



Dear participants of the GA²LEN summer school,

It was a real honour and pleasure for me to have organised, with Jan Lotvall, this GA²LEN-EAACI summer school in close collaboration with the local organising committee of the Croatian Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology. About 80 young and 40 somewhat older researchers and clinicians have attended this summer school in the idyllic area of Dubrovnik and Cavtat.

In these nice surroundings, famous speakers from all over Europe have provided us with the most recent knowledge and views about allergy and asthma. By covering all domains from genetics over epidemiology to prevention and treatment, you received a complete and up to date overview about allergy and asthma. During the terrace encounters I was happily surprised of the scientific level of the work performed by the young researchers and the key role they are playing in their respective groups. I especially enjoyed the interesting conversations with them and to see what is really alive in their minds. Scientific rigour and creativity are the major qualities requested for research at a high level. On this point of view, we can be confident in the future generation of European scientists.

As the coordinator of GA²LEN, I am convinced that it is of utmost importance that young researchers collaborate in the frame of Europe wide projects and networks. In fact, the new generation is essential for the success of our GA²LEN network of excellence. As young scientists in the field of allergy and asthma, you will be the heart of this network. Thanks to a fruitful collaboration with your supervisors and senior researchers of GA²LEN, internationally recognized experts in the field of allergy and asthma, and thanks all the contacts established with other young researchers all around Europe, you will profit not only from their innovative ideas but also from all technological facilities and logistic support.

By organising training and education activities like this summer school, GA²LEN tries to stimulate and reinforce your research activities and serve as interface with other specialities dealing with allergy. Finally, these courses represent a unique chance for many local scientific societies in allergology to show their scientific qualities and enthusiasm.

This summer school was an ideal cocktail of high level scientific lectures in combination with more informal and cultural activities in a surrounding with a high historical and cultural value. The relaxed atmosphere during this summer school gave the participants the ability to discuss freely their interests with and put their questions to other young researchers or lecturers.

This summer school was really a big success and may serve as an example and standard for the next summer schools that will be organised by GA²LEN and EAACI in the near future. Of course I want to thank EAACI and The UCB Institute of Allergy for their support and to congratulate and thank the Croatian Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology – and especially Dr. Asja Stipic.

See you soon at one of the next GA²LEN-EAACI summer schools.

Kind regards,

Paul Van Cauwenberge
Coordinator GA²LEN

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "PVC", is written over a light blue rectangular background.