

## **PRESS INFORMATION**

### **Optimizing clinical studies for rare allergies GA²LEN Annual Conference (27-28 February) at Berlin's Charité**

Berlin, 27 February 2012 – On 27 and 28 February, leading up to “Rare Disease Day”, the annual GA²LEN conference takes place at the Charité Universitätsmedizin (university hospital) Berlin. GA²LEN stands for Global Allergy and Asthma European Network and is a network of European specialty centres that works to strengthen European research on allergies and asthma.

This year's conference focuses on the current situation in the development and implementation of clinical studies on rare allergies in particular, as well as possibilities for improvement in this area.

“In the study of allergies, we find many rare sub-forms of allergies as well as rare allergens”, says Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h. c. Torsten Zuberbier, Secretary General of GA²LEN. “Because they are so rare, gathering information on these allergies through medical studies can be very challenging. The available treatment options often do not adequately address these small groups”, continues Zuberbier. “The conference is intended to bring us a significant step further in the development of relevant clinical studies. We want to make progress in the treatment of rare allergies.”

One emphasis of the conference will be the development of an improved definition of outcome parameters for clinical studies. The parameters should also be able to take into account individual results from allergy sub-phenotypes. Leading experts from research and academics, representatives of the EMA (European Medicines Agency), patient organisations and industry representatives will discuss openly the possibilities for improvement in clinical studies. The international guest speakers include Prof. Guido Rasi, Executive Director of the European Medicines Agency (EMA); Lars Jacobsen, European Allergen Manufacturers Group (EMG); Prof. Sergio Bonini, CNR Rome; Prof. Bruce Zuraw, University of San Diego; Dr. Anna Simon, Raboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre.

After the close of the conference, the results will be made available to the public. The organiser of the GA²LEN Annual Conference is the Allergie-Centrum-Charité at the Clinic for Dermatology, Venerology and Allergology at the Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

More information is available at: [www.ga2len.net/conference.html](http://www.ga2len.net/conference.html)

#### **About GA²LEN**

GA²LEN, an EU FP6 project, was founded to counteract the fragmentation of the European research community and to secure excellence in the field of Europe-wide allergy and asthma research by bringing together institutions and researchers from across the continent.

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