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## Definition, aims, and implementation of GA<sup>2</sup>LEN Urticaria Centers of Reference and Excellence

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#### **Abstract**

GA<sup>2</sup>LEN, the Global Allergy and Asthma European Network, has recently launched a programme for the development, interaction and accreditation of centers of reference and excellence in special areas of allergy embedded in its overall quality management of allergy centres of excellence. The first area chosen is urticaria. Urticaria is a common and debilitating condition and can be a challenge for both patients and treating physicians, especially when chronic. Centers of reference and excellence in urticaria (UCAREs) can help to improve the management of hard to treat conditions such as urticaria. Here, we describe the aims, the requirements and deliverables, the application process, and the audit and accreditation protocol for GA<sup>2</sup>LEN UCAREs. The main aims of GA<sup>2</sup>LEN UCAREs are to provide excellence in urticaria management, to increase the knowledge of urticaria by research and education, and to promote the awareness of urticaria by advocacy activities. To become a certified GA<sup>2</sup>LEN UCARE, urticaria centers have to apply and fulfill 32 requirements, defined by specific deliverables that are assessed during an audit visit. The GA<sup>2</sup>LEN UCARE programme will result in a strong network of urticaria specialists, promote urticaria research, and harmonize and improve urticaria management globally.