The White Paper is a collaborative effort of the whole EAACI family, including Sections, Interest Groups and Working Groups, as well as patients’ organisations.
EAACI RESEARCH AND CLINICAL FELLOWSHIPS 2019

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

For more information please visit www.eaaci.org
One brave idea:
The game-changing approach

Choose well, for your choice is brief, and yet endless.
Goethe

EAACI has started doing things outside of the box and getting outside its traditional comfort zone. We are taking an entrepreneurial approach to doing science and creating partnerships with a range of non-traditional organisations that have the potential to be game-changing players in science, technology, and informatics. We seek to detect allergic diseases before symptoms arise and identify mechanisms, new treatments and therapies to cure them. We encourage “valuable” innovation and enterprises willing to assume the risk in developing precision-medicine approaches, while continuously measuring and documenting the benefits. The European Strategic Forum on Allergic Diseases being organised by EAACI on 17 November 2018 in Zurich aims at bringing together all relevant stakeholders and decision-makers in the fields of allergy, asthma and clinical immunology in an open debate on contemporary challenges and potential solutions for the next decade. The Strategic Forum will provide the platform for expressing ideas, thoughts and questions in an open environment, in full alignment with the EAACI belief that progress happens only by bringing together all those people who have the drive and influence to make positive change.

EAACI is seeking to play a stronger, more powerful role in advocacy and we are continuing to fight for more funding for research together with the implementation of quality criteria at all levels. We started by developing the EAACI White Paper following a collaborative effort of the EAACI family, Sections, Interest Groups and Working Groups, and patients’ organisations. The White Paper provides a critical view of the allergic diseases and asthma landscape in Europe together with an informed analysis of future trends, identifying and promoting research priorities in allergy, asthma and clinical immunology, setting the standards and quality criteria and providing guidance and training for practice and research. Please download your free copy from the EAACI website and use it for your clinical practice, research funding or for teaching your students. In the future, the recently created EU lobbying group aims to develop a detailed roadmap for future EU activities aligned with the EAACI strategic plan and EU-policy making after the elections in May 2019.

Our Congress in Munich supported the game-changing approach that we are embracing: I hope that you enjoyed EAACI TV, the App, the e-posters and the lively interactive sessions. We have just launched the EAACI Media Library offering trusted, top-rated educational presentations by leading experts from around the world. Following the concept that science and education have no borders, the Academy provides complementary access to an extensive content library featuring scientific sessions, abstracts, lectures, and more. New content is added monthly.

Let’s also have a look at what EAACI has prepared for the months to come: after the summer break we meet again at the Allergy School on Immunotherapy in children for the treatment of respiratory and food allergy. Shortly after, FAAM invites us to improve our knowledge on immunotherapy for food allergy, molecular diagnosis, the microbiome, pathophysiology of anaphylaxis and much more. And we end 2018 with ISAF, opening for the first time to connected specialties managing severe asthma. Leading experts from all over the world will critically assess the immunological basis of severe asthma, novel diagnostic and monitoring tools and targeted treatment, for adults, children and in an occupational setting.

Last but not least we have begun preparations for the next Congress in Lisbon. It is the perfect setting to test our brave idea: centuries ago, when expeditions began, Europeans knew virtually nothing about the area past Cape Bojador on the west coast of Africa. Their courage in thinking and acting differently advanced civilisation in an incredible way. Why not draw our own map of the new world of allergy in Lisbon?

Ioana Agache
EAACI President
Dear EAACI friends and members,

I would like to thank all the active members who took part and contributed to the success of the Annual Meeting in Munich. The total number of delegates was around 7,000, with people coming from across the world.

The Local Organising Committee, the ExCom, the Vice-President of Congresses, the Scientific Programme Coordinator and the Headquarters team made a tremendous effort to ensure that the interactive sessions, post-graduate courses, pro-con sessions, oral abstract and poster discussion sessions all achieved their objectives of disseminating knowledge and discussing innovative issues.

Out of many meetings held during the Congress, one of the most important was the fourth 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.

The Congress app allowed delegates to watch streaming EAACI TV, highlighting the programme of the day, recapping each day’s activities and hot topics, live streaming key programme activities, carrying interviews with experts, participants and faculty, giving plenary session insights, and aiming comments from Congress delegates. EAACI TV surely gave a snapshot of the world’s largest allergy meeting.

Moreover, the EAACI app provided delegates with updated information about the Congress and access to Congress abstracts and e-posters, providing a personal Congress calendar, allowing votes in sessions with polls and feedback on speakers and sessions. The EAACI Media library now includes over 1300 e-posters, 600 webcast presentations, as well as the complete EAACI TV package and will include full abstract texts. You can access online via this link: http://webcast.eaaci.cym.com

Other important events took place in Munich, such as the presentation of the “White paper” on allergy. This is a collaborative effort of the EAACI family, including sections, Interest Groups, Working Groups and patients’ organisations. It discusses the current view on allergic diseases and the asthma landscape in Europe, as well as trends in allergy, and identifies and promotes research priorities in allergy, asthma and clinical immunology. It also sets standards and quality criteria and provides guidance and training for practice and research.

A very interesting initiative now included on the EAACI website is the Job Center. EAACI supports medical professionals from the beginning of their studies and throughout their professional careers. Are you a hospital, research center or university and have positions open for recruitment? Use the EAACI Job Center at http://www.eaaci.org/resources/professional-careers. Are you a hospital, research center or university and have positions open for recruitment? Use the EAACI Job Center at http://www.eaaci.org/resources/professional-careers.

In Munich, we also had very good news from the EAACI journals (Allergy, Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, and Clinical and Translational Allergy) which have all obtained new impact factors. I would like to personally applaud the efforts and work of the current Executive Board, headed by Ioana Agache, and I also take this opportunity to congratulate Peter Hellings, EAACI’s new President-elect.

From the EAACI Newsletter Editor’s perspective, The EAACI National Allergy Society (NAS) Dual Membership is an excellent opportunity to become a new member of the EAACI at a reduced fee. Following agreements with an increasing number of societies, prospective EAACI members who are already national society members are entitled to pay just 30 EUR for the annual EAACI membership. I take this opportunity to remind you that, if you would like to apply, please indicate which National Allergy Society you are a member of and fill in your valid national society membership number.

Two big EAACI events still to come after the Annual Meeting are the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting in Copenhagen on 18–20 October (https://www.eaaci.org/focused-meetings/laam-2018) and the International Severe Asthma Forum in Madrid on 8–10 November (https://www.eaaci.org/focused-meetings/isaf-2018/about-madrid). I encourage you to check out both interesting programmes on the EAACI website.

I wish you all the best,

Dario Antolin-Amerigo
EAACI Newsletter Editor
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Science in Brief
26 EAACI Congress 2018: Understanding and treating childhood asthma
The diagnosis of allergic diseases depends on the history, demonstration of sensitisation and in some cases on provocation tests. Sensitisation is normally detected by skin tests done with licensed commercial allergen preparations and/or determination of specific IgE antibodies. Allergen solutions for skin tests or for nasal provocation tests are legally medications and have to be licensed after being reported and controlled by federal regulatory agencies. This measure was instituted by EU decree 2001/83/EG and forwarded to national legislations for implementation. The reason behind it was better quality control for efficacy and safety.

The majority of allergen preparations were initially licensed many years ago when quality requirements were more lax. However, licenses now have to be regularly updated with increasing work and costs for producers to assure preparation quality.

In times of increasing economic pressure, allergen-producing companies concentrate their investments on common allergen preparations and are increasingly discontinuing the production of less commonly sold in vivo allergen solutions. This withdrawal practice has already led to a dramatic reduction of diagnostic allergens in the last decade, probably in all or most European countries to a different degree. Diagnostic allergen test solution licenses which were available on a large scale have now been withdrawn by producers due to the increased costs of the newer and stronger regulatory requirements for these substances, and because of the economic pressure on companies and the decreased demand from doctors for less common allergen preparations.

We have all noticed the difficulty to obtain, or even the non-availability, of a latex skin test reagent. Beyond this, we may not be too aware of many other changes if we normally only require the common standard allergens, and others only once in a while. However, in Germany, the number of licensed skin prick test substances has quietly sunk to about 75% of what was available ten years ago, and has declined even more dramatically for patch test and nasal provocation test reagents where less than 50% of the original preparations are still available. Furthermore, this trend is continuing and not likely to change without intervention.

If licenses are given up, new applications for such agents are even more costly for the producer and thus it is conceivable that they will not re-introduce any substance they have withdrawn from the market: what is lost is lost forever. Thus, we have to consider an action plan for what to do in order to convince producers to keep as many of their product licenses as possible. An open table forum with all test allergen producers to discuss all possibilities, e.g. of splitting up the production of rarer allergens between producers or proposing cooperation between allergists to jointly achieve and use rarer allergens are just initial ideas. However, the first step is to bring this problem to wider awareness and to understand the serious consequences for our field. As allergists, we depend on good and available test reagents to diagnose an allergy. Although we can help to sustain in vivo allergen test preparations by increased ordering of less common test allergens, this cannot be the main solution to this problem.

Knut Brockow
EAACI Dermatology Section Chair

Danger ahead: Withdrawal of diagnostic allergen licenses is leading to massive allergy test deprivation

EAACI CALENDAR – IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE

October 2018
1 October – EAACI Fellowships Application for Junior Membership Fellowships 2019 open
18 – 20 October – FAAM, Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark
18 October – EUROBAT, European Consortium on Application of Flow Cytometry in Allergy, Copenhagen, Denmark

November 2018
8 – 10 November – ISAF, International Severe Asthma Forum, Madrid, Spain

December 2018
EAACI Newsletter

*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’ and ‘Education’ pages on www.eaaci.org.
Glenis Scadding: Ethics Committee Chair

My leadership experience includes presidency of Clinical Immunology & Allergy at the Royal Society of Medicine, and secretaryship then presidency of the BSACI. Currently I chair the UK Semiochemistry Network and the Rhinology & Laryngology Research Fund. Recently I oversaw the latest version of the BSACI Rhinitis Guidelines. I am a Board member of Brent Pure Energy, dedicated to increasing the local use of solar panels to reduce pollution. My next task is to cover 10k for the Bhopal Medical Appeal.

What is your experience with EAACI? I have been active in EAACI for 20 years: attending most Annual Meetings, chairing the ENT Section, organising and speaking at sessions, contributing to Task Forces, to Satellite Meetings and Summer Schools. My years on the EAACI Excom were productive and saw the rise of EAACI as the world leader in Allergy. As then President of the British Society for Allergy & Clinical Immunology (BSACI), I was heavily involved in the planning of the London 2010 meeting, which was the first to involve over 8,000 delegates. In 2012, I received the Clemens von Pirquet award for research.

What do you think are the main challenges that we all face today? We are all under subtle pressures from our employers, governments and pharmaceutical companies during training, in practice, in research and disease management, for patient information and in environmental and public health issues. It is important to recognise this – and to cope ethically. My own relationship with the Pharma industry involves working for multiple companies whilst keeping to the policy of speaking truth to each and to their audiences. In the difficult, polluted, rapidly changing world in which we live it is vital to have clear ideas and ideals about allergy pathogenesis, therapy and prevention, and to be able to communicate these, including to the public. Funding will never be adequate, so the best and most ethical use of resources is necessary.

Tell us about yourself. I am a part-time Honorary Consultant in Allergy & Rhinology in London with over 10 years’ experience of ethics committee membership: in my own hospital, at the Royal Free Hospital and on the EAACI Ethics Committee (2013–2016), and with an interest in the need for high ethical standards in all areas of EAACI activity and in the wider world.

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Munich 2018: Entering new areas

The EAACI Annual Congress 2018 in Munich, held from the 26–30 May, was another great success and fostered EAACI’s leading role in allergy. Around 7600 delegates and a record submission of more than 1900 abstracts both highlight the intense activities of EAACI. In support of the EAACI Goes Green initiative, the Congress also rapidly accelerated digital features this year, with a wide array of new and improved technologies such as the EAACI App, E-Posters and Virtual Congress Hubs.

The decision to record over 600 webcasts and make them accessible on the newly-developed EAACI Media Library was a bold move, giving people on-demand access to a huge amount of meeting content and learning materials. Within just a few weeks of the Congress, some webcasts had already been viewed more than 300 times. You can also find hundreds of E-Posters and abstract on the EAACI Media Library too, and it is absolutely free.

On top of the intense digital portfolio, it was a particular objective for me as Congress Chair to offer EAACI TV to the community for the first time in Munich. The aim of EAACI TV was to visualise the Academy’s activities, to highlight most recent developments in allergy and also prepare the way for live-streaming events which may in the future also allow parallel meetings in other cities. All EAACI TV recordings are also available on the EAACI Media Library.

The digital E-Posters were a culture change and were generally welcomed, although the noise in the Exhibition Hall was a challenge and possible improvements will be explored for upcoming meetings. The novel Patent Session, which invited scientists to present patented innovations, was very interesting and well attended, and was received very positively. A permanent reminder of the EAACI Congress 2018 is the pollen indicator that was exhibited at the entrance to the venue. It has currently in front of the clinic entrance to the Klinikum Rechts der Isar in Munich, before being finally located elsewhere in the city. It displays actual pollen flight and became a special attraction during Congress, as it is now at the clinic. But it is not only the stainless steel of the pollen indicator that remains so memorable, it is also the enthusiasm of all the faculty, delegates and organisers, all of whom I would like to thank again for their contribution to the unforgettable days of the EAACI Congress 2018 in Munich!

Whilst this year’s Congress is over, you can still view an EAACI TV clip on YouTube (search for ‘EAACI TV participants’ on YouTube, or click the following link when viewing the newsletter online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ktiDiIq6Jo). And do please save the dates 1–6 June 2019 for the next EAACI Congress in Lisbon.

Carsten Schmidt-Weber
EAACI Vice President of Congresses (2017–2019)
EAACI Congress 2018 Local Organising Committee Chair
National Allergy Societies Committee: Activities in Munich

The main activities of the National Allergy Societies Committee (NASC) in Munich last May were the NASC Business Meeting (BM) and the NAS Forum.

The NASC BM, by invitation only to Presidents and Representatives, was well attended by more than 30 delegates and was enriched by the presence of the EAACI leadership.

The NASC Chair reported on 2017–2018 activities, including the 12 new European and non-European members, recognition of the specialty in France, Slovenia and Estonia, and the EAACI NAS Dual Membership (a new membership category that allows NAS members to have access to special registration fees and many other benefits).

Members were updated by the NASC Secretary on the status of the European registry on specialty and allergy care (EAACI NASC and UEMS Survey) which is coming to an end with the objective of producing a first manuscript, for which all NASC and UEMS members who responded to the questionnaire will appear as authors.

Future activity plans include a European registry on guidelines that will start in September with the aim of building an online repository with links to EAACI and other local guidelines. At the same time, the need to translate and disseminate the EAACI Guidelines and position papers in NAS Journals and websites was underlined. Recently created Working Groups (WGs) will start working on Specialty and Quality Criteria, on Health Economics and EU lobbying, on Education, and on Membership.

It is my pleasure to announce that during the BM in Munich a collaboration between the NASC and the Junior Member (JM) Assembly was established. The involvement of JMs in upcoming NAS activities, active JM participation in WGs, building a network of JM representatives for each national society, a JM-oriented promotion of national activities, research and education, and JM-oriented lobbying and advocacy for allergy specialty in EU countries are the main goals of this collaboration.

The NAS Forum took place just after the NASC BM as a public symposium, the main aim being to present topics addressing local experiences and issues which may be useful to share with people from other countries. For the first time this year, we had four speakers: three from European countries and one from the International Societies Council. Margitta Worm, on behalf of the German Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology, gave a talk on the current situation of allergy care and allergy research in her country. Aideen Byrne from Ireland spoke about the same topic from the perspective of her country where allergology does not even exist as a subspecialty. Tari Haahtela reported on the Finnish Allergy Programme (2008–2018), underlying that the burden of allergic conditions in that particular society has started to decline, and that focusing on severe allergies and emphasising allergy health rather than mild problems has encouraged a more efficient use of healthcare resources. It was also very interesting to listen to a perspective outside of Europe from the fourth speaker, Kenji Izu-hara, who told us about allergy care and allergology in Japan.

Finally, the National Societies Village at the EAACI Annual Congress was well attended and visited by the EAACI leadership, allowing people from different countries to meet and exchange their experience in a suitable and relaxing space.

Don’t miss the opportunity to actively participate in NASC future activities and challenges!

M. Beatrice Bilò
NASC Chairperson

Nanna Fyhrquist
NASC Secretary

EAACI Congress 2018: Clinical Village

In Munich in May, the largest EAACI Clinical Village to date once again offered an excellent opportunity for attendees to try out different procedures and equipment used in the diagnosis and treatment of allergic diseases. This year’s clinical village comprised 16 booths presented by experts in clinical procedures, including: lung function and sports medicine, skin function testing (TEWL, corneometry), severe drug reactions, Mobile Health App, modern drug testing, anaphylaxis – emergency management, standardised patch testing, nasal and food challenges, photo allergy, exhaled NO measurement (FeNO), pediatric allergy school, pollen counts, in-vitro diagnosis (basophil activation test), ocular allergy and patient organisations. Admission was free and many registered attendees visited the booths located near the entrance to the Congress. The Clinical Village was planned as a complement to the EAACI postgraduate courses running on Saturday afternoon, combining theory with practice and was highly frequented on that day.

Ulf Darsow
EAACI Congress 2018, Local Organising Committee Member
Munich Congress: A Social Media success at #EAACI2018

The EAACI Annual Congress 2018 in Munich was a real success on social media. The event hashtag #EAACI2018 was well promoted using all the important social media platforms on which our organisation has active accounts, including Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube, Periscope and Pinterest.

The news and social networking service Twitter was used in a responsible, friendly and professional manner to enhance the #EAACI2018 meeting experience and facilitate dissemination of event-related information and interested audience interactions. According to the Symplur healthcare hashtag database, analysing data over the one-month period (2 April–2 May, 2018) covering before, during and after the Annual Congress, the numbers of tweets (11,726) and online participants (960) were greater than for the previous Congress, and the number of impressions was stunning at over 20.3 million.

The #EAACI2018 allergy activists meet-up, organised as a social media cocktail and Tweetup just before the Opening Ceremony, was held in a lavish setting at the Congress venue. It was opened by Karin Hoffmann-Sommergruber, EAACI Vice-President Communications & Membership, with a great message of support for the exchange of quality scientific information via social networking, and a thank you to all participants for their support in increasing our online visibility. Edward Knol, EAACI Scientific Media Editor, encouraged social media users to engage in scientific content posting on the Twitter platform during Congress, respecting the meeting’s professional etiquette and rules (previously published in this newsletter). Participants of this friendly face-to-face meeting were all social media allergy activists engaged in #ContinuousAllergyAwareness as well as enthusiastic newcomers to Twitter. As Social Media Editor, I live-streamed the Tweetup on Periscope, identifying the issue of respecting our followers as a high priority and thanking all allergy activists for their high-quality content as the lifeblood of our social media community, #AllergistsGetTogether. This video streaming event was refreshing, with no fancy editing, allowing people to see everything as it happened, either live or on replay. From only a few posts, the Tweetup and other broadcasts of the #EAACI2018 Opening Ceremony, Welcome Reception and Closing Ceremony, the EAACI Periscope account gathered more than 2300 viewers.

Meanwhile, on Facebook, during the Congress period in May 2018 the total number of page likes increased, reaching more than 5400. The Facebook posts with the greatest engagement rate (over 10%) and relating to #EAACI2018 were photos labelled #EAACI2018, #moments, #AllergyJournal, #AllergistsGetTogether Tweetup event, and the #EARCITV video “Enjoy a 360° view” of #EAACI2018.

Using the official event hashtag #EAACI2018, together with the suggestive hashtag #moments, the EAACI Instagram account rapidly gained more traffic and popularity. High-quality visuals were one of the EAACI Congress social media promotion priorities, in the context of the #EAACIGoesGreen initiative. Professionally taken photos from significant congress scientific, organisational and social activities, and of key opinion leaders, speakers and audiences were used, as well as images of the National Society Village and the congress venue in Munich, and amateur shots were also uploaded. By adding more human elements from behind the scenes, our followers’ experience was enriched. #EAACI2018 photos posted on Instagram got over 4600 likes and, mainly as a result of this, the total number of followers of the EAACI Instagram organisational account has increased by 20% over the last two months, reflecting a boost in its visibility.

Many thanks to all social media allergy activists for making #EAACI2018 such a great event! We’re all already looking forward to #EAACI2019 in Lisbon!

Florin-Dan Popescu
EAACI Social Media Editor
Munich Congress: Another successful year for the EAACI exam

EAACI has held the European Examination in Allergology and Clinical Immunology annually since 2008. Many candidates and members of numerous national societies have already successfully passed the examination. The exam is based on questions from a pool prepared by the EAACI Exam Committee, EAACI Task Force members and other members from different European centres. The questions are carefully formulated and reviewed by an international board of experts in allergology and clinical immunology, together with the Institute of Medical Education (IML), University of Bern, Switzerland – a specialised, professional institution which also supervises the evaluation of the examination.

The questions address topics on allergology and clinical immunology including allergens, dermatological, respiratory and pediatric allergy, anaphylaxis, venom hypersensitivity, and drug and food hypersensitivity. Furthermore, issues such as pregnancy and allergology, occupational allergies, eosinophilic disorders, mastocytosis, and CI-INH deficiency are covered. The exam also assesses knowledge of basic immunology and clinical immunology (auto-immunity and immune deficiency); it lasts three hours and is comprised of 120 multiple-choice questions, all in English.

This year, the examination was offered in two different tracks:

- The EAACI Knowledge Exam – consisting of 120 multiple-choice questions in allergology (70%) and basic/clinical immunology (30%), including a few pediatric questions with a focus on general allergology; and
- The EAACI Pediatric Track Exam – offered for the first time in 2018 and in collaboration with the EAACI Pediatric Section, this track (addressed at colleagues with a pediatric background) consisted of 120 multiple-choice questions, of which 100 questions were based on allergology and basic/clinical immunology (similar to the EAACI Knowledge exam) and 20 were specialised pediatric questions.

The 11th EAACI/UEMS Examination in Allergology and Clinical Immunology took place during the EAACI Annual Congress in Munich, on Saturday 26 May. This year we received a record-breaking 76 applications (68 EAACI members and 8 non-members) with applicants coming from 15 European and 12 non-European countries (including Brazil, Egypt, India, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar and South Africa). The greatest number of applicants came from Spain (23%), Switzerland (18%) and Germany (6%). From the original 76 applicants, 64 registered and 62 took the exam, 48 taking the Basic EAACI Knowledge Test and 14 taking the EAACI Pediatric Test; 15 applicants were granted UEMS support.

The continuous success of the exam is largely due to the enthusiasm, time and commitment of the members of the EAACI Exam Committee. We thank all those who have so actively contributed to the exam over the years and welcome all colleagues who would be willing to contribute in the future.

Musa Khaitov
EAACI Exam Committee Chair
This year, for the first time, the EAACI Annual Congress featured EAACI TV, which aims to promote and broadcast EAACI’s stunning multifaceted activities to a wider audience, including to those colleagues who were not able to join us in Munich. EAACI TV will provide selected material over the year via its YouTube channel (https://youtu.be/4klehi1Gu6o), which already has 259 subscribers. Alternatively, all the current 12 hours of EAACI TV recordings can be seen at https://www.eaaci.org in the brand new EAACI Media Library. EAACI TV generated a massive increase in social media and web activity (including 45,000 page-views during the week of the Congress).

The new service also received a lot of attention from EAACI’s founder sponsors, who continue to support EAACI and have already been engaged for EAACI2019@Lisbon. EAACI TV was also discovered by the EAACI sections, who are keen to use video formats to promote their activities and also for public outreach.

Roy Sheppard, a professional moderator, supported a team of scientific moderators who put together an interesting programme and conducted “must-see” interviews with speakers as well as delegates throughout the meeting. EAACI TV also featured several live streaming events such as the pro- and con-sections, during which the EAACI TV station was packed with delegates, and the plan is to live-stream even more sessions in the future. These sessions will open the doors to satellite or hybrid meetings in other cities around the world.

Another future plan is to install a so-called ‘green box’, which would allow 2-minute short videos to be recorded for posters as well as other sessions. These videos could provide more scientific content in a digestible form and act as teasers to trigger interest in the full-length content available in the EAACI Media Library.

Taken together it seems that EAACI TV was well received and had a good kick-off due to the fantastic engagement of the filming and editing teams, as well as the EAACI community and the moderators in particular: thank you all! But all this has just been the start: stay tuned to EAACI TV on EAACI’S Media Library and via EAACI’s YouTube channel!

Carsten Schmidt-Weber
EAACI Congress 2018 Local Organising Committee Chair
EAACI Vice President of Congresses (2017-2019)
The vision of the EAACI Junior Member Mentorship Programme (JM MP) is to promote an ongoing educational platform for young scientists and professionals from around the world, and to give them the opportunity to collaborate with leading figures internationally.

The goals of the initiative are: to improve professional skills and career development through the networking of JMs with experienced professionals within the EAACI community; to create a platform for JMs to communicate with experienced EAACI professionals, receive answers/feedback to their questions or comments, obtain assistance in achieving their goals and learn directly from an opinion leader in their field; and to help establish scientific collaboration.

After six previous successful rounds, the 2018 MP kicked off with 44 applications received from 15 countries. New features of the programme in 2018 include an opportunity for mentees to share their professional and scientific progress through a blog on the EAACI website. Moreover, mentor/mentee pairs from the 2018 round have been invited to submit a proposal for a hot topic review to be published in the EAACI journal *Pediatric Allergy and Immunology* (PAI).

All applications were assessed and scored anonymously by a panel of junior and senior EAACI reviewers. Twelve mentees were selected and paired with mentors based on preference, mentor approval, as well as on similar research interests.

Mentor–Mentee pairs were hosted by the EAACI JM MP team at a MP cocktail/informative event during the EAACI Annual Congress in Munich on 27 May 2018. Members of the 2016 round of the MP were also invited to the event as their round expired during the Annual Congress in Munich. Attendees also included JMs who were keen to acquire information about the programme and interested in applying for the forthcoming round.

Mentees selected in the 2018 round come from Turkey, France, Hong Kong, Ireland, Australia, Sudan, South Korea, Switzerland and the USA. The co-ordinators of the EEACI JM MP team wish to congratulate all successful candidates and look forward to hearing about their scientific collaborations and progress in the months ahead!

Thulja Trikamjee
JM Assembly Allied Health & Primary Care IG Representative and member of the EAACI JM MP Team

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**EAACI HQ Corner: Thomas Greif**

**EAACI Events and Education Manager**

I joined EAACI in mid May 2018. As one of my first highlights in the new job, I had the chance to attend the Annual Congress in Munich at the end of May, which was very impressive and particularly helpful for my onboarding process. Before joining EAACI, I worked for another medical society as Education Manager and for Bayer Consumer Care, where I was involved in different smaller IT projects.

**What is your experience in education and event management?**

In my previous job I was fortunate to be able to gather extensive knowledge and experience in the fields of education and event management. For more than 6 years I organised different kinds of events (summer schools and postgraduate courses), as well as being involved in setting up an e-learning platform and launching e-learning pilot projects.

**What are your main objectives?**

One of my major goals is streamlining processes within my portfolio and optimising and merging existing management tools. I would consider this an absolute prerequisite for an effective handling of daily business and for future growth.

Another priority is collaboration in the development of e-education, such as interactive case reports, webcasts and other blended learning opportunities. I can see a huge potential for our EAACI members in this sector and consider e-education to be one of the main drivers for possible growth in the future.
EAACI Task Forces: A great opportunity for allergy

Within the EAACI community, our Task Forces are important organisational features which deal with specific topics that are relevant, new or controversial in our field. Task Forces offer a challenging opportunity to link a variety of international experts to collaborate on a specific topic. A total of 81 Task Forces ranging from basic science, patient care to public outreach are currently active.

The Task Force teams meet frequently to discuss their specific aims. The outcomes that result from the Task Forces can vary, with the most noticeable products being the 6–7 position papers that are published in EAACI’s journals each year, but collaborative research databases, online learning platforms, teaching videos and adverse events registries are all also the likely results of successful Task Forces.

Every year, new Task Force proposals are submitted to the EAACI ExCom. A call for applications has already been sent out this year to all EAACI Sections, Interest Groups, Working Groups, Committees and Task Forces by EAACI Headquarters. EAACI members can also apply to establish a Task Force by writing to info@eaaci.org. This year application for new Task Forces or for renewal of existing ones is open from 18 July to 16 September. Please do consider applying for, or being part of, a Task Force.

You can find more information about the individual Task Forces on the EAACI homepage, and we will be placing more examples of their work under the spotlight here in the EAACI Newsletter in future issues.

Edward Knol
EAACI Scientific Media Editor

Science Committee News: MOOCS and EAACI

MOOCs (Massive Online Open Courses) represent the evolution of open education on the internet, with numerous universities around the world now offering hundreds of online courses. They have been around for just 10 years, with George Siemens and Stephen Downes in 2008 giving what can be considered the first MOOC, on “Connectivism and Connective Knowledge”. In 2011, Sebastian Thrun created an online and open course on artificial intelligence at Stanford University that attracted more than 100,000 students.

The great strength of the MOOC lies in its ability to unite nodes of knowledge. The change from closed educational platforms to open learning environments has meant that thousands of people from all over the world can follow different educational initiatives. The importance of these courses lies in how education will change in the near future as a result of these new teaching tools.

The characteristics of a MOOC are that they:
• have no limit on the number of registrations;
• can be followed online;
• are open and free; and
• use materials that are also accessible for free.

MOOCs respond to the requirements that society demands today with regard to continuing education, the need for flexibility and compatibility with other activities and personal situations which would not be possible through traditional training. Adaptation and the capacity for learning are essential in the 21st century and there is a constant demand for a more personalised education, whilst at the same time being aware of economic restrictions.

The acquisition of theoretical knowledge and above all skills are fundamental to maintaining an adequate level of professional competence, and the EAACI Science Committee will be promoting MOOCs to all our members and to all those professionals interested in improving the diagnosis and treatment of allergic diseases. The focus has to be on our allergic patients, and the main challenge of allergology in the 21st century is to advance our knowledge of the complexity of allergic diseases, to improve its prognosis, diagnosis and treatment. This will enable the transition to a precision medicine approach to our allergic patients which is predictive, preventive, personalised and participatory.

Our MOOCs will be useful tools, with the first EAACI MOOC planned to be available later this year.

Tomás Chivato
EAACI Science Committee Chair
The EAACI Task Force (TF) Towards Clinically Applicable Biomarkers for Asthma was initiated by the Asthma Section to investigate the clinical applicability of new and existing inflammatory biomarkers and sampling methods to support the diagnosis, targeted treatment and monitoring of severe asthma.

Inflammation, structural and functional abnormalities within the airways are key features of asthma. Nevertheless, their expression varies across the heterogeneous spectrum of asthma. For instance, type-2 (T2) asthma, characterised by increased levels of T2-cytokines including IL-4, IL-5, IL-13 and eosinophils in blood and/or in the airways, is presently the best defined endotype typically found in patients with allergic asthma. Surprisingly, this endotype is also found in non-allergic asthmatics, while it remains unclear why in some patients there is an absence or low T2 inflammation. This heterogeneity calls for a validation of the clinical application of biomarkers allowing the identification of patients who will benefit from the treatment with targeted biologicals or small molecules.

T2 asthma has generally been fairly well characterised, including its clinically applicable biomarkers, whereas characterisation of non-T2 asthma still represents an unmet need, with its underlying mechanisms largely unclarified, and hence it lacks adequate biomarkers and targeted treatment options.

Zuzana Diamant
EAACI Asthma Section Chair
TF Chair, Towards Clinically Applicable Biomarkers for Asthma TF

Sven Seys
EAACI Asthma Section Board Member
TF Secretary, Towards Clinically Applicable Biomarkers for Asthma TF

A few words from the Website Editor

I hope you all had great summer breaks! Congress 2018 – what a great success! Nice place, good venue and great presenters! I congratulate everyone, organisers and participants, involved. At the Congress, many fruitful meetings took place where I was able to share my opinions and listen to your voices, hearing from motivated and creative people who brought fresh points of view.

Let me highlight a few developments on the website, either newly introduced during the Congress this year or still ongoing.

For the first time this year we had live EAACI TV at the Congress. Many on-site interviews took place as well as session recordings which you could follow live at www.eaaci.org. This was a great option for those who could not attend the Congress in person but wanted to watch what was going on in real time.

Right now, the EAACI Media Library is open, which everyone – and not just EAACI members – can easily access after a short registration process (go to www.eaaci.org). There you can find videos, webcasts, interviews recorded during Congress and, in the future, content from other EAACI meetings. An easy search tool will guide you to the presentation you want to watch. Please do check it out and send your feedback to webeditor@eaaci.org.

New things show up on the website every day and we have changed the main page again to make it easier to use and even more informative. Details about EAACI events is being updated all the time (http://www.eaaci.org/eaaci-meetings). You can already search for information about next year’s Congress. Additionally, two crucial new pages have been created:


I would like to remind you about the special pages created for Sections, Interest Groups and Working Groups: if you are a member of any of these, you can influence the webpage content. Please send your text directly to me and I will look after it. No IT work is needed from you.

If you would like to advertise a job position in the immunology field, please feel free to submit it using our EAACI JOB CENTER - http://www.eaaci.org/resources/job-center/eaaci-external-positions.html. [Only ads from industry will not be accepted].

Finally, I would like to bring your attention to the HONcode certificate which our Academy received this year, indicating that the EAACI website is a trustful source of information in our field and meets criteria in the following eight areas: authoritative, complementarity, privacy, attribution, justifiability, transparency, financial disclosure, and advertising policy. This is an important achievement which I am proud to be part of!

Stay tuned!●

Sylwia Smolinska
EAACI Website Editor

www.eaaci.org
The primary mission of the Sociedad Española de Alergología e Immunología Clínica (SEAIC; the Spanish Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology) was defined in the 2011–2018 SEAIC Strategic Plan as “the diffusion and generation of knowledge centred on excellence in clinical practice, setting nationwide standards so as to become an indispensable interlocutor for public and private stakeholders” (Olaguibel JM 2011; translated from the original Spanish text).

Clinical practice of this nature must be centred on the needs of patients and the population at large, and must ensure the safety of these individuals and the quality of care delivered to them.

Recently we published a document (with the Spanish acronym, RESCAL) to provide a series of guidelines enabling clinical practice in allergy medicine to be carried out in accordance with these standards of quality and safety and also establishing the structural requirements, human resources and allotted times necessary for each procedure. These recommendations are available at http://www.jiaci.org/summary/vol28-issuesuppl-1-num1598.

The Spanish Society of Allergy, currently with over 1500 members, was founded in November 1948, being one of the oldest scientific societies in Spain; its current name, the Spanish Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology, was coined in 1975. Therefore, in 2018 we are celebrating 70 years since its foundation. Its first meeting took place in 1949 and since 1978 our meetings have been held annually, with National Congresses and International Symposia alternating every other year. Its first working committees started in 1959 and today SEAIC has 15 working committees specialised in the diverse fields of allergy, including a specific committee on nursing in allergy. From 1986 to 2005 the Spanish Journal of Allergology and Clinical Immunology, was the official journal, which was then closed and became the Journal of Investigational Allergology and Clinical Immunology, an open-access English-language journal that has notably increased its impact factor in recent years (currently it is 3.457). We invite you to submit your work at http://www.jiaci.org.

Our clinical practices and standards are guided by evidence-based medicine principles. This year, we are in the process of establishing the educational materials, procedures and administrative registries needed for continuous recertification of Spanish allergists. Additionally, all of our scientific working committees worked on the second edition of the Textbook of Allergology, which we believe is the reference book on allergy practice in the Spanish language. This textbook is available exclusively for SEAIC members online at www.seaic.org.

Another important feature of SEAIC is the pollen count website www.polenes.com which allows patients, allergist and other stakeholders to obtain up-to-date pollen counts for the different regions in Spain. We have 52 stations around the country.

A new edition of Alergología, the nationwide Spanish epidemiological study in allergy which was originally carried out in 1992 and then again in 2005, has recently been published with data from 2015, providing important information on the prevalence of allergic diseases and clinical procedures and how these change through time.

From 8–10 November, we will be celebrating the EAACI 2018 International Severe Asthma Forum (ISAF) in the vibrant city of Madrid. ISAF is an interactive EAACI Focused Meeting and the programme is designed to facilitate discussions on severe asthma. We invite you to join us! For more information, see https://www.eaaci.org/focused-meetings/isaf-2018.

Finally, from 24–27 November, in the outstanding city of Valencia, we will celebrate our XXXI National Congress with keynote national and international speakers. For more information, visit http://congresoseaic.org/SEACIC2018.

To learn more about SEAIC, we cordially invite you to visit the website: www.seaic.org.

Joaquin Sastre
SEAIC, President
Six months have passed since our new editors assumed leadership of Allergy. An extremely motivated team now works on the subjects we love with great passion, enjoying the challenge and providing the vision to make our journal a major platform for all aspects of science, clinical practice, education and policy-making in allergy and immunology, throughout the health care milieu. Some of the novel features of our journal are presented on this page.

We would like to express our appreciation for the continuing commitment of EAACI members and especially Junior members, who serve as reviewers. Our dedicated team is aware that the “quality and impact” of Allergy is extremely important not only for the members of EAACI, but also for the whole specialty worldwide.

Cezmi A. Akdis  
Editor-in-Chief of Allergy

Maria J. Torres  
Deputy Editor of Allergy

Claudia Traidl-Hoffmann  
De Yun Wang  
Heimo Breiteneder  
Liam O’Mahony  
Luo Zhang  
Oliver Pfaar  
Robyn O’Hehir  
Thomas Eiwegger  
Wytske J. Fokkens  
Zuzana Diamant  
Associate Editors of Allergy

Immediate Online Publication of Accepted Articles  
We now offer a rapid way for authors to reach Allergy readers: original papers go online within a few days after acceptance and are then replaced with an edited version as soon as the proof stage has been completed. We are very pleased with the terrific feedback we have had for this initiative from our authors.

Recent Patents  
Innovation is essential to move our specialty forward. With this new series, we are going to showcase recent important patents in the allergy/immunology specialty that may have a major impact in the future. These articles will have two sections: one describing the novelty and importance of the discovery and the other introducing the story of the discovery, including coincidences and luck.

Graphical Abstracts  
One of the new features that we have introduced, Graphical Abstracts are single, concise, visual summaries of the main findings of an article. We have already accepted more than fifty Graphical Abstracts and will soon develop a gallery of them all on our website. We are happy to see that they have already been presented in talks by our authors.

Disease Algorithms  
We are interested in publishing summaries of diagnosis and treatment algorithms on how to approach a patient. These articles will be 1000 words with two figures written by international authors who have recently contributed a guideline or position paper in the area.

Essentials of Allergy/Immunology  
This is a new extensive review series that comprehensively reports a detailed understanding of a topic. The aim is to provide physicians/scientists with a wide-ranging education tool in the form of a detailed desktop reference with up to six high quality figures and extensive key references.

Images in Allergy  
We are now inviting our authors to submit interesting images of lesions, microscope images and instruments, allowing readers of Allergy to see them perhaps for the first time. These articles will have one image with a text containing a detailed description.

Legends of Allergy  
With this new series, we will feature eminent scientists from our specialty who have made key discoveries that have substantially changed our understanding and practice in our fields.

Allergy in Social Media  
We are going to share all our articles on Facebook and Twitter. There will be summaries and main images of the articles with one click access to a downloading site providing a platform for further public discussions.
The winner of the 2018 Daniel Bovet Award for treatment and prevention went to Gideon Lack for his research on peanut allergy and strategies to prevent food allergies through oral tolerance induction. Gideon is a Professor of Pediatric Allergy at King’s College London and head of the Children’s Allergy Service at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust. In the last three years, he has made significant contributions in reversing the infant weaning policy worldwide, changing national and international guidelines by showing that early consumption of peanuts in atopic infants reduces peanut allergy by approximately 80%.

The 2018 winner of the Paul Ehrlich Award for improving experimental research is Sebastian Johnston. Sebastian is a Professor of Respiratory Medicine and Allergy at the National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial College London and Director of the Medical Research Council and Asthma UK in allergy mechanisms in asthma. He is recognised as a world authority and key opinion leader in asthma exacerbations, a field in which he has made notable discoveries and had a decisive contribution in discovering novel mechanisms of susceptibility to virus infection in asthma. He has also had a leading role in developing the first mouse model of rhinovirus infection and rhinovirus-induced exacerbation of allergic airways inflammation. With his discoveries, Sebastian helped develop new approaches for acute asthma exacerbations.

This year’s Charles Blackley Award for promotion of the specialty was given to Pascal Demoly. Pascal is a Professor of Pulmonology at Montpellier University and head of the Pulmonology Department at the University Hospital of Montpellier, France. Over many years, he has undertaken important work on clinical guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of allergic diseases and standardisation procedures, focusing on allergen immunotherapy, drug allergy and respiratory diseases. His most recent achievement was to implement the full medical specialty of allergology in France.

The Clemens von Pirquet Award for clinical research was awarded this year to Joaquin Sastre for his contributions to the process of understanding airway allergy. Currently, Professor Sastre’s group is integrated in the Biomedical Research Center on Respiratory Diseases (CIBERES) and he is head of the allergy unit of the Fundación Jiménez Díaz. Under his leadership, the Foundation has been established as one of the most reputed institutions in Spain in which to receive training in allergology.

The 2018 Allergopharma Award was given to Brecht Steelant for his postdoctoral research in clinical immunology at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. The award commends his research in the regulation of epithelial barrier function in allergic rhinitis. ●
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.
I was lucky enough to receive a three-month EAACI Fellowship to join the Pediatric Allergy Department at St Mary’s Hospital, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, under the mentorship of Marta Vazquez-Ortiz.

I chose this allergy department, led by Adnan Custovic, because it is one of the largest tertiary referral centres in Europe and, excitingly, it has a strong multidisciplinary approach to children with complex allergies. Here, pediatric allergists, nurses, dietitians, researchers and allied specialists work together in one unit.

I learnt so much from the team’s expertise in multisystem allergic disease, complex food allergy, difficult eczema, difficult asthma, adolescent transitioning and patient education. I saw the value of joint clinics, where paediatric allergists see patients together with a dermatologist, pulmonologist or gastroenterologist to improve the quality of complex patient care.

I really enjoyed learning different strategies on educating patients to self-manage their allergies from the nurses (including scenario-based anaphylaxis training and practical advice on how-to-use inhalers, nasal sprays, adrenaline autoinjectors and eczema creams). Observing dietitians covering nutritional assessments, food avoidance and alternative cooking advice was very practically helpful.

I saw the differences in presentation and management of allergy in the United Kingdom. It was fascinating to see very frequent severe eczema and complex ‘allergic gut disease’ cases in a highly multicultural population.

I joined weekly multidisciplinary meetings where complex cases and controversial topics were discussed. I also observed the team’s active research portfolio, especially on food allergy.

Finally, I had the opportunity to join some excellent lectures from the reputed Postgraduate courses in Allergy at Imperial College London. I would highly recommend these courses to anyone pursuing a career in allergy.

This Fellowship has been one of the best opportunities I have had in my training. My time in this dynamic centre was hugely inspiring and valuable for my future career as a highly qualified allergy specialist. I have developed advanced skills to use a multidisciplinary approach to manage complex allergies. I would strongly recommend this experience to junior allergists and pediatricians keen to learn from a highly specialised and motivated multidisciplinary team.

Maria Dolores Guerra Vilaplana
EAACI Clinical Fellowship Awardee 2018

The EAACI Patient Organisations Committee (POC), which is comprised of 32 of the largest patient advocacy groups from 27 countries around the world, presented during the Practical Allergy Management Workshop Sessions at the Annual Congress in Munich, in June. The topics discussed included ‘New findings and priorities in food allergy’ and ‘Challenges to the implementation of guidelines’. Participants at the sessions agreed that the interdisciplinary presentations in the two workshops were among the most informative and interactive sessions held at the annual meeting to date.

The POC’s popular Clinical Village booth, a role play challenge to diagnose the correct allergic disease, issued more than 50 certificates for successful completion.

Members also met with EAACI’s Communications Team to discuss improvements to the POC’s presence on the EAACI website. In an effort to ensure that updated information of POC member activities is available to all EAACI members, we agreed that each POC member organisation would provide its summary mission statement, URL link and jpeg file of their logos. In addition, members will submit articles and other material which their organisations develop that might be of interest to the broader membership.

Under the leadership of Frans Timmermans, the POC will provide input to EAACI’s current White Paper on research, innovation and quality care.

Finally, as in previous years, the POC leadership is working closely with the Local Organising Committee and EAACI’s Scientific Programme Committee on the upcoming biannual FAAM Meeting, to be held in Copenhagen in October.

We hope that you all come along to hear updates from the POC at that meeting!

Frans Timmermans
Mary Jane Marchisotto
EAACI Patient Organisations Committee Chairs
The EAACI budget preparation and approval process is currently underway - the highlight of the year from the perspective of the EAACI Finance team. This group includes the ExCom, especially the Finance Group, EAACI Headquarter and our financial advisers from REBO. This large group undertakes a crucial job, bearing in mind the importance of this work for the regular and high level scientific activities of EAACI, which determine the present but most of all the future of our Academy.

After a year of discussion and preparation, a new project submission and evaluation platform has been launched. With this platform, EAACI has enormously improved the ability of its members to apply for funding for scientific activities, for networking and dissemination of ideas. It is now time for all EAACI members to test this new user-friendly platform, which allows for easy submission and makes the ensuing evaluation process transparent and very fair.

What is new? The simple and entirely new digital submission system, and the streamlined approach are the major improvements. The ExCom, guided by the President and by its Finance Group, provided a framework based on the Academy’s policy priorities and major needs (see table). According to this framework, you will be guided during the submissions process by a “windows” structure, which allows you to easily locate your intended project within the framework. This will not only make submission much easier and more understandable but also warrant a transparent revision process based on clear assessment of the importance of the project and its position, compared to other submissions. In addition, projects valued up to €10,000 will be evaluated under a fast track approach. This will let projects above €10,000 be assessed in more detail, with a value scoring system, allowing sufficient attention to be paid to more costly and potentially more important applications.

Please bear in mind that the role of the Finance team is to facilitate the whole process but we largely rely on the expertise, commitment and willingness to contribute of the whole EAACI family i.e. members, sections, committees, interest groups and working groups.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the ExCom Finance Group - Knut Brokow, Philippe Gevaert, Antti Lauerma and Jürgen Schwarze – for their great work providing valuable input and important comments, as well as to the HQ team, especially Charalampos Kostaras, for preparation of the very modern and user-friendly digital platform.

Marek Jutel
EAACI Treasurer

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### Projects for EAACI Strategic Plan

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The Skin Allergy Club (SAC), organised by the EAACI Dermatology Section, aims to promote the communication and exchange of experience among young clinicians and researchers working in the field of skin allergy. The SAC is held annually in Zurich, usually starting on Friday afternoon at the EAACI Headquarters (first session) and finishing midday on Saturday at the University Hospital for Dermatology and Allergy (second session).

Participation is competitive: although the call for applications is sent out to all EAACI Junior Members (JMs) of the Dermatology Section, only ten are selected based on the quality of their submitted abstract, CV and motivation letters. Each participant has an opportunity to make a short presentation (10–15 minutes) about the topic of their interest followed by a group discussion moderated by invited professors. Selected topics include urticaria, angioedema, immediate hypersensitivity reactions in the skin, autoimmune skin diseases, mastocytosis, vasculitis, autoimmune skin diseases, infectious skin diseases, contact dermatitis and atopic eczema.

The SAC celebrated its fifth anniversary on 8–9 June 2018 in the relaxing and friendly atmosphere of the EAACI Headquarters and in the hospitable and academic environment of the University Hospital, Department of Dermatology, Zurich, by kind invitation of Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier and Martin Glatz.

A wide spectrum of cutaneous allergy was covered: from atopic dermatitis and eczema to urticaria, contact dermatitis and use of confocal microscopy in dermatologic allergy. The main focus of this SAC was on mastocytosis with four mastocytosis-related abstracts accepted. For the first time in 2018, the abstracts of successful applicants will be published in a SAC abstract book and uploaded to the EAACI website. Each accepted participant received 300 EUR towards travel expenses plus overnight accommodation and dinner.

The ten selected delegates came from different countries around the world including the Netherlands, Canada, Russia, Turkey, India and Italy. Discussions were moderated by Knut Brockow (EAACI Dermatology Section Chairperson; Germany), Charlotte Gotthard Mørtz (EAACI Dermatology Section Secretary; Denmark) and Martin Glatz (EAACI Dermatology Section Board Member; Switzerland), all well-known experts in the field. During the first session, Knut Brockow presented an interesting lecture about allergic reactions in mastocytosis, whereas Charlotte Mørtz gave important hints on differential diagnosis between atopic dermatitis and allergic contact dermatitis in children.

Participants had dinner in a typical Swiss restaurant and stayed overnight in a local hotel. Martin Glatz finished the second session on Saturday with an interactive lecture on atopic dermatitis and then guided participants through the Department of Dermatology of the University Hospital. The Certificate for the best presentation was awarded to Chen Hu (the Netherlands), who shared her experience about the SAC: “The Skin Allergy Club is a unique opportunity to discuss and interpret your results in detail with fellow junior and senior scientists, and clinicians from all over the world in the beautiful city of Zurich. Constructive suggestions were given in an open and safe environment. Meeting all the participants and learning about their research inspired and motivated me, both academically and personally. I am grateful to EAACI for organising this meeting and providing a fruitful ground for junior members to grow in our role as future leaders in the field of dermatology and allergy research.”

Pavel Kolkhir
EAACI Dermatology Section JM Representative
The 4th International Severe Asthma Forum (ISAF 2018) will take place from 8–10 November 2018 in Madrid, Spain. Building on the growing success of the previous ISAF meetings (Gothenburg 2012, Athens 2014, Manchester 2016), the aim of ISAF 2018 is to bring together scientists and clinicians with a broad range of experience, from junior scientists/researchers/doctors to key opinion leaders, at a focused meeting dedicated to all aspects of severe asthma.

The programme has been designed to encourage interactions between the faculty, key opinion leaders and participants, and to facilitate collaborations and translation of emerging discoveries into clinical practice to benefit our patients.

This year, ISAF will be even more attractive with a partial two-track itinerary, with oral and poster abstract presentations, state-of-the-art plenary lectures, topical lectures, pro/con sessions and interactive meet-the-expert breakfast seminars and workshops. Apart from our faculty members and junior researchers, several international key opinion leaders have agreed to participate in lectures and discussions, allowing even more diversity of topics and even more interaction.

Scientific highlights of ISAF 2018 will include:
• The immunological basis of a heterogeneous syndrome (including endotypes and phenotypes)
• Diagnostic controversies and comorbidities
• Novel diagnostic and monitoring tools
• New insights into mechanisms and treatment options of non-type 2 asthma
• Pro/Con sessions:
  » Do we need more Biologicals?
  » Is Ehealth useful in the treatment of severe asthma?
• Targeted treatment of severe asthma: Precision medicine in clinical practice
• The launch of the EAACI AIT Asthma Guidelines

We look forward to seeing you in Madrid!

Zuzana Diamant
EAACI Asthma Section Chair
Local Organising Chair

Santiago Quirce
Local Organising Secretary

Matteo Bonini
EAACI Asthma Section Secretary
Allergy School on Immunotherapy in Children for the Treatment of Respiratory and Food Allergy: Barcelona 2018

Immunotherapy is one of the main focuses of scientific study and a cornerstone for clinicians working in the allergy and immunology field. One of EAACI’s commitment is to ensure high quality training and educational tools for researchers and young professionals working in the allergy field. This will be the first Allergy School focusing exclusively on immunotherapy in children for the treatment of respiratory and food allergy. The 3-day course will take place in Barcelona from 20–22 September 2018 and is being organised as a joint effort by the Pediatric Section, the Immunotherapy and Food Allergy Interest Group, the Eosinophilic Esophagitis Working Group and the Junior Member Assembly.

The school is set to welcome over 100 participants from the far corners of the globe to participate in very attractive scientific and social programmes. The course will be held in the Hotel Barcelona Center on Carrer de Balmes, right in the middle of the city. Participants will be able to enjoy the colourful and eclectic historical sites as well as a spectacular dinner and tour at San Pau Hospital, a true jewel of modernist architecture.

However, the true stars will be the state-of-the-art scientific programme and the wide range of international experts in the area of immunotherapy who will be sharing their knowledge with participants in a relaxed environment.

The first talk is to be given by Mohamed Shamji, highlighting the differences in immunotherapy between children and adults. Following this, Domingo Barber will speak on the very hot topic of biomarkers based on metabolomics. In the first afternoon, we will be learning about immunotherapy in prevention as well as in treatment of rhinitis and asthma in what promises to be an exciting lecture by Graham Roberts and Susanne Halken.

On the second day we are delighted to be able to offer new insights on adjuvants, placebo and the regulatory scenario of immunotherapy, with lectures by Oliver Pfaar and Lars Jacobsen.

Participants will also enjoy practical workshops and have ample time for discussion on strategies for treating polysensitised patients, provocation tests and how to set up an immunotherapy clinic for aeroallergens, as well asAIT for milk, egg and peanut, with participation of prominent seniors such as Antonella Murano and Margitta Worm.

On the third day we will explore the five W’s in food immunotherapy (who, what, when, where and why?) as well as the current food immunotherapy protocols, new concepts and new routes surrounding food immunotherapy in a fascinating talk from Giovanni Paine. The very key issue of possible eosinophilic esophagitis as an adverse event after OIT and the possible use of immunotherapy in the treatment of non-IgE mediated food allergies will be addressed by Antonella Cianferoni.

The programme will be completed by what are sure to be interesting poster and oral abstracts presented by the young scientists and clinicians attending the school, highlighting the importance of immunotherapy for upcoming developments in the allergy field. Overall, the Allergy School promises to be a great success from which we all hope to benefit. We look forward to seeing you there.

Montserrat Alvaro
Local Organising Chair

Carmen Riggioni
Local Organising Secretary
UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Congress 2019
EAACI Congress 2019
1 – 5 June 2019, Lisbon, Portugal
www.eaaci.org

Focused Meetings

Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Meeting
18 - 20 October 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark
www.eaaci.org/focused-meetings/faam-2018

European Consortium on Application of Flow Cytometry
18 October 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark
www.eaaci.org/focused-meetings/eurobat-2018

International Severe Asthma Forum
8 - 10 November 2018, Madrid, Spain
www.eaaci.org/focused-meetings/isaf-2018

European Rhinallergy Meeting
21 - 23 March 2019, Eastbourne, United Kingdom
www.eaaci.org/focused-meetings/rhina-2018
Arzu Bakirtas (Turkey), introduced us to the different patterns of lung function (LF) in persistent childhood asthma and its chances for better treatment. Related to this topic, an interesting article was published by McGeachie MJ et al. (2016) regarding risk factors for reduced LF growth in the third decade in persistent childhood asthma. Data from this study suggested that childhood impairment of LF and male sex were the most significant predictors of abnormal longitudinal patterns of LF growth and decline. Another interesting point is that children with persistent asthma and reduced growth of LF are at increased risk for fixed airflow obstruction and possibly COPD in early adulthood. An important question to answer related to this topic is when LF growth reduction starts in children with asthma. According to the Tucson Children’s Respiratory Study (which began in 1980), it can start at school age or in preschool years, especially in patients with persistent asthma and reduced growth of LF. Furthermore, it is important to point out that LF impairment can be present in toddlers and during the newborn period. In children with persistent asthma, some of the LF deficits are present at birth and these deficits continue progressively until school age. Also, reduced LF in adults with asthma is established in childhood and does not appear to decline more rapidly in adult years despite symptoms. In contrast, the reduction of childhood smoke exposure and minimisation of the risk of early-life sensitisation and wheezing exacerbations might reduce the risk of diminished LF in early adulthood. Moreover, a better asthma control, smoking cessation, a vaccine for human rhinovirus for COPD and asthma exacerbations, and better air quality could be possible interventions in order to improve LF and prognosis. In conclusion, the main points of this interesting talk were that persistent childhood asthma has an important impact on LF growth. Impairment in LF growth starts prenatally and progresses through preschool years with a smaller decrease thereafter through adult years. Most persistent wheezers fall within a low LF trajectory during early life but show a transition to normal LF trajectory. However, a few continue to stay on this low LF trajectory. Finally, persistent childhood asthma, especially severe ones, are at increased risk of developing COPD in adult ages.

Our second speaker, Angela Simpson (United Kingdom) delighted us with an interesting talk about asthma through the life cycle. In 1997, Stein RT et al. identified three different wheezing phenotypes in childhood: “transient early wheezing” limited to the first three years of life, “non-atopic wheezing” of the toddler and early school years associated with positive peak flow variability; and “IgE-associated wheeze/asthma” associated with persistent wheezing at any age and markers of atopy. These patterns of wheezing during early childhood may indicate differences in the etiology and prognosis of respiratory illnesses. Different wheeze phenotypes across cohorts have been studied, with the most important similarities found between them being that 15% of the population has transient early wheeze and most pre-school wheezing illnesses have been resolved by the age of five. But, how do wheeze phenotypes relate to asthma? Is sensitisation a major risk factor for persistence of wheeze? What about children presenting to hospital with asthma
exacerbation? The study of genetic and environmental factors associated with different phenotypes may help elucidate these questions. Murray CS et al. (2017) found that sensitisation was associated with major risk factors for persistent wheeze. It was also associated with more medication usage and is a more dominant feature as children age. Related to this topic, Simpson A et al. (2015) published an interesting paper in which latent variable modelling with a large number of allergen components identified three patterns of IgE responses, each including different protein families. In 11-year-old children, the pattern of response to components of multiple allergens appeared to be associated with current asthma and hay fever. Hence, an association between sensitisation to component groups and clinical outcomes has been demonstrated. So, taking into account that risk of sensitisation, what should we do now? In order to answer this question Angela Simpson explained another study: PAXAMA (Preventing Asthma eXacerbations by Avoiding Mite Allergen). In this study, the use of house-dust mite impermeable bedding on severe asthma exacerbations in children was evaluated and concluded that mite-impermeable encasings are effective in reducing the number of mite-sensitised asthmatic children attending hospital with asthma exacerbations but not the number requiring oral prednisolone. A reduction in risk of hospital attendance was seen for children who were: younger (aged 3–10 years), on GINA treatment step ≥3, sensitised only to mite, from non-smoking homes and from the most deprived homes. This simple measure may reduce the health care burden of asthma exacerbations in children. In this sense, the authors concluded that a simple and cheap intervention costing around £130/$200 is effective in reducing hospital attendance with severe asthma exacerbations in children.

Finally, Ulrike Gehring (The Netherlands) introduced us to the role of air pollution during childhood and throughout adolescence. She reviewed the health effects of air pollution on asthma and lung function. First, it is important to know that there are different sources of air pollution and different pollutants. Sources of air pollution are: natural, such as lightning, volcanos or forests; areas such as cities, livestock and fertilizers; transport, such as airplanes, cars, trucks, buses or motorcycles; facilities such as industries, and power and sewage treatment plants. All of these emit pollutants. Second, the most important pollutants are sulphur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), ammonia (NH3) and particulate matter (PM). On this basis, it is important to highlight that pollution can cause a greater risk in children because they suffer higher exposure from having a higher minute ventilation and more time spent outdoors and also due to the immune system and organs still being immature. Regarding the effects of air pollution, they can be classified as short-term (acute and sub-acute, lasting hours, days or weeks) and long-term (chronic). In inner-city children with asthma, short-term increases in air pollutant concentrations below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards have been associated with adverse respiratory health effects. The associations with NO2 suggest that motor vehicle emissions may be causing excess morbidity. Moreover, residence near to a major road has been associated with asthma. It has also been evaluated that exposure to air pollution early in life might contribute to the development of asthma throughout childhood and adolescence, particularly after age 4 years, and may result in reducing lung function in schoolchildren. In the PIAMA cohort, higher air pollution exposure was associated with lower FEV1 at age 16 and reduced FEV1 growth from age 8 to 16 years. It has also found that long-term exposure to traffic-related air pollution is associated with an increased risk of developing asthma and reduced lung function (growth) in children and adolescents. Improvements in air quality have positive effects on lung functions and could help to prevent the development of asthma in children. However, more studies are needed so as to understand the persistence of these effects into adulthood, to understand the effects of air pollution on small airways and the relevance of exposure to ultrafine particles. In conclusion, do not postpone actions to improve air quality and lower limit values, as this will improve the respiratory health of children.

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European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology
1 – 5 June 2019
Lisbon, Portugal

EAACI Congress 2019

Mapping the new world of allergy

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