

Editorial

Allergy and Pediatric Allergy and Immunology are the official organs of the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology

Usually medical societies have one official organ which often is a peer-reviewed journal. For example, the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* is the official organ of the American Academy of Allergology, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI); the *Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology* represents the American College of Allergy (ACAI) Asthma and Immunology; and *Clinical Experimental Allergy* represents the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSCAI). However, the World Allergy Organization has two official organs: Allergy Clinical Immunology International (ACII) and International Archives of Allergy and Immunology (IAAI).

Uniquely, the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology has two mutually complementary official organs: *Allergy* and *Pediatric Allergy and Immunology* (PAI). The reasons for explaining why EAACI is involved in these two publications are historical but they are also supported by the current and future interests of EAACI.

Acata Allergologica was the official EAACI organ since the founding organization of the Academy and previously published articles in languages other than English. Subsequently, the journal was renamed *Allergy* and only published papers in English. The journal has been published for the past 60 years. Gunnar Bendixen was its Editor for many years until 1992 when Professor S.G.O. Johansson became the Editor-in-Chief. Gunnar made the journal what it is now by improving its quality, introducing regular reviews, series and editorials. The journal subsequently peaked an impact factor of 3.6 in 2002 (1). The Junior Members and Junior Affiliate Members represent a group of more 1000 clinicians and scientists under the age of 35. During previous years, EAACI has developed specific activities and promotions to support and increase

the influence of the younger members (2). Thus a new series, the Junior Member Forum, was introduced in *Allergy* in September 2002 in order to publish the work of young scientists together with their mentor (3). Papers published in this series cover science from bench to bedside.

In January 2003, Jean Bousquet had the pleasure and difficult task of carrying on Gunnar's work (4). With a new board of Associate Editors reflecting the EAACI sections (Asthma: Marc Humbert, Clinical Immunology: Hans-Uwe Simon, Dermatology: Thomas Bieber, ENT: Wystke Fokkens and Pediatrics: Bodo Niggemann) and the importance of Central European countries (Marek Kowalski), we have introduced new topics such as News and Commentaries or the European Union Forum (5).

The contents of *Allergy* should reflect EAACI sections and interest groups. It is clear that during the past three years *Allergy* has tried to publish reviews, editorials, position papers and commentaries which encapsulate all fields of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (Table 1). Some key articles such as the revised nomenclature for allergic diseases were also published in *Allergy* (6). Moreover, important educational papers such as the Core Curriculum for the training in Allergology and Clinical Immunology are in *Allergy* (7, 8).

Allergic diseases begin early in life, and the prevalence of allergic diseases is higher in children and adolescents by comparison with that in adults – rates are still increasing. Furthermore, asthma and related allergic and respiratory diseases constitute the commonest causes of morbidity in childhood with around 30% of primary care consultations and 20% of hospital admissions. Immunologically driven diseases are common and of great importance in children. Pediatricians have therefore always had a major interest in allergic diseases and

Table 1. Reviews, editorials, news and commentaries, Rostrum and EAACI Position Papers published in *Allergy* from 2002 to 2004

	Reviews	Editorials	New and commentaries	Rostrum Position papers
Asthma	(9–21)	(22–28)	(20)	(29)
Clinical immunology	(30–41)	(42–44)		(45)
Dermatology	(46–49)	(50)		
ENT	(12,51–54)	(28,55–58)	(59,60)	(61,62)
Pediatrics	(63–65)	(24,66–70)	(71)	
Drug allergy	(72–74)			(75–77)
Food allergy	(78–80)	(81–84)		(85)
Allergens	(86–92)	(93,94)		
SIT	(95,96)	(8,97–100)		
Diagnosis	(101–106)	(107)	(71)	
Miscellaneous	(108–111)	(112–114)		

clinical immunology. In the 1980s, a group of distinguished pediatricians with an interest in these diseases formed a society entitled European Society for Allergology and Clinical Immunology (ESPACI). This society was very successful and soon had its own official journal entitled *Pediatric Allergy and Immunology (PAI)*, first published in 1990. However, with Bengt Björkstén as the European Editor, this journal immediately turned international. He was able to recruit the American Editor Hugh Sampson and the Associate Editor Sten Dreborg (115). This journal has published many remarkable landmark papers among which two may be cited (116, 117). Over the last 3 years, this has included the International Study of Asthma and Allergy in Childhood-ISAAC (118–126); Early Treatment of the Atopic Child-ETAC (127); German Infant Nutritional Intervention programme-GINI (128); a Swedish birth cohort study (BAMSE) (129–131); Study on the Prevention of Allergy in Children in Europe-SPACE (132, 133); Prevention and Incidence of Asthma and Mite Allergy-PIAMA (134); and Lifestyle factors on the Immune System-LISA (135).

In the early 2000s, the ESPACI and EAACI Pediatric sections felt that the two groups should merge and evolve in a very strong EAACI Pediatric Section. Since the official organ of ESPACI was *PAI*, *PAI* became the second official EAACI organ. However, the board of the journal is still international in favour – John Warner (Southampton) took over from Bengt Björkstén in 1998 and serves as Editor-in-Chief. Charles Naspitz (Sao Paulo), Hugh Sampson (New York) and Pakit Vichyanond (Bangkok) are the Associate Editors (130,131). The papers published in *PAI* as editorials or reviews are comprehensive and cover most of the aspects of the field (Table 2).

Table 2. Reviews and editorials published in *Pediatric Allergy and Immunology (PAI)* from 2002 to 2004

	reviews	Editorials
Allergy prevention	(138, 139)	(140, 141)
Asthma	(142, 143)	
Asthma prognosis	(144)	
Clinical immunology	(145)	
Dermatology	(146)	
ENT		
Food allergy and allergens	(147, 148)	(149, 150)
Miscellaneous	(151–153)	(154)

Moreover, *PAI* publishes views concerning Pediatric Allergy and Clinical Immunology as well as training (136, 137).

The two official organs of EAACI, *Allergy* and *PAI* appear clearly to meet the goals of EAACI and its Pediatric section. Allergy and Paediatric Allergy are now recognized by the European Union of Medical Specialities (UEMS) as distinct tertiary specialities, further justifying the two journals. In both journals, all topics of Allergy and Clinical Immunology are covered from basic science to clinical care but our journals extend way beyond to cover training and medico-political issues. However, the two journals cover different fields and the list of the reviews and editorials published within the past three years (Tables 1 and 2) clearly show that they are complementary. There is almost no redundancy between both journals. This appears therefore to highlight the importance of the two journal Editors and their success in serving the purposes of EAACI and the international allergy community.

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