



U.E.M.S. Section and Board for Allergology and Clinical Immunology

**Meeting in Cagliari, Sardinia
December 8, 2001**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM, and the agenda was approved.

Welcome and communications of the President.

President Sergio del Giacco welcomed the delegates and extended a special welcome to the new delegates. His report began with bad news. The Danish government has eliminated the speciality of Allergology and Clinical Immunology in their country. Paul van Durme reported that this was the case in Belgium too. All delegates agreed upon sending a letter to both governments to protest against this decision because it disregards the growing number of allergic patients who need qualified diagnostics and treatments. In addition suppressing allergology and clinical immunology violates all efforts to integrate and harmonize European medicine in this field. It is incomprehensible that this should happen in countries where some of the leading European allergists are working. Sergio del Giacco and Hans J. Malling will write letters of protest to the Danish and Belgian governments and to the European Authorities. Antero Palma-Carlos reported that there is a tendency in all European governments to retard the implementation of new medical specialities because of the lack of money. Therefore, until now Allergology and Clinical Immunology is not yet published in the official journal of UEMS. Sergio del Giacco asked Jacques Gayraud to translate the Berlin version of Chapter 6 into French because Brussels has only the English version.

Communications of the Secretary of the Section.

Barthold Hornung called for the approval of the minutes of the last meeting in Berlin (May 01) that was given unanimously. He also asked the delegates to correct their personal data on the delegates attendance list.

Countries with the status appealing for membership in the EU should be invited as members of the board by its secretary general, José Rosado Pinto.

The rapid turnover of delegates creates a problem and a loss of time when topics that were resolved long ago must be discussed over and over again in order to bring the new delegates up to date. Barthold Hornung proposed that the delegates ask their societies to remain in office for longer terms. The members agreed on a four-

President

Prof. Sergio del Giacco, Italy

Vice Presidents

Prof. Kalliopi Kontou Fili, Greece

Prof. Gabrielle Pauli, France

Prof. Hans-J. Malling, Denmark

Secretary General for the Section

Mr. Barthold Hornung, Germany

Secretary General for the Board

Dr. Jose Rosado Pinto, Portugal

Treasurer

Prof. Hans Merk, Germany

Adjunct Treasurer

Dr. Robert de Beule, Belgium

Past President

Prof. Antero G. Palma Carlos, Portugal

Barthold Hornung

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year term for the president (one re-election possible). The other offices can be held for a longer period.

The new delegates were informed about the structure of the Sections, Boards, UEMS, the Standing Committee, and the Council of Ministers. The decisions are made by the delegates of the Sections, which represent the professional medical organizations and not by the Boards, which represents the scientific medical organizations and act as counsellors. Some countries, however, have only one society for professional and scientific organizations.

Then Barthold Hornung presented a short overview on the history of the UEMS Section for Allergology and Clinical Immunology and a general statement about the current situation of allergology and allergic patients in Europe (see attachments).

Treasurer's Report

The former Treasurer Barthold Hornung reported that he has not been able to pass the treasury to the new treasurer, Hans Merk.

All countries paid their contributions for 1997-98. As we agreed at the Cascais meeting in 1999, no further fees have been collected as long as there are no expenses to warrant it.

Spending since June 2000 is as follows:

Postage stamps (minutes - Cascais)	EUR 38,35
Postage stamps (minutes - Lisbon)	EUR 21,93
Catering (Berlin meeting - May 01)	EUR 109,09
Gift for Past President Palma-Carlos	EUR 152,88

After a long discussion with the bank and the tax office authorities, EUR 139,21, which the bank deducted from the account as taxes on interest, was put back in the account. An international organization seated in Brussels cannot be forced to pay taxes to the German tax office.

The last statements show a balance EUR 1.103,19 in the checking account and EUR 15.989,99 in the savings account.

European Logbook for Allergology and Clinical Immunology

Photini Papageorgiou stated that in Chapter 6, two different versions exist regarding the length of training in ENT, Laboratory, Pneumology, Dermatology, etc. Evangelia Compoti added that the time for immunology is too short. Friedrich Horak wanted to add ENT as a possibility of Common Trunk in Chapter 6. Jorgen Malling said that a framework should be set by our group and he believes that perhaps in twenty years harmonization of allergology and clinical immunology could be implemented in all European countries. A short discussion was necessary to make it clear that the length of training in organ specialities or laboratory may differ from country to country, but as Sergio del Giacco stressed, the specialists should have knowledge and skills in all of these matters. Then, Barthold Hornung said that even though the basic trunk in internal medicine is implemented in the majority of the countries, Chapter 6, paragraph 2.5, opens the door for the other countries to have enough time to harmonize their training utilizing the European rules. Sergio del Giacco favoured a common European examination that could help to direct funding to the training centers and to help the students to choose training centers. He added that the first step should be the logbook and the second step should be the implementation of a common European training. Annamari Ranki said that allergy could be more easily defined than clinical immunology. Jan de Monchy also stated that clinical immunology will play a more important role than allergology in the next years.

Wolfgang Rebien reported that a meeting of German members of UEMS took place in Berlin recently where some specialities planned a European examination in their speciality. Sergio del

Giacco stated that this European examination might provide an opportunity for centers to get students as well as funding by the authorities when the centers meet the training requirements for this examination.

Since several European countries already have good logbooks on training in allergology and clinical immunology, it was proposed to use them for the basis of our own European logbook. For this purpose, two working groups were formed. They are as follows:

Theoretical: Papageorgiou, *Coordinator*; de Monchy; Inacio; Kofler; Malling; and Pauli.

Practical: Gayraud, *Coordinator*; Müller; Rebien; and van Durme.

The timetable for both working groups was set up. The first draft should be sent to the delegates by the end of February 2002. The second draft should be sent by the end of April 2002. The final version should be completed at our next meeting in Naples, June 2, 2002 (9:30 – 13:00).

Continuing Medical Education

Alfonso Negri, representing the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME), reported on the coordination of CME activities of UEMS, EAACI, and AAACI. The CME credits are recognized mutually between those organizations. National organizations can apply for EACCME credits by submitting their CME programs to the board of EACCME. It takes at least one and a half months for approval.

Alfonso Negri also informed us that sponsors are very interested in funding only officially accredited CME, and that ninety percent of CME is still financed by the pharmaceutical industry. Wolfgang Rebien thought that the cost of EURO 620 to get credits for the CEFCAP workshop in Hamburg was too high for a small group of only twenty-five participants. Alfonso Negri replied that smaller groups pay EURO 500 and larger groups pay EURO 1500.

Jacques Gayraud, representing the European Committee for Continuing Medical Education of Practising Allergologists (CEFCAP), gave a short overview on CEFCAP workshops and Internet activities. He is working on the installation of a common on-line server for CME by CEFCAP, UEMS and EAACI. He also asked interested persons to join him in this endeavour. It was stated that there is a tendency in the pharmaceutical industry to invest up to fifty percent of their sponsoring money in CME Internet activities. The delegates agreed on the growing importance of Internet activities in CME. They also agreed that controlling of Internet CME activities is necessary and should be done by EACCME.

Miscellaneous

Antero Palma-Carlos asked why the German list of training centers in allergology and clinical immunology is still missing. Barthold Hornung apologized and explained that the local Chambers of Medicine who have access to the data did not answer the request that was made by Johannes Ring. Heinz Kofler reported that most of the opposition regarding the implementation of a European specialist for allergology and clinical immunology comes from doctors fearing that they will lose patients to those specialists. We unanimously agreed that this would not be the case because those few highly trained specialists will treat only complicated cases. The majority of allergic patients will continue to consult organ-bound allergists or even GP's.

Heinz Kofler also proposed a declaration regarding good practice in laboratory medicine. It is a well-known fact that extensive laboratory tests without qualified interpretation are performed in Europe (IgE, etc.). José Rosado Pinto reported that the EAACI working group has discussed this topic also on ethics.

Gabrielle Pauli proposed a training program for medical students in allergology and clinical immunology. Sergio del Giacco proposed to send the Italian program for students to the delegates.

Rosado Pinto reported that studies in Spain and Portugal have shown that diagnostics and treatments are more effective and less expensive when they are done by specialists in allergology and clinical immunology instead of by general practitioners. Sergio del Giacco then proposed that we should define what medical acts could be done by GP's and what specialists should do.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of UEMS delegates for allergology and clinical immunology will take place on June 2, 2002, in Naples at 9.30 – 13.00. The room will be indicated on the invitation.

The meeting was adjourned at 17.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Barthold Hornung
Secretary General

History of UEMS Section for Allergology and Clinical Immunology

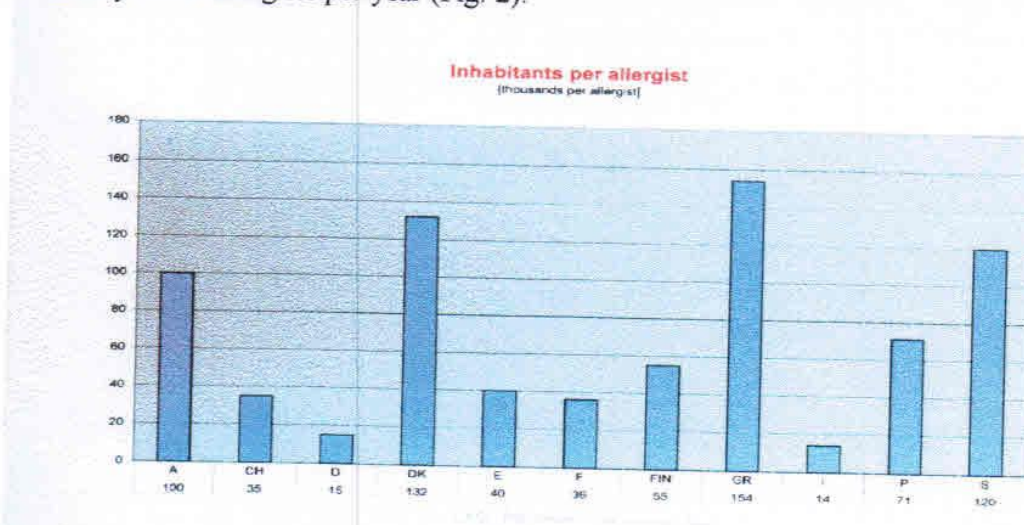
When Greece, Portugal and Spain became members of the European Community, European countries with a full speciality (monospeciality) of allergology and clinical immunology gained the majority. According to European regulations, the higher standards upheld by the majority of countries must be implemented by the countries with the lower standards. For example, in countries where only a subspeciality (Switzerland) or capacity (France and Germany) or no training program for allergology existed (Austria and Ireland), the higher standard of the full speciality was to be implemented.

The Union of European Allergologists (UEA) merged with and took over the task of the UEMS Section for Allergology and Clinical Immunology.

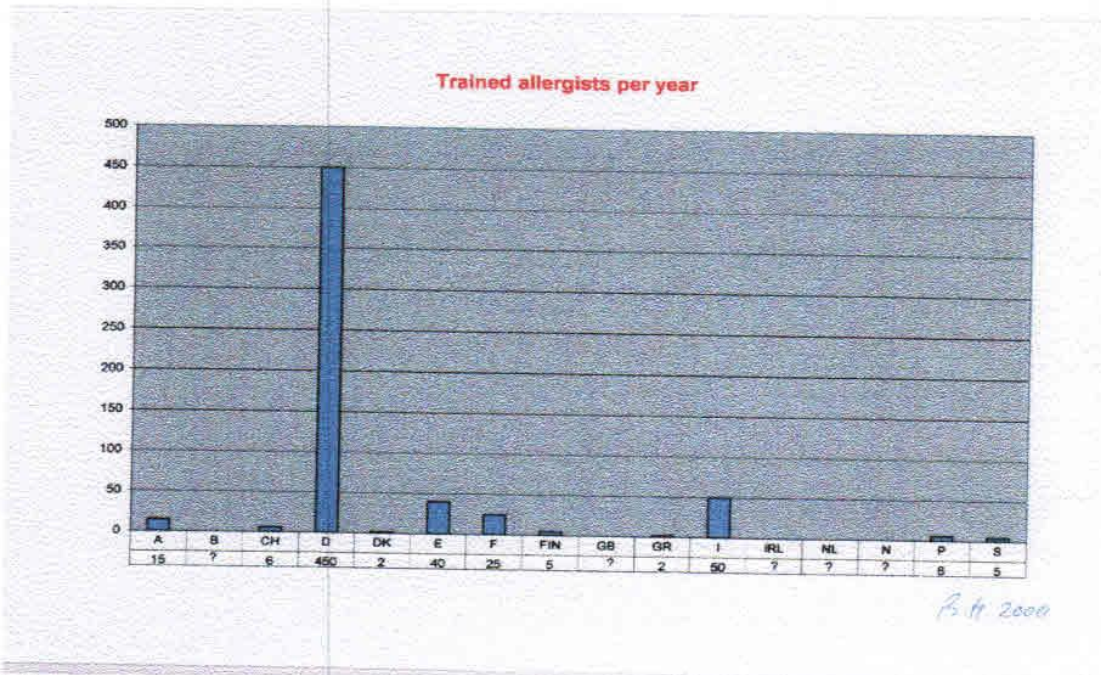
In Brussels, the UEMS Section for Internal Medicine claimed that there would be a speciality of allergology and clinical immunology only under the condition of the common trunk, which is two years of internal medicine. The UEMS Section of Rheumatology claimed clinical immunology exclusively for their section. Thanks to the efforts of Antero Palma-Carlos, the full name of allergology and clinical immunology was later accepted by the UEMS. Discussions about the common trunk of internal medicine, later also pediatrics, continued for several years without resolution. German speaking countries (Austria, Germany and the German-speaking part of Switzerland) which represent the majority of the European population had dermatology and other organ-bound specialities as common trunks. Based on the protests of the European Dermatology Forum to Dr. C. C. Leibbrandt, Secretary General of UEMS, and on his answer to this letter, a solution was found. Following the advice of the Dr. Leibbrandt, our Section decided at our last meeting in June 01 in Berlin that cooperation and quality are more important than drawing borders between the specialities. Chapter 6 of training was modified in such a way as to give countries where allergology is already established the opportunity to harmonize their training programs based on the European logbook (see last page!!!).

The Situation of Allergology and Clinical Immunology in Europe

There are countries in Europe with a well-structured training program in allergology and clinical immunology, a well-structured logbook and a well-organized continuing medical education, (Fig. 1) but, unfortunately, they do not have enough specialists to treat patients and train only a few allergists per year (Fig. 2).

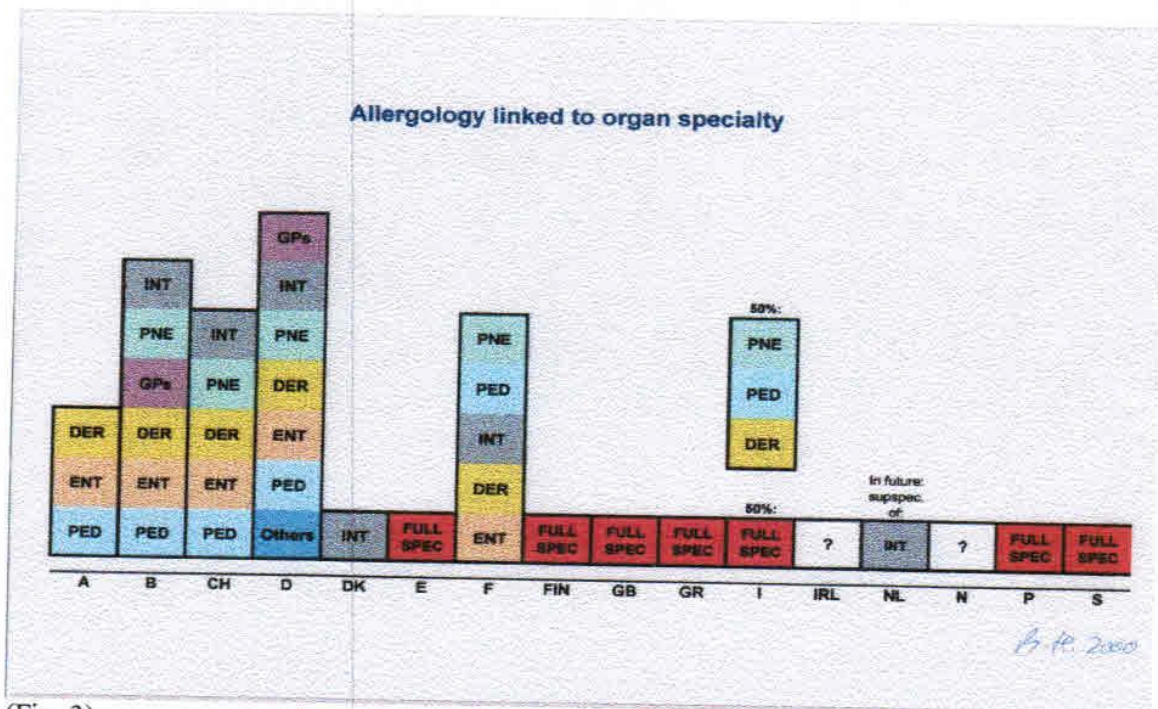


(Fig. 1)



(Fig. 2)

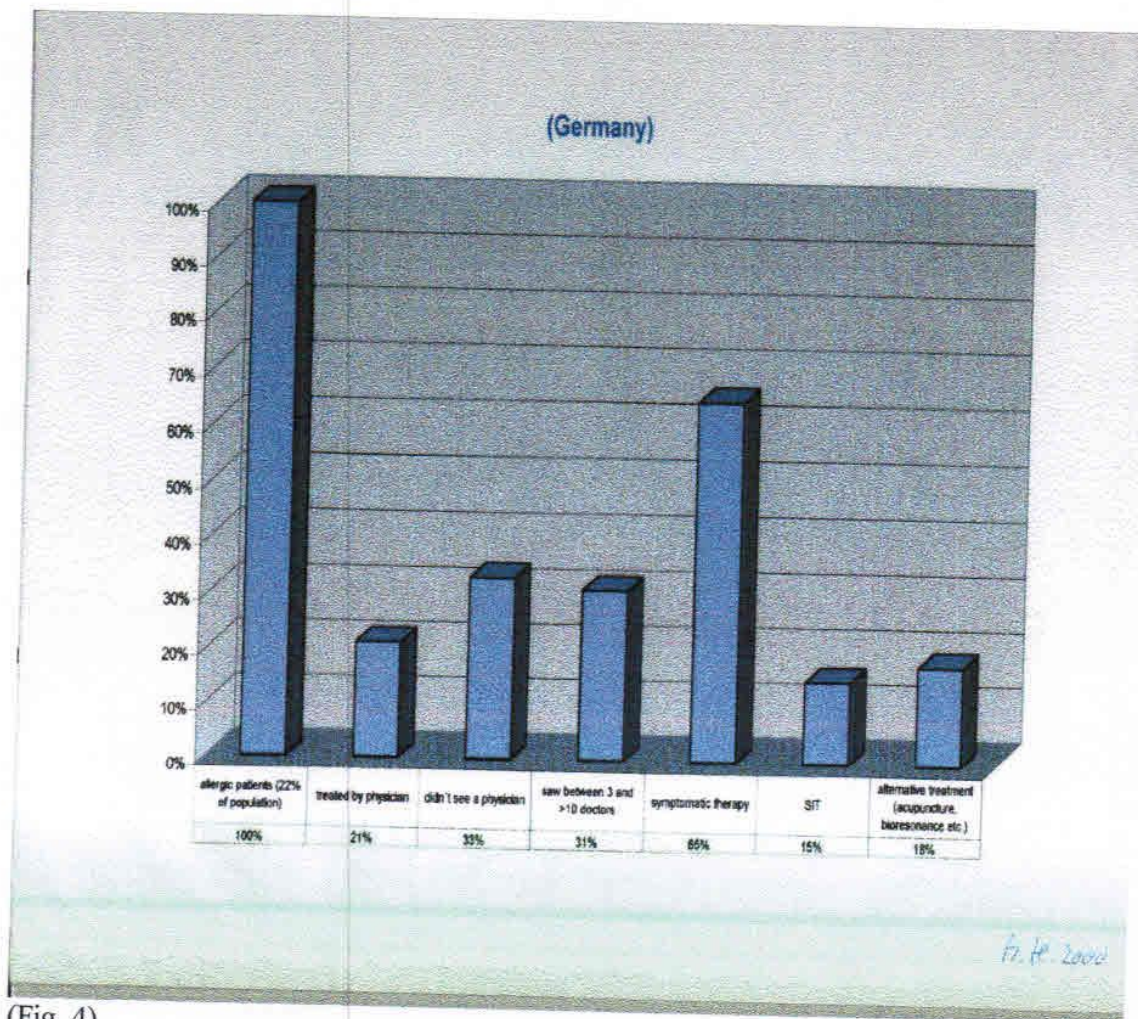
Some countries have no training in allergology, some have organ-linked allergology (Fig. 3) and some have a capacity or a subspecialty. *Note: Switzerland has a full speciality now!*



(Fig. 3)

Even in Germany, where there are a high number of allergists, only ten percent of patients are treated adequately by a specialist. Eighteen percent of patients are treated by non-scientific

“alternative” medicine, and, moreover, of the ten percent who were treated by a specialist, only fifteen percent received adequate therapy (Fig. 4).



(Fig. 4)

The Task of UEMS Section for Allergy and Clinical Immunology

We should not dwell on the past, by discussions on common trunks and the differences between our countries, but rather focus on the future and on the development of a good logbook.

Our Section has one main goal: improve the prevention, diagnostic, and treatment of allergic patients in Europe. This can be done only by implementing and maintaining an updated framework of training for students, general practitioners, and specialists. In addition, we must also provide the framework for continuing medical education in allergology and clinical immunology throughout Europe.

If this framework is well done, the national authorities should be encouraged to implement our rules of good practice in allergology and clinical immunology.

UPDATED VERSION OF CHAPTER SIX

- 2.5 In European Countries Allergology and Clinical Immunology should be a full-specialty based on the above proposed programme. Where Allergology (or Allergology and Clinical Immunology) is already practiced as a specialized field of medicine and officially recognized the training programmes should be recognized by the UEMS provided they fulfill the common requirements defined by the European Logbook for training of specialists in Allergology and Clinical Immunology, set up by the UEMS Allergology and Clinical Immunology Section and Board.**

UEMS DELEGATES ATTENDANCE LIST
Cagliari - 7-8 December 01

Dr. Robert de Beule	Prof. Dr. Jan de Monchy
Prof. Dr. Sergio del Giacco	Dr. Jacques Gayraud
Prof. Dr. Friedrich Horak	Mr. Barthold Hornung
Prof. Dr. Filipe Inacio	Univ. Doz. Dr. Heinz Kofler
Dr. Evangelia Kompoti <i>Alterternative for Kontou-Fili</i>	Dr. Ramón Lleonart
Prof. Dr. Hans-J Malling	Dr. Franz Marrache <i>CEFCAP</i>
Prof. Dr. Ulrich Müller	Dr. Alfonso Negri <i>CME Expert</i>
Prof. Dr. Antero Palma-Carlos Honorary	Dr. Photini S. Papageorgiou
Prof. Dr. Gabrielle Pauli	Dr. José Rosado Pinto
Dr. Annamari Ranki	Dr. Wolfgang Rebien
Dr. G. Tonietti	Prof. Dr. Kristiina Turjawmaa
Dr. Paul Van Durme	

Logbook Working Groups:

Theoretical: Papageorgiou, *Coordinator*; de Monchy; Inacio; Kofler; Malling; and Pauli

Practical: Gayraud, *Coordinator*; Müller; Rebien; and van Durme