

Luis Delgado

I am the EAACI Vice President for Education & Specialty 2009-2010, and Associate Professor of Immunology, at the Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade do Porto, Portugal. Currently, I also work as an Allergist at the Hospital de S.João, and in private practice, in Porto, where I live.

It has been a great experience to work as an EAACI Executive Committee member over the last six years. It was a honour and a privilege to serve in the new position of VP for Education and Specialty for the past two years, and a continuous challenge to participate in the reorganization of the ExCom: we broadened the leadership base, establishing new roles and responsibilities for the three Vice-Presidents and moved to the new Headquarters, in Zurich. Although not all our goals were fully attained, there is still a lot of work in progress and opportunities for further improvements and innovation. I hope to continue to contribute to the strengthening of our Academy as a leading scientific organization in the field of clinical allergy and immunology.

Meetings besides our main annual congress continue to grow and are becoming noted for providing outstanding educational activities, including ISMA, SERIN, the Drug Hypersensitivity Meeting, and the Allergy Schools. Plans to establish a thematic track on Immunotherapy in our annual Allergic Schools, the Paediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting and the consolidation of Postgraduate Courses, present new challenges for 2009-11, but also opportunities for expanding the continuous professional development of our members and outreaching to other specialities. We also plan to increase web based learning activities and networking (using different Social Media Technologies), which have an added relevance in today's global economic conditions. These technologies will create new avenues for virtual collaboration and team work between Sections, Interest Groups, JMAs and Task Forces, aiming to bring the best updated information to our membership and to the patients under our care. Meanwhile, optimising the development of a common CME strategy with UEMS, and the establishment of the EAACI exam as a European certified knowledge test in allergy and clinical immunology, are also under our scope, with the goal of promoting a modern allergy practice in Europe that integrates clinical practice, research and education.