

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

After 15 years working for EAACI and WAO I was chosen this year as president of the UEMS section of Allergology. From 1986 when I registered as allergologist until now I see it as my ambition to strengthen our field and personal leitmotiv in all kind of positions I have held. Unfortunately, strengthen our specialty is easier said than done. Although a majority of European countries do have a full specialty, too many countries lack allergists, too many in allergy. There is heterogeneity in training schedules, number of training centers, number of trainees. In a few countries only there is a subspecialty in pediatric allergy. Some countries have a complementary allergy training for general practitioners, other specialists or para medical professionals. Thus, in this respect Europe is far away from harmonization.



Moreover, we have to compete – not with adjacent specialisms as pulmonary medicine, ENT or dermatology but with cardiology, oncology and other “big specialisms” for awareness.

The focus on our specialty is one of the key elements of the presidential program from Antonella Muraro, the EAACI president. This enables us to align with the different EAACI bodies and establish plans to move forward. I believe in a stepwise approach. Further updating and describing the current status of Allergology in Europe will produce documentation to lobby in Brussels. Moreover, by describing our strengths and weaknesses we may identify the gaps and needs to call for further action. We do have a core curriculum – that might be updated at some stage – and we have a blueprint for our specialty but setting the standards of subspecialties will help us to improve the care in the countries without allergists and may create clarity in situations where specialists and subspecialist work together or next to each other.

It is key that we work together to set standards, to increase the exposure to allergists across Europe, to promote migration of specialists. At the end of the day we should have a roadmap for our specialty.