

GA²LEN NEWSLETTER

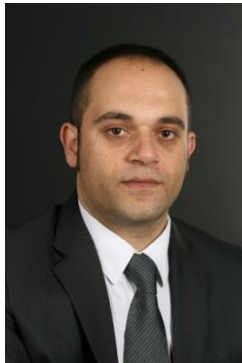
NEWS & VIEWS
UPCOMING EVENTS
PUBLISHED PAPERS

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News and Views



Following on from the last newsletter, we can now report a really fantastic breakthrough in the EU Trio Presidency story. **Angelos Neou**, GA²LEN's European liaison Officer, accompanied by **Jean Bousquet** and **Torsten Zuberbier** had an interesting and successful first meeting in Cyprus with European Parliamentarians and Dr. Olga Poyiadji-Kalakouta, the Chief Health Officer in Cyprus who is responsible for medical and public health issues during the Cyprus EU-Presidency.

Amongst many points that were discussed was the steady increase of allergy sufferers on the island showing the need for a continuation of the Polish Health Priority on Allergies and asthma as well as the importance of bringing GA²LEN's Sentinel Network to the highest arena of EU Health Priorities. Our dedicated GA²LEN team also managed to meet up with **Dr. Andreas Liveris**, an EAACI national society member who stated that with regards to allergies and asthma *"Olive trees are this year producing more blossoms, meaning pollen levels are higher than in the previous few years"*. Dr. Liveris was also eager to join the GA²LEN Network and has applied to become the islands first collaboration centre! We are delighted to welcome him on board!



Angelos Neou is GA²LEN's European liaison Officer regarding themes of public health, allergies and asthma. He is lobbying our proposals and interests in the European Parliament, reaching out to members of the European Parliament and European Commission in order to ensure allergic and respiratory diseases are earmarked as a public health priority at EU level. Many members of the European Parliament are already willing to support the creation of the Pan European GA²LEN Sentinel Network. In order to promote our ideas, a hearing in the European Parliament is being planned for this autumn. We will be able to provide you the exact date and more details on this issue in our next newsletter. *Please remember*, that if we all work together for the importance of the Sentinel Network and contact your countries EU policy makers and EU parliamentarians, *the network will flourish!* Please feel free to either put them in contact with **Angelos Neou**

(angelos.neou@charite.de) or inform us here at the coordinating office so that we can help to make the Pan European GA²LEN Sentinel Network flourish!

Survey Superstars!



Dr. Anca Chiriac from Montpellier University, France was even busier than usual last month due to the European wide “Food and Inhalant survey” that she organised and conducted together with **Professor Jean Bousquet** as her primary GA²LEN contact. A fantastic effort from all our collaborating centres proved yet again, how *important and unique* our GA²LEN Network really is! Replies came flooding in from France, Holland, Germany, Portugal, Croatia, Macedonia, Belgium, Finland, Spain, Greece, United Kingdom and Italy to name but a few.

Dr. Anca Chiriac (see image right) says; “The Food List Survey was carried out to naturally complete the first GA²LEN skin prick testing (SPT) study concerning inhalant allergens. Just like the previous study, it intends to characterize and harmonize the standard panels of food allergens used in different European countries, both for clinical purposes and for research. All GA²LEN centres that work in clinical Allergology were invited to submit the SPT battery for foods which is applied to the patient for the screening of food allergy in their centre.



We received feed-back from 25 centers in 19 countries. I would like to personally thank everyone for taking the time to complete our questionnaire and much more, because often, questions were raised on both sides and supplementary data was provided. Since I was in charge of receiving and answering the replies, this survey offered me the chance to exchange “live” information with colleagues in centers all over Europe. As a junior allergologist, interested in both clinical practice and research (but with merely a one year experience in the “real” field), this was an enriching opportunity. As results were coming in, I could actually imagine a new “mapping” of Europe, in terms of food allergy, with an enormous impact on my present and future activity, in terms of understanding and reasoning in Allergology. Since we continued to receive some replies even after the first deadline (set for the

31st of March), we are in the process of analyzing the data and hopefully will be able to provide the final results in due time.”

This was a fantastic effort with thanks to all our collaboration centres and partners, showing the importance of the ongoing work and collaboration of the GA²LEN Network.

Remember: the next survey request could be yours!

GA²LEN Skin Prick Test Follow up Study

The preparations of the GA²LEN Skin Prick Test Follow up Study to detect time and local (national) trends of sensitization frequency and sensitization patterns in Europe are continuously progressing. Virtually all of the centers who participated during the first study declared their willingness to participate yet again. In addition, all companies who provided the prick test solutions consented to also support this follow up project. All relevant study documents were submitted to the data protection commissioner and the ethics committee of the Charité in March of this year and an oral approval has been obtained during the first hearing on the 26th of May. The final written approval is expected at the beginning of June. As soon as this is available, all participating centers will be informed and all relevant documents and information will be provided. The anticipated start of the study in July is on schedule.

Upcoming Events

GA²LEN Annual Assembly

A reminder that the GA²LEN Annual Assembly will be held within the EAACI 2011 Istanbul Conference on Saturday, 11th June 14:00 - 17:30 in the “Marmara Room” within the Conference building. A schedule has already been emailed to you all and we look forward to seeing you there!

MeDALL Meeting

A first **MeDALL** newsletter is planned for the end of June, with a first focus article that will be made on the expectations of patients concerning the MeDALL project. MeDALL has also planned an expert meeting in Barcelona on 29th- 30th June for the definition of IgE associated allergic diseases.



GA²LEN Annual Conference 2012 - Save the date!



GA²LEN Annual Conference
27th - 28th February 2012 -
Berlin

Network of Excellence

GA²LEN Network, mix and mingle with our partners, chat to members of our collaboration centres and a chance to meet and talk to the Sponsors. In addition, this date does not clash with the AAAAI Meeting 2012 which is being held on 2nd - 6th March.

Presently, the internal GA²LEN Assembly has been planned for 28th in the afternoon.

Please make a note of this date in your diaries. As and when more information and details become available, we will contact you. I certainly will look forward to seeing you all next year at the Annual Conference, where I will have the chance to personally meet with those of you with whom I already have had the pleasure to work with.

GA²LEN Summer School



1st and 2nd July sees the **GA²LEN Summer School** here at the Charité. The school will have parallel running programs for doctors and doctor's assistants, including workshops, highlights and the latest updates in Allergology from previous conferences, informational discussions regarding the prevalence of allergy in Europe and targeted group topics such as specific immunotherapy – actual questions and answers. We are looking forward to a "full house" as there are only a few places now available!

WAC Congress – GA²LEN Speakers



WAO in Cancun Mexico invited **GA²LEN** to provide speakers for its major event from 4th to 8th December which is due to attract more than 5,000 delegates worldwide. GA²LEN will be hosting its “Collaborating Partner Symposium” on Wednesday, 7th December from 10.45 – 12:15. Speakers are (see image above | to r.) **Thomas Bieber, G. Walter Canonica** and **Torsten Zuberbier** you can find out more at: <http://tinyurl.com/3qgfrs3>. Registration is open online at: www.worldallergy.org/wac2011. Participants can look forward to state-of-the-art lectures by world experts, be applicable to receive CME credits and have the chance to network with some of the biggest names in Allergy, Asthma, Immunology, Pediatrics, Pulmonology, Ophthalmology, Dermatology and ENT! Don't miss out, register today!

Published Papers

Please quote the latest GA²LEN publications!

- **“Chronic rhinosinusitis in Europe – an underestimated disease. A GA²LEN study”**. Hastan, D., Fokkens, W. J., Bachert, C., Newson, R. B., Bislimovska, J., Bockelbrink, A., Bousquet, P. J., Brozek, G., Bruno, A., Dahlén, S. E., Forsberg, B., Gunnbjörnsdóttir, M., Kasper, L., Krämer, U., Kowalski, M. L., Lange, B., Lundbäck, B., Salagean, E., Todo-Bom, A., Tomassen, P., Toskala, E., van Drunen, C. M., Bousquet, J., Zuberbier, T., Jarvis, D. and Burney, P. (2011), *Allergy*, 66. Early view online publication.
- **“How to design and evaluate randomized controlled trials in immunotherapy for allergic rhinitis: an ARIA-GA(2)LEN statement.”** Bousquet, J., Schünemann, H. J., Bousquet, P. J., Bachert, C., Canonica, G. W., Casale, T. B., Demoly, P., Durham, S., Carlsen, K.-H., Malling, H.-J., Passalacqua, G., Simons, F. E. R., Anto, J., Baena-Cagnani, C. E., Bergmann, K.-C., Bieber, T., Briggs, A. H., Brozek, J., Calderon, M. A., Dahl, R., Devillier, P., Gerth van Wijk, R., Howarth, P., Larenas,

D., Papadopoulos, N. G., Schmid-Grendelmeier, P. and Zuberbier, T. (2011). *Allergy*, 66: 765–774. doi: 10.1111/j.1398-9995.2011.02590.x

- **“Use of a common food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) to assess dietary patterns and their relation to allergy and asthma in Europe: pilot study of the GA(2)LEN FFQ”**. Garcia-Larsen V, Luczynska M, Kowalski ML, Voutilainen H, Ahlström M, Haahtela T, Toskala E, Bockelbrink A, Lee HH, Vassilopoulou E, Papadopoulos NG, Ramalho R, Moreira A, Delgado L, Castel-Branco MG, Calder PC, Childs CE, Bakolis I, Hooper R, Burney PG. *Eur J Clin Nutr*. 2011 Mar 23. (E pub ahead of print- advance online publication 23 March 2011; doi:10.1038/ejcn.2011.15.

- **Please feel free to send in any items of GA²LEN news and images –**

GA²LEN would like to thank all its industrial sponsors and collaborating centres for their ongoing support.

