Thank you to all our committees, groups and members for your engagement in 2017.

MESSAGE FROM THE EAACI PRESIDENT
“WHAT MAKES EAACI UNIQUE”
ACCESS ALL OFFICIAL EAACI JOURNALS THROUGH THE ONLINE MEMBERS AREA AT www.eaaci.org

For more information visit www.eaaci.org/resources/journals
What makes EAACI unique

“Innovation and people from all over the world” answered one of our members

“Dynamism, diversity, high quality” replied another

“Scientific society, precise and well organised” argued a third

“The quality and expertise of the members, events, publications” acknowledged a fourth

EAACI is different for each of us, meaning that we have really succeeded in building a member-centred organisation designed to support our members in their endeavours and to provide them with a great experience as they each work towards their goals. And our innovative and enthusiastic membership speaks to us, as confirmed by the response rate to our recent survey. The true brand identity of EAACI is its members’ engagement in a unique combination of relationship and action. Every email, website visit, email click-through, every Task Force or Section, Interest group or Working group meeting, every article published in EAACI journals, every abstract submitted to an EAACI meeting, every member renewing their membership is proof of this engagement. “Keep on working, you are on the right way”, encouraged one of the responders to our survey. And we do hold true to our promise.

EAACI takes pride in being a global leading reference body in the field of allergy, asthma and clinical immunology and continuously explores new content formats and communication opportunities to reach our audiences and to ensure broader impact of our research, on society, policy, economy, or the environment. The newly created EAACI Science Committee aims to support the Academy’s science and research mission and objectives. The official EAACI journals are the resources most valued by our members, thus the Academy’s strategic programme is heartily supporting them to achieve the reputation of the highest influential journals in their field. Allergy and PAI have new Editors-in-chief. I wish both Cezmi Akdis and Philippe Eigenmann a good start in 2018, with many high-quality articles submitted, committed peer reviewers, readers and citers. In 2017, CTA achieved an outstanding impact factor and is moving forward with a strong agenda and a creative concept under the steer of its Editors-in-chief, Jean Bousquet and Clive Grattan.

How do our members describe EAACI meetings? “The gathering from all over the world with good speakers” was one response. EAACI meetings are career- and motivation-enhancing experiences, leaving you buzzing with new ideas, contacts, and collaborations. Good science, above all else, defines a good meeting and EAACI provides very front science at all its meetings, from the Annual Congress to Focused Meetings, Master Classes and Allergy Schools. Make EAACI events part of the rich tapestry of your scientific life and join us in 2018 at DHM in April, at our Annual Congress in Munich in May and at FAAM in October.

EAACI recognises education as being central to its mission. Learning opportunities provided by the Academy rank highest in the benefits of being an EAACI member. The Academy offers a diverse educational portfolio that addresses both professional and career development thus benefiting all its members, across age, specialty and geographic boundaries. Two Master Classes, one on Practical Allergy Diagnosis in March and another on Biologicals are setting the stage for a refreshing and motivating interaction with focus on performance, new perspectives and ideas, and higher medical standards. EAACI’s educational programme will also enhance, support and maintain continuous learning for the EAACI community via our Allergy Schools and the new online learning modules adapted to the knowledge and interests of the user.

National Societies are key partners in all EAACI activities and the National Society Committee and the International Societies Council are developing at a fast pace. A new membership category in cooperation with National Societies will facilitate access to EAACI resources and meetings to a wider community with an interest in allergy, asthma and clinical immunology.

There are only a few days remaining now to welcome in the New Year. In 2018, the Academy will foster an open community with a respect for diversity and equity where each EAACI member understands, contributes and lives the EAACI values. Evidence-based science will be promoted as the bedrock of public policy solutions to our most urgent problems, from protecting public health to access to quality education and medical care. We at EAACI believe that science, education, knowledge and values have no borders.

I wish all our members and collaborators greater heights of success and prosperity in 2018. And of course, stay close to EAACI.

Ioana Agache
EAACI President
Dear EAACI members, dear friends,

The content of this last issue of 2017 reflects the changes that have occurred in the last few months in the academy. A new EAACI President with a new Executive Committee, a new structure according to the Governance Project including the newly-elected board members, chairs and secretaries of the EAACI Sections, Interest Groups, and Working Groups. In this issue, each section enthusiastically illustrates its strategic programme for 2017–2019, full of new initiatives and ideas, new meetings, new task forces, new scientific projects. Dear reader, depending on your preference, please follow these activities and participate in their success.

While in the previous issue we met the new EAACI Vice-Presidents of Congresses and of Communications & Membership, this issue carries interesting interviews with the two new Interest Group Representatives. Moreover, a new editor-in-chief of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology has been nominated and a new EAACI Executive Director has been welcomed into our family. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Cezmi Akdis for his new role as Editor-in-Chief of Allergy as well as to thank Jean Bousquet and Clive Grattan for their great work leading Clinical Translational Allergy. New faces and old can join forces and work together for our allergic patients, for our specialty, and to make our academy the world leader in the field of allergy and clinical immunology.

In this context, many thanks go to all of you who took the time to answer the EAACI Membership Survey 2017. Your suggestions are very welcome and will be given much thought over the coming months. And your encouragement to continue the engagement at European level is of fundamental importance for the academy.

The ‘United Action for Allergy and Asthma’ policy campaign closed with broad European endorsement, joined by more than 4,800 individuals from across Europe, as well as over 30 MEPs, and 188 European and national organisations. This coalition between lay people, patients and doctors, together with national and EU policy-makers, may drive the prioritisation of the unmet needs in allergy and asthma on the EU policy agenda in some key policy areas such as public health, prevention and early diagnosis, personalised medicine and research funding.

This is one of the EAACI President’s objectives, along with strengthening and enriching the relationship with members as part of her membership project, being aware that the welfare of the academy depends on recruiting young members and supporting their lifelong involvement. Improving communications and collaboration with members also involves strengthening our relationships with other societies. Working together with national as well as international societies is critical to obtain harmonisation in clinical practice, for promoting high standards of education, getting opportunities for research for prevention and cure, and for encouraging changes in legislation for allergy issues and in health policies for allergic diseases at national and EU level. EAACI is happy to work in close and constant contact with them!

Finally, by the time you read this editorial, I will have ended my editorship of the EAACI Newsletter. I have to say that it has been an exciting experience that has given me so much in these last four years! A new cover style and icons, 28 pages (since the first issue in 2016), more than 9,000 copies sent out to members per issue, a Spanish translation and distribution to SLAAI members, and contributions from European and non-European opinion leaders are just some of the newsletter’s features over the last few years. I wish to thank all the newsletter contributors and collaborators and, of course, readers for their suggestions and support. In this issue, you can find an interview with the new EAACI Newsletter Editor, Dario Antolín-Amérigo, to whom I wish all the best!

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas Holiday and a wonderful New Year.
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European data protection and mHealth: Creating trust and overcoming legal uncertainty

With its “General Data Protection Regulation” (GDPR), the European Parliament not only passed a unifying ruleset for the EU, but also a global one for any scenario where personal data from individuals in the EU is processed. Non-compliance can result in fines of up to 4% of the annual global turnover of a company. Therefore, all sectors must be prepared to implement this regulation in their services and products.

The mHealth sector is of course no exception. Still, many apps don’t even respect the core principles of data protection such as transparency, principle of purpose, data minimisation, privacy by design and by default etc. Often, even though it’s necessary for lawfully processing the data, informed consent is not obtained. Given that medical data is sensitive data and needs to be processed under stricter rules than “normal” personal data, this becomes even more critical.

As well as creating the risk of high fines, this also endangers the reputation of an industry which is just on the verge of becoming one of the most important drivers of next level data-driven medical science. But without respecting the increasing importance of data protection rights, public trust in this industry is unlikely to be forthcoming.

Admittedly, there is no way to “simply follow the rules”. GDPR is a “one-size-fits-all” solution for the whole EU and, therefore, it is very vague and leaves much room for interpretation. But against the background of the need to create a high level of trust in the mHealth sector, waiting years for court decisions to clarify the law and working by “trial and error” in the meantime is unfeasible.

Fortunately, the regulator has foreseen this issue and implemented a legal framework under which the industry and the data protection authorities can together firm up the vague law for specific scenarios by approved and independently monitored “codes of conduct”. And even more good news for mHealth app developers: a code of conduct for this sector is already in development, facilitated by the European Commission. All representatives of the sector are invited to look at the initiative and join the project. For more details: contact SCOPE Europe (info@scope-europe.eu) or visit: https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/privacy-code-conduct-mobile-health-apps.

Jörn Wittmann
Selbstregulierung Informationswirtschaft (SRIW) and SCOPE Europe, Managing Director

EAACI CALENDAR

December 2017
31 December – Clinical/Research Fellowships 2018 application submission closes

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

February 2018
EAACI Newsletter
1 February 2018 – EAACI/UEMS Examination application period opens

March 2018
15 – 17 March – EAACI Allergy School on Aerobiology and Pollution, Dubrovnik, Croatia
23 – 24 March – EAACI Master Class on Practical Allergy Diagnosis, Rauischholzhausen, Germany

April 2018
13 – 14 April – EAACI Master Class on Biologicals, Prague, The Czech Republic
19 – 21 April – DHM, Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

May 2018
EAACI Newsletter
25 May – EAACI Executive Committee Meeting, EAACI Congress, Munich, Germany
26 – 30 May – EAACI Congress 2018, Munich, Germany

26 May – 11th EAACI/UEMS Examination in Allergology and Clinical Immunology, EAACI Congress, Munich, Germany
28 May – EAACI General Assembly, EAACI Congress, Munich, Germany

September 2018
EAACI Newsletter

October 2018
18 – 20 October – FAAM, Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark

*Foot note* – This calendar shows EAACI’s most important events planned for the coming months. Only events with confirmed dates are mentioned here, for a complete list of all events, please view the ‘Meetings’ page on www.eaaci.org.
A few words from the Website Editor

The EAACI website is constantly being improved and updated. It’s a group effort by people who are keen to develop the best tools for members and to provide fresh news all the time. Let me highlight a few recent changes.

Allergy Schools and Master Classes can now be found under the “Meetings” tab (and not as previously in the “Education” area). The EAACI Newsletter has a separate place in the “Resources” menu, making it easier to access. Under “Resources”, you can also find regularly updated information about the EAACI journals. Remember that access to EAACI journal articles is free for EAACI members. Much of the material from the 2017 Congress in Helsinki is already available to be downloaded from the webcast area; please do enjoy it.

Following the changes made to EAACI’s structure, we have had to redesign the website and populate it with appropriate content, creating new spaces for Sections (S), Interest Groups (IG) and Working Groups (WG). Every group (S/IG/WG) should please select a representative/editor who will be responsible for collecting material to update your group’s dedicated webpage. This person doesn’t have to have any technical skills: all that work will be done for you. Please send us the name of your elected Editor as soon as possible (to: webeditor@eaaci.org). Your contributions to website development are very much appreciated.

My term as the Website Editor is finishing at the end of this year. I have to honestly say that the last two years with you have been very exciting and I have learned a lot about EAACI’s activities and strategy, as well as gaining an understanding of the needs and requirements that the Website Editor has to meet. Thus, I am already wishing all the best for the soon to be elected new Website Editor.

Thanks to the past and present Board of Officers, the Executive Committee and the HQ Communications Team for all the support and trust you gave me, and for the nice, smooth collaboration at a high level.

All the best for 2018 to all of you!

Sylwia Smolinska
EAACI Website Editor

www.eaaci.org
**María José Torres Jaén**

**EAACI Interest Group Representative**

Tell us about yourself

I am an allergy specialist and am currently Head of the Allergy Unit of Malaga University Hospital (Spain). In this unit, we not only have clinical activities but also have a strong focus on teaching and research. In that sense, we train allergy fellows and medical/PhD students. The unit has its own research laboratory, and we are associated with the BIONAND Institute dedicated to research in nanotechnology. My research is mainly involved with drug allergy, and I am the current coordinator of the Spanish Network of Allergy, ARADyAL (sponsored by the Ministry of Health) which includes asthma and allergic diseases.

What is your experience with EAACI?

I have been an active EAACI member for more than 20 years, and have been a member, then Secretary and Chair of the IG on Drug Allergy, and organised a Summer School and a Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting in Malaga. I have also participated in the mentorship program and as a member of the Immunotherapy IG. As of this year, I am a member of the ExCom as an IG Representative and I work side by side with Oliver Pfaar.

What are your objectives as an Interest Group Representative?

The main role of the IG Representative is to be a link between the ExCom and the IGs. So, my objectives is helping to keep the IG informed about what EAACI expects from them and try to improve cooperation between different IGs and sections.

What are the challenges and your future plans?

My main challenge for the next few years as an IG Representative will, together with Oliver Pfaar, be to improve the visibility of the different IGs within EAACI, and to increase cooperation among them and with the EAACI sections.

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**Oliver Pfaar**

**EAACI Interest Group Representative**

Tell us about yourself

As an ENT specialist and allergist I am the current (scientific) Chair of the Center for Rhinology and Allergology in Wiesbaden, Germany, and also Associate Professor in the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery of the Medical Faculty Mannheim, Heidelberg University, Germany. My primary clinical and scientific work has focused on allergen-immunotherapy (AIT) for more than 15 years now. As such, I have been involved as Principal Investigator in many pan-European phase II-III trials about clinical efficacy and new approaches in AIT. In addition, my department is running several (pilot) investigator-initiated trials (IITs) in the field of AIT. At a national level, I am a member of the extended Board of Directors of the German Society for Allergology and Clinical Immunology (DGAKI).

What is your experience with EAACI?

I have been involved in EAACI projects and activities for more than 10 years. In 2011, I became the Secretary of the Immunotherapy Interest Group (IT IG) of our Academy and was Chair from 2013 to 2017. As such I was involved in the work of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) and coordinated several Task Force projects as well as three EAACI allergy schools in AIT. I was also a steering committee member of the EAACI presidential project on AIT guidelines. In 2017, I was elected to the EAACI ExCom as IG representative, together with María Torres from Malaga, Spain.

What are your objectives as an Interest Group Representative?

This position is key to the EAACI structure as it links and coordinates activities from different Interest Groups such as, for example, the interdisciplinary Task Force projects of the IGs and sections. I think that it is of utmost importance for our Academy that the different IGs are better connected and the synergetic potential of the different activities is improved. In addition, Maria and I are responsible for the communication between the ExCom and the IGs.

What are the challenges and your future plans?

Our main challenge will be to increase collaboration between different Interest Group activities and also to give supportive advice e.g. for IGs planning allergy schools or new scientific projects in line with the EAACI bylaws. Like the EAACI Sections, the IGs are key for our successful functioning and for the future of our Academy.
Peter Walther
EAACI Executive Director

Peter Walther joined EAACI as its new Executive Director on 15 November 2017.

Please tell us about yourself
I am 52 years old, born in Mannheim on the river Rhine in Germany. After 10 years in Berlin, I have now moved to Zurich to take on this new role. As an economist and health economist, I started my career in several health care associations for industry, physicians and pharmacists before switching into industry proper, including working for ALK-Abelló as Central Europe Corporate Affairs Director. My last job was as Director, Business Development and Communication at Elsevier Health Analytics where we developed international tools for clinical decision support on the basis of scientific publications and health care data. In my spare time I enjoy travelling, hiking and kayaking.

What are your responsibilities as the new Executive Director?
The fundamental task is to manage and develop the EAACI headquarters in Zurich and to work closely with the Board of Officers and the whole Executive Committee to make all things possible that benefit EAACI. Another key target of mine, and of the whole of the EAACI headquarters team, is to maintain the high level of the congresses, events and services offered by the academy. EAACI does a lot of good things today and we should continuously talk about it with all interested stakeholder groups. Therefore, another major target is to focus on positioning EAACI as the number one scientific body of reference and the leading advocate for our specialty.

What do you find most rewarding about your job?
For me it is exciting to work for EAACI because it is an international scientific association based on individual membership. As such, it combines close collaboration with our members and with external stakeholders of other associations, industry and politics to promote the specialty and improve patient therapy. To manage these issues through interdisciplinary and intercultural teams is most rewarding for me.

And the challenges?
Well, starting any new job is always a challenge: especially in executive positions, there is no tolerance now for the introductory phase. You have to make decisions from day one. But together with the headquarters staff and Board of Officers we will successfully conquer this challenge. A more basic and permanent challenge will be to help coordinate the limited available resources and almost unlimited demand for resources in terms of projects, working groups, events etc. The target is to secure the highest activity level of members, which is one of EAACI’s biggest assets, and to maintain the high standards of quality which are mandatory in scientific associations too. A transparent process of prioritisation is the key to this process.

Philippe Eigenmann
Editor-in-Chief of PAI

Tell us about yourself
I am a pediatrician and allergist trained in Switzerland and the USA, where I had the chance to be a clinical and research fellow under the mentorship of Hugh Sampson. For the last 20 years I have been in academic medicine as head of paediatric allergy at the Geneva University Children’s Hospital. My research program mostly focuses on food allergy.

What is your experience with EAACI?
I consider EAACI as part of my professional family, something like my “out-of-town relatives”. Our community is a major fuel for fostering progress in my clinical and research activity. I had the chance to be Chair of the EAACI Pediatric Section, and the nicest reward during that time was working and meeting great people from around Europe and the world. I also had the chance to organise the 2012 EAACI Annual Congress in my hometown Geneva: a great human and organisational experience! Last but not least, I have been Section Editor of PAI for the last 8 years.

What are your objectives and challenges as Editor-in-Chief of PAI?
I would like to keep and enhance PAI as the leading pediatric allergy journal in the world. As such, it should be a global journal and the bedtime reading for pediatric allergists around the world. This will be achieved by publishing good science, and by fostering constructive discussions aimed to progress research and clinical practice in our field. Challenges will mostly lie in the fierce competing publishing environment. In the next few years, PAI will be innovative by using up-to-date communication and publishing tools.
In October 2017, the Italian Association of Hospital and Territorial Allergists and Clinical Immunologists (AAITTO) launched a major campaign regarding allergic diseases called “AllergicaMente: An action plan for allergy”.

The campaign, presented to the press, is directed towards the general public, to patients and institutions. It will use all means of communication, on and off line, such as its own website (Allergicamente.it), Facebook, Twitter and flyers for patients.

Endorsed by the Ministry of Health, the campaign will last two years and next year will see a series of institutional initiatives. During Spring–Summer 2018, an event will be organised to carry out skin prick tests on Members of Parliament in the Chamber of Deputies, like the event organised by EAACI at the European Parliament in Brussels. The principal television networks will be involved in producing and broadcasting short TV spots on severe drug allergy, food allergy and hymenoptera allergy.

The aim of the campaign is to make people aware of the different types of allergies and the importance of obtaining an early diagnosis, explaining the right diagnostic and therapeutic paths, and informing about severe allergies and the risk of anaphylaxis. It also aims to let people know who allergists are and what they do.

At an institutional level, the campaign aims to address the problem of the insufficient number of allergy structures at a national level, as well as the fact that existing structures are being further reduced by a lack of turnover and the low number of young specialists working in this field. In fact, unfortunately, more than half of young specialists are not given the chance to work in their field.

A further aim is the creation of a clinical network of hospital and university structures linked to their regions.

The symbol of the campaign is a plant with five leaves of different colours, each of which represents a type of allergy: food, drug, hymenoptera, respiratory and skin allergy. A task force of specialists is working in each area, and any interesting and useful developments are constantly being communicated across all media.

Antonino Musarra
AAITTO 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 Polish Society of Allergology (PTA) is the largest allergological organisation and society in Poland. The PTA has 13 branches grouping over 1400 physicians and, for over 35 years, it has represented Polish allergology at both national level (before government institutions such as the Ministry of Health, etc.) and internationally (in organisations such as WHO, WAO and EAACI). The PTA’s mission is based on a number of fundamental objectives, such as the propagation of knowledge about allergology in society at large and participation in the professional development of doctors in the field of allergology.

Today, our Society’s activities are focused on improving the safety of children with a risk of anaphylaxis. This rapid allergic reaction should be properly prevented and managed by parents, nurses at school and by teachers. This requires procedures which are stable and simple to use for people who are not doctors. The main target of the PTA is to convince the Polish Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education that these kinds of procedures are necessary in schools to secure the health and lives of the youngest patients with allergy.

Next year the PTA will organise two huge educational events: the 10th Jubilee Educational Conference (9–12 May 2018, in Wisła) and 13th International Congress of the Polish Society of Allergology (26–29 September 2018, in Mikołajki). We would like to invite all European allergy specialists to take part in this second event. The PTA’s congresses are amongst the most popular meetings in Europe in the field of allergy, with more than 1000 participants from Poland and all over the world. We hope that this event, organised in probably the most beautiful place in Poland – in an area full of lakes and large forests – will be our next important step in increasing our knowledge of allergy mechanisms.

Finally, I would like to invite you all to visit the PTA website (www.pta.med.pl) and our Facebook profile (www.facebook.com/PolskieTowarzystwoAlergologiczne). Please do get in touch with our Society!

With best regards.

Zbigniew Bartuzi
Polish Society of Allergology President

The Cuban Society of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology

The Cuban Society of Allergy was founded in 1948. The allergy specialty was officially recognised in Cuba in 1962 and the first six specialists gained their degrees from Havana University in 1973.

In 2007 the Society became the Cuban Society of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (SCAAIC). SCAAIC is an NGO intended to promote scientific advance and educational work in the field of allergology. The Society admits allergy specialists to its membership, as well as doctors from related specialties, scientists and technicians linked through clinical practice and research work to this field. SCAAIC regularly organises scientific meetings and also serves as an advisory body to the Cuban public healthcare system. Today there are 220 active allergists and allergy teaching faculties in 11 of the 15 Cuban provinces.

A significant scientific achievement, with high impact, has been the development and manufacturing of standardised allergen products for specific immunotherapy by the public institution BIOCEN, and their generalised introduction into the public system, an experience unique in Latin America. Several clinical trials supporting the efficacy and safety of SIT in the Cuban allergy services have been performed and acknowledged with a National Healthcare Award. The SCAAIC immunotherapy section has played an active role in educational activities allowing the dissemination of this highly effective approach, which is now widely accessible in Cuba and free of costs to patients.

SCAAIC is an active member of the World Allergy Organization, and in 2014 joined the Latin American Society of Allergy Asthma and Immunology and the Central American and Caribbean Federation of Allergy. Additionally, since June 2017, SCAAIC has been a member of the EAACI International Societies Council. Several awards and recognitions have been granted to SCAAIC members at international conferences.

Additionally, SCAAIC maintains specialised webpages in Spanish on allergy, allergens, asthma, and immunotherapy, at Infomed, the Cuban health network: www.informed.sld.cu.

Today, SCAAIC’s major challenges are the development of epidemiological and pharmacoeconomic studies on allergic diseases in Cuba, the introduction of high-tech advances to the diagnosis and treatment of allergy, as well as the fostering of professional training in these new technologies.

Mirta Álvarez Castelló
SCAAIC President
A reflection on EAACI’s Social Media progress over the last two years

As we march towards the end of 2017, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that I am stepping down from my position as EAACI’s Social Media Editor. I started working on the academy’s Social Media (SoMe) in 2013 as a side activity while being the EAACI Website Editor. In 2015, I continued working on SoMe in the context of a newly-established, dedicated position.

The end of an engagement is always a good time to reflect on progress accomplished. I am happy to say that EAACI’s SoMe dedicated to health care professionals, whilst at the same time supporting our lobbying at an EU level, have recorded consistent, increasing trends. We established the EAACI twitter account for patients and the lay public and launched a new patients’ Facebook page. We have also instigated webcasted interviews on articles published in the EAACI’s official journals, during which a leading author of the article discusses the main findings of their study.

Sixteen interviews have been recorded and can be found on the EAACI YouTube channel, via other SoMe, or under Resources/Journals on www.eaaci.org.

I am also happy to have established the #AboutAllergy Twitter hour, during which leading authors publishing on hot topics are invited to answer questions posed live by twitter users at a predefined hour. Two of these have taken place so far and you can follow the trail on twitter under the hashtag #AboutAllergy.

Another area I have invested in is the SoMe activity surrounding the EAACI Annual Congress. Speakers were invited to provide the main points of their talks which were posted as tweets at the same time as their presentation. Additionally, there were tweets on the scientific programme going live at the corresponding time-slots during the congress. Keeping up with these innovations, twitter boards were set up at central spots in the congress venue where delegates could read live tweets posted using the congress hashtag. All delegates using twitter were invited to join the #AllergistsGetTogether welcome reception, whilst this year a special “I am tweeting on #EAACI2017” ribbon was available to be added to delegates’ badges.

Overall, this has been a very creative period for me and I am pleased I was able to work on the dissemination of scientific allergy updates and EAACI activities. Various individuals/teams have supported me in my work and these include EAACI headquarters as well as colleagues such as Alberto Alvarez-Perea (Spain), Dario Antolin-Amerigo (Spain), Silvia Sanchez-Garcia (Spain), Anke Graessel (Germany) and Florin dan Popescu (Romania). I thank them all dearly!

Best wishes to all and do not forget to tweet, like and share!

Olympia Tsilochristou
EAACI Social Media Editor & JM Past Chairperson
Pediatric Section
Strategic Programme 2017-2019

The new Pediatric Section Board, working together since Helsinki in June 2017, are honoured to take over the on-going projects accepted in 2016 under our previous chair, George du Toit; we are fortunate to be able to count on his ongoing advice and input. Recently, several new Task Force proposals have been accepted, covering important areas in pediatric allergy research, including immunotherapy and adolescent transition. In addition, an exciting Allergy School on immunotherapy, involving other sections and interest groups, is to be held in September 2018. Please see the EAACI website for details of our activities. Our main aim is to serve the pediatric allergy community represented by our 2500 members.

We have already participated in the Scientific Committee Meetings for EAACI’s Annual Congress to be held in Munich (May 2018) and for FAAM in Copenhagen (October 2018), to ensure pediatric interests are well represented. Our own specific Congress – PAAM, held in London in October 2017 – was a great success with more than 1300 delegates and we have already begun to prepare the next 10-year anniversary meeting, being held in Florence in 2019.

In the field of education, our section has been formulating and submitting questions for the pediatric arm of the EAACI exam. We believe the future of pediatric allergy involves working to improve the clinical and educational skills of pediatric allergy departments (or to implement them where needed). This is crucial to train new specialists throughout Europe and the rest of the world. Scholarships for clinical fellowships, with the participation of the Clemens von Pirquet Foundation and of EAACI, have helped, and will continue to help, our young scientists develop within clinical and research networks.

We are also participating in the new Guidelines, some of them now published and others on-going. The future of our most representative journal, Pediatric Allergy and Immunology (PAI), looks brilliant, with an impact factor of 3.775 (7/26 allergy journals), and we are all encouraged to send our studies to be considered for publication.

Our aim is to boost research and good clinical practice in the field of pediatric allergy in general, with special focus on prevention, the development of new diagnostics methods, and the implementation of new treatment options to help our allergic children have happier lives and to become healthy adults.

Montserrat Alvaro Lozano
EAACI Pediatric Section Chairperson

Asthma Section
Strategic Programme 2017-2019

Over the next two years, the EAACI Asthma Section is committed to organising several exciting symposia and engaging in a number of other activities in close collaboration with fellow EAACI sections and working groups (WGs), and also with the European Respiratory Society (ERS) and international key opinion leaders from other societies.

In 2018, we are organising a Master Class on Biologicals (Personalised treatments of chronic inflammatory upper and lower airways disease: Biologicals, immunomodulators and other targeted therapeutics) which will take place in Prague, The Czech Republic, on 13-14 April. From 26-30 May 2018, the Asthma Section will actively participate in several symposia at the EAACI Annual Congress in Munich, Germany, and then, in November 2018, in Madrid, Spain, we will be organising the 4th ISAF (International Severe Asthma Forum) in an exciting new format, including parallel sessions and interactive lectures.

In 2019, a Summer School is proposed on “A personalised approach to severe asthma and its comorbidities” in collaboration with the WG on Allergy, Asthma and Sports. The Asthma Section will also actively participate in several symposia at the Annual Congress in Lisbon, Portugal.

Several EAACI Task Forces (TFs) published position documents in 2017, with the involvement of the Asthma Section, including:


A number of TFs and position documents, initiated by the Asthma Section, are currently ongoing or new, including: Diagnosis and management of NSAIDs exacerbated respiratory disease; Quality standards in asthma comparative effectiveness research; Biomarkers and outcome measures in severe asthma; Exacerbations in severe asthma; and, Cytological assessment of airway inflammation. Additionally, several Asthma Section members have joined task forces with other EAACI sections.

Zuzana Diamant
EAACI Asthma Section Chairperson
Basic & Clinical Immunology Section
Strategic Programme 2017–2019

Immunoall is central to all allergic conditions, inflammatory disorders and immune deficiencies and to the treatment of these diseases. The EAACI Basic & Clinical Immunology Section with its large membership represents a wide range of interests and topics. Together with the Working Groups on Infections and Allergy, Biologicals and Immune Deficiencies, which are part of the Section, we aim to:

- Maintain and increase the prominent position and high visibility of basic and clinical immunology in EAACI and beyond;
- Make EAACI the society of choice for young clinical and basic researchers interested in immunological mechanisms of allergies, asthma, inflammatory disorders and immune deficiencies; and
- Increase interest in the immunology of allergic conditions by making up-to-date knowledge available not only to the ‘allergy community’ but also to clinicians and researchers not primarily specialising in allergy, asthma or clinical immunology, and to policy makers and the general public.

To achieve these aims, we will continue to provide immunology-focused postgraduate courses, scientific symposia and interactive workshops throughout EAACI Annual Congresses and EAACI Focused Meetings. While presenting state-of-the-art knowledge of immunology, these sessions will also be accessible to non-immunologists and the wider EAACI community.

We will continue to offer scientifically excellent Immunology Winter Schools for young researchers whose work focuses on basic and clinical immunology. Having truly become an ‘institution’, these residential schools provide outstanding opportunities for participants to learn from and interact with leading immunologists. With these Winter Schools, we hope to keep attracting young immunologists to the EAACI community. In addition, the Section will also continue to support the development of Task Forces in the field of immunology, which are open for contributions to all interested clinicians and basic scientists.

Furthermore, the Section is planning to develop an immunology focused public outreach programme based on accessible, easily available educational materials such as short videos to highlight the role of immune responses in allergy and asthma and in the treatment of these diseases.

To reach these aims, the Section requires contributions and support from its entire membership. We therefore invite all EAACI members, experienced or junior, who are interested in immunology to get involved and contact us with ideas and proposals.

Jürgen Schwarze
EAACI Basic & Clinical Immunology Section
Chairperson

Eva Untersmayr-Elsenhuber
EAACI Basic & Clinical Immunology Section
Secretary

In the spotlight

Dermatology Section
Strategic Programme 2017–2019

The new Dermatology Section board took office in June this year, with Knut Brockow as chairperson, Charlotte Mörz as secretary, Ana M. Giménez-Arnau, Martin Metz, Jose Luis Garcia-Abujeta, Martin Glatz, Tabi Anika Leslie as board members, Pavel Kolkhir as JM Representative and Carsten Bindslev-Jensen as former Chair. We met first in Helsinki and directly afterwards sent a letter to all Dermatology Section members requesting ideas for activities for the section over the next few years. In August, we had our first teleconference and in November, our first board meeting for strategic planning.

The most important activity for the next term will be to coordinate the Skin Allergy Atlas. The editors and board have been agreed, and the various contributions and authors will be decided on and distributed within the section in cooperation with the ExCom. This activity will take up considerable resources and will fully begin after the finalising of the work of the Task Force on Cutaneous Manifestations of Drug Hypersensitivity (culminating with a position paper in “Allergy”). Other established Task Forces are due to be finalised next year, with outputs anticipated from their chairpersons. A new Task Force, concerning an Online Learning Platform for allergic skin diseases to be led by Martin Glatz, has been proposed and applied for.

The next planned meeting is the Junior Members’ Skin Allergy Club led by Pavel Kolkhir in April 2018 in Zurich, which was very successful last time. The next Skin Allergy Meeting – a focused meeting on cutaneous allergy – is planned by Knut Brockow in Munich in April 2019; as the last one in Zurich was a success, we intend once again to make it a co-meeting with the European Society of Contact Dermatitis.

Of course, there will also be many other “housekeeping” activities from the section, such as thematic and author proposals for congresses, working in specific committees, reviewing abstracts and communicating our activities, e.g. in this newsletter.

The new board look forward to working on all of these activities with enthusiasm.

Knut Brockow
EAACI Dermatology Section Chairperson

Charlotte Mörz
EAACI Dermatology Section Secretary
EAACI JM Assembly
Strategic Programme 2017–2019

The EAACI JM Assembly’s Strategic Programme was presented at the Executive Committee meeting in Brussels on 12–13 October. The first challenge for the current term is to adapt JM initiatives to the new composition and size of the JM board resulting from the changes in the EAACI structure. The main aim is to address the needs and concerns of JMs with different professional backgrounds and working in different geographical areas.

To this end the JM board will continue supporting the academy in the following initiatives:
1. Promotion of the funding opportunities offered by EAACI to JMs (fellowships, scholarships, and travel grants).
2. Dissemination of scientific and outreach activities through the JM webpage and the JM social media accounts.
3. Management of the JM programme at the EAACI Annual Congress to address the educational needs of JMs, and to give them the opportunity to present their work in junior-specific sessions.
4. Collaboration with EAACI journals (Allergy, Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, and Clinical and Translational Allergy) to provide JMs with must-read articles, and to disseminate recently published studies.
5. Collaboration with the junior boards of other international societies in the field of allergy and upper and lower respiratory diseases (American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, European Respiratory Society, and European Rhinologic Society).

The JM board will also manage and relaunch the EAACI Mentorship Programme under an improved format aiming to help JMs in their career progression. Importantly, the new programme will provide mentees with unique scientific opportunities.

Moreover, during the current term two new activities will be initiated:

- The organisation of JM Social Events during EAACI Focused Meetings to promote interaction among EAACI JMs.
- The formalisation of the reception for scholarship winners during the EAACI Annual Congress, to increase the visibility and reputation of EAACI funding opportunities.

Last but not least, the board will continue working to enhance the involvement of JMs in EAACI scientific activities by supporting and encouraging their participation in EAACI task forces, and scientific committees among other activities.

Ibon Eguiluz-Gracia
EAACI JM Chairperson
A new category of EAACI membership

Collective actions create impact, deliver quality and ensure sustainability, being the most important driver of change.

EAACI is committed to increasing access to its resources and events through strengthening partnerships with national societies members of the National Societies Committee. In countries where EAACI has agreements with national allergy and clinical immunology societies, an EAACI membership can be acquired at the reduced rate of 30 EUR/year through the national society. Applicants must be members in good standing of their national society to qualify for the reduced membership fees.

This new membership category will provide access to the following benefits:

1. Online subscription to Allergy, PAI and the EAACI Newsletter.
2. A discount on registration fees to EAACI meetings and the EAACI/UEMS Knowledge Examination.
3. Online access to all EAACI resources (guidelines, books, webcasts, educational materials).
4. Voting rights.
5. The possibility to join EAACI Sections, Interest Groups, Working Groups and Task Forces.
6. A member certificate.

This new category was recently approved by the Executive Committee and will be discussed in detail at the upcoming National Society Committee meeting in January 2018.

EAACI and its National Societies are the public face of the scientific and educational enterprise. Presenting a united front when it comes to core values can yield powerful results. Together we need to engage our community and invite everyone to share their ideas and help to build unique solutions. We need to share resources and opportunities. And building together a strong and committed EAACI membership is a first step.

Ioana Agache
EAACI President
**Membership Survey 2017: your feedback driving EAACI forward**

We would like to extend our great thanks to all 1310 members who took the time to complete the EAACI Membership Survey 2017, giving this year’s survey the best response rate to date and providing us with invaluable feedback.

With this survey our aim was to gain a deeper understanding, from a member’s perspective, of: (1) the value of EAACI membership benefits; (2) perceptions of EAACI meetings and activities; and (3) demand surrounding EAACI resources.

### Rating of EAACI membership benefits

- Network of professionals: 35%
- High quality educational events: 14%
- Reputation scope for collaboration: 14%
- International scope for collaboration: 14%
- Academic Resources available: 8%
- Ability to shape public policy: 14%
- Availability of development programmes: 1%

Results show that the main perceived benefits for members, and what separates our academy from others, are the high quality educational opportunities we provide. This encompasses both participation at our various meetings, as well as the ability to access learning resources and books. Our international network also offers members the opportunity to share knowledge and initiate collaboration for research and development purposes, as well as identify career development prospects. Whilst not considered to be a main direct member benefit, we received much support for the difficult task EAACI has undertaken in driving EU health policy regarding our specialty, as this has a major indirect impact on all of us. We remain committed to stimulating development at a political level for our field. With your continuous support on campaigns such as this year’s ‘United Action for Allergy and Asthma’ initiative, we will make a difference.

### EAACI meetings and activities

It is reassuring to see that the main reason for attending EAACI events is the opportunity to share and discuss high quality scientific content; a fundamental goal of our academy. CME accreditation remains one of the main motivators for attendance. We continue to raise the bar of our scientific programmes and their formats in order to support participants in meeting their continuous learning goals. Whilst our core focus is on scientific content, we understand the importance of holding events in easily accessible and affordable cities. For this reason we acknowledge your feedback regarding the importance of venue attractiveness.

### EAACI resources

It is encouraging to see how highly regarded EAACI resources are. In particular you highlighted the importance of EAACI Guidelines in supporting you in your daily practice. The academy’s three journals, Allergy, Pediatric Allergy and Immunology (PAI) and Clinical and Translational Allergy (CTA), also prove to be renowned reference documents used to read about the latest developments in their respective fields. Remember all our journals are freely accessible to EAACI members once logged on to www.eaaci.org. We will continue to invest in these, and all other resources, whilst also carefully considering your feedback on further developing online solutions and e-resources in a sustainable move away from paper.

### Moving forward together

Your thoughts and suggestions have been incredibly helpful in confirming key areas of interest and identifying new areas for development. We look forward to engaging in projects that bring you closer to all that EAACI has to offer.

Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to all of you who also left kind words of support and encouragement surrounding all that EAACI does, as a non-profit organisation. Your comments provide us with newfound motivation to create new, innovative ways of driving our specialty forward.

Charlotte Horder  
EAACI Marketing & Communications Manager

Karin Hoffmann-Sommergruber  
EAACI Vice-President Communications & Membership

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**Summary of key responses**

The main areas identified by respondents for further development over the coming months were:

- Improved online learning solutions
- Increased sharing of EAACI resources and documents
- Continued engagement on improving policy making for the specialty Development of digital, rather than printed, materials in support of EAACI Goes Green

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**Congratulations to our 15 winners!**

As a thank you for your time given to the survey, we offered a prize draw for 15 members to receive complimentary registration for an EAACI meeting in 2018. Winners have now been contacted and we look forward to seeing them, and all other members, at one or more of the events coming soon. Check www.eaaci.org for information regarding our meetings, and look out for EAACI Allergy Schools and Master Classes in the new year.
'United Action for Allergy and Asthma' policy campaign closes with broad European endorsement

From April to September 2017, the pan-European campaign “United Action for Allergy and Asthma” promoted a political call to action to address the unmet needs of allergy and asthma in Europe.

Led by EAACI, the European Parliament (EU) Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma co-chaired by MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP group, Finland) and the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients’ Associations (EFA), the campaign secured broad endorsement from EU policymakers and stakeholders. It has now been successfully joined by 188 European and national organisations calling together for a holistic policy response to effectively tackle allergy and asthma in Europe, for the benefit of all European patients.

Key milestones

The campaign was launched on 27 April in the European Parliament in Brussels during a two-hour policy session that gathered over 90 participants and was hosted by the Parliamentary Interest Group co-Chair Sirpa Pietikäinen and group members Karin Kadenbach (S&D group, Austria) and Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE group, France).

The political call was further leveraged in June at the 2017 EAACI Congress during a high-level policy session chaired by MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen and in the presence of Taru Koivisto, Director of the Department for the Promotion of Welfare and Health at the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, and Tari Haahela, Chair of the Finnish Allergy and Asthma programme, as well as many allergy and asthma experts and policymakers. The Congress provided further visibility to the initiative with over 8,000 delegates present.

The call was also the basis for several policy discussions at EU and national levels. Close meetings were convened in the spring and summer of 2017 with MEPs, officials from EU policy-making institutions and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe to share the main messages of the Call, to nurture ideas and encourage coordinated political actions.

Achievements

The campaign was promoted on social media, received wide coverage in the European press, and reached the attention of the full EU legislature with the active support of the Parliamentary Interest Group. In only five months, over 188 European and national organisations from the allergy and asthma field and beyond endorsed the call, joined by more than 4,800 individuals from across Europe, as well as over 30 MEPs, who acknowledged the need for further action and committed to help progress the response to allergy and asthma at EU level.

The campaign was a successful step in giving further visibility to allergy and asthma at policy level and uniting voices of the allergy and asthma community under the common objective of bringing about positive change. It contributed to expanding the dissemination of learnings from good practice programmes in allergy and asthma, such as the Finnish Allergy and Asthma programme – a reference for success in managing allergy and asthma at national level. It also contributed to enhancing dialogue with the Finnish Government on the prioritising of the country’s health programme during its forthcoming EU Council Presidency from July to December 2019.

Moving forward, the campaign and the political call provide a structured framework for knowledge sharing and for the exchange of experiences taking into consideration the specificities of EU Member States.

What next?

Presenting concrete policy recommendations from a unified coalition of patients, doctors and policymakers, the call lays the ground for further discussions at policy level in the coming months, with the ultimate aim of driving action plans for implementation and fostering the uptake and adaptation of existing good practices across Europe, such as the Finnish Allergy and Asthma programme in the context of the upcoming EU Council Presidency of Finland in 2019. The coalition is committed to continue working in close collaboration with national and EU policy-makers to keep up the momentum to address unmet policy needs in allergy and asthma and to drive their prioritisation on the EU policy agenda in the key policy areas identified in the call:

- Public health – implementing European strategies and programmes across Member States
- Funding for research – advancing our understanding of allergy and asthma
- Prevention and early diagnosis – achieving early detection for timely and effective treatment
- Root cause of diseases – addressing underlying triggers: air quality, food allergens and chemicals
- Personalised medicine – working towards pioneering individualised treatment
- Economic benefits – reducing direct and indirect costs on health systems and society

The ongoing discussions on the next European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP9) provide opportunities to strengthen action under the above policy areas at EU level, while FP9 is expected to be framed under a “mission-oriented” approach, aimed at delivering on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals with a “one health approach”.

Bénédicte Faure
EAACI EU Liaison Office
EUoffice@eaaci.org
PAAM 2017

The 5th Pediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting (PAAM 2017), held in October in London and EAACI’s largest focused meeting, was highly successful. Around 1300 participants from 81 different countries enjoyed the strong scientific programme, complimented by satellite symposia. EAACI meetings in parallel further facilitated clinical and research ideas and collaboration. Speakers from throughout Europe and beyond, including a past president of AAAAI, covered leading edge anaphylaxis, tolerance induction, asthma and microbiome research as well as controversies, evidence-based reviews and guidance to cater for a diverse audience. A conference app aided scheduling and interactive exchanges. Many aspects of PAAM 2017 were enthusiastically shared on social media.

PAAM 2017 was co-chaired by the outgoing and incoming Pediatric Section chairs, George du Toit and Montserrat Alvaro Lozano. Lauri-Ann Van der Poel, Pediatric Section secretary was lead of the local organising committee and Marta Vazquez Ortiz led the clinical village. Olympia Tsiochristou, outgoing JM Section chair, facilitated the Junior’s breakfast session and social get-togethers with current chair, Ibón Eguiluz Gracia, and Carmen Riggioni.

Day 1 kicked off with postgraduate courses on clinical trials in children, non-IgE gut disease, aero-allergic diseases, and Case-based immunology. Thursday’s first plenary presented the latest data on immunotherapy in pediatric asthma, recently reported in EAACI Allergen Immunotherapy Guidelines.

At the official opening, we were pleased to issue PAAM awards for contributions to the field of pediatric allergy and asthma through teaching, research and/or clinical organisation to Gideon Lack and Arne Høst. An ‘Allergy legend’ award went to the world’s oldest living allergist, William (Bill) Frankland, MBE, aged 105 years. A short video highlighting Bill’s life’s work (including initiating the Pollen Count and inadvertently facilitating the discovery of penicillin) was shown and will be available on the EAACI website.

‘Musical Chairs’ at the Faculty Dinner: The Tower of London: George Du Toit (PAAM2017 chair and ex Pediatric Board chair), Susanne Lau (PAAM 2015 and ex Board chair), Antonella Muraro (past Pediatric Board chair and PAAM 2009 and 2019 local organising chair, EAACI Past-President), Lauri-Ann Van der Poel (Pediatric Board secretary and PAAM 2017 local lead) and Montserrat Alvaro Lozano (Pediatric Board chair, PAAM 2017 co-chair and PAAM 2019 chair).

Feedback praised a program strong on science and rich in take-home messages for clinical practice in pediatric allergy, with a friendly atmosphere allowing for meaningful exchanges between clinicians and researchers. The high level of attendance indicated a greater number of younger participants than in previous years. A particular highlight of this year’s meeting was a gratifying increase in active involvement of pediatric allergy nurses, dietitians and allergy psychologists.

PAAM 2017 exceeded expectations. Feedback praised a program strong on science and rich in take-home messages for clinical practice in pediatric allergy, with a friendly atmosphere allowing for meaningful exchanges between clinicians and researchers. The high level of attendance indicated a greater number of younger participants than in previous years. A particular highlight of this year’s meeting was a gratifying increase in active involvement of pediatric allergy nurses, dietitians and allergy psychologists.

PAAM 2019 will be the 10th anniversary of PAAM, co-chaired in Florence by Montse Alvaro Lozano and Antonella Muraro, an original founder of this important meeting. We are confident that PAAM will continue to flourish due to its focus on excellence in pediatric allergy. Looking forward to seeing you in 2019!

Lauri-Ann Van der Poel
Pediatric Section Secretary
ISMA 2017

The seventh International Symposium on Molecular Allergology (ISMA), chaired by Markus Ollert, was held on 9–11 November 2017 in Luxembourg. The Luxembourg Society for Allergology and Immunology (LSAI) has only been a member society of EAACI since 2013 and this was the first EAACI meeting held in Luxembourg. ISMA 2017 was a truly international meeting with 300 registered participants and faculty members from 42 countries.

The scientific programme was compiled in a joint effort by members of the EAACI Interest Group on Allergy Diagnosis and Systems Medicine and the EAACI Immunology Section together with Lars Poulsen (Denmark, past EAACI Vice President Congresses). This year, ISMA offered a novel format – plenary sessions summarising state-of-the-art knowledge delivered by leading scientists in the field alternating with parallel symposia in which selected topics were presented in depth. Alongside the themes for which the Symposium has built its innovative reputation – the molecular allergen approach which enabled modern component-resolved IgE diagnosis and novel forms of allergen immunotherapy – the new second ISMA track covered emerging fields of molecular and systems biology relevant to the field of allergy and clinical immunology; a delegate survey will evaluate whether the new format was appreciated. The more classical ISMA topics included presentations on the allergome, an analysis of molecular allergen structures and challenges in molecular diagnosis and therapy of allergic diseases. The meeting was of an excellent scientific quality throughout. Cutting-edge results were presented both in lectures and on posters and stimulated intensive and controversial scientific discussions amongst many delegates. The session on environmental exposure and globalisation which featured the effects of climate change (Jeroen Buters, Germany), migration and urbanisation (Olaf Rötzschke, Singapore), as well as the need for risk evaluation of novel foods (Kitty Verhoeckx, The Netherlands) gave new insights into current and future challenges in allergology. The session on immunotherapy shed light on novel biomarkers for monitoring allergen-specific immunotherapy (Mohamed Shamji, United Kingdom), on the use of novel adjuvants (Oscar Palomares, Spain) and on the prospect of novel molecular allergen-specific immunotherapies (Rudolf Valenta, Austria).

An interdisciplinary and cross-fertilising lecture was given in the final plenary session on future therapeutics by Rienk Offringa (Germany) from the German Cancer Research Centre Heidelberg, on the lessons learned from cancer precision medicine. In cancer medicine, major advances have been achieved through genomic sequencing and by dissecting molecular mechanisms and targeting cellular checkpoints, with multiple impacts on novel therapies for cancer patients. In the field of allergic diseases, we are only at the beginning of this route and major discoveries still lie ahead.

A total of 78 scientific abstracts were presented either as oral presentations (8) or as posters (70). Poster sessions were well attended and allowed for fruitful scientific discussions between presenters and participants.

ISMA 2017 was well covered by the national press media, including articles in several daily newspapers, interviews on national TV news and a live interview on a well-known radio station, thus providing excellent visibility for the meeting both in Luxembourg and neighbouring countries.

ISMA 2017 with its new structure and a broader definition of molecular topics relevant for precision medicine in allergy has once again provided an excellent platform to exchange the latest scientific knowledge to ensure what is ultimately needed – a future impact on patients.

Markus Ollert
ISMA 2017 Local Organising Chair

Christiane Hilger
ISMA 2017 Local Organising Secretary

Paolo Matricardi
EAACI Interest Group on Allergy Diagnosis and Systems Medicine Chairperson
EAACI Master Class on Occupational Allergy 2017

The EAACI Master Class on Occupational Allergy was held in Madrid, Spain, on 29–30 September 2017, and was organised by Santiago Quirce (Local Organising Chair), Jolanta Walusiak (former Chair of the Environmental & Occupational Allergy IG) and Joaquin Sastre (President of the Spanish Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology).

Around 50 participants from a number of different European and American countries exchanged experience and knowledge related to the application of new diagnostic and molecular techniques to the fields of occupational asthma and allergic airway diseases. Moreover, the meeting increased awareness of modern solutions in everyday practice and scientific research. All participants had an excellent opportunity to share their views and develop common innovative solutions aimed at increasing the capacity of diagnostics in occupational allergy and the further development of research practices, both during the stimulating talks given by experts in the field and in the case presentations provided by participants from Hospital La Paz (Madrid, Spain).

The evening practical session held at the Hospital Fundación Jiménez Díaz gave delegates an insight into the specific procedures and technology used to assess patients with occupational diseases. Both speakers and participants addressed interesting clinical aspects, and the phenotypes and pathophysiology of occupational allergic respiratory diseases. Moreover, the importance and role of different known and potential biomarkers useful to define the pathophysiological and clinical profiles of patients affected by occupational lung diseases were thoroughly reviewed.

Outstanding keynote presentations were provided on a range of topics, including:
- International trends in the prevalence and incidence of occupational allergic respiratory diseases
- New insights on the pathogenesis of allergic occupational asthma and irritant-induced asthma
- Dose-response relationships with occupational allergens
- Clinical investigations in patients with suspected occupational respiratory disease
- Molecular diagnostics in the occupational setting

The organisation committee would like to thank the speakers, delegates and organisations for their efforts and for a memorable first Master Class on Occupational Allergy.

Santiago Quirce
Local Organising Chair

Jolanta Walusiak-Skorupa
Local Organising Secretary

Joaquin Sastre
President of the Spanish Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology

EAACI Food Allergy Training Course 2017

As part of EAACI’s commitment to fight the recent increase in the prevalence of food allergy and to improve care for allergic patients, a Food Allergy Training Course took place from 4–6 September in Manchester under the overarching theme of “Prevention and Treatment of Food Allergy”. Various university buildings in the city centre provided a delightful setting to an enlightening 3-day program coordinated by local organisers Clare Mills, Alexandra Santos and Kate Grimshaw. Overall, 18 European experts in food allergy made up the course’s faculty and the event welcomed 116 delegates from 33 different countries, including scholars attending from as far as Mexico, South Africa and India. Five travel grants were awarded to Junior Members presenting outstanding original research. Overall, 20 posters and 4 oral abstracts were selected for presentation, generating interesting debate. Food allergy has a huge impact on patients’ lives and the participation of patient organisation representatives provided an additional learning opportunity.

The scientific program kicked-off with a much-anticipated overview session with Gideon Lack and Montserrat Fernandez-Rivas, followed by informative and up-to-date sessions on prevention and treatment of food allergies. Day one ended with a red bus tour of the city of Manchester followed by a welcome cocktail at the Natural Science Museum. Day two began bright and early with practical workshops focusing on allergy history and testing, in which participants were given the opportunity to perform skin prick tests and given practical tips about the interpretation of serology tests. A motivating pro–con debate entitled “To eat or not to eat” with Philippe Eigenmann head to head with Kirsten Beyer provided much food for thought before dinner at the Christies’ Bistro in the old science library. The last day began with a practical workshop on food challenges, and ended with the trending topic of food immunotherapy, wrapping up the cutting-edge program.

Congratulations to the poster prize winners Silvia Jacob (Portugal), Carmen Riggioni (Spain), Ine Ilona Decuyper (Spain) and Yadira Gordon Trigueros (Spain). Overall, the event was an absolute success, especially for the JMs attending, who were able to learn, practice and share knowledge about food allergy in a friendly environment with prominent senior EAACI members.

Carmen Riggioni
Allergen immunotherapy IG Junior Representative

Thulja Trikamjee
Allied Health & Primary Care IG Junior Representative

Alexandra Santos
Food Allergy IG Board member
DHM 2018 in Amsterdam: a mind-blowing experience

From 19–21 April 2018, the Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting (DHM) will take place in the city of Amsterdam. As in earlier DHM meetings, we will be challenging old dogmas and discussing new problems.

Friday afternoon’s symposium will be dedicated to one such emerging problem: the recognition and treatment of the adverse effects of malignancy therapy; the new checkpoint inhibitors can elicit a wide range of symptoms which can suggest both toxicity and hypersensitivity. Another topic being addressed will be the number of patients believed to be allergic to betalactams has increased the use of non-betalactam antibiotics such as quinolones and macrolides, subsequently leading to increased reports of adverse effects to these drugs and the need for reliable diagnostic methods; this issue will be discussed in a breakfast session.

Amongst those challenging old dogmas will be the speakers who will try to convince us that perioperative anaphylaxis in Australia perhaps demands a different approach to that taken in Denmark, since the elicitors are maybe not quite the same, and the speakers who will advocate that in cases of mild exanthema, skin tests can be skipped in favour of oral provocation tests.

New Pro–Con sessions will be held on Saturday and there will be a chance for young researchers to present their work in various parallel symposia – the best abstracts sent in will be selected and the authors will be invited to make an oral presentation. And, of course, there will be ample opportunities for those interested in basic research to catch up on latest insights into developments in drug allergies, as well as the latest updates in diagnostic procedures.

The programme will start on Thursday afternoon and ends on Saturday at lunch, so should you be able to come a day early or stay until Sunday evening, you can enjoy Amsterdam and its beautiful museums, old houses and many restaurants offering food from all corners of the world. But remember to bring a rain coat since Dutch Spring weather can vary from cold and rain to being almost like summer...

We hope to welcome you to Amsterdam in April!

Ingrid Terreehorst
DHM 2018 Local Organising Chair

Maria José Torres
DHM 2018 Local Organising Secretary
EAACI Allergy School on Aerobiology and Pollution 2018

An Allergy School, on the topic of “The air that you breathe and allergies”, is being organised by the WG Aerobiology & Pollution and the WG Infections, from 15–17 March 2018 in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

The school aims to bring professionals up to date on the newest developments on pollen, moulds, (air-borne) viruses/bacteria and environmental exposure. Time will also be given to the basic immunology needed for the topic, as well as three hands-on courses. After the school, you will be able to judge (or perform testing on) the quality of the air we breathe, with a focus on the biological components and their impact on the immune system and the lungs.

This Allergy School will emphasise that air quality is about more than only air pollution. A largely neglected part of air quality relates to its biological components, including viruses, bacteria, pollen and moulds. For medical purposes, a more diverse composition of air needs to be considered, both indoors and outdoors. There is a growing awareness how microbial exposure during critical phases of early immune development can either prevent allergic disease, or when disease has already developed, may exacerbate inflammatory and clinical symptoms.

The topics of the school will include:
- Who has allergies, where and why?
- An update on the microbiome and allergic disease
- Welcome to the world of pollen
- What has the genome got to do with it?
- Is pollen there, or not?
- How do we detect and quantify exposure?
- Moulds: stinking all over the place
- Bacteria, your food and the gut
- Pollution and allergic diseases
- Who says staying indoors is healthy?

The school is aimed at medical doctors, biologists, young researchers and climate change stakeholders interested in air quality, both indoors and outdoors, and in the environmental causes of allergic diseases. In order to achieve an intimate and collegial atmosphere, and to leave plenty of space for discussion and give optimum conditions for the practical aspects, the number of participants will be limited to 120.

To download the scientific program, to register or, if desired, to submit an abstract, please go to: http://www.eaaci.org/activities/allergy-schools/upcoming-allergy-schools/4055-allergy-school-on-aerobiology-and-pollution.html.

Jeroen Buters
Hermelijn Smits
Tuomas Jartti
Local Organising Chairs

EAACI e-PAD Master Class: Practical Allergy Diagnosis 2018

The EAACI Interest Group on Allergy Diagnosis and Systems Medicine is organising a Master Class on Practical Allergy Diagnosis to be held on 23–24 March 2018 at the idyllic Schloss Rauschholzhausen, Ebsdorfergrund, near Frankfurt in Germany.

The format of the Master Class will follow that of the hugely successful e-PAD Allergy School held in Moscow in 2015, which had more than one hundred participants and a strong faculty of molecular allergists. Theoretical lecture blocks will alternate with small group symposia which participants will rotate through.

Master Classes target established clinicians who will benefit from a brush up course introducing them to cutting edge clinical diagnosis. At the Master Class on Practical Allergy Diagnosis we will discuss three issues that are current in allergy diagnosis: molecular allergy, Basophil testing (BAT) and mobile health monitoring opportunities. Editors of the Molecular Allergy Users Guide, and authors of the Task Forces on the Clinical Utility of Basophil Activation and Mobile Health will be among the faculty and will present updates of their diagnostic specialties.

The meeting will last only 36 hours but will give you an indispensable update on relevant contemporary diagnostic issues. We very much look forward to joining you for an intense immersion in cutting edge clinical science and good networking opportunities.

Chrysanthi Skevaki
Local Organising Chair
Hans Jürgen Hoffmann
Organising Secretary
UPCOMING EAACI EVENTS

Annual Congress 2018

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

Focused Meetings

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

Allergy Schools www.eaaci.org/allergy-schools

Master Class on Practical Allergy Diagnosis
23 – 24 March 2018
Rauischholzhausen, Germany

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

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

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

For more information visit www.eaaci.org or contact events@eaaci.org
The 37th EAACI Congress, being held on 26–30 May 2018 in Munich, is now developing at great speed and we are already very excited about welcoming you to Bavaria’s capital and innovation hub. The local organisers and the entire EAACI team are very actively organising the meeting which will not only offer a platform for new clinical and scientific solutions for allergy but will also offer you new experiences, as well as promising to be a lot of fun.

Further than ever before, we are extending our “go green” initiative and using digital display options rather than printing thousands of papers, posters and abstract books. The decision to use digital poster walls rather than printed posters was not unanimously welcomed by the whole EAACI family – including by myself – but we hope to make good use of the many advantages, such as there being more space for separated discussion zones. The other good news is that poster presenters do not now need to carry a poster roll with them throughout Europe! Please note that abstract submission is already open and ends on 15 January 2018.

New this year is a poster session entitled “Innovations: patents in allergy!” Please submit your patent abstracts including those that are filed, but not yet granted. We will generate a forum and a patent market place including invitations to sponsors that will together form an allergy biotech market which we hope will accelerate innovative solutions for allergy. Come and have a look what has been invented and where innovations are arising that may change the future of allergy. Submissions for the “Innovations: patents in allergy” poster session will open soon and will close on 15 February.

Also very exciting is the prospect that all presentations and posters will be accessible to members, if authors gave consent to this; we anticipate that the learning effect from this access will be greater than ever. We are planning some additional surprises too, thus there are many reasons to block 26–30 May for EAACI 2018 in Munich!

Carsten Schmidt-Weber
EAACI Vice-President Congresses
EAACI Annual Congress 2018 Chair

APPLICATION OPEN FROM 1 FEBRUARY TO 1 APRIL 2018

11th EAACI/UEMS Examination in Allergology and Clinical Immunology

EAACI Congress, Munich
Saturday, 26 May 2018
11:00 – 14:00

www.eaaci.org/exam
A new comparative EAACI position paper by the WG on Comparative and Veterinary Allergology reviews food allergy in companion animals and humans.

The aim of comparative allergology is to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of allergies not only in pet owners, but also for their animals. Comparing diseases in humans and pets may also provide important information about the influence of environmental factors, such as smoking, and especially about the exchange of allergens and food allergens in the shared environment. Accumulating evidence suggests that the incidence of adverse food reactions (AFR) including allergies is also increasing in pets. The best-described adverse food reactions in humans belong to type I allergy, mediated by IgE-antibodies, which on a subsequent encounter with the allergen leads to gastrointestinal symptoms (i) such as oral allergy syndrome, lip swelling, throat itching, gastric and abdominal complaints, or (ii) can also evoke systemic reactions like urticaria, itching of the skin, angioedema, respiratory symptoms and anaphylactic reactions. In contrast, in our pet cats, dogs and horses, the importance of allergen specific IgE antibodies in the pathogenesis of AFR is not yet entirely clear, and measurement of IgE is an unreliable diagnostic tool. Depending on the species, vets suspect that additional pathomechanisms play a role, as clinical signs can also develop as late as 4 hours to 14 days after the animal has consumed the offending food. Furthermore, a clear-cut discrimination between allergy and intolerance in animals is not possible to date, leaving us with the more general term of AFR applied to affected animals.

Management of adverse food reactions currently relies on the avoidance of the offending food(s). However, several successful trials with food allergen specific immunotherapy are ongoing. In children, oral therapy with low-dose peanut, egg and milk, or sublingual treatment with peanut, or epicutaneous application of milk were reported to be successful. In a dog model, subcutaneous treatment of peanut allergy has been trialled, and in a small number of client-owned dogs, sublingual therapy with several foods (pork, chicken, beef, fish, milk, rice, wheat, corn) showed improvement.

In summary, major knowledge gaps are apparent and relate to (i) the true prevalence of AFR in pets as compared to owners, (ii) the underlying mechanisms and biomarkers in humans and animals, clearly dissecting allergies and intolerances, and (iii) the knowledge of relevant allergenic molecules in both humans and animals to improve diagnosis, treatment and avoidance in the same household.●

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References