

Integration

GA²LEN

Global Allergy and Asthma European Network

Network of Excellence

Spreading Excellence in Allergy and Asthma in Europe

Network
Global
Research
Allergy
Asthma





Network of Excellence

Project details

- **Network of Excellence funded by the European Union under the 6th Framework programme for Research (2004-2009)**
- **31 Partners: 27 research institutes, 2 European societies & 2 SMEs**
- **The network is expanding: already close to 50 collaborating centres**
- **More than 500 researchers from more than 20 European countries**
- **9 research topics besides harmonisation activities**

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GA²LEN Contract number: FOOD-CT-2004-506378

GA²LEN, the Global Allergy and Asthma European Network, brings together multidisciplinary research teams that address allergic diseases in their globality. Understanding common risk factors and mechanisms will contribute to improve treatment and quality of life for up to 150-200 million Europeans with allergies and asthma.

Partners

	University of Ghent	<i>Belgium</i>
	European Academy of Allergology and Clin. Immunology	<i>EAACI</i>
	European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients Associations	<i>EFA</i>
	University of Vienna Medical School	<i>Austria</i>
	Odense University Hospital	<i>Denmark</i>
	Helsinki University Central Hospital	<i>Finland</i>
	INSERM	<i>France</i>
	Charité, Universitätmedizin Berlin	<i>Germany</i>
	Ludwig Maximilians Universität München	<i>Germany</i>
	Technische Universität München	<i>Germany</i>
	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	<i>Greece</i>
	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Div. Rome & Palermo	<i>Italy</i>
	University of Genoa	<i>Italy</i>
	Academic Medical Center Amsterdam	<i>Netherlands</i>
	University of Utrecht	<i>Netherlands</i>
	Voksentoppen BKL, National Hospital, Oslo	<i>Norway</i>
	Jagiellonian University Medical College Krakow	<i>Poland</i>
	Medical University of Lodz	<i>Poland</i>
	Universitat de Coimbra	<i>Portugal</i>
	Institut Municipal D'Assistencia Sanitaria (IMAS) Barcelona	<i>Spain</i>
	Autonoma University of Madrid	<i>Spain</i>
	Göteborg University	<i>Sweden</i>
	Karolinska Institutet	<i>Sweden</i>
	University of Zurich, Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma research (SIAF)	<i>Switzerland</i>
	King's College London	<i>United Kingdom</i>
	Imperial College of Science Technology and Medicine, London	<i>United Kingdom</i>
	University of Southampton	<i>United Kingdom</i>
	AW Communication sprl	<i>Belgium</i>
	Custodix nv	<i>Belgium</i>



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FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Integration activities

Integration activities allow the partners to establish real networking and to develop common databases/bio-banks,...

Standardized procedures are created to ensure quality in scientific research, clinical care, training and education.

Joint Research activities

on the following phases of development and progression of the diseases across the life course:

- Early life events in the development of allergic sensitization
- The translation of allergic sensitization into allergic disease
- The persistence and aggravation of allergic diseases and asthma.

Dissemination of knowledge

GA²LEN adapts, translates and disseminates regularly the GA²LEN results to the scientific community, to the junior researchers, to the health care Professionals and to the Patients, Public and Policy makers.

Integration Activities

<p>WP 1.1 Instruments of integration and platform architecture <i>Paul van Cauwenberge</i> University of Ghent, partner 1</p>	<p>WP 1.2 Integrating Research Activities: coordination 1.2.1 Epidemiological and clinical studies <i>Peter Burney</i> Imperial College, London, Partner 31 1.2.2 Patients registries <i>Jean-Baptiste Watelet</i> University of Ghent, Partner 1</p>	<p>WP 1.3 Quality management System <i>Torsten Zuberbier</i> Charité, Berlin, Partner 8</p>
<p>WP 1.5 Birth Cohorts <i>Susanne Lau</i> Charité, Berlin, Partner 8</p>	<p>WP 1.7 Intellectual property management <i>Paul van Cauwenberge</i> University of Ghent, Partner 1</p>	<p>WP 1.8 Ethical and gender issues <i>Paul van Cauwenberge</i> University of Ghent, Partner 1</p>

Joint Research Activities

<p>WP 2.1 Nutrition <i>Philip Calder</i> University of Southampton, Partner 27</p>	<p>WP 2.2 Infection 2.2.1 Environmental and occupational exposure <i>Erika von Mutius</i> LMU, Munich, Partner 9 2.2.3 Virus exacerbations <i>Nikos Papadopoulos</i> NKUA, Athens, Partner 11</p>	<p>WP 2.3 Indoor & Outdoor environment <i>Bert Brunekreef</i> University of Utrecht, Partner 16</p>
<p>WP 2.4 Occupation + Adolescents <i>Jan Paul Zock</i> IMAS Barcelona, Partner 21</p>	<p>WP 2.5 Gender <i>Bénédicte Leynaert</i> INSERM, Partner 7</p>	<p>WP 2.6 2.6.1 IgE sensitization and allergic diseases <i>W. Fokkens</i> AMC Amsterdam, Partner 15 2.6.2 Regulatory T-cells <i>C. Akdis</i> SIAF Zurich, Partner 28</p>
<p>WP 2.7 Early influence on airway remodelling 2.7.1 Airway remodelling <i>Mark Gjomarkaj</i> CNR Palermo, Partner 12 b 2.7.2 ENT specialists/ patients airway <i>Claus Bachert</i> University of Ghent, Partner 1 2.7.3 Aspirin Sensitivity <i>Andrew Szczeklik</i> JUMCK, Krakow, Partner 18</p>	<p>WP 2.8 2.8.1 Clinical care and quality of life <i>Kjell Larsson</i> KI Stockholm, Partner 24 2.8.1/b Severe asthma <i>Sven-Erik Dahlén</i> KI Stockholm, Partner 24 2.8.2 Sport and Asthma <i>K.H Carlsen</i> Voksentoppen Oslo, Partner 17</p>	<p>WP 2.9 Genetics, genomics and post-genomics <i>Francine Kauffmann</i> Inserm, Partner 7</p>

Spreading Excellence Activities

<p>WP 3.1 Training/Education: coordination <i>Paul van Cauwenberge</i> University of Ghent, Partner 1</p>	<p>WP 3.2 Dissemination and translation of research to scientists <i>Jean Bousquet</i> Inserm Paris, Partner 7 <i>Anne Wilmès</i> AW Com, Partner 29</p>	<p>WP 3.3 Dissemination and translation of research to Health Care professionals <i>Jean Bousquet</i> Inserm Paris, Partner 7 <i>Anne Wilmès</i> AW Com, Partner 29</p>
<p>WP 3.4 Dissemination and translation of research to patients <i>M. Salapatas</i> EFA, Partner 3 <i>Anne Wilmès</i> AW Com, Partner 29</p>	<p>WP 3.5 Dissemination and translation to public and policy makers <i>Anne Wilmès</i> AW Com, Partner 29</p>	<p>WP 3.6 Extension of the GA²LEN NoE <i>Paul van Cauwenberge</i> University of Ghent, Partner 1</p>

GA²LEN IN ACTION

Standardisation Harmonisation

- Pan-European standard Skin prick test and recommendation for patient registries
- Quality criteria set for Allergy centres of Excellence
- GA²LEN Birth cohorts: 20 standardised European birth cohorts in a database

European Research platform

- European wide epidemiological surveys
- Large cohorts studies
- Multidisciplinary cooperation and topic integration

Guidelines and recommendations

- IPR, ethical and gender recommendation for researchers
- Review on nutritional factors in allergic diseases for further research recommendation
- Collaboration in ARIA updates (Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma)

Networking and sharing best practice

- Active networking with other EU and non-EU projects
- Exchange programmes for researchers
- Open call for collaboration brings in more and more research centres
- Public - private cooperation
- Successful programme for juniors: the GA²LEN-EAACI Allergy schools

GA²LEN extends to Collaborating Centres

50 centers listed on 15/01/07 - Open Call still ongoing on the website

PAN-EUROPEAN

EADV (European Academy of Dermatology and Venerology)	<i>Belgium</i>
EUMS (European Union of Medical Specialists)	<i>Belgium</i>
ENDA (European Network for Drug Allergy)	<i>France</i>
ECARF (European Center for Allergy Research Foundation)	<i>Germany</i>

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Medical University of Graz	<i>Austria</i>
Cliniques Universitaires UCL de Mont-Godinne, Yvoir	<i>Belgium</i>
RDSM Hasselt	<i>Belgium</i>
Universiteit Antwerpen	<i>Belgium</i>
The UCB Institute of Allergy, Brussels	<i>Belgium</i>
General Hospital "Sveti Duh", University of Zagreb	<i>Croatia</i>
Medical School and Hospital, Charles University, Prague	<i>Czech Republic</i>
Allergy Clinic, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen	<i>Denmark</i>
IMMUTEP S.A	<i>France</i>
Allergy Centre Hessen, University Clinic Giessen and Marburg	<i>Germany</i>
Dept. Dermatology and Allergic Diseases, University of Ulm	<i>Germany</i>
Dept. Dermatology and Allergy, University Hospital; RWTH Aachen	<i>Germany</i>
Research Centre Borstel, University of Lubeck	<i>Germany</i>
University Clinic Dermatology, University of Magdeburg	<i>Germany</i>
University of Hannover	<i>Germany</i>
University of Leipzig	<i>Germany</i>
Experimental Pneumology, RUB University of Bochum	<i>Germany</i>
BGFA, University of Bochum	<i>Germany</i>
University Clinic Dermatology, Magdeburg	<i>Germany</i>
University of Bonn	<i>Germany</i>
Pulmonary Research Institute, Hospital Grosshansdorf	<i>Germany</i>
Medical School, University of Crete	<i>Greece</i>
University College Cork, Cork	<i>Ireland</i>
Dept of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, Naples	<i>Italy</i>
Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Roma	<i>Italy</i>
The Fratebenefratelli-Melloni, University Hospital	<i>Italy</i>
Complesso Integrato Columbus, Allergy Unit, Rome	<i>Italy</i>
Universita di Bologna UNIBO	<i>Italy</i>
Istituti Ospitalieri di Verona	<i>Italy</i>
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Israel</i>
Kaunas University of Medicine	<i>Lithuania</i>
University of Vilnius	<i>Lithuania</i>
CRP Henri Tudor	<i>Luxembourg</i>
Institute of Occupational Health	<i>Macedonia</i>
Centre for human drug research, Leiden	<i>The Netherlands</i>
Erasmus Medical Centre, University of Rotterdam	<i>The Netherlands</i>
Medical University of Silesia, Katowice	<i>Poland</i>
University Hospital, Porto	<i>Portugal</i>
Dept of Otolaryngology, National University of Singapore	<i>Singapore</i>
University Clinic, Golnik, Lubljana	<i>Slovenia</i>
Hospital Clinic Idibaps, HCPB Barcelona	<i>Spain</i>
University of Navarra, Pamplona	<i>Spain</i>
Pediatric Allergy, University of Geneva	<i>Switzerland</i>
North West Lung Centre, University of Manchester	<i>UK</i>

GA²LEN IN THE FUTURE

PERSPECTIVES

The GA²LEN research platform will endure after the period of EU financing. From 2009 on, the network will be self-sustainable and welcome research and education activities in allergy and asthma of European or international scale.

A platform for researchers

GA²LEN provides an integrated platform for research in allergy and asthma with harmonised tools and methods in its centres. The network that has now centres in 20 countries can benefit from the European diversity for risk factors studies and prevention schemes. Pilot protocols for clinical studies in several GA²LEN centres have been tested, which could open the door to further public-private collaboration. The network aims at developing novel biomarkers, treatment and preventive strategies.

Guidelines and life long learning

GA²LEN promotes the development of a high-level, large scale international and multidisciplinary scientific community. Allergy schools, training sessions and e-learning support the clinical and research activities of junior scientists and health professionals. Scientists can use the GA²LEN communication platform and programmes for mobility and exchange.

For patients, public and policy makers

The prevalence of allergic diseases has been increasing in the European population over the last decades, most clearly in children. Allergic diseases are currently insufficiently diagnosed, suboptimally managed and, generally undertreated. GA²LEN contributes to raising awareness on this public health problem and develops educational material for patients and the general public.





Network of Excellence

Spreading Excellence in Allergy and Asthma in Europe

- Open platform for joint research activities (including common databases, biobanks...) for the global understanding of allergy and asthma.
- Research results translated for harmonisation and improvement of practice across Europe.
- Development of evidence based policies for the prevention and management of allergy and asthma, for the benefit of the patients.
- Permanent and durable structure: promotion of training and integration between public and private sectors.

Contact us:

GA²LEN Management

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