The goal is to go forward and do better

PRESIDENTIAL PLAN

2017-2019

KNOWLEDGE

EDUCATION

EXPERTISE

INNOVATION

PLATFORM

SCIENCE

AWARENESS

INCLUSIVENESS

Message from the EAACI President 2017-2019

Third National Societies Forum

The EAACI Leadership 2017-2019

EAACI CONGRESS 2017 IN HELSINKI:
THE BIGGEST ALLERGY AND ASTHMA MEETING WORLDWIDE
EAACI RESEARCH AND CLINICAL FELLOWSHIPS 2018

EAACI Fellowships support EAACI Junior Members who wish to spend time in a research or clinical centre in another country with up to 20,000 EUR, for a 3 – 12 months period.

For more information please visit www.eaaci.org
From sustainable innovation to shared value

EAACI is leading the way towards a sustainable management programme for allergy and asthma, ensuring better health and outcomes at a lower cost.

We create academic and social value at the same time. Aligning the interests of all constituencies provides an incentive for society to invest more resources in higher education, research and development, thus boosting what Academia does best: arriving at innovative solutions which are then turned into social value. EAACI is the ideal platform to shelter and nourish the cooperation between all partners involved in the translation of key findings from basic and clinical research into precision approaches for optimal care of allergic disease and asthma. By sharing resources, data and infrastructure and by cutting down on the duplicative nature of research projects and clinical trials, significant cost savings could be reinvested in the research enterprise and in better systems for patient care. An EAACI White Paper on Research, Innovation and Quality Care will be delivered aiming to set standards and quality criteria both for allergy practice and research, and to identify and promote research priorities in allergy, asthma and clinical immunology. In parallel, an EAACI Scientific Output Roadmap will streamline all the activities in the Academy, with the aim of enhancing their common effectiveness. An Annual Strategic Forum for high-level dialogue with all our partners will ensure a cohesive approach to EAACI’s outreach.

EAACI needs to strengthen and diversify its scientific and educational output. Innovation in content and delivery methods and broadened outreach are pivotal areas for further development of EAACI events and educational platforms. Prevention and healthy living were under the spotlight at our Annual Meeting in Helsinki 2017 and we all enjoyed the largest allergy congress held anywhere in the world, with more than 8,300 delegates from 100 countries. Such a strong presence shows that clinicians and scientists are reaching out to EAACI to communicate their science, to be inspired, and to obtain extended training. We are responding to this trust by upgrading the environment to a new level of understanding and insight: at the EAACI Congress in Munich 2018, invention and innovation will be given centre stage as the game-changing approach to the complex health, social, economic, environmental and technical challenges posed by allergy and asthma. The Academy will prioritise an avant-garde educational portfolio in order to meet the changing educational needs of our members and stakeholders, facilitating both professional and career development and leadership skills. New tools such as customised programmes for medical students, patients and for the general public as well as open-source educational content are being developed under the guidance of the newly approved Tailored Educational Programme Committee.

The official EAACI Journals, Allergy, PAI and CTA had a very good year in 2017: the new impact factors have set an outstanding record. I congratulate the editorial teams, authors, reviewers and readers who greatly contributed to this success. We must continue to build on this achievement: Europe is producing very front science and its journals should get the place they deserve.

We have reached 10,000 members. What next? The success of our Academy is owed to the vibrant, engaged and creative members of our EAACI Sections, Interest and Working Groups, Task Forces and Committees. Fostering an open community with respect for diversity and equity, and communicating to engage our expanding membership are foreseen as major pillars of our membership programmes. The welfare of the Academy depends on recruiting young members and supporting their lifelong involvement. As a member of the first JM Board I look back with pride at all the junior members’ (JMs) achievements. We will continue to support and increase the influence our JMs within the Academy with full confidence in the strength and richness brought to our organisation by early career researchers.

Working together with National and International Societies is decisive for promoting good clinical practice, high standards of education and the very best research within Europe and worldwide. National Societies are key companions actively involved in all EAACI platforms, from development and implementation of the EAACI scientific and educational output to joint advocacy efforts. EAACI also partners with major international organisations: a good example is the PRACTALL (Practical Allergology) programme, developed in collaboration with the AAAAI. The most recent PRACTALL lead by EAACI focuses on the role of exposure to allergenic foods, and the very best research within Europe and worldwide. National Societies are key companions actively involved in all EAACI platforms, from development and implementation of the EAACI scientific and educational output to joint advocacy efforts. EAACI also partners with major international organisations: a good example is the PRACTALL (Practical Allergology) programme, developed in collaboration with the AAAAI. The most recent PRACTALL lead by EAACI focuses on the role of exposure to allergenic foods.

The patients’ perspective is fundamental for adapting and integrating the Academy’s output into the context of real world problems. We will consolidate their statement embedding into all EAACI constituencies, from the development of patient-centred guidelines and consensus statements to Allergy and Asthma Ambassadors supporting the Academy Awareness campaigns.

Join the thrilling rhythm of EAACI: bring forward your strengths, interests, preferences and values and have your voice heard. EAACI needs you!

Ioana Agache
EAACI President
Dear EAACI members, Dear friends,

First, I would like to thank all those of you who took part in the Annual Meeting in Helsinki and made the Congress a great success! The theme of the Congress, “On the road to prevention and healthy living”, the scientific content, the impeccable organisation and participation of all our colleagues and friends, were a winning combination. The total number of attendees was over 8,300, with people coming from all over the world, making the event the biggest ever EAACI Congress.

My thanks also go to the Local Organising Committee (especially Antti Lauerna), the ExCom, the Vice-President of Congresses, the Scientific Programme Coordinator, as well as the Headquarters team, for their fantastic work.

Scientific sessions, like plenaries, symposia, Interactive workshops, post-graduate courses, pro-con sessions, oral abstract and poster discussion sessions had plenty of attendees, sharing a desire to discover and develop new developments.

Among the many high-level scientific sessions, the ‘Women in science’ session was very successful, thanks to the participation and lectures from three women scientists, on early intervention in allergy prevention, the role of component resolved diagnosis in prevention and early management of allergic diseases and the role of the skin in immunomodulation.

Out of many meetings held during the Congress, one of the most important was the third National Societies Forum, whose purpose was to allow National Societies to present and share current issues coming from local situations in Europe and beyond, with the aim of strengthening relationships and cooperation.

It was not only the high scientific level of the programme but also several innovations presented during the Congress which contributed to its success – including the Congress app, new audio app, automated CME credit system, electronic poster discussion sessions and interactive workshops.

Many other events also took place in Helsinki. An important meeting in the “Call to Action campaign for allergy and asthma” was held, originally launched in April 2017 in Brussels and ending in September this year; the main objective of the campaign is to unite all strategic parties in Europe to help bring about effective policy responses to allergy and asthma through a collaborative and holistic approach, supporting patients’ rights.

EAACI’s first book on Allergen Immunotherapy Guidelines was made available, taking in all the systematic reviews and meta-analyses for studies in the prevention of asthma, for insect venom allergy, for allergic asthma, for allergic rhinoconjunctivitis and for IgE-mediated food allergy.

In Helsinki, we also had very good news from the EAACI journals (Allergy, Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, Clinical and Translational Allergy) which obtained new impact factors; please do publish your clinical and basic research in EAACI Journals!

At the Annual Congress 2017 we also learned the composition of the new EAACI Board of Officers and Executive Committee, as well as of the Boards of Sections, Interest Groups and Working Groups, the last being a new entity established as part of the Interest Groups or Sections. The new election process and the new structure of the Academy’s family is a part of the Governance project, an on-going project, already started during the previous presidency and born from the need to promote interaction and sharing of information among the groups, to clarify roles and responsibilities and start a management–leadership training process.

Finally, Helsinki was also where former President Antonella Muraro handed over to the new one, Ioana Agache. This is the second time that a woman has become President of EAACI, an honour for all women dealing with allergy and immunology. The Presidential Plan 2015–2017 is full of innovative strategies aimed, just to cite a few examples, at delivering the best science, promoting translational medicine for patients’ best care, improving members’ education, strengthening our speciality at national and European levels, and increasing the sense of belonging to our discipline and our Academy. This ambitious programme demands not only hard work, strength of will, integrity and ability – all owned by our President – but also collaboration and dedication from all those who care for our speciality.

Therefore, I would like to close this editorial by wishing the new President, the new Executive Committee and all those involved in this process of growth and renewal all the very best for the work ahead!

M. Beatrice Bilò
Newsletter Editor
SUMMARY

President’s Desk
3 From sustainable innovation to shared value

Opinion Leaders Corner
6 Molecular Allergology: between Precision Medicine and the Choosing Wisely initiative

Meet the person behind
7 Carsten Schmidt-Weber: EAACI new Vice-President
7 Karin Hoffmann-Sommergruber: EAACI new Vice-President Communications & Membership

News
8 EAACI Executive Committee 2017–2019
9 EAACI JMs and the JM Board 2017-2019
10 The Governance Project in Practice
12 Portuguese Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology
14 Argentine Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

In the Spotlight
15 Helsinki 2017: after the meeting ended
15 Women in Science Symposium
16 National Allergy Societies Forum in Helsinki
18 United Action for Allergy and Asthma campaign gains momentum in Helsinki
19 EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Exam in Helsinki
21 EAACI Awards 2017
22 A cosy Clinical Village with the Finnish Village People

Agenda
24 PAAM 2017
24 ISMA 2017
25 Immunology Winter School 2018

Science in Brief
27 The microbiome in health and allergic diseases
Molecular allergology: between precision medicine and the ‘Choosing Wisely’ initiative

IgE diagnostic tests based on allergen molecules have a better analytical sensitivity and specificity than allergy tests based on extracts, particularly when highly polysensitised patients are examined. With the identification, characterisation, cloning and mass production of a rapidly growing number of allergenic molecules, in vitro diagnostics is becoming more and more informative and precise. This component resolved diagnosis (CRD) thus allows a detailed molecular profiling of the polyclonal IgE repertoire of the allergic patient. CRD is driving allergology in the coming era of ‘precision medicine’, an approach integrating novel individual genetic or molecular data for improved geno-/phenotyping and proper selection of personal treatments.

‘Allergomics’ data are available today in several databases of allergenic molecules, accessible in well-designed and user-friendly web platforms. Nevertheless, the use of molecular assays in allergology is still limited by high costs and difficulties in interpretation. The scarce resources of public health systems are often insufficient to afford the relevant costs of complex IgE microarrays, testing of more than 100 individual allergenic molecules in a single analysis. On the other hand, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, by adhering to the ‘Choosing Wisely’ initiative, argued against the tendency to prescribe an ‘indiscriminate battery’ of IgE tests in the evaluation of allergic patients. Therefore, the growth of ‘precision allergology’ and a molecular approach is to be regulated by economic factors in a ‘Choosing Wisely’ scenario. Given this premise, Skin Prick Tests and in vitro IgE assays based on allergenic extracts will survive and co-exist with the new tests based on allergenic molecules for many years to come. Consequently, doctors will have to learn to interpret the discrepancies between results obtained by testing the same patient with an allergen extract and with its molecules.

To facilitate this learning process, textbooks on molecular allergology are being produced. The “EAACI Molecular Allergology User’s Guide” introduces readers to the basic scientific and clinical concepts of molecular allergology, describing the major properties of allergenic molecules, their structural characteristics, biological functions, immunological and allergenic features, the use of a molecular approach in clinical practice, the essentials of in vitro IgE assays and the most important performance characteristics and parameters of reliability, the specific features, advantages and limitations of both singleplex and multiplex assays, the concept of cross-reactivity, and how the complex diversity of shapes are shared to different degrees by molecules belonging to similar or unrelated species (allergen families). This EAACI book explains how to choose and integrate a molecular assay in a classical allergy diagnostic work up, which starts with a clinical history, physical examination and extract-based assays. Chapters are dedicated to all major allergenic sources, including pollens, mites and cockroaches, animals, moulds, occupational allergens, major food allergens and insect venoms. Another section presents major allergen families (profilins, PR-10-like molecules, nsLTP, serum albumins, tropomyosins, polcalcin, lipocalins, parvalbumins), their clinical relevance and how to use this information to improve the management of the allergic patient in clinical practice.

We are confident that, in time, doctors will learn how to use properly balanced selections of allergenic molecules in IgE assays for diagnostic purposes. Important compromises between in vivo and in vitro diagnostic tests, between ‘tradition’ and ‘modernity’, will be developed in the near future and, after all this, a new best strategy will be adopted to harmonise precision medicine with a ‘Choosing Wisely’ approach in the field of allergology.

Paolo M. Matricardi
Charité University Medical Centre, Berlin, Germany

Jörg Kleine-Tebbe
Allergy and Asthma Centre Westend, Berlin, Germany
Carsten Schmidt-Weber
EAACI New Vice-President Congresses

What is your experience with EAACI?
When I returned to Europe from my Postdoc time at the Harvard Medical School in Boston I really enjoyed the friendly atmosphere at the EAACI Winter Schools, and was happy to contribute to them in Davos. The EAACI environment quickly increased my knowledge of allergy and asthma. It also grew my personal network very much, which led to my subsequent position at Imperial College London. From there, I accepted the Chair at the Center of Allergy and Environment (ZAUM) in Munich, which was already by that time an EAACI “hub”. In other words, I am now a homozygous EAACI member!

What are your objectives as Vice-President Congresses?
I have the privilege to take over a very well running ship. Who would have imagined that we would break the high score for the number of participants in Helsinki? My first challenge will be to fulfill this new role whilst filling the double function of VP and Local Chair for the Munich meeting next year but, beside this, my aim is to introduce new innovations to our meetings, while adapting to the challenges of industry compliance rules. One of the first steps will be the improvement of digital elements for our meetings, such as webcasts and the Congress app, as well as further use of the “Waytation” tracking system, the data from which is a great help for Congress organization and planning, as we can design the dimensions of halls and monitor session popularity.

What are your challenges and plans?
With the increasing size of our Congresses, it is important to maintain the EAACI family structure and individual “ownership” by EAACI members of the annual Congress and Focused meetings. In this respect, the structure of the meeting venues is important, to ensure enough space for interaction and rooms for our allergy Working Groups and Task Forces. These restraints limit the selection of venues and we may have to reconsider our routine for the selection of meeting places. We are also observing an increasing number of non-European participants, from Asia and America, who are welcoming to our meetings. To accommodate these participants, our venues must be well connected to international airports. I also hope that we can further develop our meetings to attract more basic science as well as additional clinical disciplines to make EAACI the very best platform for scientific exchange in allergy.

Karin Hoffmann-Sommergruber
EAACI New Vice-President Communications & Membership

What is your experience with EAACI?
My academic background is as a molecular biologist with a long-standing track record in molecular allergology. I received my PhD at the University of Vienna, Austria in 1989. Currently I hold an Associate Professorship at the Medical University of Vienna, heading my own research group, focussing mainly on the identification of food allergens and their interaction with food components impacting on immune reactions.

I joined EAACI a long time ago and have been engaged in a number of activities for some time. Chairing the IG on Food Allergy and later on becoming a member of the Excom, I was involved in the organization of a Food Allergy Training School, FAAM, ISMA, and, I was part of the organizing team of the Annual Meeting in Vienna in 2016.

I appreciate the values EAACI offers, that is, the opportunities to interact and network with scientists and clinicians on an international level to work towards common goals, promoting and presenting the most exciting scientific achievements and transferring/translating that knowledge to improve patient management. What I have experienced within EAACI is a great team spirit and much lively discussion among experts.

What are your objectives as Vice-President Communications & Membership?
What are your challenges and plans?
One of my primary objectives as the new Vice-President Communications & Membership is to disseminate the wealth of knowledge generated by EAACI to our members and interested audience in a timely and up to date manner, using the most appropriate tools, including social media.

Therefore, it is essential that we work to collate the wealth of knowledge already contained within all EAACI publications, to continue to highlight exciting scientific developments and to disseminate that information throughout the EAACI community. It is equally necessary to translate our aims and goals to the public, including health authorities and decision makers. The most recent example of this is the Call to Action, in which EAACI has taken a lead in convincing authorities and decision makers. The most recent example of this is the Call to Action, in which EAACI has taken a lead in convincing authorities and decision makers.

In terms of EAACI’s future development, I will focus on the sustainable growth of our Academy, providing a high-quality platform for scientists, clinicians and patients to communicate and network.
**EAACI Executive Committee 2017-2019**

**Board of Officers**

- **IOANA AGACHE**
  President
  Romania

- **PETER HELLINGS**
  Secretary General
  Belgium

- **MAREK JUTEL**
  Treasurer
  Poland

- **CARSTEN SCHMIDT-WEBER**
  Vice-President Congresses
  Germany

- **PETER SCHMID-GRENDELMEIER**
  Vice-President Education & Specialty
  Switzerland

- **KARIN HOFFMANN-SOMMERGRUBER**
  Vice-President Communications & Membership
  Austria

- **ANTONELLA MURARO**
  Past President
  Italy

- **SUE C. C. PAREDI**
  Executive Director HQ
  Switzerland

**Executive Committee Members**

- **ZUZANA DIAMANT**
  Chair, Asthma Section, The Netherlands

- **KNUT BROCKOW**
  Chair, Dermatology Section, Germany

- **PHILIPPE GEVAERT**
  Chair, ENT Section, Belgium

- **JÜRGEN SCHWARZE**
  Chair, Basic & Clinical Immunology Section, United Kingdom

- **MONTSERRAT ALVARO LOZANO**
  Chair, Pediatrics Section, Spain

- **IBON EGUILUZ-GRACIA**
  Chair, JM Assembly, Spain

- **OLIVER PFÄR**
  Interest Group Representative, Germany

- **MARA TORRES**
  Interest Group Representative, Spain

- **ANTTI LAUERMA**
  Member-at-Large, Finland

- **ISABEL SKYPALA**
  Member-at-Large, United Kingdom

- **STEFANO DEL GIACCO**
  Member-at-Large, Italy

- **JOSE MARIA OLAGUIBEL**
  Member-at-Large, Spain

- **LIAM O’MAHONY**
  Member-at-Large, Switzerland

- **SUSANNE LAU**
  Member-at-Large, Germany

**Executive Committee Adjunct Members**

- **ANTHONY FREW**
  Chair, Ethics Committee, United Kingdom

- **MAGDALENA CZARNECKA-OPERACZ**
  Chair, CME Committee, Poland

- **MUSA KHAITOV**
  Chair, Knowledge Exam, Russia

- **ROY GERTH VAN WIJK**
  Chair, Specialty Committee, The Netherlands

- **FRANS TIMMERMANS**
  Chair, Patients Organisations Committee, The Netherlands

- **M. BEATRICE BILÔ**
  Chair, National Allergy Societies Committee, Italy

- **SUSANNE HALKEN**
  SPC Coordinator, Denmark

- **SYLWIA SMOLINSKA**
  Website Editor, Poland

- **OLYMPIA TSILOCHRISTOU**
  Social Media Editor, United Kingdom
The Junior Member Assembly represents the largest EAACI Section, consisting of more than 4000 clinicians and scientists under the age of 36 years. Since 1999, EAACI has developed several specific activities to support and increase the influence of younger members within the Academy. Today, EAACI Junior Members (JMs) can: stand for positions on the JM Board; apply for Research and Clinical Fellowships; make applications to the Mentorship Programme; apply for travel grants to attend Allergy Schools and Focused Meetings; apply for Scholarships to attend the EAACI Annual Congress.

The JM Board is the representative body of the JMs and is composed of a Chairperson, a Secretary, and one Representative from each of the five EAACI Sections and the six EAACI Interest Groups. The mandate of the JM Board is for two years and members are elected through an online election system. The Chairperson and the Secretary are then elected by the corresponding JM Board, and the JM Chairperson is a voting member of the EAACI Executive Committee.

The JM Board 2017–2019 is composed as follows: Ibon Eguiluz-Gracia (Chairperson), Alberto Álvarez-Perea (Secretary), Olympia Tsilochristou (Past-Chairperson), Florentina Sava (Basic & Clinical Immunology), Susanne Vijverberg (Asthma), Pavel Kolkhir (Dermatology), Pasquale Comberiati (Paediatrics), Peter Valentin Tomazic (ENT), Simona Barni (Food Allergy), Alessandra Arcolaci (Drug Allergy), Carmen Riggioni-Viquez (Allergen Immunotherapy), Cristina Quecchia (Environmental & Occupational Allergy), Claudia Busbolino (Allergy Diagnosis & Systems Medicine), and Thulja Trikamjee (Allied Health & Primary Care).

Main Goals of the JM Board
- To contribute to the professional, scientific and academic development of young clinicians and researchers working in the field of allergy and immunology
- To enhance the visibility of JMs within EAACI scientific activities
- To generate networking platforms and scientific interaction among JMs and between JMs and the rest of the EAACI membership.

Initiatives developed by the JM Board:
- Collaboration with EAACI Communication Channels: the JM Board is actively involved in all EAACI communication channels including the website, social media channels and the EAACI Newsletter. Moreover, when requested by the EAACI Executive Committee, the JM Board also collaborates with the dissemination strategy of EAACI campaigns and scientific documents.
- JM Program at EAACI Annual Congresses: a JM Scientific Symposium, JM Educational Session, JM Poster Session, JM Case Reports Session, JM Business Meeting, and a JM Social Event now form an important part of each EAACI Annual Congress.
- JM Collaboration with EAACI journals: in 2011, a collaboration with PAI was initiated, and the JM Board later established collaborations with EAACI’s other two journals, namely CTA (2014), and Allergy (2015). Under these collaborations, ‘JM must-read articles’ are selected and highlighted, new scientific articles are disseminated through EAACI social media channels, and webcasted interviews are performed with authors of recent publications in the journals. Moreover, open calls for JM reviewers and Hot Topic Reviews (written by JM and their mentors) were launched in the setting up of the JM–CTA journal collaboration.
- JM Mentorship Programme (MP): since 2011, six rounds of the MP have been launched with the goal of facilitating the interaction between a JM and an EAACI senior member working in her/his field of interest. Each MP round lasts for two years and includes funding opportunities (the MP Awards) for mentees to perform a scientific visit to the mentor’s workplace. The MP also organises an MP cocktail/informative event during the EAACI Annual Congress to support a first face-to-face meeting between mentors and mentees.
- Collaboration with other international societies: the JM Board has established collaborations with the Junior Boards of other international societies in the field of allergy and upper and lower respiratory diseases, namely with the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (2011), European Respiratory Society (2016), and European Rhinologic Society (2016). In the context of these collaborations, joint Task Forces and educational surveys have been developed with the aim of harmonising medical care and training across the world.

Follow the EAACI JM at:
- Web: http://www.eaaci.org/organisation/juniors/about-us.html
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/eaacijm/
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/EAACI_JM●

Ibon Eguiluz-Gracia
Junior Member Assembly Board Chairperson
The Governance Project in Practice

EAACI has invested significant resources into a Governance Project with the aim of streamlining internal efficiency and optimising networking amongst our 10,000 members. The ultimate goal has been to have an up-to-date structure, constitution and bylaws which allow members to pursue successful projects in the context of EAACI’s strategic vision. The whole project was led by EAACI Past-President Antonella Muraro during her 2015–2017 term, and it has benefited from a huge, collaborative effort from all of the Executive Committee and Board of Officers, and the Sections and Interest Groups. Since her appointment, Executive Director Sue Paredi helped to facilitate the decision-making process. Phases 1 (Analysis) and 2 (Proposals) for a new concept for the project served as the basis for the new governance structure and for the revisions made to the EAACI constitution during Executive Committee meetings in 2015 and 2016, at which the new structure was finalised. The revision of the constitution was discussed by the Executive Committee at their meeting in June 2017 and will be further developed by the newly approved Governance Committee.

With the recently completed election process in June 2017, the EAACI Governance Project entered into a new phase: that of putting the new model into practice. All the newly-elected Board members, Chairs and Secretaries of the Interest Groups, Sections and Working Groups give the governance project a real face; their new structure is represented in the diagrams.

There is a clear need to keep modernising our bylaws and supervising the new structure, and the Governance Project is consequently an ongoing one. In this regard, a new Governance Committee was approved at the last ExCom meeting in Helsinki in June 2017, with the aim of implementing the novel Governance Project. With the decision made by the Executive Committee in 2016 to set a 6-year strategic vision, the Academy prepares itself for a challenging future ahead, aiming to be able to channel the overwhelmingly fast developments in science and clinical practice, and to optimise the functionality of the ever growing EAACI community.

Lena Geltenbort-Rost
Publications, Public Relations and Public Affairs Manager

EAACI has well established Sections that represent medical/scientific specialties or areas of interest (Basic & Clinical Immunology, Asthma, Pediatric, Dermatology and ENT). In addition, younger members of the Academy are part of the Junior Member Assembly, which provides similar activities and opportunities as the specialty Sections. The Sections are represented on the Executive Committee by their chairs, and they can propose Task Forces as well as joint sessions at the Annual Congresses with other appropriate specialised societies. Every 2 years, new Executive Committee members, board members, chairs and secretaries are elected.

http://www.eaaci.org/organisation/sections-a-igs.html

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EAACI Newsletter

News

2017 • Volume 3 • #48
Each EAACI Interest Group represents an area of more specific interest within allergology, providing a focus for scientists and clinicians interested in particular aspects of allergic disease. They form a focus for discussion at EAACI scientific meetings, provide input to the scientific programme, and can make proposals for Task Forces. EAACI Working Groups are established as part of Interest Groups or Sections. Each Working Group chair automatically sits as an additional board member on their respective Interest Group or Section Board. EAACI Working Groups represent relevant and growing scientific areas for the Academy and have a clear link or common interest to their Interest Group or Section.

http://www.eaaci.org/organisation/eaaci-interest-groups.html
http://www.eaaci.org/organisation/working-groups.html

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A few words from the Website Editor

Welcome back after the summer holidays!

At the outset, I would like to congratulate everyone, organisers and participants of the EAACI Congress 2017 in Helsinki. It was a great success, not only because of its high scientific level, but also because we achieved the highest number of participants ever! Well done! At the Congress, many meetings took place where I was able to share my opinions and listen to your voices. For me, the highlight was the Editors’ Meeting, where the editors of the three big EAACI platforms (website, social media and newsletter) were able to sit down together and share their experiences.

As you are aware, our newly-elected board members started their mandates during the Congress 2017. Following the changes made to EAACI’s structure, we have had to redesign the website and populate it with the appropriate content. We created new spaces for Sections (S), Interest Groups (IG) and Working Groups (WG) which didn’t exist before. Remember: if you are a member of any S/IG or WG you can influence the content on their dedicated webpages. To do so, please contact the webmaster who represents your S/IG or WG.

Many of the materials from the 2017 Congress are already available to be downloaded from the EAACI website. In the webcast area, you can watch presentations recorded in Helsinki; please do enjoy them, even those you could not see in real time. By clicking on the menu: Meetings/The Annual Congress/Past Congress, you can find links to photos, the programme, abstract prize winners and so on. A complete version of the abstracts presented at the EAACI Congress 2017 were published in the journal Allergy in August, as an online supplement.

Looking ahead, I would like to invite you to check information about the upcoming EAACI Congress 2018 next year in Munich: http://www.eaaci.org/eaaci-meetings/eaaci-congresses/upcoming-congress.html. I can’t wait to be there! ●

Sylwia Smolinska
EAACI Website Editor

Portuguese Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology

Founded on 10 July 1950 as the Portuguese Society of Allergy, Sociedade Portuguesa de Alergologia e Imunologia Clínica (SPAIC), had ‘Clinical Immunology’ added to its name in 1978 to encompass the increasing research and clinical intervention of its members in these areas. SPAIC members made a major contribution to the establishment of allergy and clinical immunology as a medical specialty in Portugal (approved by the Portuguese Medical Association in 1984) and, in 1987, to the establishment of a national full specialty training program in the three major university hospitals (Lisbon, Coimbra, Porto), now a regular five-year training program sharing the same core curriculum in nine allergy departments around the country. In the last decades, SPAIC members have had an active role supporting the development of our National Program on Asthma, working with the Portuguese Pneumology Society and the Portuguese Registry of Anaphylaxis, and have joined efforts with the Portuguese Asthma Patients Association in ongoing support for national epidemiology research in asthma, rhinitis and its control.

Today, SPAIC has more than 400 members (with 18% junior members) and eleven Interest Groups, and organises an Annual Congress (the 38th will be held from 5-7 October later this year) and, since 2001, holds a regular thematic Spring Meeting. SPAIC is an active society member of EAACI, WAO and Sociedad Latinoamericana de Alergia, Asma e Imunologia (SLAAI), also having regular representation within the UEMS. Since 1991 SPAIC has published a peer-reviewed scientific journal in Portuguese – Revista Portuguesa de Imunoalergologia (RPIA http://rpiia.spaic.pt) – and, from 2014, SPAIC has joined the AAITO in co-editing the European Annals of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (http://www.eurannallergyimm.com) a bimonthly peer-reviewed publication.

The mission of the recently elected Board is to consolidate the growth and relevance of SPAIC, fostering membership communication and commitment, and contributing with innovation and excellence to member’s professional development and clinical practice. To reach these aims, the Board team has been organised within functional areas (education and projects, congresses and meetings, communication and membership, organisation and external relations), with an open communication policy with our national and international partners. SPAIC and its members have co-hosted many international meetings in Portugal, including two previous EAACI Congresses (in 1983 and 2000) and, more recently, the 6th International Symposium on Molecular Allergology, ISMA 2015. Strengthening the historical partnership with EAACI through future collaborations will be on the roadmap of the SPAIC strategic plan for the next triennium. In this regard, we are looking forward to the EAACI Congress 2019 in Lisbon.

For further information, see http://www.spaic.pt ●

Elisa Pedro
SPAIC President

Luis Delgado
SPAIC Past-President
THE EAACI – ALLERGOPHARMA RESEARCH AWARD was first established in 2000 on the initiative of Allergopharma GmbH & Co. KG and in collaboration with the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. It is intended that the award should recognize scientific achievement of young scientists working in the field of allergy and encourage their engagement in further research. Therefore, the award is open to Junior Members of EAACI, who have conducted their research in a European centre.

The award is valued with EUR 10,000 and will be granted to the institution or research organisation the awardee primarily conducts the research for. The awardee will be presented with the award during the Opening Ceremony of the Annual EAACI Congress. Registration, travel and accommodation to the Congress will be supported by the grant.

Any EAACI Junior Member may apply personally for the award using the online system provided.

Apply until 31 December 2017
The Argentine Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (AAAeIC) was established in 1949. For 68 years it has provided training and up-to-date knowledge for physicians and health-related professionals in the fields of allergy and clinical immunology. Our aim is to improve quality of life in those people who suffer from allergic diseases.

The Association has more than 500 members and eight regional scientific societies distributed along the country, and has formed scientific cooperation agreements with many other national and international institutions. Since its first edition in 1963, our journal, Archivos de Alergia e Inmunología, has published articles by authors from Argentina and other countries in Latin America. Our Specialty Training Course is recognised by the Argentinian National Ministry of Health and stands as a fundamental part of our activity.

Our Association has been linked to the international allergy community since its origin, being member of WAO, a member of the EAACI International Societies Council, and a founding member of the Latin American Society of Allergy and Immunology (SLAAI). Among our renowned members, Carlos Baena Cagnani was WAO President, Hugo Neffen was Interasma President and is currently GINA Ambassador, and Carlos Crisci was the SLAAI President.

Every year we collaborate with worldwide campaigns such as Allergy Week, Rhinitis Week, Asthma Day, and Urticaria Day. We also have our own initiatives recognised by the Argentinian National Ministry of Health and stands as a fundamental part of our activity.

The AAAeIC Annual Congress, held in Buenos Aires each August, is our backbone event and gathers 1,500 participants from Argentina and Latin America. We have had special speakers representing EAACI, AAAAI, WAO, ACAAI, ASBAI, SER Chile, the Paraguay Allergy Society and the Uruguay Allergy Society, among others. The Congress has become an important arena for sharing knowledge, experience, ideas and for comradeship.

For detail of our activities, please visit www.alergia.org.ar

Claudio A. S. Parisi
AAAeIC Past-President

PRACTALL Meeting on the Exposome in Allergic Diseases

PRACTALL kick-off meeting on the role of the exposome in allergic diseases took place in La Granja (Segovia, Spain) on 24–26 August 2017. The co-chairs of this meeting were Ioana Agache, on behalf of EAACI, and David Peden, on behalf of AAAAI. Participants representing EAACI included Peter Hellings, Marek Jutel, Antonella Muraro and Santiago Quirce, whilst those representing the AAAAI included James E. Gern, Rachel L. Miller and Wanda Phipatanakul.

During this meeting, relevant topics on the importance of the exposome were presented. On the first day, emerging concepts and challenges in implementing the exposome paradigm in allergic diseases and asthma were discussed. Other topics addressed were: the exposome versus metabolome, transcriptome, proteome, epigenome and genome; environmental influences, such as allergens, pollutants, and climate; the built environment; infections; diet and lifestyle; social and psychological factors; and the occupational exposome. Finally, internal influences, including the microbiome, inflammation, and oxidative stress, were thoroughly discussed.

On the second day, the topics covered included: pre-natal and early life events; the exposome and risk assessment; the biomarkers of exposure, dose, response and susceptibility. Other points addressed were: the tools for measuring personal environmental exposures; statistical methods to detect interactions in exposome–health associations; and, finally, the dynamic life course nature of the exposome. David Peden and Ioana Agache presented the conclusions and closed the meeting.

The PRACTALL initiative is of great value for consolidating the partnership between EAACI and AAAAI and a wonderful way for sharing expertise and advice between these organisations. During this meeting, top-notch scientific discussions took place, containing innovative ideas that should help build consensus within our Academies.

After this first encounter, a number of PRACTALL documents will be delivered. It is expected that these papers will focus on the data and analytic needs for assessing the exposome in general, including analytic techniques and the need to merge and combine existing data types, and the challenges in doing this versus the very difficult aspect of developing novel cohorts. Other aspects that should be addressed include relevant exposures that can have an impact on endotype and phenotype development.

Santiago Quirce
IG on Environmental & Occupational Allergy, Board Member

Ioana Agache
EAACI President
Helsinki 2017: after the meeting ended

The EAACI Annual Congress 2017 in Helsinki, Finland, held from 17–21 June, was a great success exceeding all our expectations. With more than 8,300 delegates from 100 countries it turned out to be the largest ever EAACI Congress and even the largest ever allergy congress held anywhere in the world. The Congress was very well received on social media with over 11,000 tweets and over 20 million Twitter views worldwide.

The Congress theme, “On the Road to Prevention and Healthy Living”, was reflected in the programme with several sessions focusing on prevention of allergy and inducing tolerance, ranging from population-based interventions to allergen immunotherapy, including, for example the opening Plenary Session, “Allergy Prevention. The Broad Perspective”. Very well-attended plenaries, symposia, workshops, postgraduate courses, pro-con sessions, poster and poster discussion sessions, as well as the Clinical Village, covered the whole spectrum of allergology from basic science to patient empowerment. The new initiatives, the ‘Russian day’ and ‘Allied Health day’, were very well received and attended. The overall quality of science and education was also high and there were many networking activities.

Additionally, the Congress included initiatives to improve care for the allergic patient. The political call to action for ‘United Action for Allergy and Asthma’ campaign and the ‘EU Stakeholder Lunch’ with MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen, leader of the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma, were amongst the efforts made to increase awareness of allergy, at even the highest political level in Europe.

The unpredictable summer conditions in Finland behaved perfectly and the Congress was thus kept in perfect Nordic summer weather, allowing delegates to enjoy beautiful and green Helsinki with 24-hour sunlight during the Congress.

The ‘Allergy Run and Walk’ on Sunday evening was another highlight, with the “Healthy Living” theme of the Congress also working for allergic people, for whom the goal is to have a good life with good care and healthy lifestyle despite allergies.

We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to all delegates and organisers, as well as the city of Helsinki, for this unforgettable Congress.●

Antti Lauerma
EAACI Congress 2017 Chair

Susanne Haiken
EAACI Congress 2017 SPC Chair

The Women in Science Symposium in Helsinki

The fourth Women in Science Symposium took place in Helsinki on 18 June, featuring three outstanding female scientists, each of them a leader in their respective fields.

Kari Nadeau from Stanford tackled the primary prevention of allergic diseases, focusing on the role of epigenetics in explaining the epidemic of allergy mainly in children. Verena Neiderberger highlighted component resolved diagnostics (CRD) as the pivotal approach to precision medicine in allergy for an individual tailoring of diagnosis and treatment. Stefanie Eyerich provided a perspective on recent findings on immunologic mechanisms of atopic dermatitis leading to an in-depth understanding of the disease.

Each of them combines family life with a career, confronting daily difficulties with persistent commitment, facing challenges in the lab, raising children and supporting old parents. However, there is a more insidious challenge: that of an unconscious gender bias that only a cultural change, even in women themselves, can overcome [1].

How can we improve this scenario? Mandatory quotas have been proposed, as has raising the profile and celebrating the achievements of those who have paved the way for the next generation. Providing young female scientists with female role models would hopefully help in the retention of young female researchers in their scientific careers and in their leadership positions. There is a subtle, gentle way that many women use to optimise harmony and alignment which should be acknowledged as an asset by any organisation.

Networks are invaluable in the process to promote other skilled women. The Rita Levi Montalcini Foundation supports young women in Africa who want to become scientists; the Christiane Nüsslein Volhard Foundation helps mothers to gain scientific opportunities to its female members who make up 56.9% of the membership. The beginning of the journey has been the election of two female Presidents in a row, 60 years after the establishment of the Academy. A Leadership programme for young members has also been started.

It is intended that the Women in Science Symposia will continue at future EAACI Congresses, to demonstrate how female talent can overcome the many obstacles placed in their path.●

Antonella Muraro
EAACI Past-President

EAACI has also been actively moving in this direction in order to give visibility and opportunities to its female members who make up 56.9% of the membership. The beginning of the journey has been the election of two female Presidents in a row, 60 years after the establishment of the Academy. A Leadership programme for young members has also been started.

It is intended that the Women in Science Symposia will continue at future EAACI Congresses, to demonstrate how female talent can overcome the many obstacles placed in their path.●

Antonella Muraro
EAACI Past-President

[1] Nature 491, 495 (22 November 2012). http://www.nature.com/uidfinder/10.1038/491495a
The goal of the National Allergy Society Committee (NASC) is to increase the interaction and trust between EAACI and the National Societies (NAS), and ultimately to bridge the gap between patients, doctors and politicians, leading to improved patient care. The collaboration between the NAS and EAACI includes speaker support programs at NAS meetings and other joint meetings, lobbying, campaigns and press releases. Moreover, the NASC continues to focus on EAACI priority activities including speciality, health economics, guidelines and lobbying, and has taken on the important task of building European guidelines and allergy care registries in collaboration with UEMS.

In April this year, the NASC helped to ensure the presence of representatives at the “United Action for Allergy and Asthma” campaign launch which took place at the European Parliament in Brussels – the aim of the campaign, of course, being to raise awareness and improve health programmes of allergy and asthma. The NASC also joined forces earlier this year to help the French society get a full speciality in allergology.

The Business Meeting of the NASC, held in Helsinki in June this year, was well attended by more than 30 delegates. Members were updated on the status of the Allergy Care registry, managed by the NASC together with UEMS. A set of additional questions for the registry were sent out to members during Spring 2017, and the response rate was as high as 87%. While waiting for missing responses from some countries, the registries steering committee has already started working on the filtering and analysis of the available data. Besides giving an overview of specialities and sub-specialities across Europe and of the years of training required to reach speciality status, the survey will provide data regarding health economics and preventive care, amongst other issues. Moreover, an SWOT analysis has revealed that good training, education and widespread networking were perceived by members to be strengths of allergology, while a decline in specialists, fragmentation of the field and competition between specialities were considered to be weaknesses. Focusing on a full speciality and investing in young specialists were perceived as opportunities. A main motivation for the work devoted to the registries is to eventually publish the data, with all NASC and UEMS members who responded to the survey listed as authors of the first paper. Moreover, a second, more focussed paper is being planned, dealing with a core set of questions.

At the NASC Business Meeting, Nanna Fyhrquist was re-elected as Secretary and M. Beatrice Bilò was elected as the new Chair of the NASC by the ExCom, to replace Thomas Werfel who is now serving as President of the German Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology.

The NAS Forum 2017 in Helsinki was held as a public symposium separate from the Business Meeting. Speakers from Mexico, France and Denmark contributed to the session. Désirée Larenas Linneman opened the session by giving a historical view of the development of allergy care and allergology in Mexico. Jean-Luc Fauquert continued by giving us an insight into the establishment of the full speciality in France. Finally, Lone Wiinther finished the session with an interesting report on how the Danish Society of Allergology promotes allergy centres and the allergy speciality in their country.

A session with three speakers is planned again for next year at the EAACI Congress in Munich 2018, including a German representative to highlight the country who will be hosting the Congress.

Nanna Fyhrquist  
EAACI NAS Committee Secretary

Thomas Werfel  
EAACI NAS Committee Chairperson 2015-2017
THE BENEFITS OF MOLECULAR ALLERGY

An overview of using molecular allergy in allergy identification and management

IMMUNOTHERAPY
An aid to selecting patients for immunotherapy - useful for venom and aeroallergy patients

PERSONALISE CARE
Use component testing to personalise care in your patients

FOOD ALLERGENS
Assess patient risk - is it a true nut allergy?

MOLECULAR GUIDEBOOKS
Download your free copies of our molecular guidebooks

AEROALLERGENS
Differentiate specific allergens from cross-reactive allergens

MOLECULAR MODULE
Complete the molecular allergy training module

Visit our website: AllergyAI.com
On 19 June during the EAACI Congress 2017 in Helsinki, the political Call to Action in Europe, “United Action for Allergy and Asthma”, gained further momentum at the EAACI Presidential EU Stakeholder lunch, in the presence of MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen, Chair of the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma and Taru Koivisto, Director of the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, together with other leading European policymakers, patients, doctors and allied stakeholders.

Originally launched on 25 April 2017 at the European Parliament, the pan-European campaign “United Action for Allergy and Asthma” is a collaboration between the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma, EAACI and the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients’ Associations (EFA), with the aim of promoting a coordinated response at policy level to drive the prioritisation of allergy and asthma programmes in the EU and in its Member States, to the benefit of all European citizens and economies.

During the Presidential EU policy Lunch in Helsinki in June, leading EU influencers, doctors and patients convened, and acknowledged the urgency needed to act on the allergy and asthma pandemic by mobilising the political leadership at EU and Member States levels, with the ultimate goal to boost allergy and asthma policies and programmes in Europe through concerted multi-stakeholder actions.

Sirpa Pietikäinen, Finnish Member of the European Parliament (EPP group), explained: “We need to focus on prevention and on addressing underlying triggers of allergy and asthma such as air quality. Policymakers have the duty to promote patients’ rights and improve the quality of life of allergy and asthma patients through effective policies addressing their unmet needs”.

Tari Haahtela, Chair of the Finnish Allergy Programme, gave an overview of the Programme and work conducted in Finland, a key learning experience for other countries to build on to enhance successful action tailored to national needs.

Antonella Muraro, EAACI Past-President, commented: “Over 130 European and national organisations have endorsed the Call to Action to date, alongside a growing number of policy-makers and more than 2300 individuals including patients, healthcare professionals and citizens. This sends a strong signal to our European policymakers that policy action to drive change is urgently needed. Building on its national allergy programme which is recognised as a good practice example across Europe, looking ahead, the upcoming Finnish EU Council Presidency in 2019 is a unique opportunity for Finland to pave the way towards improvement; fostering coordinated political actions to address unmet needs, raising awareness on best practices including supporting their dissemination, and driving prioritisation of allergy and asthma programmes for the benefit of our European economies and societies”.

Ioana Agache, EAACI President, added that EAACI will continue working with upcoming EU Council Presidencies and particularly build partnerships with the Romanian and Finnish Governments to make the case for allergy and asthma and move issues relating to these main chronic conditions higher up the agenda of the EU Council, to foster national action.

Taru Koivisto attended as guest of honour. She particularly outlined the need for broad action on non-communicable diseases, with strategies on prevention and health promotion in all EU countries, which should include allergy and asthma.

Guy Joos, President of the European Respiratory Society, explained the role of the European Chronic Disease Alliance, a coalition of eleven European health organisations united to combat preventable chronic diseases through European policies that impact health, and which counts on the active membership of EAACI and ERS.

The Call to Action is open for endorsement until 30 September 2017 by all interested parties wishing to join the initiative at http://www.callallergyasthma.eu. EAACI and other co-initiators and supporters 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
EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Exam in Helsinki

This year’s EAACI Knowledge Exam, held in Helsinki during the Annual Congress, was once again very well attended. The 56 attendees joined us this year from 23 countries in Europe and around the world (including from Chile, Namibia, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka), and the Academy is proud to announce that we were able to issue knowledge certificates to 49 successful candidates.

The Knowledge Exam is a written MCQ-based test covering all important areas of clinical allergy and immunology and related aspects of basic immunology, including Task Force documents and Guidelines. With the keen support of all EAACI Sections, Task Forces and Interest Groups, the Academy’s question-pool has been filled with over 600 questions. EAACI is planning further improvements to the Knowledge Exam, such as specialised learning materials with sample questions. In addition, a pediatric track is planned, underlining EAACI’s dedication to the treatment of allergy as early in life as possible to prevent more difficult problems later.

The test is now a pre-requisite for the Swiss Allergy specialty, and EAACI strongly recommends that all its members participate in the Knowledge Exam, anticipating improved patient care as a result. Successful graduates are enjoying high recognition throughout Europe and worldwide.

Due to my obligations as VP Congresses, the position of Exam Chair has now been taken by Musa Khaithov. I thank all colleagues for their engagement and will continue to support the exam and in particular the initiative for generating learning materials in the future.

Looking forward to seeing you in Munich!

Carsten Schmidt-Weber
EAACI Vice-President Congresses

General Assembly report 2017

The EAACI General Assembly of 2017 took place on Monday 19 June during the Annual Congress in Helsinki.

The reports of the President, Secretary General and Board of Officers gave the membership an overview of EAACI activities in the past year and an outlook for future years.

EAACI President Antonella Muraro illustrated the different projects realised by the EAACI leadership, with special reference to the new Governance structure of the Academy, the establishment of new networks with different stakeholders, the organisation of several initiatives at the European political level, the EAACI/AAAAI PRACTALL collaboration on Precision Medicine, and the realisation of the Clinical Practice Guidelines on Allergen Immunotherapy.

As Secretary General, I made the annual report of all internal activities of the Academy, including details of the new Headquarters’ organisation, constitution and bylaws revision and election outcomes.

Vice-President Congresses Lars Poulsen provided an overview of the meetings of the Academy, with special emphasis on the successful Helsinki Congress in terms of number attendees, number of abstracts, the host of new technology and the exciting scientific program.

Vice-President Education and Specialty Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier presented details of the EAACI Knowledge Exam, and CME and Specialty Committees updates. He also commented on the EAACI fellowships, Task Forces, Position Papers, Allergy Schools and Master Class, as well as new educational tools. Vice-President Communication & Memberships Ioana Agache underlined the new impact factors of the EAACI journals, the number of active members, which exceeded 10,000 in May 2017 and the communication platforms. Treasurer Marek Jutel presented the current good financial status of the Academy, which complies with Swiss law, according to a recent Audit report.

Voting members of the General Assembly then unanimously approved the reports of the board members and the nominations for the new Board of Officers and Executive Committee members for the 2017–2019 term.

To conclude, Antonella Muraro expressed her feelings of gratitude to the whole Executive Committee and General Assembly for their contribution to the success of the Academy. She then officially handed over the EAACI Presidency to the new President, Ioana Agache, who introduced the key objectives of the Strategic Program 2017–2019 to the assembled audience.

Sustainable growth and raising standards are part of the ambitious presidential Strategic Program for the next two years. The future of EAACI is guaranteed!

Peter Hellings
EAACI Secretary General
Real Life Connection with the Patients’ Organisations Committee

Did you know that at EAACI’s Annual Congress in June in Helsinki, and for the fourth time, patients’ representatives on the EAACI Patients’ Organisations Committee organised a number of activities to teach about the competences needed for good patient guidance and treatment? Perhaps you did not, as what we find is that many delegates focus their attention at Congress on attending the large range of allergy and asthma research findings covering new allergy mechanisms or the interesting results of studies on allergy and asthma medication.

And of course, it is important for us all to be updated on the developments of allergy and asthma research – and, hopefully, we will also find use for that knowledge.

But what we often encounter is that many doctors dealing with patients who have complaints which are probably due to some kind of allergic mechanism do not have the basic knowledge or competences needed for the diagnosis of allergic diseases.

This year in Helsinki, a lot of Congress attendees also took the challenge to perform a correct diagnosis in a role play activity at the Clinical Village, and even more attended the Practical Allergy Management Workshop where we gave some insight into the ethical aspects of children’s participation in clinical trials and an overview of what was lacking in the field of allergy advocacy.

If you want to be involved in the lifeline connection of patients’ advocacy and be part of the wider picture, contact me at t.timmermans@anaphylaxis.eu or please do come to meet us at the Clinical Village at PAAM in London.

Frans Timmermans
EAACI Patients’ Organisations Committee Chairperson

Ethics in Helsinki

It seemed very appropriate to be considering medical ethics at EAACI 2017, in the birthplace of the much-cited Declaration of Helsinki. As chair of the Ethics Committee I was invited to address the JM Business Meeting on ‘Medical ethics: fact and fiction’ – the session was well attended, with some lively discussion. We can easily forget how recent some of the concepts involved are, and how things that were once taken for granted can become unacceptable as society changes and evolves. Conversely, some things that were considered unethical in the past may come to be regarded as appropriate!

The ethics session on food allergy was very well attended, with presentations on the practical and ethical dimensions of banning nuts in aircraft, interactions with milk product manufacturers, relative responsibilities of staff and customers regarding anaphylaxis in restaurants, and the ethics of reintroducing allergenic foods to the diet. The format of brief presentations followed by comments from a medical ethicist and then an audience participation seemed to work well and was appreciated by the attendees. Our invited speakers, Carsten Bindslev-Jensen, Susanna Lau, Helen Smith and Isabel Skypala were all entertaining and thought provoking with their talks while our ethicist, Christian Martens, brought a new dimension to our programme, one that we don’t often hear at EAACI congresses. His perspective helped to clarify the choices that have to be made, balancing the benefits to society, to the individual and to corporations and service personnel. Using the interactive voting app, the audience were able to contribute their views and we then saw how the presentations could alter people’s views and enlighten their thinking.

Plans for an ethics session for the Munich 2018 Congress are well advanced and we hope to attract many members and guests to the ethics session next year. Feedback and suggestions are always welcome!

Tony Frew
EAACI Ethics Committee Chairperson
The 2017 winner of the Paul Ehrlich Award for Improving Experimental Research is Reto Crameri. Since 1990, Reto Crameri has been Head of the Molecular Allergology Department at the Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research (SIAF) in Davos. His research interests have always been the development of novel molecular cloning systems based on phage surface display technologies, the production and structural characterisation of allergens, the development of novel vaccines and vaccination strategies aimed at curing allergic diseases, as well as studies on the basic mechanisms regulating IgE production. Reto Crameri has been involved in the task forces and networks of several EU projects including GA2LEN. He is a founding member of the Academia Raetica and the Graubünden Graduate School, and has supervised dozens of PhD students. Author of over 200 scientific publications himself, he serves as Deputy Editor of Mycoeses and is an Associate Editor of Allergy.

This year’s Clemens von Pirquet Award for Clinical Research was awarded to Miguel Blanca. He is a specialist in allergy who has made an important contribution to the development of the specialty at both a national and international level. Miguel Blanca was one of the first scientists to make an in-depth study of the immunological mechanisms involved in the adverse reactions to drugs, especially beta-lactams and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. He is the author or co-author of more than 350 peer-reviewed publications including original articles, reviews and position papers, and his contributions have helped give a better understanding of the pathophysiology of the hypersensitivity reactions to drugs. He has also made important contributions in the fields of hymenoptera venom allergy, rhinitis and food allergy. Miguel Blanca is a member of the EAACI Drug Allergy Interest Group (DAIG) and the European Network on Drug Allergy (ENDA), in which he has actively participated since the beginning. He was also a member of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI)’s Adverse Reactions to Drugs, Biologicals and Latex Committee and has actively participated in Global Allergy and Asthma European Network (GA2LEN) projects.

The Charles Blackley Award for Promotion of the Specialty for 2017 was presented to Petr Panzner. He is a professor and Head of the Department of Immunology and Allergology, Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen Charles University in Prague. He is also the Vice-President of the Czech Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology, member of the managing board and a faculty member of the Czech Initiative for Asthma, and is Editor-in-Chief of Current Opinion in Allergy and Clinical Immunology - Czech and Slovak digest. He was a member of the EAACI Executive Committee (2005-2007) and is currently a member of the EAACI National Allergy Society Committee. As Vice-President of the UEMS Section and Board on Allergology he contributed significantly to the alignment of activities (blueprint, curriculum and quality criteria) between different allergy centres and countries. Petr Panzner has a longstanding track record in allergy and immunology research focused on allergen immunotherapy, molecular diagnosis and insect venom hypersensitivity, and is a strong advocate for the implementation of a full medical specialty of allergology and clinical immunology throughout Europe.

The Daniel Bovet Award for improving treatment and prevention of allergic diseases was awarded to Sten Dreborg. He published the first Swedish CPAP publication on the Norrbottian type of Gaucher’s disease, bringing about the first enzyme replacement by transplantation, while also developing carrier and prenatal diagnosis. Sten Dreborg was a founder member of a group (1966) which developed into the Section on Child and Adolescent Allergology of the Swedish Paediatric Society. He was a founding member of the Working Group on Paediatric Allergology and Clinical Immunology (WGPACI) within both the European Society for Paediatric Research (ESPR) in 1984 and the European Society of Paediatric Allergy and Clinical Immunology (ESPAICI) in 1988. Together with Arne Hest, he was a founder of the Paediatrics Section of EAACI in 1996, and also a chairman and adjunct member of the Executive Committee from 1997 to 2001. Presently, Sten Dreborg is affiliated with the Section on Child and Adolescent Allergology of Women’s and Children’s Health at Uppsala University. Furthermore, Sten Dreborg is currently a member of several editorial boards, among them JACI in Practice and the Annals of Allergy.

Allergopharma Award and PhARF Award

In addition to EAACI’s well-established awards, the audience at the Opening Ceremony also applauded Kristina Britt Charlotte Johansson, this year’s winner of the Allergopharma Award, as well as the PhARF Awardees, Liam O’Mahony and Erik Melén.

Lena Geltenbort-Rost
EAACI Publications, Public Relations and Public Affairs Manager
In the spotlight

A cosy Clinical Village with the Finnish Village People

When planning the Clinical Village, we received suggestions for almost 30 topics, from which we tried to select the most interesting! Visitors seemed to agree with our choice, and feedback at the stands was very positive, which also created enthusiasm and suggestions for the Clinical Village next year in Munich.

Many stands included tools for demonstrations, e.g. how to use adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injectors, how to perform a nasal endoscopy, how to make a visual diagnosis of skin disorders, and how to teach patients with atopic dermatitis to use ointments effectively. In addition, dynamic oscillometry to measure airflow limitation in children and the secrets of pollen forecasts were also demonstrated.

A wide range of allergological topics were covered, both from the scientific as well as the clinical point of view. Even aspects of allergy as a public health concern were taken up at the Finnish Allergy Programme (2008-2018) stand. Many visitors wanted to know how we first got the Programme going in our country – how we started, ran and financed it? In fact, over the two days of the Clinical Village activities, the majority of discussions revolved around the Finnish Allergy Programme.

In 2017, we celebrate the discovery of IgE 50 years ago and this was also highlighted on one of the Clinical Village stands. Two Finnish allergy pioneers, Alf Backman and Fred Björkstén, continually had young people surrounding them wanting to find out and discuss the fascinating history of allergy around the world but also here in Finland: just great!

Antti Lauherma (EAACI Congress 2017 Chair) and Mika Mäkelä (EAACI Congress 2017 Secretary) join us in wanting to thank everyone, especially here in Finland, who worked for the success of the Clinical Village.

Our thanks go also to EAACI Headquarters for all their logistical work, advice and support.

We do have one suggestion: it would be great to have a coffee-shop in the Clinical Village area: just a cup of coffee or tea and you stay longer, lingering to discuss with friends and colleagues, and enjoy the Clinical Village even more!

See you in Munich.

Erkka Valovirta
Helsinki Clinical Village Coordinator
Kimmo Saarinen
Finnish Allergy Programme Stand Coordinator
Tari Hahtela
EAACI Helsinki Congress Honorary President

Allied Health and Primary Care Interest Group

The EAACI Annual Congress in Helsinki saw two events from the newly-formed Allied Health and Primary Care Interest Group. The first was the inaugural “Allied Health Day” session, which was actually a half day on the Saturday afternoon of the meeting. The aim of the session was to provide something of interest to the members of this wider group.

A wide range of topics were of interest to the members of this wider group. Some of these included food allergy in adults, asthma and allergy clinics in Primary Care and e-resources to help in the management of food allergy. We also heard of an amazing patient education program from Norway.

The second event was a postgraduate course designed for Primary Care Doctors which was attended by a small but focused group of doctors from both Europe and as far afield as Australia. The session comprised of a computer simulated case-based discussion of urticaria, cough and anaphylaxis. The cases were devised by a group including Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier, Roy Gerth Van Wijk, Dermot Ryan and Elizabeth Angier. It was an interactive session with a display of options in history taking, tests and management, which were then discussed and explained in more detail by the facilitators, Johannes Ring, Dermot Ryan and Elizabeth Angier.

Now that the Allied Health Interest Group and the Primary Care Interest Group have merged, we plan to run further successful sessions in the future, covering topics that are of interest to the members of this wider group.

Kate Grimshaw
Allied Health and Primary Care Interest Group Chairperson
Elizabeth Angier
Allied Health and Primary Care Interest Group Secretary
Innovation reshapings allergy ready for Munich 2018!

While allergy continues to break records, the annual meeting in Munich 2018 will focus on new solutions and innovations for our patients, and be of great interest to researchers and health care professionals. Allergy care is more important than ever as the sensitisation observed in school children heads towards 45% - truly an “allergy tsunami”.

The Scientific Programme Committee, under the leadership of Susanne Halken and a local team, have been excited by submissions and suggestions for sessions. For physicians wanting the best care for their patients, this meeting will be a ‘must go’ but those colleagues simply seeking a quick and competent introduction into biologicals will also be well served. At the same time, the Annual Congress will be hosting world-class researchers providing answers to questions about the origins of allergy or the mysteries of the microbiome and even of the mycobiome. Novel issues surrounding obesity and its relation to allergy may also be relevant to your profession.

Innovation is a general theme in Munich, a city which is home to diverse technical, industrial and educational establishments. The EAACI team also wants to further innovate the Annual Meeting and will introduce additional improvements to the digital world of our Congress, and improve digital access and learning. EAACI’s “Go green” agenda will also be further expanded.

While EAACI HQ work through 750 tasks to make the Congress happen, the local organisers, and in particular Ulf Darsow, are planning a clinical village with a very ambitious programme and a lot of exciting hands-on things to do. The Congress programme will feature the full range of plenaries, symposia, workshops, learning lounges, business meetings, etc. Some of the jewels of every EAACI meeting are the poster sessions, where we observe increasing numbers of visitors. Novel layouts such as the Iglus were a great success in Helsinki and we will try to generate even more attractive spaces for exchange in Munich 2018.

The local organisers have an amazing opening ceremony in mind that will also be outstandingly innovative - don’t miss it! We would also like to highlight the allergy run, which is a refreshing activity and an important display of our active community. Outside of the Congress, Munich offers a range of relaxing activities to unwind: maybe a cool, light fresh beer in the English Garden, Europe’s biggest inner city green space, or maybe a visit to the lakes, or to the mountains which you can see from the city. Public transport in the city works exquisitely well or you can choose to use a car sharing system, even available at the airport (Car2Go, Drive Now), or use bike sharing (DB, MVV and others). Bike trails take you safely to most places in the city.

Bring your friends and colleagues to EAACI 2018 and join the allergy community in research and friendship. The German Allergy Society, the Association of Allergologists and the local organisers all look forward to seeing you in Munich!

Carsten Schmidt-Weber
EAACI Congress 2018 Local Organising Committee Chair
EAACI Vice President Congresses 2017–2019

Thank you for joining the #EAACI2017 virtual conversation on Twitter!

Once again, the EAACI Annual Congress was a great get together for science and clinical practice, and all delegates were excited to be part of it. The beautiful atmosphere of knowledge exchange and enthusiasm about all the scientific updates presented during the Congress was also reflected on Twitter: I am thrilled to be able to announce that nearly 800 twitter users posted 11,388 tweets with the hashtag #EAACI2017 during the days of the Congress, reaching a wider audience of more than 21 million twitter users! What a vibrant networking event! Well done to all for tweeting, retweeting, favoriting and commenting! These tweets provided an opportunity for those not able to attend the Congress this year to still stay up-to-date with all the important aspects of the Congress, as if they were present!

Many of the delegates tweeting had the special “I am tweeting on #EAACI2017” ribbon placed on their Congress badge. EAACI, always at the centre of information flow and modern trends, had set up twitter-boards in central spots in the Congress venue where all delegates had the opportunity to follow-up real-time all tweets containing the hashtag #EAACI2017. Tweet and you – as well as all the delegates around you – saw your tweet in real-time on the boards!

Last but not least, I enjoyed meeting many of you at the #AllergistsGetTogether welcome reception that took place just before the Opening Ceremony! We had a very nice time and we got to discuss why we use twitter in our professional lives. And, of course, we started tweeting a lot: this picture is the proof!

Olympia Tsilochristou
EAACI Social Media Coordinating Editor
Do you see children with allergy or asthma in your practice? Whether you are just starting out in allergy, work in primary care or allied health, or are a world class researcher, the 5th Paediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting (#PAAM2017) has something for you.

George Du Toit, as Chair (Past-chair of the Paediatrics Section), and Montserrat Alvaro Lozano, as Co-chair (Chair of the Paediatrics Section), look forward to welcoming you to London’s Hilton London Metropole from 26-28 October 2017. A modern conference hotel in central London, this attractive venue is a 2-minute walk from the Heathrow or Gatwick Express at Paddington Station, just around the corner from the Alexander Fleming Museum and within a mile of Hyde Park.

This gathering of paediatric asthma and allergy experts is held every two years and is the largest focused meeting of its kind in the world, and is organised by EAACI. It has grown significantly since its inception in Vienna (2013) and Lisbon (2015). This year, we hope to bring together science and clinical practice.

ISMA 2017 has a novel structure with two parallel tracks: as well as the classic themes of previous ISMAs held in Vienna (2013) and Lisbon (2015), this Symposium aims to attract even more participants as the Immunology Section and the Interest Group of Allergy Diagnosis have compiled an outstanding scientific programme.

ISMA 2017 Co-Chairs
Paolo Matricardi, Liam O’Mahony
ISMA 2017 Chair
Christiane Hilger
EAACI Pediatric Section Board Secretary

#PAAM17

Agenda

ISMA 2017 is coming to Luxembourg!

There are only a few months left before the 7th International Symposium on Molecular Allergology (ISMA) will take place in Luxembourg on 9–11 November 2017. ISMA is an EAACI Focused Meeting attracting clinicians and researchers working in the field of molecular allergology and clinical immunology. The number of newly identified allergen molecules is still growing and this Symposium aims to bring together science and clinical practice.

About 350–400 participants joined each of the previous ISMAs held in Vienna (2013) and Lisbon (2015). This year, we hope to attract even more participants as the Immunology Section and the Interest Group of Allergy Diagnosis have compiled an outstanding scientific programme.

ISMA has a novel structure with two parallel tracks: as well as the classic themes of previous ISMA meetings, for the first time we offer a second track covering newly emerging and rapidly developing fields of molecular allergology. Highlights of this track include presentations on the link between allergy and the microbiome, new findings in systems medicine, a molecular view of environmental exposure and globalisation, and recent developments in tolerance induction and immunotherapy. The final Plenary Session will focus on the molecular basis of future therapeutics, including immunometabolism, new targets and lessons learned from cancer precision medicine.

The classic themes of ISMA are covered by sessions presenting the most recent developments on allergen structure and function, molecular interactions with human barrier interfaces, challenges in diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Two unopposed poster discussion sessions as well as eight oral abstract presentations from participants to be selected by the Scientific Programme Committee will ensure an intensive scientific exchange amongst experts in the field.

Luxembourg is ideally located in the heart of Europe, with easy access and direct flights from many European cities. The central venue is situated within the European area of Luxembourg City, and it is easily accessible by public transportation and close to the picturesque old town of Luxembourg.

We look forward to seeing you in Luxembourg this November!

Markus Ollert
ISMA 2017 Chair
Paolo Matricardi, Liam O’Mahony
ISMA 2017 Co-Chairs
Christiane Hilger
Local Scientific and Organising Committee Chair
The EAACI Clinical and Basic Immunology Section will hold its 16th Immunology Winter School in Saas-Fee, Switzerland from 25–28 January 2018.

The very successful annual immunology winter schools have become a true institution over the years. The 3-day residential schools are aimed primarily at young investigators (e.g. PhD students and early post-docs) and focus on immunology related to allergy and asthma, as well as autoimmunity and immune deficiency. The winter schools have been very successful in attracting young investigators to EAACI and bringing them together with their peers, as well as with the well-known invited keynote speakers and board members of the Immunology Section, who are all clinical and basic scientists.

In an alpine setting, the Winter School combines outstanding science, presented by the invited speakers and contributed by the participants, with winter sports and social activities. Thus, they provide an ideal setting for learning and networking and many collaborations and long-lasting professional friendships have resulted in previous years. Furthermore, the Winter Schools provide a unique opportunity for participants to discuss their own data with leading immunologists in depth, and to obtain feedback and guidance.

The upcoming 16th Immunology Winter School will adhere to this proven format. Six outstanding keynote speakers will cover the following topics:

- Mechanisms of T cell homeostasis (Adrian Liston, Belgium)
- The role of B cells in maintaining tolerance (Mübeccel Akdis, Switzerland)
- Immune-metabolism interactions (Peter Ghazal, United Kingdom)
- Immune response to allergen-specific immunotherapy (Stephan Till, United Kingdom)
- Microbiome-host interactions in the lung (Yvonne Huang, USA) and
- Epithelial cells in immunity/inflammation of asthma and COPD (Irene Heijink, The Netherlands).

Seventy participants will be selected based on the quality of their abstracts. Abstract submissions started on 15 August 2017 and will close on 1 October 2017 at 24:00 CET. Successfully selected participants will be invited to attend the Winter School free of charge with accommodation provided and will only have to fund their own travel.

For further details, see the EAACI website.

We are very much looking forward to a successful, exciting and enjoyable 16th Immunology Winter School.

Jürgen Schwarze
on behalf of the Immunology Section Board
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/faam2018

Master Classes

www.eaaci.org/master-classes

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

Master Class on Practical Allergy Diagnostics
23 – 24 March 2018
Ebsdorf, Germany

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

Allergy Schools

www.eaaci.org/allergy-schools

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

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

For more information visit www.eaaci.org or contact events@eaaci.org
**EAACI Congress 2017: The microbiome in health and allergic diseases**

Michael J. Cox (United Kingdom) introduced us to the concepts of the microbiome and of microbiota. The microbiome is all the microorganisms in an environment and their interactions between each other and with that environment. Microbiota are all the microorganisms in an environment (synonymous with a microbial community/assemblage). Healthy lungs contain bacteria (the microbiome) and thousands of different bacteria with different combinations and proportions in different people. However, bacterial communities are altered in diseased lungs. Investigators have shown that the microbial composition of the airway flora is different between healthy lungs and those with chronic lung diseases such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease as well as cystic fibrosis. Some common bacteria, though, are associated with a number of different diseases. For example, Streptococcus are more abundant in severe asthmatics and most prevalent in bronchiectasis. *Haemophilus* are more frequent in COPD exacerbation, wheezing in infants and community acquired pneumonia.

Michael Cox also pointed out the importance of using ecological models to describe healthy and diseased states. He presented the research published by RP Dickson et al. which proposes three new conceptual models to replace the traditional models of lung microbiology: an adapted island model of lung biogeography, the effect of environmental gradients on lung microbiota, and pneumonia as an emergent phenomenon propelled by unexplored positive feedback loops.

Benjamin Marsland (Switzerland) then introduced an interesting topic about diet and its influence on microbiome and on the development of allergy-related diseases. One of the earliest notions that nutrients might influence allergy diseases was introduced in the late 1980s when an association between sodium intake and asthma was reported. Another factor which might play a significant role is whether the nutrient is assimilated via diet modification or supplement administration. Its potential importance is exemplified in the interventional study by Troisi et al. who investigated the distinction between the influence of nutrients rich in vitamin C and E from vitamin C or E supplementation. Interestingly, diet-derived vitamin E was inversely associated with asthma, while in the case of supplement-derived vitamin E, a positive association was found. Comparatively, there was no significant influence of diet-derived vitamin C on asthma, while supplement-derived vitamin C correlated positively with this condition. Another factor to take into account is the dysbiosis of the microbial communities colonising the human intestinal tract, which has been described for a variety of chronic diseases, such as inflammatory bowel disease, obesity and asthma. In particular, reduction of several so-called probiotic species including *Lactobacilli* and *Bifidobacteria* that are generally considered to be beneficial, as well as a growth of potentially pathogenic bacteria is often reported. In conclusion, rapid lifestyle changes in dietary habits, which have occurred in industrialised countries in the last few decades, have been proposed to increase susceptibility to allergies due to changes in the microbiota. In addition, diet hypotheses have pointed towards the importance of changes in these dietary habits. It seems, then, that the development of better tools to manipulate the microbiota composition in individuals will be crucial for the design of new strategies to combat atopic diseases.

Finally, Harri Alenius (Finland) gave us an interesting talk about the skin microbiome and its relation to allergy diseases. Following his published work in 2014, he discussed how *Acinetobacter* species in the skin microbiota protect against allergic sensitisation and inflammation. This can be explained due to the hypothesis that commensal skin flora play an important role in tuning the balance of Th1, Th2 and anti-inflammatory responses to environmental allergens. He also pointed out that dermal exposure to ligand lipopolysaccharide during sensitisation modulates the asthmatic response by skewing the Th1/Th2 balance toward Th1 by stimulating the production of IFN-γ. These findings support the hygiene hypothesis and pinpoint the importance of dermal microbiome in the development of allergy and asthma. To sum up, Harri Alenius developed the concept that atopic individuals have a lower environmental biodiversity in the surroundings of their homes and significantly lower generic diversity of gammaproteobacteria on their skin compared with healthy individuals. In healthy but not in atopic individuals, IL-10 expression was positively correlated with the abundance of the gammaproteobacterial genus *Acinetobacter* on the skin. From all this research, he concluded that environmental biodiversity, human microbiota and allergy are interrelated.

Teresa Garriga Baraut  
Hospital Universitario Vall d’Hebron Barcelona, Spain
European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology
26 – 30 May 2018
Munich, Germany

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