

PRESS RELEASE

EAACI's Skin Allergy Meeting opens in Venice, with over 300 top experts focusing on the latest challenges in allergic skin diseases

Zurich/Venice, 11 November 2010 – Over 300 among the world's most renowned specialists and allergy experts gathered in Venice today for the opening of the EAACI's "Skin Allergy Meeting" with the aim of discussing the latest therapies and putting the skin and its problems back into the spotlight.

Making up about 10 percent of our total body weight, the skin is the organ with the largest surface and an essential tool to protect our bodies. Creating a "communication" channel with the outside world, the skin reacts to everything it comes in contact with, which sometimes triggers an allergic reaction, such as atopic eczema.

"When the skin is disturbed, the quality of life worsens dramatically. We have to put the focus on skin again, before its allergic diseases, which often go untreated, exacerbate and become chronic," says Dr. Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier, Chairman of the 2010 EAACI "Skin Allergy Meeting."

Sometimes, patients themselves underestimate an allergic skin problem, Dr. Schmid-Grendelmeier said. "Many allergies reflect on the skin, from food to drug allergies, to contact with pollutants, lotions, cosmetics, and even other people's own skin."

Allergic skin reactions, such as atopic eczema, occur in 10 to 15 percent of children and 5 to 8 percent of adults.

The experts in Venice, including members of the European Society for Pediatric Dermatology and the European Society of Contact Dermatitis, are also addressing ways for a better management of an allergic patient and the latest therapeutic approaches.

"We want to build a bridge among dermatologists who normally don't treat allergies and allergologists that are no experts on skin diseases," said Dr. Schmid-Grendelmeier, who is also the Chairman of EAACI's Dermatology Section.

Also on the agenda are the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory treatments, non-sedating antihistamines and disinfecting treatments against microbial attacks that are often an aggravating factor of eczema.

Clinical cases and hands-on sessions will accompany lectures and discussion panels on topics ranging from occupational and environmental allergies in children and adults,



urticaria and angioedema, a rapid swelling of subcutaneous tissues that can lead to suffocation and even death.

About EAACI:

EAACI - The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology is a non-profit organisation active in the field of allergic and immunologic diseases such as asthma, rhinitis, eczema, occupational allergy, food and drug allergy and anaphylaxis. EAACI was founded in 1956 in Florence and has become the largest medical association in Europe in the field of allergy and clinical immunology. It includes 6'100 members from 107 countries, as well as 41 National Allergy Societies.

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