

PRESS RELEASE

Prof. Cezmi Akdis is now the new President of EAACI

Istanbul/Zurich, 13 June 2011 - Prof. Cezmi Akdis has taken over the Presidency of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) during the EAACI annual Congress in Istanbul, Turkey.

Prof. Akdis, Director of the Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research (SIAF) based in Davos, Switzerland, has taken the helm of the largest medical association in the world in the field of allergy and clinical immunology today, during the annual EAACI General Assembly.

As Director at the Christine Kuhne Center for Allergy Research and Education in Davos (CK-CARE) and a Professor at the Zurich University Medical Faculty, Prof. Akdis has served during the past years as EAACI's Vice President for Congresses. His extensive scientific and medical research ranges from allergen-specific immunotherapy to the mechanisms of cure in allergy and asthma, including the development of vaccines for the curative treatment of allergic diseases. He replaces Prof. Jan Lötvall, who has been serving as EAACI's President since 2009.

"I am proud to lead EAACI in such a challenging time for research and scientific progress," Prof. Akdis said. "Allergic diseases show an increase in prevalence, while patients get treated by different medical specialists, each focusing on one aspect of the disease. The Congress in Istanbul is showing these days how allergies are truly "without frontiers" and "we need all health professionals to join efforts and help cross the borders to make sure the patients are treated in the best possible way."

EAACI, the world's largest allergy organisation, hosts annual Congresses attracting thousands of doctors, clinicians and researchers each time, as well as "Focused Meetings" for targeted medical communities, focusing on specific topics such as drug allergy, skin allergy and pediatric allergy and asthma. The next appointments following the Istanbul event are the EAACI Congress in Geneva in 2012 and in Milan in 2013.

The Academy, with headquarters based in Zurich, also organises allergy schools, with the aim of disseminating knowledge and promoting widespread education in the field of allergy and clinical immunology.

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 over 6'500 members from 107 countries, as well as 41 National Allergy Societies.



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