

PRESS RELEASE

Let the battle begin for better allergy vaccines!

Zurich, 21 February 2011 - Teams of doctors fighting for their ideas, presenting evidence against each other, just like a judiciary trial. This is the innovative format experimented by the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) that is lining up a battalion of top experts for its upcoming Summit 2011 Meeting, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland on 24 February 2011.

Allergologists from all over the world are fighting an important battle. With each team representing a "for" and an "against" argument, discussion is focusing on the open issues concerning allergy vaccines, also known as allergen immunotherapy.

Today, vaccines are an established treatment for allergic conditions such as allergic rhinitis, asthma and allergy to venoms of bees and wasps. Immunotherapy can be administered by subcutaneous injections or through the sublingual route, with drops or tablets. However, some questions and doubts remain the focus of scientific debate worldwide: What is the best way to measure allergen content in preparations? Is there a dose-efficacy relationship? When and how is it better to administer the vaccines? What is the response in patients allergic to more than one substance? Which are the long-term benefits of immunotherapy?

The innovative format of the EAACI Summit Meeting is providing an effective way for groups of experts to explore each of these questions while ensuring a thorough assessment of every aspect. Based on these initial discussions, working groups will assess current knowledge and produce an extensive analysis which will be published shortly after the event.

Other issues on the agenda of the EAACI Meeting include the newest developments in the use of immunotherapy, such as new allergen preparations, vaccines for allergic diseases that have not been used yet or alternative routes of delivery.

Representatives of the European Medicines Agency and patient associations will also attend the meeting, offering different valuable points of view in the common effort to provide the best possible allergen immunotherapy and give every patient in need the chance to receive it.

In 2011, allergen immunotherapy will be a century old, since the first publication in the field was released by Leonard Noon in 1911. Many innovations have been implemented in the last decades and it is considered one of the most promising treatments for allergic conditions, now and for the future.

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.

Throughout 2011, EAACI will develop different activities to celebrate the 100th anniversary of immunotherapy in Allergy, which will aim at increasing the knowledge in this field among healthcare professionals, increase awareness in the general population, and finally, promote the availability of immunotherapy for allergic patients.

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