 EAACI Congress?

● Excellent – as always, I should actually say. There are many sessions that are very appealing and I am anxious to see how, for instance, the new Allergy Bazaar will work out. The theme of the Congress, “Challenging Dogmas”, will evoke many interesting discussions.

To me personally, the Translating Immunology session by the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) on the Monday is of great interest. EAACI is one of the member societies of FOCIS, which represents more than 65,000 clinical and preclinical researchers in different areas of Clinical Immunology. One of the speakers in this sister symposium is Abul Abbas, a brilliant scientist and author of many excellent textbooks in (clinical) immunology.

3. What are the challenges, and your future plans, as the new SPC Co-ordinator?

My foremost challenge is to maintain the high level of our annual meeting. From a more technical point of view, I would like to implement more and more new developments in electronic media, both from scientific frames of reference as well as from social media. This will, among other things, lead to better networking.

An important challenge is to increase the activity in the poster sessions. This is the platform where most novel results are shown and also a showcase for the new generation of scientists in our society. Closely related to this is the wish to embrace and talent scout the new generation of clinical and pre-clinical researchers as speakers at our future meetings.

To ensure the quality of our meetings, and even to further increase it, we should think of a system to introduce ratings of sessions and speakers in a more sophisticated way than by the audience filling in evaluation forms. Within the EAACI Excom Congress Group, we will be discussing new challenges and opportunities further, under the leadership of the Vice President Congresses, Ronald van Ree.

4. How will you keep the balance between different specialists attending the EAACI Congress and between clinical and basic science?

A perfect opportunity would be to have more interdisciplinary sessions at our meetings. We should always underline that we need each other in treating patients, diagnosing patients and in doing even basic research. Interactions should not only be between basic and clinical scientists but also, for instance, between dermatologists and pulmonologists.

5. Which themes do you consider future EAACI Congresses might cover?

Novel treatment modalities to treat allergic patients, and novel biomarkers to better characterise patients and to work more on patient-tailored treatment. I am very enthusiastic about the novel developments in biologics. It is clear that this new line of specific drugs might be very helpful in the treatment of therapy resistant groups but also, sometimes, for the treatment of well-defined subgroups of patients. In addition, these drugs have already provided novel insights into immune pathomechanisms. For example, anti-IgE is now a very promising treatment for chronic urticaria patients, a disease in which we never anticipated a role for IgE.

EAACI EVENTS

June 2014
7 – 11 June – EAACI Congress 2014, Copenhagen, Denmark
6 June EAACI Executive Committee Meeting
7 June EAACI Scientific Programme Committee Meeting
7 June EAACI Knowledge Exam
9 June EAACI General Assembly

July 2014
2 – 5 July – EAACI Allergy School on Allergic Effects on Environmental Exposures, Brindisi, Italy

August 2014
EAACI Newsletter

September 2014
18 – 20 September – Skin Allergy Meeting (SAM), Krakow, Poland
25 – 27 September – EAACI Allergy School on Specific Allergy and Immunotherapy, Athens, Greece

October 2014
9 – 11 October – Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting (FAAM), Dublin, Ireland
30 October – 1 November – Allergy School on Primary Care - A holistic approach, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

November 2014
7 – 8 – EAACI Executive Committee and Budget 2015 Meeting
13 – 15 November – International Severe Asthma Forum (ISAF), Athens, Greece

December 2014
12 – 13 December – European Consortium on Application of Flow Cytometry in Allergy (EuroBAT), Munich, Germany

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.
Abeer Mohamed Abd El-Hamid Eissa

1. Why did you apply for a Fellowship?
I am hoping to be a better allergist, to improve allergy practice in Egypt and to establish a new centre for allergy in my university, so, I wanted to see what’s going on in allergy outside my country. I wanted to improve my experience in the fields of food allergy, drug allergy, allergy diagnosis and immunotherapy. I thought about transferring all that I could learn to apply it in Egypt. Also, I aimed to share in more international activities and to get experience of dealing with different cultures.

2. What did you like most about your Fellowship?
I enjoyed the new challenge. I enjoyed being in another country for 3 months dealing with different people and cultures. All my colleagues and the Professors were very helpful and were very willing to answer all my questions, either in the scientific field or to help me adapt to the new experience.

3. Which advantages did your Fellowship bring you?
I learnt more about the pollen allergy in a pollen complex area such as Spain, more about cluster immunotherapy, more about the importance of molecular diagnosis in allergy. I also found out more about the medical filing system in Spain and improved my knowledge in the methodology of clinical research. I improved my English and my newly-learned Spanish.

4. What do you recommend for someone who would like to do a Fellowship?
I recommend that they don’t miss the chance of applying. They should choose their mentor carefully and know as much as they can about the host centre, its facilities and points of excellence, in order to clearly set their fellowship goals before starting.

Artur Gevorgyan

1. Why did you apply for a Fellowship?
I applied for the EAACI fellowship to enjoy an outstanding opportunity of learning more about allergy and its place in the Otolaryngology practice, specifically about allergic and non-allergic rhinitis. The EAACI fellowship provided me that exact opportunity. The centre where I was already doing a part of my fellowship, the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam, is extremely well suited for such advancement of knowledge, given the large breadth of rhinology and allergy practiced here.

2. What did you like most about your Fellowship?
What I liked most about was the opportunity to specifically dedicate time to clinical and research activities of interest. In a world with few financial incentives to enhance our knowledge, EAACI provides an incredible opportunity for otolaryngologists to put aside 3 months dedicated to learning about allergic and non-allergic rhinitis.

3. Which advantages did your Fellowship bring you?
The fellowship provided me with an enhanced knowledge of allergy and its contribution to sinonasal disorders. Inquiring about previous allergic history and examining for it is something all otolaryngologists are familiar with; however, a fellowship in the field brings in an extra level of curiosity and thought. I am hoping that my patients here in Canada are benefiting from that extra learned care about allergic and non-allergic rhinitis.

I was also involved in several research projects. Most notably, we are writing two Cochrane reviews on non-allergic rhinitis, which I hope will bring further light into treatment of this rather large but elusive entity.

4. What do you recommend for someone who would like to do a Fellowship?
I will certainly recommend the Fellowship to any otolaryngologist who has an interest in advancing their knowledge in allergy as well as non-allergic rhinitis. I think the EAACI fellowship is well suited to fill that gap in our knowledge.
Leonarda Di Candia

Leonarda di Candia, from UK, won an EAACI Research Fellowship Award for “The role of HMGB1/RAGE in human airway smooth muscle cell function”. She spent 3 months at San Raffaele University of Milano in Italy.

1. Why did you apply for a Fellowship?
I applied for a Fellowship to have the possibility of spending time in a host laboratory with expertise in the field of my PhD project, so that I could acquire more in-depth knowledge about it, learn new assays, and have access to protocols and reagents exclusively designed by the host lab and their collaborators. Additionally, the three-month EAACI short-term Fellowship allowed me to expand my professional network. I was then able to transfer my new skills and contacts to my home lab.

2. What did you like most about your Fellowship?
I enjoyed being away from my home lab for 3 months, in a different country and a different environment. I liked how people in the host institution were approachable and friendly, as well as knowledgeable. It gave me fresh energy to continue my project back home.

3. Which advantages did your Fellowship bring you?
The first immediate advantage was that in a short period of time I learnt so much about the subject just by being in close contact with researchers who have been studying it for many years. I could take full advantage of their experience and apply it in my experiments. I was also able to use some specific reagents formulated by them and take advantage of their own collaborations.

By undertaking the Fellowship, I was able to establish a work relationship between my home and host labs and I expanded my own professional network, which may prove useful in the future as well. Working in a different lab and environment in itself was also useful, and gave me inspiration for my future career.

4. What do you recommend for someone who would like to do a Fellowship?
I would recommend identifying possible host institutions in good time and researching the capabilities of the labs, so that experimental work can be planned. With a short-term Fellowship especially, it is important to have a clear plan of what experiments are going to be carried out in the host lab, although variations can occur afterwards. There have to be clear gains for the home institution too, such as a new technique or collaboration.

I would recommend reflecting on the following points when selecting the host institution:
• the technical/scientific advantage in carrying out the project in the host versus the home lab;
• the advantages for the home institution upon returning to it;
• the networking opportunities for the home institution as well as for the candidate.

EAACI Journals

• Allergy
• Pediatric Allergy and Immunology
• Clinical Translational Allergy

EAACI members can access all official EAACI journals through their online members area at www.eaaci.org

Just log in and click www.eaaci.org/resources
The Danish Society for Allergology

The Danish Society for Allergology is a scientific society with the aims of gathering allergology specialists and other people engaged in the field of allergology at scientific meetings, and supporting and working for the development of basal and clinical science, education and clinical practice in allergology in Denmark.

The first society to represent allergy in Denmark was the ‘Danish Society for Allergy Research’, founded in 1946. Other Nordic countries also had allergy societies and collaboration with them led to one of the first European scientific journals, Acta Allergologica (later Allergy). Given that in other European countries and in the US allergists were treating immunological diseases, the name of the society was changed in 1966 to the ‘Danish Society for Allergology and Immunology’. However, in Denmark immunological diseases were primarily treated by other specialties and, as a consequence, the name was changed again in 1985 to the ‘Danish Society for Allergology’. In the early years, it was a sister society of the ‘Society for Immunology’ but, since 1992, it has been independent.

Allergology had approved status as a medical specialization in Denmark but, in 2004, the Danish Health Board abolished the specialty as a distinct entity. Since then, the Danish Society for Allergology has established a 2-year sub-specialization in Allergology for respiratory medicine and dermatology, and a sub-specialization for occupational medicine will also be established. Pediatricians in Denmark already have a 3-year sub-specialization, according to UEMS (the European Union of Medical Specialists).

The Danish Society for Allergology has 374 members, including medical doctors, researchers in allergology, nurses and people from industry with an interest in allergology. The society organizes a two-day annual meeting in August and also a thematic winter meeting. Our home page (in Danish) can be found at: www.danskallergi.dk.

The society is a member of EAACI, WAO, the Nordic Society for Allergology and Immunology, the Organization of Danish Medical Societies. In addition, many members of our society are individual members of EAACI.

Members of the Danish Society for Allergology are looking forward to the EAACI Congress 2014 in Copenhagen and welcoming you all to Denmark. ●

Peter Plaschke (President)
Charlotte G Mortz (Secretary)
The Danish Society for Allergology

EAACI Website
Angel Mazon and Olympia Tsiolochristou Website Co-Editors

“Componere, aut mori”
In a fast changing world, we sometimes have to change even though what we already have is good. Over the last few years, our website (www.eaaci.org) has grown and has become our shop window. But there have been a lot of technical advances during that same time, and the opportunities offered by the internet have multiplied, so it is now a case of “componere, aut mori” (renew or die).

Thus, we will shortly launch a new website, with an amended design and easier access and navigation, providing all the information that our EAACI members wish to have regarding the organisation, activities and resources of the Academy. The Patient Area will be further developed, with practical, updated and reliable information. We aim to make this area a useful tool for clinicians, an area that can be recommended to patients and which could help to reduce the work of our busy clinics. We encourage you to send your comments and suggestions to improve this area: they will be very welcome.

Meanwhile, we cannot forget the EAACI’s current activities: our Annual Congress is about to begin; from September to December, there are Focused Meetings each month; and a number of Allergy Schools, successful activities for young members, have already been organized (environmental issues will be discussed in Brindisi, and right now you can submit your abstract for the September Immunotherapy Allergy School to be held in Athens).

For further information on the MP, please email mp.jma.eaaci@gmail.com or visit: www.eaaci.org/juniors.html.

SE O’Neil
MP Team Coordinator
A Santos
JMA Chairperson

Mentorship Programme Awards 2014

The Mentorship Programme (MP) is a platform to help EAACI JMAs connect with EAACI senior members with shared interests. The partnership is usually conducted online between a Mentee and Mentor although face-to-face meetings are encouraged. The MP Award aims to defray some of the costs associated with a short visit to a Mentor’s workplace, in order to further develop an already successful partnership.

This year, various mentees from previous years of the MP applied for the MP Award, with reviewers impressed by the high quality of the applications. The JMA Working Group would like to congratulate the following applicants on being awarded an MP Award for 2014 and wish them productive and fruitful visits:

Natalia Aliakhnovich
Pasquale Camberiat
Dinastry Pramadita
Antonios Patelis

The 2014 round of the MP is now closed and we are pleased to announce that over 100 senior EAACI members volunteered to be Mentors, following which we received many applications from junior members seeking an experienced guide as they drive their careers forward. The new Mentee/Mentor teams were notified in April and they have been invited to attend and meet at an MP social event during the Annual Congress in Copenhagen.

Visit our website and social media to find out more about all these activities.
The Global Atlas of Allergy

Today, allergy is a global public health concern of pandemic proportions requiring immediate action. As a result, EAACI has called on leaders worldwide to develop a “Global Atlas of Allergy”.

The proposed Atlas will have 140 chapters written by 170 top opinion leaders, and its purpose is:

- to gather evidence to highlight the burden of allergic diseases worldwide as being of sufficient magnitude to warrant recognition as a priority in national health strategies;
- to describe mechanisms and risk factors, and to evaluate the best ways to prevent and control allergic diseases;
- to provide guidance on how to overcome barriers ahead, such as poverty, poor education and infrastructure, low public health priority due to the importance of other illnesses, and the lack of good worldwide valid epidemiologic data;
- to ensure that cost-effective management approaches, which have been proven to reduce morbidity and mortality, are available to as many persons as possible with allergic diseases worldwide; and
- to establish an action plan to manage resources for allergic diseases prevention and control, and to prioritize funding for allergy research.

This project is a continuation of the success of the “Global Atlas of Asthma” published by the EAACI in 2013, which was written by an international group of 80 opinion leaders in asthma and is now an essential reference source for multisectoral usage. With a Preface from the World Health Organization and distributed worldwide, it has received very positive feedback from professional organizations all over the world.

The “Global Atlas of Allergy” will be launched in Copenhagen during the 2014 EAACI Annual Congress.

Cezmi Akdis
EAACI Past President
Ioana Agache
EAACI Vice President of Communication and Membership

EAACI Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Dissemination Campaign

Serious reactions to food allergy are now on the rise and, with 22% of European children now suffering from an allergy, the situation is only getting worse.

With this in mind, on 7 April 2014, EAACI launched the Anaphylaxis Dissemination Campaign with a press release outlining the necessity for stakeholders to become more involved and informed on the issue. This comes on the back of new EAACI Guidelines on Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis which explain that healthcare professionals, including primary care physicians, pharmacists, patients and caregivers, need to be educated in the quick recognition, emergency treatment and prevention of anaphylactic reactions.

Since the unveiling of the campaign, patient organisations around the world, national societies and pharmacist organisations under the umbrella of the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union have helped EAACI to disseminate the information by joining with the Academy in the EAACI press release and by distributing campaign flyers and posters, helping to identify symptoms, treatment and prevention of anaphylactic reactions. Media interviews with ‘local champions’ on anaphylaxis management were organised in Germany, Italy and Portugal.

Thanks to all of the following organisations for their assistance so far:

**Patient Organisations**

- ahC Allergiezentrum Schweiz (Switzerland)
- Deutscher Allergie und Asthma Bund eV (Germany)
- Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia (Australia)
- Allergy Care India (India)
- Allergy New Zealand Inc (New Zealand)
- Allergy Society of South Africa (South Africa)
- Anaphylaxis Campaign (UK)
- Asociación Española de Alérgicos a Alimentos y Látex (Spain)
- DGAKI (Germany)
- The European Anaphylaxis Taskforce (The Netherlands)
- Food Allergy Research and Education (USA)
- Fundacion Crediendo con Alergias Alimentarias

**National Allergy Societies**

- Associazione Allergologi ed Immunologi Territoriali ed Ospedalier (Italy)
- Austrian Society for Allergology and Immunology (Austria)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Allergologie und Klinische Immunologie e.V. (Germany)
- Sociedad Espanola de Alergologia e Immunologia Clinica (Spain)
- Sociedade Portuguesa de Alergologia e Immunologia Clinica (Portugal)
- Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Allergologie und Immunologie (Switzerland)
- Polish Allergy Society

**Pharmacists**

- General Council of Spanish Pharmacists (Spain)
- Federfarma (Italian Pharmacy Owners Federation) (Italy)
- Les Enterprises du Médicament (France)

Allergic disease is steadily on the rise, and anaphylaxis represents one of the most severe reactions to this. Knowledge is power, so raising awareness and informing the public about the dangers they could face can only help when it comes to improving the lives of millions. The campaign will continue with new pharmacist organisations and national societies joining the dissemination platform, and with the launch of the EAACI Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Guidelines book during the EAACI Congress in Copenhagen.

Antonella Muraro
EAACI Secretary General
Ioana Agache
EAACI VP for Communication and Membership
(On behalf of the EAACI Guidelines on Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Steering Committee)
Dear EAACI members, colleagues and friends,

The EAACI Ethics Committee’s mission is to be a European reference structure in the field of ethics in allergy training and practice, in good practice and research, and in the management of allergy diseases, patient information, patient care and public health issues concerning allergies.

To implement these issues, the EAACI Ethics Committee has been working over the past year to update the Code of Ethics of our Academy. The Code is currently being reviewed by our Executive Committee members and, as soon as it has their approval, it will be available on the EAACI website and published in our journals.

The Code contains references to a number of other documents which form its basis and which it would be useful for you to be able to refer to:

1) In the field of therapy:

The Declaration of Geneva and consecutive statements of the World Medical Association regarding best medical care for specific and vulnerable groups (among these: women, children, asylum seekers and refugees); Medical professionalism in the new Millennium (ABIM Foundation, ACP–ASIM Foundation, and European Federation of Internal Medicine), Goals of Medicine/Care (Mark J. Hanson, Daniel Callahan Cassel), and the European Charter of Patients’ Rights.

2) In the field of research:

• European Convention on Human Rights (4 November 1950);
• Declaration of Helsinki (CIOMS/WHO) (Adopted by the 18th WMA General Assembly, Helsinki, Finland, June 1964);
• Biomedical Research: Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning Biomedical Research;
• International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects; Updated version (2002) – CIOMS (Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences);

3) In the field of Public Health/Health Technology Assessment:

• Code of Ethics AHPA;
• EUNETHTA Core Model for Medical and Surgical Interventions;
• Wilson Jungner Criteria for the validity of screening programme (WHO), specified by the UK National Screening Committee.

Last year, the Ethics Committee organized the first ethics session to be included in the scientific programme. Sadly, too few participants attended it: please don’t miss the session this year in Copenhagen where you are all invited to participate. The ethics session (“Research in Allergy (& CI): ethical point of view”) takes place on Monday 9 June 2014, from 15:45 to 17:15.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Copenhagen.

Jacques Gayraud
EAACI Ethics Committee Chair
EAACI Congress 2014 Challenging dogmas - shaping the future

Dear readers
This is my last report as Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) Coordinator. It has been a great honour to organise the scientific programme of the EAACI Congresses in Milan and Copenhagen, bringing forward the best in European and International allergy and clinical immunology science. With the support of the great SPC team, and building on the strong foundations laid by my predecessors Sergio Romagnani, Cezmi Akdis, Christian Virchow and Lars Poulsen, we have managed to promote the EAACI Congresses to hallmark world allergy events, with a record-breaking number of delegates and submitted abstracts, and with a top-notch faculty.

This year’s Congress will bring even more new features: the hands-on Allergy Bazaar (serving the training needs of delegates), e-posters for the poster discussions sessions, a Women in Science Symposium celebrating women at the heart of the major scientific advances in the field, new collaborations such as the FOCIS Symposium on translational immunology, the SLAAI Symposium and the Allergy in Africa Symposium. A more interactive format is offered by increasing the number of pro/con sessions and embedding the pro/con debates within many of the regular symposia or workshops.

The programme this year offers a comprehensive and broad update on basic and clinical research covering the allergy and asthma burden, prevention and risk factors, epigenomics and metagenomics, the role of microbiome, new cytokines, novel diagnostic tools including biomarkers and molecular allergology, the revisited role of IgE, food allergy, allergen immunotherapy, pharmacoeconomics, new treatment trends including biologicals, personalised medicine and internet based monitoring. Following the new structure of the EAACI Interest Groups, topics such veterinary allergology and the management of allergic diseases in Primary Care have also been included. Last, but by no means least, the dilemmas faced by an allergist, such as immune deficiencies and autoimmune diseases concomitant to allergic symptoms, will be critically discussed. The programme is completed with a session on ethical issues and a Patient Organisations workshop.

I wish a very fruitful term, with new ideas and successful developments, to the new SPC Coordinator, Edward Knol, my dear friend and colleague.

I close by thanking the members of the SPC and the Local Organising Committee, and all in the EAACI Headquarters who have worked so hard to put together such an exciting programme.

Marek Jutel
EAACI SPC Coordinator

JMA and Educational Activities during the 2014 EAACI Congress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allergy Bazaar</td>
<td>Saturday, 7 June</td>
<td>14:00-17:30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(during the Postgraduate Courses)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12:00-16:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Examination</td>
<td>Saturday, 7 June</td>
<td>11:00-14:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMA Postgraduate Course (Anaphylaxis in childhood)</td>
<td>Saturday, 7 June</td>
<td>14:00-17:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMA Poster Session</td>
<td>Saturday, 7 June</td>
<td>20:00-22:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMA Scientific Symposium (JMAs at the cutting edge of research)</td>
<td>Sunday, 8 June</td>
<td>15:30-17:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMA Educational Session</td>
<td>Monday, 9 June</td>
<td>13:45-15:15</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMA Case Reports</td>
<td>Tuesday, 10 June</td>
<td>10:30-12:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMA Business Meeting</td>
<td>Tuesday, 10 June</td>
<td>17:30-19:00</td>
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Have your say at the EAACI General Assembly

The EAACI General Assembly is the governing body of the Academy and meets every year during the EAACI Annual Congress. This year, the General Assembly will take place on Monday, 9 June, from 08:00 to 09:00, with EAACI President, Nikos Papadopoulos and the Board of Officers all present.

This year, a new President will be voted in, becoming the President Elect for the next 12 months before official handover at the 2015 EAACI Congress. All Boards of Officers will also submit a report of all their activities since the last General Assembly.

All EAACI Members, regardless of their voting rights (under Articles 4 and 5 of the EAACI Constitution), are entitled to participate and speak at the General Assembly. Only members with voting rights (Article 4 of the Constitution) are entitled to vote at the General Assembly.

Marek Jutel
EAACI SPC Coordinator
EAACI Congress 2014 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 your smartphone, you can explore the exhibition and event program at your fingertips. The app’s interactive features allow you to browse the sessions, create your own personal itinerary, and navigate the halls and access exhibitors. The app is updated daily and allows users to access information offline to avoid roaming costs. The app can be downloaded on your smartphone app store and works with iOS, Android and Windows. Search your app store for EAACI. A dedicated, strong Wi-Fi connection is provided throughout the Bella Center.

Certificate of Attendance
You will find your Congress Certificate of Attendance in the Congress bag you will receive on arrival.

Congress Badge
Remember to wear your badge in the Congress venue at all times. It is your entrance ticket to all sessions and to the Exhibition Hall.

EAACI Booth
Located in the Center Hall just after the registration area, the EAACI Booth will be open from 09:00 to 17:30 every day of the 2014 EAACI Congress. Come and visit us to find out all you need to know about the Academy, membership and all of our upcoming activities and events.

EAACI Membership Services Desk
Want to renew your membership or join the Academy? The EAACI Membership Services Desk is situated in the Registration Area and will provide you with all the information you need about EAACI membership.

Opening hours
Saturday, 7 June 08:30 - 19:00
Sunday, 8 June 07:00 - 18:00
Monday, 9 June 09:00 - 17:30 (Find us at the EAACI booth in the Entrance Hall)
Tuesday, 10 June 09:00 - 17:30 (Find us at the EAACI booth in the Entrance Hall)
Wednesday, 11 June 09:00 - 17:30 (Find us at the EAACI booth in the Entrance Hall)

Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception
The Opening Ceremony will be held in the Auditorium in the Congress venue on 7 June 2014, from 19:00 to 19:45. The Welcome Reception will follow.

Poster Exhibition
Posters are displayed in the poster area in the Exhibition Hall. They are divided into three poster groups; Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Posters will be displayed all day. Each day the posters are organised in thematic groups of 15–20 posters. At lunch time the presenters are required to stand by their posters and answer questions from delegates. During this time, two moderators will also visit each poster and ask the presenters to briefly present their findings.

Programme
The full programme of sessions, with a list of speakers, chairs and abstracts, is available online on the Congress website: www.eaaci2014.com. You can also check and plan your agenda through the Congress App.

Public Transport
You can reach the Congress venue by Metro line M1 as well as by Bus lines 30, 4A and 250S. You can take advantage of the discounted Travel Pass available exclusively for EAACI 2014 Congress delegates. The Pass offers unlimited public transportation in all of Copenhagen and the north of Seeland for less than EUR 5 per day. Visit www.eaaci2014.com for more details.

Registration Desk
Located at the venue entrance, the Registration Desk will be open at the following times:
Saturday, 7 June 08:30 – 19:00
Sunday, 8 June 07:00 – 17:00
Monday, 9 June 06:30 – 18:00
Tuesday, 10 June 07:00 – 18:00
Wednesday, 11 June 08:00 – 12:00

Where to find...

Abstracts
All accepted abstracts will be published online at www.eaaci2014.com on Saturday, 7 June 2014. Abstracts of papers that are presented at the Congress will be published in the online edition of the EAACI official journal, Allergy. Please note that by confirming the presentation of your abstract, you are automatically granting permission to the organizers of the Congress to publish your abstract on the official website and in Allergy.

CME Credits
A Certificate outlining the CME Credits earned for the 2014 EAACI Congress will be available online from 13 June 2014. This year, attendees are not required to scan their badge onsite. In order to print your certificate, you will need your surname as well as the badge code printed on your badge. Credits can only be granted to delegates who attend the Congress and have a printed name badge with a name badge code.

Internet
For WiFi access, choose the EAACI network. There is no password. We have internet computer terminals - or Connection Points - in aisles of the Exhibition Hall. Check the Exhibition Floor plan to find your nearest station.
Section and Interest Group Business Meetings

Asthma Section  
Sunday, 8 June 2014  
13:30–15:00

Ig Aerobiology and Pollution  
Tuesday, 10 June 2014  
15:30–17:00

Dermatology Section  
Tuesday, 10 June 2014  
10:30–12:00

Ig Allied Health  
Tuesday, 10 June 2014  
15:30–17:00

ENT Section  
Sunday, 8 June 2014  
13:30–15:00

Ig Biologicals  
Sunday, 8 June 2014  
10:30–12:00

Immunology Section  
Monday, 9 June 2014  
13:45–15:15

Ig Comparative Veterinary Allergology  
Sunday, 8 June 2014  
10:30–12:00

Pediatric Section  
Sunday, 8 June 2014  
15:30–17:00

Ig Drug Allergy  
Monday, 9 June 2014  
10:45–12:15

IG Allergy, Asthma and Sports  
Sunday, 8 June 2014  
15:30–17:00

Ig Epidemiology  
Monday, 9 June 2014  
13:45–15:15

IG Allergy Diagnosis  
Tuesday, 10 June 2014  
13:30–15:00

Ig Food Allergy  
Tuesday, 10 June 2014  
15:30–17:00

IG Functional Genomics and Proteomics  
Monday, 9 June 2014  
10:45–12:15

IG Occupational Allergy  
Monday, 9 June 2014  
15:45–17:15

IG Allergology  
Monday, 9 June 2014  
15:45–17:15

IG Immunotherapy  
Monday, 9 June 2014  
10:45–12:15

IG Ocular Allergy  
Tuesday, 10 June 2014  
13:30–15:00

IG Infection and Allergy  
Tuesday, 10 June 2014  
10:30–12:00

IG Primary Care  
Sunday, 8 June 2014  
10:30–12:00

IG Insect Venom Hypersensitivity  
Monday, 9 June 2014  
15:45–17:15

National Society Village  
The Village will be located to the right of the entrance to the exhibition floor, alongside the publishers’ area and not far from the EAACI booth. This will allow each of the National Societies to be able to inform participants about their activities, upcoming events and projects, in an area where they have high exposure.

One of the highlights of the National Society Village’s programme will be the visit of the EAACI President, Nikos Papadopoulos, together with the Board of Officers. Offering a chance to strengthen relationships between individual societies, discuss the current situation within our specialty, and look at possible future joint projects, the visit will be an invaluable experience for one-on-one interaction. This year’s visit will take place on Sunday, 8 June 2014, from 12:00 to 13:00.

The National Society Village will be open from 8–10 June 2014, from 09:30 to 17:30.
Women in science: Genetics and Epigenetics of Asthma and Allergy

EAACI Congress 2014: Tuesday 10 June at 10:30

“When you think of a woman scientist, probably the first and only name on most people’s lips would be Marie Skłodowska-Curie. But only since 2011 has the EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme borne her own name - not just that of her husband. Women have broken down barriers in science and research and have been at the centre of fundamental discoveries over the last decades. Furthermore, many women are devoting their lives to allergy every day in clinics, in labs and as members of EAACI groups.

One in four European children under the age of 10 suffer from an allergy and yet, to date, the cause is still unclear. Scientists grapple to understand if the cause is environmental or hereditary. As we know, excellence springs from many sources and this year EAACI wants to celebrate women at the heart of the major scientific advances in the field.

Out of many, three women have been instrumental to increasing our understanding of this growing problem: Donata Vercelli, Carole Ober and Erika von Mutius. Internationally renowned, each has made the difficult move from the shadows to the spotlight in advancing research. All three women, despite coming from different backgrounds, arrived in prominent positions having carved out extraordinary careers improving the quality of life of patients. In a field where female scientists and innovators have had to work that little bit harder, their dedication and the wealth of their studies remain the driving force for advancing our comprehension of the genetic markers of respiratory diseases. Despite the obstacles faced along the way, their careers have gained recognition globally. Furthermore, they have still found the time and energy to encourage others. They are a source of great inspiration to their peers, as well as to many other female students, researchers and pioneers.

Antonella Muraro
EAACI Secretary General

The EAACI Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Guidelines

The EAACI Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Guidelines have been developed in order to translate best knowledge into best practice, enabling health professionals to properly tackle this huge global health problem.

The guidelines were drafted by more than 70 expert authors from all around the world. All sections of the EAACI were directly involved in their development, including: Pediatrics, Immunology, Dermatology, Asthma, Junior Members and Affiliates, and the Interest Groups of Food Allergy, Allied Health, Allergy Diagnosis, Insect Venom Hypersensitivity and Primary Care. Twenty-one international patient organizations were involved from the beginning within the frame of the EAACI Patient Organization Committee.

A panel of 30 international experts has reviewed the Guidelines, which have also gone through public consultation. The Guidelines have been collected in a Guidelines Book which will be distributed at the Annual Congress in Copenhagen, and which will also be available online for EAACI members visiting the EAACI website www.eaaci.org, members’ area.

The work that has gone in to the Guidelines is dedicated to our members and patients. We encourage you to provide us with your feedback and to help in disseminating these recommendations to your community.

Antonella Muraro
EAACI Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Project Chair
Secretary General
Bern welcomed the sixth Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting (DHM) from 9 to 12 April 2014. More than 350 attendees from 55 countries contributed to the success of this international event. The story of DHM dates back 10 years to when, once again, it was Prof. Werner Pichler and his team who organized the first DHM in Bern.

The diverse selection of delegates and speakers included basic researchers as well as clinicians in allergy and dermatology. A major focus of the meeting was drug–immune system interactions, for instance the role of HLA–abacavir interactions in the development of severe adverse drug reactions.

Participants got familiar with new findings in diagnosing drug hypersensitivity, namely in vivo and in vitro tests, their validation and standardization. Special attention was focused on proper registration, documentation and reporting adverse drug reactions.

During the meeting, novel drugs and new types of drug hypersensitivity reactions were revealed, such as new targeted therapies, inducible acneform, inflammatory reactions and Hand-Foot Syndrome.

The conference offered a nice environment for networking and planning international collaborations. Many junior EAACI members presented their findings at the poster sessions which hosted 160 posters altogether.

For those scheduling their travel with some extra time, Bern offered great weather, pearls of culture and art, as well as great sightseeing.

DHM 2014 contributed to improving my knowledge of the field and gave me the chance to network and build new friendships. I strongly encourage all EAACI juniors with interests in this field to apply to attend the next DHM.

Razvigor Darlenski, JMA
Sofia, Bulgaria

Forty-one young researchers met in the city of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, for an Allergy School to develop their skills in critically appraising research findings, learning how to deal with the growing amount of information and assessing the quality of published literature.

The first day lectures began with a stimulating introduction to the basis and role of logic and statistics in science, then focusing on the “research groundwork” of data search, management and hints for writing manuscripts, for both clinicians and basic scientists.

On the second day, participants got familiar with Quality Assessment in the biomedical field, evidence-based medicine and the design of studies and experiments. Also, precious advice on preparing posters and conference oral presentations was given. On Saturday, the whole last scientific session was dedicated to a practical computer session on approaches and procedures for the analysis of data, giving an opportunity for us to familiarize ourselves with the SPSS software.

The Allergy School offered a nice environment for junior EAACI members and researchers to be stimulated by an exciting and varied program, giving the opportunity to strengthen our basic techniques and knowledge. Overall the interaction and communication between speakers and attendees from all over the world was encouraged.

The social programme included a tour of Newcastle city centre and its bridges on the Tyne river, ending in an fun social dinner on the Quayside.

I would sincerely thank Les Ansley and Paula Robson-Ansley of Northumbria University for organizing this successful meeting. The Allergy School contributed to improving my knowledge in the field and gave me the opportunity to make new friends and establish new collaborations. I strongly encourage all EAACI members to participate in the next Allergy School.

Davide Firinu, JMA
Cagliari, Italy
Skin Allergy Meeting 2014: Europe's most important cutaneous allergy event of the year

Preparations for the Skin Allergy Meeting in Krakow (SAM 2014) are progressing very well. Most prominent experts in cutaneous allergy have already confirmed their participation and will be contributing to the meeting’s excellent scientific programme. The Polish Society of Allergology has become the national partner for EAACI at this event and will be sponsoring a lunch session on the first day of SAM 2014 devoted to skin barrier disorders, food allergy and drug allergy, as well as the past and future of allergology.

All participants are invited to contribute by submitting their abstracts; submission remains open until 30 June 2014. For details of the programme, abstract submission and registration, please see www.eaaci-sam.org.

While visiting Krakow, the glorious former royal capital of Poland and home of Jagiellonian University (founded in 1364), you can visit places of interest for every allergist, such as the university building where a new active agent was first isolated in 1895 by Napoleon Cybulski and Wladyslaw Szymonowicz from adrenal glands, from where it received its name: ‘adrenaline’. Cutting through the picturesque old Jewish quarter of Kazimierz, you arrive at the Andrzej Szczeklik Clinic of Internal Medicine, where the mechanisms of aspirin intolerance were first discovered in 1975, by Andrzej Szczeklik, Ryszard Gryglewski and Grazyna Czerniawska Mysik. And, wherever you go, you follow the steps of Nicolaus Copernicus (once a student at Jagiellonian University) and of two Nobel Prize winners in literature: Czeslaw Milosz and Wislawa Szymborska.

Don’t miss the ultimate skin allergy experience of the year (18-20 September 2014)!

Carsten Bindslev-Jensen
SAM 2014 Chair and EAACI Dermatology Section Chair
Radoslaw Spiewak
SAM 2014 Chair

Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting 2014

Few areas of allergology can be changing as fast as food allergy, with new directions of mechanistic research, prevention strategies, diagnostics and treatment promising huge progress in the coming few years.

FAAM 2014, in Dublin, Ireland (9 - 11 October 2014) will be the biggest food allergy meeting of the year, and will build on the scientific advances reported at EAACI’s Annual Congress in Copenhagen in June.

FAAM 2014’s speaker panel reflects the expanding expertise in the fields of food allergy and anaphylaxis, with senior international experts being joined by the emerging stars of European allergology.

The Irish are renowned as simultaneously hard working and easy going, and it is hoped this ethos will enthuse FAAM’s delegates to explore sessions that might be unfamiliar to them, and to contribute fully to the formal sessions and informal discussions that make FAAM meetings memorable.

Bring your family, stay a week, come back soon.

Jonathan O’Brien Hourihane
FAAM 2014 Co-Chair

International Forum on Severe Asthma 2014

The Second International Forum on Severe Asthma (ISAF 2014) is being arranged by the EAACI asthma section, with Mina Gaga as local organizer. Following the successful format of the previous summit and ISAF meetings, ISAF 2014 will aim to create an interactive atmosphere between young scientists presenting frontline research and key opinion leaders in the severe asthma field. We will thus mix state-of-the-art lectures with abstract sessions, providing a forum for interactive discussions and the exchange of ideas. ISAF 2014 will focus on three major topics: (1) exacerbations; (2) biomarkers and outcome measures in severe asthma; and (3) asthma and innate immune response.

The intention is also to let this meeting be a starting point for Task Force work within our specific areas, for which we will invite experienced and young scientists to work together.

We encourage all young and older scientists with an active interest in the field to register for the conference and to submit abstracts (deadline 31 July 2014). We are grateful to all invited speakers who have already agreed to attend and not only deliver lectures but also to actively participate in the meeting activities, facilitating scientific exchange. We are also grateful to members of the Asthma Section who are enthusiastically involved in organizing the meeting and who will help in lecturing and in chairing the sessions (13 - 15 November 2014).

Mina Gaga
Leif Bjermer
Organizing Committee Chairs
Allergy School on Investigating Allergic Effects of Environmental Exposures

2–5 July 2014 Brindisi, Italy

This Allergy School, organized by the IG Aerobiology and Pollution, is aimed at providing participants with the knowledge and skills to investigate the relationships between environmental exposure and asthma and allergies, in order to better take care of their patients. Very importantly, participants will learn how to diagnose asthma and allergies related to environmental stressors. Among the topics covered will be biological mechanisms, clinics, genetics and epigenetics, and environmental risks for allergies and their assessment in patients with asthma, rhinitis, food allergy, eczema, urticaria, and with drug and venom allergies.

In this regard, pollen, mould, air pollution and indoor allergen assessments will be discussed in detail, and participants will learn about tools such as:
• clinical tests to identify allergic conditions;
• methodology for environmental assessment; and
• statistical and epidemiological methods for investigating the relationship between environmental exposure and allergies.

Clinical cases of asthma and allergies related to environmental factors will be discussed with a panel of experts, allowing a maximum amount of time for interaction between the participants and the faculty, and giving participants the opportunity to present and discuss their patients’ cases.

Practical classes on classical pollen and mould detection and airborne allergen quantification will be given by experts of the field.

For more information on the scientific programme, please contact:
Dr Isabella Annesi-Maesano
Chair Local Organising Committee
EAACI Aerobiology & Pollution Interest Group Chairperson
Email: isabella.annesi-maesano@inserm.fr

We are looking forward to seeing you in Brindisi.

Isabella Annesi-Maesano
EAACI Aerobiology & Pollution Interest Group Chairperson
Jeroen Buters
EAACI Aerobiology & Pollution Interest Group Secretary
Lorenzo Cecchi
EAACI Aerobiology & Pollution Interest Group Member

EuroBAT 2014: Monitoring the Severity of Allergic Disorders

The 8th European Consortium on Application of Flow Cytometry in Allergy meeting (EuroBAT) will be held from 12–13 December 2014 in Munich. One session will be co-hosted (for the second time) with the International Mast Cell and Basophil Meeting (IMCBM; 11–12 December 2014).

A major topic to be discussed is the status of the EAACI Task Force on the Clinical Impact of the Basophil Activation Test (BAT). Participants will also be offered basic information and an overview of the practical issues regarding the technical requirements of BAT, the implications for food allergy, hymenoptera venom allergy, aeroallergens, drug allergies and for the monitoring of immunotherapy. The invited speakers will be experts in their field with long-term experience of BAT.

We have reserved a lot of time for presentations submitted by participants and are looking forward to interesting new contributions about BAT.

On Friday evening we will dine and network in a typical Bavarian restaurant. At noon on Saturday we will end with a round table discussing “BAT to monitor the severity of allergic disorders”.

In ensure an interesting meeting, please register and submit your abstracts: registration opens on 1 April 2014, whilst abstract submission will be open from 1–31 October 2014. For more information please see: www.eaaci-eurobat.org

We believe that the meeting will be very informative and stimulating, for both experts as well as newcomers in this field.

Bernadette Eberlein
Lina Mayorga
Hans Jürgen Hoffmann
Edward Knol
EuroBAT 2014 Organising Committee
Allergy School on Specific Allergy and Immunotherapy

The fourth EAACI Allergy School on Specific Allergy and Immunotherapy will take place on 11-13 September in Athens, Greece.

The educational aim of this Allergy School is to offer participants the opportunity to take away an understanding of the importance of allergy and the underlying immunological conditions when they return to their daily clinical work and research activities. There will be opportunities to discuss how to handle respiratory allergic diseases, with a focus on allergy (but not just the symptoms), an insight into allergen extracts with different applications, and the use of different depot and adjuvant formulations. Epidemiology, the immunological background and the impact of specific diagnostics, allergen exposure/avoidance, and specific immunotherapy will all be central issues in the Allergy School, and discussion of how to set up immunotherapy routines in a clinic will also be included.

If you are in training or a professional with particular interest in allergen-specific immunotherapy and applied science, this school offers you the opportunity to discuss scientific as well as practical issues with experienced colleagues, and to learn from their high levels of expertise in the field.

The program will include different activities such as lectures, workshops, hands-on opportunities, case presentations, etc., as well as an early morning opportunity to visit the Acropolis. This school will significantly add to participants’ understanding of the future of allergen-specific immunotherapy and of its position as a cornerstones of our specialty.

The Greek Society of Allergy and Immunology and the EAACI Interest Group on Immunotherapy look forward to seeing you in Athens.

Oliver Pfärr
EAACI Immunotherapy IG Chair
Lars Jacobsen
EAACI Immunotherapy IG Secretary

Allergy School on Primary Care: A holistic approach

The Primary Care Interest Group is proud to announce its first Allergy School, to be held in Palma De Mallorca, Spain, from 30 October–1 November 2014.

The school will consist of a practical and authentic course written by primary care workers in partnership with their specialist colleagues, Prof. Pascal Demoly and Dr. Moises Calderon. The programme is aimed at the level of practising primary care workers with a general but not a specific interest in allergy, to help them to be able to recognize allergic disease, take an allergy focused history, and to manage and refer appropriately.

We hope to have local attendees and a wider interested audience, with the aim of fostering supportive networks for delivery of high quality care. The school will provide the opportunity to meet like-minded primary care workers, to share experiences and new insights, and to establish collaborative relationships with them and with specialists, allied health care workers and patient charities.

Further information can be found on the EAACI website alongside information on abstracts and travel grants.

Our Spanish colleagues, Dr Miguel Roman Rodriguez, Mercedes Escarrer, Susana Ranea and Carmen Vidal, join a packed programme of multidisciplinary speakers, to help participants become confident in dealing with real life every day presentations of allergy.

In order to achieve an intimate and collegial atmosphere, the number of participants will be restricted to 60. All primary care workers are welcome including GPs, doctors in training, nurses, pharmacists and dieticians.

Dermot Ryan
Elizabeth Angier
Organising Committee Chairs
EAACI Immunotherapy Registry launched in the Balkans

The Immunotherapy Registry (IR) is an EAACI initiative which aims to register adverse reactions due to Allergen Immunotherapy (AIT) in real clinical settings across Europe. This project is a continuation of the successful EASSI study initiative of the EAACI Immunotherapy Interest Group.

The IR core group was formed by combining the strengths of the EAACI Registries Task Force (led by Nikos Papadopoulos), the EASSI Study (coordinated by Moises A. Calderon) and the Balkan network (coordinated by Ted Popov), and currently includes centres in several countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, FYR Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey. The project is also supported by the Immunotherapy and the Epidemiology Interest Groups.

It is envisaged that each centre will include patients receiving AIT due to respiratory aeroallergens or hymenoptera venom hypersensitivity. Adults and children receiving either subcutaneous or sublingual AIT will be included.

The IR follows the EASSI study methodology, and therefore three electronic questionnaires will be used to: (i) record the doctor’s profile; (ii) register every single patient receiving AIT in a clinical setting; and (iii) report any systemic adverse reaction due to AIT. A validated MedDRA terminology will be used.

The REDCap (Research Enterprise Data CAPture) software will be used to provide a feasible platform to allow participant centres to capture clinical data. A secure database will collect all information and will be regularly monitored by a computer-software specialist with continuous scientific support. Update reports will be sent and analyzed regularly by the core team.

The group has met twice (in Milan and Athens) and will meet again during the EAACI meeting in Copenhagen. Following an initial pilot stage, the IR will be open for participation to additional centres. You are all very welcome to join us to provide support and ideas. If you want to do so, please contact support@allergy-registries.org.

Nikos Papadopoulos
EAACI President
Moises A. Calderon
EAACI Interest Groups Representative

Dissemination and implementation of EAACI documents

Almost 50 EAACI Task Forces and projects have been running over the last 2 years, and for 2014 we have in total 84 approved ongoing Task Forces. EAACI promotes the preparation and publication of key documents in our peer-reviewed journals. The academic and scientific level and citation rate of these publications is of high quality. However, dissemination and further awareness of these publications could always be optimized.

As part of the EAACI Strategic Program 2013–2015, we are committed to consolidating and extending the dissemination and implementation of EAACI Task Force position papers and project reports to EAACI members, to national allergy societies and affiliates, to the general public, and sometimes to decision makers.

From now on, at the time of the submission of their report to the ExCom and before its publication in one of the EAACI Journals, every Task Force should provide:

i) an extended scientific summary (for the website and for promotion events, ready for multiple translation by JMAS or by National Societies);

ii) a lay summary for the patient website; and

iii) CME and Knowledge Examination questions.

Translation and adaptation of these documents for National Society journals or websites (with waved copyrights) should be encouraged.

This new strategy is already in place for the International Consensuses on Pediatric Asthma and Drug Allergy, the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Guidelines, the International Classification of Diseases Task Force, the Allergen Immunotherapy Declaration, the Clinical Outcomes in AIT-trials, Exercise-induced Anaphylaxis, In Vitro Diagnosis of Drug Hypersensitivity Reactions, and Innovative Therapies in Cutaneous and Indolent Systemic Mastocytosis. And more are coming...

In addition, the International Consensuses on Pediatric Asthma and Drug Allergy were both published in booklet format, available to participants at the EAACI Congress and Focused Meetings.

Last but not least the Global Atlas of Asthma will be the source of an educational/teaching slide set on asthma that will be offered to National Societies and medical universities.

Pascal Demoly
EAACI VP for Education & Specialty
Ioana Agache
EAACI VP for Communication & Membership
Moises A. Calderon
EAACI Interest Groups Representative
New Brussels office to drive the Academy’s European affairs strategy

EAACI is pleased to announce that a new EU liaison office, aimed at driving the Academy’s European strategy, is due to open in Brussels. Acting as the contact point for internal and external enquiries, it will provide a platform to help place allergy higher on the EU agenda and translate policy opportunities into meaningful action.

EAACI, as the leading European medical society focusing on allergy, has a key role to play in the formulation of health and research policy at a European level and, further to the opening of its Brussels’ EU liaison office, has recently streamlined its European Affairs strategy with the development of a dedicated Roadmap for European advocacy.

Over time, and with the right communication tools in place, we aim to establish allergy ambassadors among EU Parliament members and to have consistent interaction with different EU Institutions, to promote allergy awareness.

The EU liaison office will keep us informed of policy developments that are of relevance to the Academy and provide recommendations on how to implement policy actions. The EAACI EU Affairs Strategy is structured around four main objectives which will help measure EAACI’s progress in Brussels and beyond:

- EAACI to become a visible and active stakeholder in Brussels
- Allergy research to be prioritised in EU research policies
- EU policymakers to take stock of the burden of allergy and prioritise actions
- EAACI to contribute to the further recognition of allergology qualification in all Member States.

A monthly EU Affairs monitoring briefing will also be made available for EAACI members, keeping you up-to-date with the latest news on EU policies of relevance to the Academy and on Academy activities in Brussels.

EAACI has joined forces with the European Chronic Disease Alliance (ECDA) and the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance), to unite its voice with those of other major academic organisations in the fields of chronic diseases and biomedical research, respectively, increasing its advocacy outreach and impact in Brussels.

Through Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, the European Commission is currently driving the biggest European research programme in its history, with almost EUR 80 billion in funds available over a seven-year period. One of the main objectives outlined in Horizon 2020 is to “improve the lifelong health and wellbeing of all”. With allergic disease a daily battle for over 150 million people in Europe, we see our fight as being key in improving the lives of a vast number of European citizens. Studies show that allergic rhinitis leads to more productivity loss per employee than high stress, migraine or depression. The ripple effect this has on overall productivity can only be imagined at this stage, but the direct impact on the quality of life has been proven by the sheer number of people suffering. The EAACI EU liaison office will help us as an organisation to combat allergic disease even more and to take awareness to a new political level.

Come to the EAACI Booth during the EAACI Congress 2014 in Copenhagen to learn more about these initiatives.

Contact details:
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B-1000 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 (2) 761 66 83
Email: EUoffice@eaaci.org

The EAACI Annual Congress is almost here and there will be a dedicated JMA programme that you should not miss!

The JMA post-graduate course on anaphylaxis in childhood will include a visit to the anaphylaxis simulation station in the Allergy Bazaar where you will have the opportunity to have a practical and hands-on session concerning how to manage a child experiencing a severe acute allergic reaction.

The first day of the Congress will also be the date of the EAACI Exam and I wish the best of luck to all of you who have been working hard to obtain this prestigious recognition of your medical experience in allergy and clinical immunology.

Following the opening ceremony, the JMA Poster Session will take place, where JMAs will present and discuss their work with other JMAs and experts in their field of interest, with music, food and drinks. Prizes will be awarded to the best presenters.

The title of the JMA Scientific Symposium this year, “JMAs at the cutting edge of research”, promises some very exciting talks, and the JMA Educational Session will include contributions from very successful allergists and immunologists who will share precious pieces of advice about key aspects of career development.

Also not to miss is the JMA Case Reports session, where particularly interesting clinical cases will be discussed and more prizes awarded.

On the last evening of the Congress we will be holding the JMA Business Meeting, where you can meet the JMA Working Group members and get to know all about JMA activities, followed by the JMA Social Event which is definitely worth registering for.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Copenhagen!

Alexandra Santos
EAACI JMA Chair
Recommendations for the Standardisation of Clinical Outcomes used in Allergen Immunotherapy Trials for Allergic Rhinoconjunctivitis: an EAACI Position Paper

Nonno et colleagues inaugurated allergen immunotherapy (AIT) more than 100 years ago. Over the last century, a high degree of evidence for this causal, immune-modifying therapeutic option in the treatment of allergic patients has been elaborated. However, this evidence for the efficacy of AIT has been based on a high variety of clinical and immunological outcomes. Still there exists no thoroughly validated or standardized definition of clinical endpoints which should be used as “gold standard” in clinical trials of AIT in allergic rhinoconjunctivitis (ARC)-patients. In the guidelines of both the EMA (“Guideline on the Clinical Development of Products for Specific Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Allergic Diseases” (2) as well the FDA (“Guidance for Industry. Allergic Rhinitis: Clinical development programs for drug products”) (3). It is recommended that symptom-scores as well as medication-scores should be analyzed in (pivotal phase III) AIT-trials as primary endpoints (reviewed in 4). However, no clear guidance is given how these scores should be weighted in a combined score. Besides these scores, multiple secondary endpoints are highlighted in these guidelines.

To date, several clinical endpoints are used in both phase II and phase III AIT-trials throughout the literature. As a consequence, it is difficult to compare data from different SLIT and SCIT-trials and to perform EBM-based metaanalyses.

In order to increase the harmonization of the definition of clinical endpoints in AIT-trials, a Task Force (TF) of the EAACI Immunotherapy Interest Group formed a pan-European working group. Based on a thorough review of all (primary and secondary) endpoints as reported in the literature for AIT-trials, the TF has recently published a Position Paper (PP) i) highlighting the pro’s and con’s of each endpoint and ii) giving clear recommendations/unmet needs to improve the usage of the respective endpoint in future clinical trials of AIT. The PP (5) is divided in nine domains/chapters including i) Total Symptom Scores (TSS), ii) Medication Scores (MS), iii) Combined Symptom Medication Scores (CSMS), iv) Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQL), v) Visual Analogue Scale (VAS), vi) Well and Severe Days, vii) Global Assessments and Patient Satisfaction, viii) Rhinitis Control and ix) Allergen Provocation Tests.

In the PP (5), the TF emphasizes a homogeneous combined symptom and medication score (CSMS) as a simple and standardised method that balances both symptoms and the need for anti-allergic medication in an equally weighted manner. In principle, this definition is based on and modified from the guidance given from both EMA and FDA (3,4). The proposed terminology for the individual symptoms (dSS, Table 1a) in this score was elaborated with the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients’ Associations (EFA). The (three-)stepwise calculation of the daily medication score (dMS, Table 1b) is related to recommendations from the World Allergy Organization (6).

Taken together, the EAACI-PP highlights this definition of a combined symptom and medication score as a sufficient primary endpoint and recommends its use for future clinical AIT-trials for ARC (mainly in pivotal phase III-trials). Moreover, additional endpoints such as e.g., HRQL, Rhinitis-Control questionnaires or allergen provocation methods are beneficial in AIT-trials for ARC depending on the specific clinical question of the trial.

Oliver Pfaar
Immunotherapy Interest Group Chair
(on the behalf of the EAACI Task Force)

References
**Table 1:** The Task Force recommendation providing (a) a homogeneous terminology for nasal and conjunctival symptoms using the six organ-related categories in the daily symptom score (dSS), (b) a stepwise use of rescue medication summed in the daily medication score (dMS) and (c) a scoring system for a combined symptom and medication score (CSMS), which is based on an equal weight of the dSS and of the dMS (based on and modified from 2,3,6,7).

### A) SYMPTOM SCORE

| Nasal Symptoms | (SCORE 0 - 3) | 0 = no symptoms  
1 = mild symptoms (sign/symptom clearly present, but minimal awareness; easily tolerated)  
2 = moderate symptoms (definite awareness of sign/symptom that is bothersome but tolerable)  
3 = severe symptoms (sign/symptom that is hard to tolerate; causes interference with activities of daily living and/or sleeping) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Itchy nose</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sneezing</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runny nose</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blocked nose</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conjunctival Symptoms</td>
<td>Itchy/Red Eyes</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Watery Eyes</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(total) daily symptom score (dSS)*</td>
<td>0-3 (max score is 3, i.e. 18 points/ divided by 6 symptoms)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**b) MEDICATION SCORE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oral and/or topical (eyes or nose) non sedative H1 antihistamines (H1A)</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intranasal corticosteroids (INS) with/ without H1A</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral corticosteroids with/without INS, with/without H1A</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(total) daily medication score (dMS)</td>
<td>0-3 (max score is 3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**c) COMBINED SYMPTOM AND MEDICATION SCORE**

| CSMS                        | dSS (0-3) + dMS (0-3) | 0 -6 |

* Max score 18/6 (i.e. 4 nasal symptoms, max score 12 and 2 conjunctival symptoms, max score 6) is optimal for studies of seasonal pollinosis. This could possibly be modified for studies of perennial allergies (e.g. in mite-allergic patients), for example max score 12/4 (i.e. 4 nasal symptoms with omission of eye symptoms). By assigning 0–3 for all individual symptoms and dividing by total number of symptoms, the symptom range 0–3 and maximum symptom score 3 would remain the same.
Abstract Submission Deadline: 15 January 2015