A POLITICAL CALL TO ACTION

UNITE

FOR ALLERGY AND ASTHMA

Doctors

Policy Makers

Patients

Public health programmes

Funding for research

Prevention and early diagnosis

Root cause analysis of diseases

Personalised medicine

Economic benefit

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Sign before 30th September
10,000 Members! Driving change

“You won’t get anything unless you have the vision to imagine it” – John Lennon

Dear EAACI friends,

I started my first Presidential message in this Newsletter with the same quotation above and, looking back, I am very proud of EAACI’s achievements over the last two years.

EAACI now has 10,000 members and more than half of them are women. Our biggest group is the Junior Members assembly. We are a young Academy facing a generational change, as well as generational and gender opportunities.

The 4th Women in Science Symposium will be held in Helsinki this year, we feature the research and enthusiasm of three young scientists who are examples of women in academic life. This Symposium started in Barcelona as a very successful session, becoming the most attended symposium at the following Annual Congress.

For a second time, the Annual Congress will feature a Leadership project and course which, this year has been focused exclusively on our Juniors, to nurture them in developing their skills as future EAACI leaders and to help them in progressing their achievements. The Academy continues to grant many opportunities to Juniors, empowering them to look for collaboration with Seniors and other organisations, as well as offering them opportunities for research and clinical fellowships.

EAACI’s Governance initiative was started with the aim of achieving a modern, fast acting organisational structure, strategically smart when it is needed, with networking as a major asset. In this regard, revision of the Constitution and Bylaws have been undertaken and are almost finalised. The newly-established Governance Committee will monitor the new structure and make sure that it is always in line with EAACI’s Strategic vision and changing needs. It is also intended to further develop the coaching of future EAACI leaders.

The Guidelines for Clinical Practice on Allergen Immunotherapy are in their finalisation phase. From 23 May, the guideline recommendations will be on the EAACI website for public comment. Due to the complexity of the project, the AIT Guidelines will appear in two volumes. Part 1: Systematic Reviews, will be distributed in Helsinki whilst Part 2: Guideline Recommendations will be circulated at PAAM 2017 in London in October. One hundred experts and almost all the EAACI Specialist Groups have worked in seven Task Forces on an initiative which has represented a huge and very rewarding effort for those taking part in it. Besides the delivery of the recommendations, this project has contributed to set a framework for a rigorous methodological approach for future guidelines, along with the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Guidelines already flagged as “high-quality” on the prestigious National Clearinghouse website. To maximise the resources investment, the Executive Committee has approved a new Guidelines Committee with the aim of capitalising on the previous experiences and disseminating a cultural attitude towards guideline development. Collaborations for guidelines with other societies have now been offered to EAACI and new activities will start soon. A project for Allergy Comprehensive Centres is in a development phase. It will serve the increasing requests for harmonisation and implementation of best practices in care across Europe, whilst also facilitating the establishment of consortia for research.

EAACI now has 28 National Allergy Societies (NAS) across Europe (both for adult and paediatrics), united in the NAS Committee, and 15 international societies on our International Council, including societies from outside Europe. Means of cooperation for sharing educational projects and advocacy have been put in place to improve the visibility of the allergy discipline worldwide. Exchanges of scientists and the facilitation of common initiatives are crucial to this mutual support. Activities at the EU level have been arranged with colleagues in NAS and in very close collaboration with the EFA, the patient’s organisation, and with the EAACI Patient’s Organisation Committee. I am grateful to all of them for showing the power of partnership in all our initiatives in Brussels.

In recent years, a continuous effort has been dedicated to raising the profile of allergy in the EU Commission and Parliament. Meetings at the EU Parliament have been more frequent and the EAACI leadership has taken advantage of any opportunities to stand up for our allergy specialty. One of the major successes of last year was the approval of allergy as a full specialty in France. The dedication of our French colleagues was tireless but many societies contributed by signing a petition sent to the French authorities, showing that joining forces can result in great success.

Finally, the Annual Congress in Helsinki is already exceeding all our positive expectations and we are excitedly looking forward to meeting all of you there.

EAACI is definitely the place to be if you have ideas and want to make them happen.

The passion and vision are there, and I very much hope and wish that the Academy’s members will continue to enjoy working together in the coming years.

Antonella Muraro
EAACI President
Dear EAACI members, dear friends,

The main topics of this issue are the “United Action for Allergy and Asthma” Call to Action and the EAACI Annual Congress in Helsinki.

In April, EAACI and its President Antonella Muraro, together with the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma and the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients’ Associations (EFA), launched a campaign to raise awareness and improve health programmes surrounding allergy and asthma.

The “Call to Action” presents, for the first time, policy recommendations to EU Member States, the European Commission, the European Parliament and stakeholders, with the aim to unite all strategic parties in Europe to work for effective policy responses to allergy and asthma through a collaborative approach, striving for the rights of patients and their best quality of life. In particular, it calls for: European strategies and programmes on allergy and asthma to be implemented in all Member States; greater funding for research to advance the understanding of allergy and asthma; better prevention and diagnosis to achieve early detection and allow timely and effective treatment; actions to address underlying triggers such as air quality, food allergens and chemicals, and to improve the analysis of the root causes of allergic diseases; and strengthened work to pioneer individualised treatment and to progress personalised medicine.

It is undoubtedly an ambitious project that could be better accomplished with a little help from all of us. How? Until the end of September, all interested parties, individuals as well as organisations, can sign up online to support the project. I therefore invite you not only to subscribe yourselves but also to invite all your contacts who may be interested in signing, including allergic and asthmatic patients and people outside of our field.

The Helsinki Congress will be an occasion to strengthen our union for allergology and clinical immunology and to urge those who have not yet done so to sign the campaign. The theme of the Congress, “On the road to prevention and healthy living”, fits perfectly in this context. And what a better place in Europe than Helsinki to talk about these topics! Who isn’t aware of the Finnish Asthma Programme 1994–2004 (a structured national asthma programme which resulted in significant reductions in asthma morbidity, hospital admissions, disability pensions and costs), or of the Finnish Allergy Programme 2008–2018 (whose preliminary results have shown that allergy burden can be reduced by relatively simple means)?

The EAACI Congress 2017 programme is rich and full of scientific novelties. The programme includes 7 Plenary Symposia, 50 Symposia, 9 Sister Society Symposia, 10 Interactive Workshops and 12 Learning Lounges, with plenty of time for questions, sharing and discussion.

Moreover the EAACI Annual Congress kicks off with a full Saturday afternoon of interesting courses and workshops: Postgraduate Courses proposed by the EAACI Sections or Interest Groups, a Postgraduate Course for Primary Care doctors, a “Russian Day” and Allied Health Day”. Throughout the Congress, many Oral Abstract Sessions, Poster Discussion Sessions and Thematic Poster Sessions are waiting for your presence and contribution. These sessions are always a great training ground, especially for young people, and many of the best abstract presenters will receive an award. A Leadership Project course, strongly championed by our President Antonella Muraro, will be organised for the first time this year for Junior Members to help them develop their skills as future EAACI leaders. The third National Allergy Societies Forum and Business Meeting will take place, with the aim of presenting the results of the work done so far to further increase ongoing collaboration and interaction, and to project new challenges. In Helsinki we will also have the chance to congratulate the new Boards of Sections and Interest Groups.

Finally, the EAACI Goes Green Initiative continues. Please do help us to minimise any negative environmental impact from our Congresses by downloading the online interactive programme and EAACI App which allows you to export particular sessions to your personal calendar, as well providing as all of the very latest information.

I very much look forward to meeting you all at the 2017 EAACI Congress.

M. Beatrice Bilò
Newsletter Editor
President’s Desk

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The dawn of true prevention for allergy and asthma

Thinking outside of the box. We clinicians and allergists are trained to work patient by patient: setting diagnosis, prescribing drugs and tailoring immunotherapy. Advising patients also to avoid symptom-causing agents is, and should stay, in the armamentarium of a competent allergist. But does it have an effect on public health?

Take two steps. Two steps are needed to tackle any disease burden at the population level: (1) improving early diagnostics and patient care, and (2) stepping from treatment to prevention. For the first, we need better knowledge of disease pathomechanisms, biomarkers and targets of medication. For the second, we need better understanding of the true causes of a disease. For both, we need research, organised healthcare and a stable society.

Reduce the burden. In the early 1990s a new paradigm of asthma as an inflammatory disease was implemented into practice by the Finnish Asthma Programme (1994–2004). Improved care markedly cut costs both for individual patients and society. Many countries followed and reported equally good results. However, the big challenge of asthma prevention and stopping the epidemic remained.

Prevent the burden. New information about the immune system’s development and its determinants in modern, urban societies has challenged the conventional thinking of allergy prevention. The last 60 years of avoidance have not stopped the allergy epidemic. The last 60 years of the true causes of a disease. For both, we need research, organised healthcare and a stable society.

Create new initiatives. The ten-year Allergy Programme ends in 2018, but we can already conclude that revisiting the allergy paradigm has led to actions relevant to healthcare and society as a whole. In Finnish society, the burden of allergy and asthma has started to decline: there is less medicalisation, the severity of asthma, for example, has significantly decreased, and signs are emerging of a slowing down of the epidemic. The environment and lifestyle of humans and the natural environment, the original home of Homo sapiens.

Opinion Leaders Corner

NATURAL STEP IN THE FINNISH ALLERGY PROGRAMME 2008-2018

References


von Hertzen L, Hanski I, Haahntela T. Natural immunity: Biodiversity loss and inflammatory diseases are two global megatrends that might be related. EMBO reports 2011;12:1089–1093.


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EAAI Newsletter
2017 • Volume 2 • #47

Opinion Leaders Corner

The dawn of true prevention for allergy and asthma

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On 22–24 March 2017, the Russian Association of Allergologists and Clinical Immunologists (RAACI)’s XIV International Congress, “Modern problems of immunology, allergology and immunopharmacology” was held in Moscow. For more than 20 years, RAACI Congresses have gathered allergy and immunology specialists from many different countries for close interaction, exchange of experience and discussion of the most topical issues of modern allergology and clinical immunology. This year more than 1500 Russian and foreign specialists participated.

A special feature of the Congress programme for 2017 was the unification of fundamental science and practical health. The programme included the latest findings of basic research in immunology and allergology, as well as new data on the development of drugs and methods of treatment. Within the framework of the Congress, actual issues of practical medical experience were also discussed.

A major part of the Congress programme was devoted to the issues of personalised medicine, both in the fields of diagnostics and of medical care for patients. The main directions in these rapidly developing fields were covered in plenary reports, including reports by Antonella Muraro (EAACI President), Lars Poulsen (EAACI Vice-President of Congresses) and Musa Khaitov (Director, NRC Institute of Immunology FMBA Russia). Most of the Congress programme consisted of lectures and symposia on molecular diagnostics aiming at optimisation of diagnostic approaches. Special attention was also given to symposia highlighting the prognostic value of markers for anti-allergic therapy effectiveness.

Considering the rapid growth of the scientific and pharmaceutical industries, leading experts highlighted the key changes resulting in the revision of clinical recommendations and conciliation documents. Congress participants actively discussed the integration of European clinical guidelines developed by EAACI and national conciliatory documents to improve the provision of assistance to Russian patients within the framework of national healthcare opportunities.

Leading Russian experts as well as other eminent specialists conducted interactive symposia and schools for practicing doctors, and highlighted the latest data in the framework of plenary lectures. Particular attention was paid not only to frequently occurring pathologies but also to rare diseases, such as primary and secondary immunodeficiencies.

Due to the serious changes that occurred last year in the medical education system in Russia, particular attention was paid to the issues of teaching and postgraduate training of specialists, as well as the development of regulations and guidelines aimed to improve specialised medical care for the general population.

The scientific community of Russian allergologists and immunologists looks forward to the “Russian Day” which will be held for the first time within the framework of the EAACI Annual Congress on Saturday, 17 June, in Helsinki, where leading Russian-speaking opinion leaders discuss the main problems of modern allergology and clinical immunology.

Elena Latysheva
RAACI General Secretary and EAACI NAS member
Congratulations to 2017's fellowship winners

The EAACI fellowships foster the exchange of knowledge and techniques amongst European laboratories and hospitals. We wish all the winners an interesting and enriching placement abroad.

CLINICAL FELLOWSHIPS
(3 months)

Marija Stankovic
Serbia
Lucia Diaferio
Italy
Kotryna Linauskiene
Lithuania
Agne Ramonaite
Lithuania
Medhat M. A. Elamawy
Egypt
Alessandra Arcolaci
Italy
Mariam Movsisyan
Armenia
Kit Liang Gan
Malaysia
Maria Teresa Gonzales
Peru

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

SHORT TERM
(3 months)

Anand Kumar
Andiappan, Singapore
Carla Mastrorilli
Italy
Gyaviira Nkurunungi
Uganda
Elisa Corsiero
United Kingdom
Youcef Shahali
Iran

MEDIUM TERM
(6 months)

Stefania Arasi
Italy
Eva-Maria Rick
United Kingdom
Africa Sanchez
Spain
Omursen Yildirim
Turkey

LONG TERM
(12 months)

Pattaporn Satitsuksanoa, Thailand
Dries Paul Van Elst
Poland
Galber Rodrigues Araujo, Brazil
Ileana Maria Ghioridanescu, Romania
Carmen Riggioni
Costa Rica
We are constantly working to provide you with fresh information and news online! The website is regularly updated with the latest event and meeting information, e.g. the PAAM programme is now up, as well as pages for the Food Allergy Training Course in Manchester, the Master Class in Madrid, and so on.

April was a hot month. The election process took place and the results will be announced during the EAACI Annual Congress 2017 in Helsinki. Thank you to everyone for your participation and collaboration in updating your personal member areas. Great work was done!

Don’t forget that you can find all the information you need about the EAACI Annual Congress taking place in June on the website. I wish all Congress participants a very fruitful and interesting meeting. The Congress is a good opportunity to meet and get your voice heard. A number of meetings to discuss website issues will take place: Editors Meeting (Saturday, 17 June); Web Committee Business Meeting (Tuesday, 20 June); and the Communication Council Meeting (Tuesday, 20 June). Invitations have already been sent and I count on your attendance. Anyone who wants to meet me in person during Congress is more than welcome to do so: please contact me: webeditor@eaaci.org.

If you missed a presentation at one of our meetings, including at the Annual Congress itself, or even if you attended a meeting but would like to see it again, why not try our webcast area? Selected presentations can be found there and you can watch them at home at your convenience. You can access the website from your mobile phone, tablet or computer; why not give the site a try while you are waiting for your flight or travelling by train?

Don’t miss a great opportunity to stay up-to-date with our evolving specialty and visit our website any time! And please don’t hesitate to contact us with any comments or suggestions.

Have a great summer!

Sylwia Smolinska
EAACI Website Editor

www.eaaci.org
‘United Action for Allergy and Asthma’ Call to Action successfully kicks-off in Brussels

United Action for Allergy and Asthma’, a Political Call to Action in Europe, was launched on the 25 April 2017 during a policy symposium at the European Parliament, in front of a large audience made up of a wide range of interested parties. It marked the start of the dedicated pan-European campaign to drive action on allergy and asthma.

Hosted by the European Parliament (EP) Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma, the event was attended by over 90 participants, including healthcare professionals, allergy and asthma experts, patients, policy-makers, industry representatives and representatives of health advocacy organisations operating at a national or European level. Co-hosted by the Co-chair of the Interest Group, Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finland, EPP Group), and group members Nathalie Griesbeck (France, ALDE Group) and Karin Kadenbach (Austria, S&D Group), the event was an opportunity to discuss the benefits of prevention, good practice examples in addressing allergy and asthma, and measures to drive improvements in care.

Sirpa Pietikäinen welcomed all participants before introducing the initiative and its main goals, including to unite all strategic parties in Europe to help improve policies on allergy and asthma through a collaborative and holistic approach, supporting patients’ rights. Going back to the very beginning of the tripartite coalition between the EP Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma, EAACI and the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients’ Associations (EFA), she pointed at the fruitful actions undertaken over the years to raise awareness of the needs for a better response to allergy and asthma in Europe, for the benefit of patients and the healthcare system. She noted that, during these years, the multi-stakeholder partnership has gathered all the needs, knowledge, political capacity and willingness to drive change. Among key policy asks within the Call to Action, she stressed the need to spread best practices around Europe, give greater funding for research, and set patients’ rights at the heart of any discussion.

EAACI President Antonella Muraro highlighted the importance of the Call to Action and its timely launch, as change is hugely needed considering that prevalence of asthma and allergies is dramatically rising in Europe. Discussing EAACI’s work in the field, she placed emphasis on allergy prevention and the need for greater research. Without further knowledge of the root causes of the disease, healthcare professionals cannot provide optimal treatment and care to patients. She also highlighted the importance of training programmes for medical students, adding that incentives from the EP and the European Commission (EC) in this regard are essential. She pointed out that, with the Call to Action,
the co-initiators are showing their unity and determination to address the situation, while encouraging each stakeholder to support and play their role in delivering better outcomes for patients and also for the economy.

In her capacity as President of the EFA, Mikaela Odemyr outlined particularly that designing and implementing policies for the prevention of diseases is important in several areas, especially in health care, indoor quality, chemicals and food safety. High health standards require quality policies that ultimately meet their objective to support health, she concluded, before inviting all stakeholders to join the campaign to improve awareness, monitoring, prevention and management of asthma and allergies across Europe.

Pekka Jousilahti, Research Professor at the National Institute for Health and Welfare in Finland, presented examples of good practice at national level, building on the Finnish allergy programme. Setting the scene, he particularly noted that allergies are increasing among young people and in developing countries among urban people. Turning to the impact of the Finnish interventions to tackle the allergy epidemic, he stressed that, over the last ten years, the effects of focusing on environmental matters in relation to the prevention of asthma were very much observable. In addition, he highlighted the importance of healthy diets, air quality improvements and disease prevention measures in general, including primary prevention and education. Started in 2008, the Finnish Allergy Programme will continue until 2018. There has been an increase in uptake of allergen Immunotherapy so far, while serious allergies and hospitalisation admissions have been decreasing. These trends have come alongside a general drop in related healthcare costs, he emphasised.

Representing the EC, Stefan Schreck, Head of the Health Programme and Chronic Disease Unit at the Health Directorate General, agreed that allergies and asthma can only be addressed by collaborative efforts and, in this sense, he pointed at the unique nature of the Call to Action. He explained that the current work of the EC focuses not only on facilitating the exchange and transfer of best practices across EU Member States, but also on their implementation – where the real gap is, he underlined. He particularly emphasised the need for engagement by national governments, in addition to the EC: the involvement of additional actors and areas to work on the issue is needed. Through the Health Programme, the EC financed the set-up of the CHRODIS platform where practices can be submitted for evaluation. If positively assessed, these ‘good’ practices are then presented to Member States in the Steering Group on Prevention and Health Promotion Management.

Karin Kadenbach further introduced the European Parliament’s perspective. She brought the attention of the audience to the fact that allergies are problems for the people affected, for health systems, the work force and also for the future of the EU. Turning to her responsibilities as a member of the Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS), she referred to the ‘dieselgate’ dossier and stated that the Committee looked more into the question of the internal market and the issue of cheating consumers than into dealing with how Europeans have been suffering from those emissions. Finally, she added that legislation is not just something on paper but something that has to be enforced and implemented. Therefore, it must be implemented in the Member States and, she pointed out, expectations have to be applied in reality to drive effective change.

Overall, the discussions at the event underlined the need for the application of our existing knowledge of asthma and allergies, and for greater research and cooperation between Member States in terms of exchanging good practices. One of the clear messages which came up from the interaction between speakers and participants was that the time for action is now.

The Call to Action is open for endorsement until the end of September by all interested parties wishing to join this move to support stronger and improved allergy and asthma policies. The online platform for endorsement is available at http://www.callallergyasthma.eu and EAACI encourages you all to take part in this initiative and invite your networks to join.

EAACI and the other co-initiators stand united to create a healthier and happier future for the 220 million or more patients with allergy and asthma in Europe.

Bénédicte Faure
EAACI EU Liaison Office, Brussels, Belgium

Laure Sonnier
EAACI EU Liaison Office, Brussels, Belgium
On Monday 19 June 2017, during the EAACI Annual Congress in Helsinki, EAACI President Antonella Muraro will be hosting the third Presidential High-level EU Stakeholders Lunch, this year entitled: United Action for Allergy and Asthma: A political call to action in Europe.

The event will bring together representatives from EU and other international institutions, patient advocates, national allergy societies and the EAACI leadership. It will be a key opportunity to present to the allergy community the Political Call to Action in Europe – United Action for Allergy and Asthma – launched at the European Parliament in Brussels on 25 April 2017, with a view to strengthening collaborations to advance EU and national policies for the benefit of allergic patients.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Sirpa Pietikäinen, Finnish Member of the European Parliament (MEP), in her capacity as Co-Chair of the European Parliament (EP) Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma.

The EP Interest Group is part of the tripartite coalition, with EAACI and EFA, behind the United Action for Allergy and Asthma Campaign. The Group was launched in 2015 with a secretariat co-run by EAACI and EFA, and it now counts on 17 highly dedicated MEPs committed to driving policy actions to address the unmet needs of allergy and asthma at an EU level. It serves as a forum to share expertise and align interests engaging with relevant EU policymakers and stakeholders on allergy and asthma health.

The Presidential High-Level EU Stakeholders Lunch will allow for further promotion and support of the United Action for Allergy and Asthma Campaign with a specific focus on the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to successfully promote and implement comprehensive strategies and programmes across Europe.

It is only by uniting the voices of patients, healthcare professionals and policy-makers – both at European and national levels – that we will bring about positive policy changes for the 220 million or more patients with allergy and asthma in Europe.

Bénédicte Faure
EAACI EU Liaison Office, Brussels, Belgium

Laure Sonnier
EAACI EU Liaison Office, Brussels, Belgium

In the spotlight

Presidential High-level EU Stakeholders Lunch in Helsinki: Time to act on allergy and asthma
Personal highlights from the Scientific Programme

We asked a number of members for their personal thoughts on upcoming Symposia to be held at the EAACI Annual Congress in Helsinki. These are some of their comments.

Sports and asthma: a Symposium that it’s not controversial to attend!
The Allergy, Asthma & Sports Working Group would like to invite all EAACI Congress attendees to join us for the Symposium (SYM 2B) “Controversies in sports and asthma” taking place in room Hall 5a on Monday 19 June (15:45 - 17:15). This Symposium counts on the expertise of three well-known researchers in this area and will deal with questions that are currently hot topics, and will certainly therefore be really interesting! Airway dysfunction is prevalent in elite endurance athletes and environmental conditions may be detrimental for athlete’s respiratory health. Valérie Bouguault will explain why outdoor activity may not always be beneficial. The perspective of causality between sports practice and the occurrence of exercise-induced asthma must be taken into consideration because, if classified as an occupational lung disease, airway dysfunction in elite athletes raises implications for care and treatment. Optimal diagnosis is therefore crucial, and Marcin Kurowski and Stefano Del Giacco will cover these topics in their session and highlight different perspectives. See you in Helsinki!

Marcin Kurowski
HG on Allergy, Asthma & Sports Chairperson

Marina Couto
HG on Allergy, Asthma & Sports Secretary

Biologicals in daily practice
Biologics have revolutionised the treatment of allergic and immunologic disorders. Symposium 40, “Biologics in daily practice of allergy treatment”, is about current practice with biologicals in real life settings and will be led by the Biological Working Group (WG). The first talk will focus on biologicals approved by the FDA and EMA in the treatment of asthma, chronic spontaneous urticaria and atopic dermatitis. In keeping with this, data will be presented for omalizumab (as first approved biological for severe allergic asthma and chronic spontaneous urticaria), mepolizumab and reslizumab (two IL-5 antagonists in severe asthma) and dupilumab (the first approved biological for the treatment of atopic dermatitis). Biologicals are intrinsically immunogenic and carry potential risks of adverse events and immune mediated reactions. Some of these reactions may be life-threatening, therefore it is important to recognise them. With this in mind, the second talk will cover the clinical presentations and pathophysiological mechanisms underlying these reactions. Biosimilar versions of original biologicals can reduce costs, leading to increased affordability. Since a high number of biosimilars are under development and they will be an important class of drugs in the next few years, the last talk will review this topic.

Sevim Babbek
On behalf of the Biological WG

Food allergy from all angles
There have been some very exciting developments in the field of food allergy and this is recognised in the opening Plenary Symposium on allergy prevention (PL 1). The session starts with an overview on allergy prevention, followed by a discussion on the timing of the introduction of complementary foods, and a talk on the Finnish Prevention programme. We often see patients with non IgE-mediated gastro-intestinal disease in the allergy clinic so it is very useful to have a session which covers lactose intolerance, non-coeliac gluten sensitivity and dietary interventions for Irritable Bowel Syndrome (SYM 31). Nutritional intervention in food allergy is a hot topic and two sessions (SYM 36, SYM 41) cover the effects of diet and nutrition on the development and prevention of food allergy; and the gut microbiota and immune modulation. Finally, don’t miss the translational food allergy session on Wednesday morning: ‘Food allergy from a different angle’ (SYM 49), which covers the role of T regulatory cells in the intestine, allergic sensitisation to food through non gastro-intestinal routes and the role of the mucosa in severe pollen-related food allergy. Food allergy is becoming more complex and diverse – this Congress provides an excellent overview of current research and future practice.

Isabel Skypala
Interest Group Representative

Anti-inflammatory treatments of asthma and allergy
The Asthma Section and the Working Group on Allergy, Asthma & Sports have managed to compose several very good sessions this year and, fortunately, most of them do not run in parallel. For Sunday morning, I would like to highlight the Symposium on ‘New anti-inflammatory treatments of asthma and allergy’ (SYM 2: 18 June; 10:30 – 12:00). In this session, the spotlight is on some novel, exciting concepts for future asthma treatment. Clive Page (King’s College London), will speak about a novel disease modifying mechanism through mycobacterium-derived peptides and its potential to prevent asthma and allergy. Leif Bjerner (Skane University Hospital, Lund, Sweden) will present new data on an inhaled dual PDE3/4 inhibitor, combining potent, long-lasting bronchodilator properties with anti-inflammatory effects, previously shown in ‘unphenotyped’ patients with asthma and in patients with COPD [Franciosi, L. et al. Lancet Respiratory Medicine 2013; 1(9): 714–27]. In the same Symposium, I will present an update on clinical data and potential new applications of CRTH2 antagonists, blocking the prostaglandin DP2 receptor, and drugs blocking the 5-lipoxygenase pathway and its end-products.

Zuzana Diamant
EAACI Asthma Section Secretary
We dare you to take the challenge!

It started in Barcelona and continued in Vienna. Now in Helsinki we will take you to the next level of the challenge! The Patient Organisations Committee (POC) challenge you to perform a correct diagnosis in the Clinical Village at EAACI’s Annual Congress in Helsinki, Finland.

On Saturday and Sunday of the Congress, the Clinical Village will be the place to be, so please do make sure that you visit the POC booth where you are challenged to choose your patient — and which doctor is able to choose their own patient these days? — who has some mysterious complaints. You will get all the tools and information you need to come to the right diagnosis... if you do it right. If you pass, you will get a well-deserved and in-demand present — but only if you excel!

Meanwhile, in the National Societies Village, you can visit another POC Booth and meet some of the Patient Organisations’ representatives. Please do talk to them, discuss your needs, make contact and, if you do not know the Patient Organisation in your own country, we can help. If, for some reason, you do not have a Patient Organisation dealing with allergy and anaphylaxis in your country, we can still help, as that’s what we do: we help not only patients but also doctors in raising the quality of life of your patients.

And, if you want to learn about and be interactively part of new insights into the different aspects of the management of allergic diseases, or hear about the different stakeholder perspectives on the “may contain xxx allergen” issue, or about whether it is ethical to perform clinical trials on children, or get an overview of the research performed on a European scale, or learn about what research still is missing, please do come and attend the Practical Allergy Management Workshop. We want to see you there and we need your voice and partnership as part of the unique, institutionally established patient–doctor interactive platform within the clinical–research professional organisation which EAACI is.

So, when you come to Helsinki to visit EAACI’s Annual Congress, be sure to meet us: we will greet you warmly and make you feel at home.

Frans Timmermans
EAACI Patient Organisations Committee Chairperson

Ethics in Food Allergy

When you last flew, you may have heard an announcement asking passengers not to eat nuts, due to someone on board being seriously allergic. Is this really necessary, and what responsibility does the person with an allergy have to protect themselves, as opposed to imposing restraints on others around them?

Recent legal cases have highlighted the risks for restaurant owners and waiters if they ignore food allergies. Is this an area where legal intervention is helpful? Where do our respective responsibilities begin and end?

Within a medical context, when is it reasonable to suggest that people reintroduce foods at home as opposed to doing it under medical or dietitian supervision? Do we really need to do everything under medical cover? What is a reasonable risk to take?

And should EAACI and other scientific bodies keep away from manufacturers of milk formula (as suggested by recent WHO pronouncements)? The same companies make products that are important in our care of patients with milk intolerance, so why should we not engage with them?

If these and similar matters interest you, we will be discussing the ethics of food allergy at our Ethics Workshop in Helsinki. We have a great panel of presenters and a professional ethicist to consider the issues but we welcome your involvement too!

The workshop is on Tuesday, 20 June (13:30 –15:00) and we hope to see you there.

Anthony Frew
EAACI Ethics Committee Chairperson
Jacques Gayraud
EAACI Ethics Committee Secretary
EAACI Congress: hints and tips

The following helpful hints and tips for Congress attendees are abridged versions taken from information listed in the Congress Final Programme. Full details can be found in the Programme itself.

**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.

**Registration Desk Hours**

- Saturday, 17 June 08:00 – 20:00
- Sunday, 18 June 07:00 – 18:00
- Monday, 19 June 06:30 – 18:00
- Tuesday, 20 June 07:00 – 18:00
- Wednesday, 21 June 08:00 – 12:00

**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 to session rooms and other events. Please note that access to 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.

**Travelling to Messukeskus by Public Transport in Helsinki**

- **Trains**: all local and long-distance trains stop at Pasila railway station, just a 300-metre walk from Messukeskus. • **Trams**: from the centre of Helsinki, take trams 7A, 7B and 9.

- **Buses**: use buses 506 and 69 to Messukeskus, and bus 551 from Espoo to Pasila railway station.
- **From the airport**: take the I and P trains direct to Pasila railway station. The journey time is 30 minutes and trains leave every 10 minutes during the day. By taxi, you can reach Messukeskus in 15 – 20 minutes.

**Free WiFi throughout the Congress**

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

**App Information**

The EAACI smartphone app is an innovative tool that redefines the way you visit and experience the EAACI Congress. 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 EAACI Congress 2017 under ‘All’.

**EAACI Virtual Congress Hub**

This year, there are two EAACI Virtual Congress Hubs located:
- • in the Exhibition Hall (open from 09:00 – 17:30 on 18–20 June); and
- • in front of Hall 5 on the first floor (open from 08:30 – 19:30 on 18 – 20 June)

**Interactio Audio at TPS**

Thematic Poster Session (TPS) In order to increase the audio quality of presentations and discussions during the Thematic Poster Sessions (TPS), we will be implementing the Interactio app. The app is free, quick and easy to set up and use comfortably from your own mobile device.

For more information on our digital solutions, please visit the "Technology at the congress" page of the Annual Congress page.

**EAACI Goes Green and welcomes new technology**

Together we are adopting modern approaches that make attending and organising our events more environmentally friendly. Thanks to new technology, this years Congress welcomes a variety of digital solutions that not only improve your experience, but also offer a more sustainable approach. Two thirds of all 2017 attendees have already chosen to opt out of the printed programme – you can see what a positive impact this has under www.eaaci.org/gogreen

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**2017 EAACI General Assembly**

It is our pleasure to invite you to the 2017 EAACI General Assembly taking place during the EAACI Congress 2017 in Helsinki, on Monday 19 June, from 08:00-09:00, in Room 101 at the Messukeskus Helsinki.

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. This year we will also be electing the Executive Committee for 2017-2019.

We look forward to seeing you in Helsinki.

On behalf of the EAACI Executive Committee and Board of Officers.

Antonella Muraro
EAACI President

Peter Hellings
EAACI Secretary General
In the spotlight

Why EAACI still needs the Women in Science Symposium

This year, we will hold the 4th Women in Science Symposium. The series started at the 2014 Annual Congress in Copenhagen after some discussion at the leadership level. At that time, people asked whether EAACI actually needed such a separate Symposium, or whether it would be better just to include more women scientists in the overall scientific programme.

Currently, half of EAACI’s membership are women and most of them are below the age of 45. This situation is true of our regular members but not of the officers of the EAACI family, i.e. of those within leadership positions. For women, these positions appear less attractive by design and range of skills, and taking into account their social, educational and emotional barriers will result in a very biased structure unable to deliver to its full potential.

We continue to encourage our female EAACI membership by increasing the visibility of research findings from women, as well as by providing them with successful and outstanding scientists as role models.

We all know that it is not an easy journey. We need to improve self-confidence in our own abilities, to promote our talents, to be resilient and persistent against the difficulties.

Why we still have much work to do

EAACI needs to tackle the complexity of organisational challenges in an inclusive way, taking a range of approaches to address them. There is also a need to develop effective, intelligent leaders, whoever they are. Not considering the whole membership and its diverse range of skills, will result in a very biased structure unable to deliver to its full potential.

The ultimate aim is to prove that women can achieve great things for a better world by helping to change the leadership’s attitudes.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported this vision from the very beginning: Ioana Agache, Mubeccel Akdis, Elisabeth Bel, Erika von Mutius, Wytske Fokkens, Monika Kraft, Catherine Hawrylowicz, Carole Ober, Donata Vercelli and Sally Wenzel.

The scientists taking part in this year’s Symposium – Stefanie Eyerich, Susanne Halken, Kari Nadeau, Verena Neiderberger – will, like those at previous Symposia, inspire our delegates, sharing their passion for science and all EAACI’s members.

Antonella Muraro
EAACI President

JM activities in Helsinki

As I write, Spring is here and I am already excited about the upcoming EAACI Annual Congress in Helsinki! The ‘Daughter of the Baltic’ is a vibrant city and this, together with the proposed JM-dedicated activities, guarantees to make your Helsinki experience unforgettable!

The JM Poster Session will take place on Saturday, 17 June, after the Opening Ceremony. Posters will be grouped by thematic topic and each category will be chaired by an EAACI Junior and Senior. Prizes will be awarded just after the session which will be shorter this year so that Junior presenters can enjoy the Opening Reception more!

Following last year’s success, the JM Symposium (Sunday, 18 June) will again be a joint session, bringing together Junior representatives from four different societies. The Symposium’s theme is ‘One airway, one disease: Can the allergic march be halted?’ and the speakers will be: Pavol Surda (European Rhinologic Society), Christina Kwong (AAAAI), Alexander Mathioudakis (ERS) and Ilbon Equiluz-Garcia (EAACI).

This year we have changed the itinerary of the JM Business Meeting which will now take place just after the end of the JM Symposium. The Business Meeting provides a great opportunity for all Juniors to receive an insight into the activities of the JM Assembly Board (formerly known as the JM Working Group). Juniors will also have the opportunity to listen to Anthony Frew, EAACI Ethics Committee Chair, talking about “Fiction and reality of medical ethics”.

At the JM Educational Session on Monday, 19 June, we will all have the pleasure of attending informative and inspiring presentations from prominent Seniors: Antonella Muraro, the current EAACI President, will talk about the value of guidelines for JMs in clinical practice, while Ioana Agache, EAACI President-elect, will brief us on how to handle our junior years to become proactive seniors. Jean Bousquet, Clinical and Translational Allergy (CTA) Editor-in-Chief, will then share his experience on how to write a scientific paper and choose the best references. Last but certainly not least, Cezmi Akdis, Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (JACI) Editor-in-Chief, will help us understand what editors want and how being a good reviewer makes you a good author.

On Tuesday morning (20 June) ten Juniors will present at the Case Report Session and the three best will be awarded generous prizes. On Tuesday evening, Juniors will get together at the JM event, which will take place in a very alternative and unique area in Helsinki. I will tell you more details at the JM Business Meeting :-).

Olympia Tsilochristou
JM Chairperson & EAACI Social Media Coordinator
The main goal of the National Societies Committee (NASC), founded in 2015, remains to increase the interaction and trust between EAACI and the National Societies (NAS). The collaboration between the NAS and EAACI includes educational and scientific aspects, speaker support programmes at NAS meetings and other joint meetings, lobbying, campaigns and press releases. The desired outcome is increased visibility and a raised profile for allergy, with the ultimate goal of improving patient care.

The 2017 NAS Forum will be held as an EAACI public Symposium on Tuesday, 20 June 2017, from 15.30–17:00 in Hall 3b, after the NASC Business Meeting. Please don’t miss this Symposium! Contributors from Denmark (with a focus on allergy centres established in that country), Kazakhstan (an ISC member country where allergy programmes have been developed at a National level) and France (where allergology was recently recognised as a full speciality) will give talks which may be very stimulating for EAACI Congress delegates who are working in allergy care under different conditions in their own countries.

In 2016 and 2017, the NASC helped to ensure the presence of representatives at the EU lobbying events that took place in the European Parliament, and also joined forces to help the French society get a full speciality in allergology – an issue which will be addressed by Jean Luc Fauquert in his contribution at the NASFForum at the Congress on 20 June 2017.

Already in 2017, we have collected more information for allergy care registries from the majority of NASC and some ISC countries. During the NASC Business Meeting, the European registries of allergy care will be discussed in detail again, and hopefully first data will then be published on the EAACI website, as well as in one of the EAACI journals. Moreover, highlights of the results will possibly also be briefly presented during the NAS Forum.

There is a great need to collate this information since the standards of allergy care are very different within the various EAACI member societies. In a number of countries, access to allergy diagnosis and therapy is covered by insurance. However, there are still countries where there is only very limited public access to an allergy doctor. Fortunately, the registry activity of the NASC is being performed in close cooperation with the UEMS who have used the same questionnaire to contact their members which will increase the reliability of the collected data.

Thomas Werfel
NASC Chairperson

Nanna Fyhrquist
NASC Secretary

Don’t miss the NAS Forum in Helsinki!

In the spotlight

The National Allergy Societies Forum
NASC Forum; Tuesday, 20 June 2017, 15:30 – 17:00; Hall 3b

Zhanat Ispayeva, Kazakhstan: Development of the allergy and asthma programs over the past decade in Kazakhstan.

Jean Luc Fauquert, France: Towards recognition of full specialty status for allergology in France.

Lone Winther, Denmark: Promoting allergy centres and the allergy specialty by the Danish Society of Allergology.

Will you be joining the #EAACI2017 virtual conversation on twitter?

Be part of the #EAACI2017 virtual conversation on twitter and spread the word about scientific updates presented during the EAACI Congress in Helsinki. Use and follow #EAACI2017; tweet, retweet, favourite and comment! Be a leader and drive engaging discussions.

Are you attending the Congress? If yes, then you can engage with other Congress delegates and virtually follow-up breakthrough studies presented in parallel sessions that you can’t attend. Don’t forget to ask at the EAACI booth for a special “I am tweeting on #EAACI2017” ribbon to be placed on your Congress badge. If you sadly can’t be part of the Congress this year, you can still follow #EAACI2017 on twitter and stay up-to-date with all important aspects of the meeting as if you were there.

Twitter is a great platform for communication but also a gateway for educational scientific updates. In Vienna Last year, nearly 9,600 #EAACI2016 tweets were posted by 812 participants reaching approximately 14,000 users during the days of the Congress alone. EAACI, always at the centre of information flow and modern trends, will be setting up twitter-boards at central spots in the Congress venue, giving delegates another opportunity to follow all tweets which use the hashtag #EAACI2017; tweet and you as well as all other delegates will be able to see your tweet in real-time on the twitter-boards!

All twitter users are cordially invited to join the #AllergistsGetTogether welcome reception that will take place just before the Opening Ceremony on Saturday, 17 June. Come along to meet allergy-twitter activists from around the world and let us know how you have incorporated twitter in your professional life. 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 #EAACI2017!

Olympia Tsilochristou
EAACI Social Media Coordinating Editor & JM Chairperson
The Clinical Village in Helsinki

Visiting the Clinical Village at the EAACI Congress is always a great way to improve your skills in allergic disease diagnostics and treatment, and this year we have selected fifteen interesting topics for you.

Visitors to the Clinical Village will have a great opportunity to receive updated information from the Finnish Allergy Programme (2008–2018), the first ever public health programme in the world including a scientific rationale and background. Visitors can learn about its implementation in the Finnish healthcare system and how it has been communicated to the public at large, to authorities and policy makers. The 5-year results of this public health programme will be presented. At this stand, you will be able to meet key Finnish opinion leaders from the world of healthcare and also meet a biologist with whom you can discuss environmental aspects, the biodiversity hypothesis and human microbiota, and their relationship to inflammatory diseases such as asthma and allergies. Very interesting!

The basics of allergen immunotherapy (AIT) have also been included in the Village, as well as quite recent scientific data on new ways of introducing and administering AIT.

The Aerobiological Unit of Turku University, Finland, was one of the first in Europe to start pollen reporting. At their stand, you will see a new application, app.norkko, with which patients can get information about changes in pollen counts even down to 2-hour intervals.

The Cosmetics Allergy Portal is a Finnish innovation introduced by a patient association, the Helsinki Asthma and Allergy Foundation. Highly professional, it has been developed together with main actors in the field of cosmetics and with the Finnish Dermatological Society. It is a system by which patients (e.g. with allergic contact dermatitis) can easily find all the products on the market that he or she can use.

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of IgE and have the great pleasure of nominating one of the stands in the Village for particular historical note: the stand is called “1 1 1 years of allergy”. Here you will be able to meet two great Finnish allergy professionals who know all about the historical aspects, as well as about new data.

These are just some of the highlights of the fifteen stands that you will be able to visit in the Clinical Village. Please use the great opportunity of the Village to meet your colleagues, friends and key opinion leaders, and to start networking and make new friends!

We look forward to welcoming you to the Clinical Village in Helsinki!

Erkka Valovirta
Helsinki Clinical Village Coordinator, on behalf of the “Finnish Village People”
The EAACI Annual Congress in Helsinki kicks off with a full Saturday afternoon of interesting courses and workshops!

Nine Postgraduate Courses, each of them being a half-day session proposed by the EAACI Sections or Interest Groups, will deal with: management of drug hypersensitivity; contact dermatitis in childhood; immunotherapy; recent developments in gastrointestinal food hypersensitivity; food Allergy beyond childhood; tools to enhance the value of clinic allergy research; diagnostic tests in rhinology; ‘omic’ technologies in immunology; and allergy diagnosis in 2017. Delegates attending these courses should have a background knowledge in the particular topic, since Postgraduate Courses are designed to provide a thorough review in an area of special interest.

Another Postgraduate Course in allergy is organised with the help of the Primary Care Interest Group and is dedicated to Primary Care doctors. It is designed to reproduce real situations in a virtual and safe medical setting. The idea is for GPs and specialists to work together on challenging cases as an example of integrated care and interactive learning. Course participants will get to explore various decision points similar to those encountered during a regular consultation.

Attendance of the Postgraduate courses includes access to the Clinical Village. The Clinical Village offers an excellent opportunity to try out different procedures and equipment used in the diagnosis and treatment of allergic diseases. It provides a perfect platform to explore a combination of both theoretical and practical topics, both for specialists-in-training as well as for clinicians wanting to update themselves on topics adjacent to their core business.

EAACI is very pleased to also include a specific Allied Health Day to its Congress programme in Helsinki, which has been developed in collaboration with the Allied Health Interest Group. The main topics to be addressed are: the changing face of food allergy in adults; e-Resources to help patients/carers manage food allergy; asthma and allergy clinics in Primary Care; patient educational programmes and knowledge-based follow-up. The aim of this event is to increase the profile and involvement of Allied Health and Nursing members in the diagnosis and management of allergy.

Finally, Saturday afternoon is also the Annual Congress’s Russian Day, a comprehensive course held in the Russian language. Participants will have the chance to discuss a range of issues with outstanding speakers and experts in the field. Topics to be covered include: the burden of allergy and asthma; severe asthma in children; primary immunodeficiency in adults; allergen immunotherapy today and tomorrow; novel approaches in the treatment of allergic diseases; and how to optimise diagnostics and treatment of allergic diseases in children.

You are warmly invited to attend these courses, depending your experience and interests.

M. Beatrice Bilò
EAACI Newsletter Editor

Leading science makes quality journals

EAACI members can access all official EAACI journals through the online Members Area at www.eaaci.org

IMPACT FACTOR

Allergy: 6.335

PAI: 3.947
More than 250 delegates attended SAM 2017 in Zurich from 27–29 April. Delegates came from all over the world and ranged from doctors to allied health workers and from scientists to students.

For the first time, SAM was held in collaboration with the European Society for Contact Dermatitis and, further, the Swiss Society for Dermatology gave CME credits to their fellows in training. Carsten Bindslev-Jensen (EAACI Dermatology Section Chairperson), Magnus Bruze (Past President of ESCD) and Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier (EAACI Vice-President Education & Specialty) developed the programme in collaboration with the Scientific Board including Knut Brockow (Germany), Razvigor Darlenski (Bulgaria), Thomas Diepgen (Germany), Ana Gimenez-Arnau (Spain), Margarida Gonçalo (Portugal), Jean Pierre Lepoittevin (France), Alexander Navarini (Switzerland), David Orton (United Kingdom), Lars K. Poulsen (Denmark), Radoslav Spiewak (Poland), Wolfgang Uter (Germany), Stephan Weidinger (Germany) and Jonathan White (United Kingdom).

The scientific programme included lectures on contact dermatitis, urticaria/angioedema, atopic dermatitis, hand eczema, drug allergy, skin care, mastocytosis and neglected allergic skin diseases, with a focus on educational and clinically relevant topics.

For the first time, selected abstracts from delegates were included in the main programme and proved a great success, enabling young colleagues to present their current research to a larger audience and obtain feedback from all attendees.

Allergy School on Eosinophilic Esophagitis

Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE) is a rapidly emerging, immune-mediated inflammation of the esophagus. Of note, EoE is in addition a particular type of a non-IgE-mediated food allergy. This chronic condition is therefore not only of interest for gastroenterologists, but for allergists as well. Considering the dramatically evolving relevance of this disorder, EAACI decided to focus an Allergy School exclusively on the topic.

The first Allergy School on Eosinophilic Esophagitis was held in March 2017 and was a premiere in more ways than one: it was the first Allergy School in The Netherlands and the first Allergy School on EoE.

The School welcomed over 100 people, flying in from every corner of the world, including from the Caribbean Islands and Georgia. It was held in Vlaardingen, close to Rotterdam, in a hotel with excellent views of the river Maas; the weather cooperated, with temperatures of up to 19 degrees and sunshine so that we could spend the breaks on the lovely terrace and watch the ships pass by.

In between the breaks, all aspects of EoE were discussed, from epidemiology and diagnosis to therapy resistant EoE and the usefulness of allergy testing in plenary sessions. A big part of the programme was devoted to workshops, covering diagnosis and treatment, dietary avoidance and reintroduction, and practical performance of allergy testing, where participants and the faculty enjoyed lively discussions on guidelines and on implementation in daily practice. And, of course, participants had the opportunity to present their own scientific work in the poster sessions and discuss their finding with the faculty and their colleagues.

All in all, the School was a great success and we hope to repeat it very soon.

Alex Straumann
Eosinophilic Esophagitis Interest Group Chairperson

Ingrid Terreehorst
Eosinophilic Esophagitis Interest Group Secretary
Subcutaneous AIT
Allergopharma - the specialist in diagnosis and therapy of allergic diseases

Visit us at www.allergopharma.com
Primary immunodeficiencies are rare inherited diseases that affect a function of an immune system.

The number and spectrum of primary immunodeficiencies has increased substantially, especially in the last few years, mostly due to novel diagnostic possibilities such as next generation sequencing that have revealed new genetic causes. With an increasing understanding of primary immunodeficiencies, it also becomes apparent that immune dysregulation caused by immunodeficiency leads to more complex disorders associated with other immunopathologies such as autoimmunity, allergy and others. As rare diseases, primary immunodeficiencies require wide international cooperation. Increased awareness of the existence of these diseases is crucial for proper diagnosis and treatment procedures, not only by specialists in the field but also by professionals in allergy, autoimmunity and other fields. The idea to expand knowledge of Primary Immunodeficiencies in broader professional circles formed in 2014 and led to the establishment of EAACI’s Interest Group (IG) on Primary Immunodeficiencies, which introduced its own specific programme targeted at immunodeficiencies at the EAACI Congress in Vienna in 2015.

As well as significant participation at EAACI Congresses, the IG undertakes other mostly educational activities, of which one of the most visible was this year’s Master Class in Prague. The Master Class programme was specifically targeted at the borders between immunodeficiency and allergy. Updates on primary immunodeficiencies and immunodeficiencies with high IgE formed the core, further complemented by excellent lectures on diagnosis, genetic analysis and therapy. Most of the speakers were professionals in the primary immunodeficiency field and members of the European Society for Immunodeficiencies (ESID) which endorsed the school. The programme was further complemented by several case reports presented by participants, whilst the final block of the programme was devoted to practical applications on subcutaneous immunoglobulins, presented by a local team from the University Hospital in Motol, Prague.

The atmosphere during the whole Master Class was very warm and active, with a lot of questions and useful discussions. Also, Prague in spring welcomed participants of this, the first Master Class on Primary Immunodeficiencies and made a nice background to the event. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the school, and the EAACI Working Group for Primary Immunodeficiencies is devoted to continuing with the scheme, with plans already for the next school in Venice, Italy.

We thank EAACI for this great opportunity to spread knowledge of primary immunodeficiencies to an interested audience.

Anna Šedivá
Master Class Chair
The members of the EAACI Pediatric Section Board and Chairs of the Paediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting (PAAM) 2017 Planning Committee are delighted to invite you to this year’s meeting, being held in London on 26-28 October. The meeting will be chaired by George du Toit and co-chaired by Montserrat Alvaro Lozano; leading the Local Organising Committee is Lauri-Ann Van der Poel.

We have accommodated many cutting-edge topics to be presented by experts in the field. Speakers have also purposefully been drawn from the disciplines of medicine, nursing, dietetics and psychology, as we face the atopic epidemic together. Our final wish is that the juniors, and those new to allergy pride, will find this a great opportunity to meet and interact with colleagues in a relaxed and approachable way.

All abstracts accepted for presentation during PAAM 2017 will be considered for EAACI Junior Members Travel Grants.

The provisional scientific program can be viewed at: www.eaaci.org/paam2017.

London is a culturally vibrant and multi-faceted city and will no doubt facilitate a fruitful scientific exchange with meaningful networking opportunities for PAAM attendees. We look forward to welcoming you to London in October.

George du Toit
PAAM 2017 Co-chair
Montserrat Alvaro Lozano
PAAM 2017 Co-chair
Lauri-Ann Van der Poel
PAAM 2017 LOC Chair

JOIN AS A FULL MEMBER DURING THE EAACI CONGRESS AND RECEIVE A 50% DISCOUNT*

*Membership will be valid until 31 December 2017

** Individuals ≤ 35 years of age
Junior fee with printed Allergy and PAI Journals Subscription: EUR 60

JOIN AS A FULL MEMBER DURING THE EAACI CONGRESS AND RECEIVE A 50% DISCOUNT*

COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM ONLINE AT WWW.EAACI.ORG OR AT THE EAACI COUNTER

*Membership will be valid until 31 December 2017

BENEFITS FOR EAACI MEMBERS

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<th>BENEFITS</th>
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<th>Junior Members**</th>
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<td>Subscription to Allergy, European Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology</td>
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<td>Subscription to PAI, Pediatric Allergy and Immunology Journal</td>
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FEES

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<tr>
<td>EAACI/European Rhinologic Society Dual Membership (-10%)</td>
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MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2017

- EUR 150 Members
- EUR 75 Members from countries with a GNP of less than USD 10,000
- EUR 75 EAACI Allied Health Interest Group Members
- EUR 40 EAACI Allied Health Interest Group Members from countries with a GNP of less than USD 10,000
- EUR 120 EAACI/AAAAI Dual Membership
- EUR 120 EAACI/AACAI Dual Membership
- EUR 128 EAACI/European Respiratory Society Dual Membership
- EUR 135 EAACI/European Rhinologic Society Dual Membership

MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2017

- EUR 150 Members
- EUR 75 Members from countries with a GNP of less than USD 10,000
- EUR 75 EAACI Allied Health Interest Group Members
- EUR 40 EAACI Allied Health Interest Group Members from countries with a GNP of less than USD 10,000
- EUR 120 EAACI/AAAAI Dual Membership
- EUR 120 EAACI/AACAI Dual Membership
- EUR 128 EAACI/European Respiratory Society Dual Membership
- EUR 135 EAACI/European Rhinologic Society Dual Membership
Annual Congress 2018

EAACI Congress 2018
26 – 30 May 2018
Munich, Germany
www.eaaci.org

Focused Meetings

Pediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting (PAAM 2017)
26 – 28 October 2017
London, United Kingdom
www.eaaci.org/paam2017

International Symposium on Molecular Allergology (ISMA 2017)
9 – 11 November 2017
Luxembourg
www.eaaci.org/isma2017

Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting (DHM 2018)
19 – 21 April 2018
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.eaaci.org/dhm2018

Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting (FAAM 2018)
18 – 20 October 2018
Copenhagen, Denmark
www.eaaci.org/laam2018

Master Classes

Master Class on Occupational Allergy
29 – 30 September 2017
Madrid, Spain

Master Class on Biologicals
13 – 14 April 2018
Prague, The Czech Republic

Allergy Schools

EAACI Food Allergy Training Course
14 – 16 September 2017
Manchester, UK

16th EAACI Immunology Winter School
25 – 28 January 2018
Saas-Fee, Switzerland

Allergy School on Aerobiology and Pollution
15 – 17 March 2018
Dubrovnik, Croatia

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The functions of IgE and its effector cells, mast cells, eosinophils, macrophages and others are best known in the context of allergy, where they can be controlled by regulatory cells and cytokines. Conversely, in tumours these mechanisms are often evident and may – depending on their contributions in the tumour microenvironment and the periphery – inhibit or support the growth of malignant cells. The net result of inflammation and immune tolerance in tumour tissue is now appreciated as a key determinant of clinical outcomes. Specifically, the interplay of all arms of Th2 immunity and cancer is the focus of the new EAACI AllergoOncology Task Force within the Immunology Section, which is headed by Erika Jensen-Jarolim (Vienna) with Sophia N. Karagiannis (London). The current state of the art in this new discipline was collected in a recent position paper accompanied by a cover illustration in the June Issue of Allergy.

Amongst other topics, the position paper deals with the functions of anti-cancer IgE, the application of which is a particularly attractive prospect in the AllergoOncology context and potentially a therapeutic avenue in cancer. Anti-tumour IgE may, through binding to the high affinity IgE receptor, confer high cytotoxic potency to allergy effector cells, and these mechanisms could be redirected against cancer. A series of animal models have been developed especially for AllergoOncology and have predicted that allergy mechanisms could have a high efficacy in curing cancer. In fact, the first human clinical studies with anti-cancer IgE are on the way!

Besides detailed analysis of key allergy mechanisms that may have relevance in cancer clinically, the challenges of desensitisation protocols in cases of allergies to biologics and chemotherapeutics are also reviewed in the position paper. Members of the Task Force are happy to contribute their complementary knowledge in the allergy field as part of the group’s efforts to delineate the complex immune network and the links between allergy and cancer. This knowledge may serve oncology and patient care as well as advance our understanding of IgE-mediated allergic reactions.

Erika Jensen-Jarolim
EAACI AllergoOncology Task Force Chairperson

References
Allergens in veterinary medicine

A topic dermatitis is a common disease in small animal and equine practice. At first, skin testing and allergen immunotherapy and then serum testing for allergen-specific IgE were used exclusively in small animal practice, but now they are also performed in equine practice.

Atopic dermatitis is a frequently encountered disease in dogs. It resembles human atopic dermatitis and has been proposed as a canine model for its human counterpart. Due to distinct breed predispositions (for example, in Labradors and Golden Retrievers, and in West Highland White Terriers), a genetic base in the dogs was assumed for years and more recently has been confirmed with gene microarray studies. In cats, atopic dermatitis presents clinically very differently from the disease seen in dogs or humans. Airway involvement in cats and horses is not uncommon.

In contrast to human medicine, where allergen immunotherapy is predominantly used for atopic rhinitis and asthma, allergen immunotherapy is an accepted and frequently conducted treatment for atopic dermatitis in dogs, cats and horses. Food allergy is a problem in many allergic pets but studies evaluating food allergens in veterinary medicine are rare. Food challenges after elimination diets are notoriously difficult and are not performed in a double-blind fashion. Skin testing, salivary and serum testing for food-allergen specific IgE, IgG, IgM and IgA have been shown to be unreliable in many studies.

A number of studies have described aeroallergens involved in canine, feline and equine allergic diseases, but most of these were based on results of intradermal testing or serum testing for allergen-specific IgE. In small animals, the most common aeroallergens involved in atopic dermatitis are house dust mite allergens of *Dermatophagoides farinae* and *Dermatophago- goides pteronyssinus*. Little has been published regarding molecular allergology, but in dogs, Der f 15 and Der f 18 have been shown to be major allergens; in one study, not many dogs reacted to Der f 1 and Der f 2. No further characterisation of major house dust mite allergens has occurred for cats and horses. Insect bite hypersensitivity is by far the most common allergic disease in the horse. Allergens from different Culicoides species (*C. sonorensis* [Cul s], *C. obsoletus* [Cul o]) have been characterised at the molecular level and expressed as recombinant proteins. Some of these Culicoides allergens are homologous to known allergens in the human field, such as amylase/maltase (Cul s1, Cul n8, Cul o1), hyaluronidase (Cul n2, Cul o2) antigen-5 (Cul n 1, Cul o 3), D-7 related proteins (Cul n 9, Cul o 6, Cul o 2b), cysteine protease (Cul n 3), and serine protease inhibitor (Cul o 1b). Similarly, allergens from *Simulium vittatum* were identified using phage surface display technology and expressed as recombinant proteins. IBH-affected horses had significantly higher IgE levels than controls against r-Sim v 1, 2, 3, 4. Cross-reactivity was confirmed by extended inhibition ELISA experiments clearly showing that Sim v 1 in fluid phase is able to strongly inhibit binding of serum IgE to solid phase coated Cul n 1 in a concentration-dependent manner and, vice versa, it is likely that reactivi- ties to the Black fly species are due to cross reactivities and primary sensitisation against Culicoides species.

There is also some work published on mould allergens. IgE antibodies specific for crude extracts of *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Alternaria alternata*, *Penicillium notatum*, and the recombinant allergens Asp f 7, 8, 9 and Alt a 1 in BAL or serum were identified in horses with recurrent airway obstruction (RAO). IgE specific for crude mould extracts were no different in healthy and affected horses. By contrast, IgE against recombinant allergens was detectable only in some horses, more frequently in RAO affected horses than in healthy controls. IgG antibodies specific for the A. fumigatus extract were also detected in both healthy and RAO horses with no significant differences between the two groups, while RAO horses had significantly higher IgG responses against Asp f 8 than healthy horses.

In conclusion, although there is much less known about relevant allergens in animals, research in this area has begun and hopefully in the next few years scientific studies will elucidate more details about major allergens in veterinary medicine.

Ralf S. Mueller
Comparative and Veterinary Allergology Interest Group Chairperson

References

European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology
26 – 30 May 2018
Munich, Germany

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