

EAACI Headquarters
111 Hagenholzstrasse
3rd Floor
8050 Zurich
Switzerland

London, July 25th, 2021

I was delighted to be awarded a competitive Clinical Fellowship 2020 prize by the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) to spread the medical specialty of allergy and clinical immunology throughout Europe and to promote allergy and clinical immunology among young doctors in order to support highly skilled specialists.

The main reason behind my application was to seek support for a Clinical Fellowship as a collaborative effort between two international centres of excellence: Meyer Children's Hospital, University of Florence, Italy and King's College London, School of Life Course Sciences and School of Immunology & Microbial Sciences and Evelina London Children's Hospital, Guy's and St Thomas' National Health Service (NHS) Foundation Trust, London, United Kingdom.

Both centres have outstanding records of accomplishment in patient-focused research. Indeed, the Learning Early About Peanut (LEAP) study has improved the lives of children worldwide by providing clear guidance on the optimal age to introduce peanuts in the diet in order to reduce allergies in countries where peanut allergy is prevalent. Two papers in the New England Journal of Medicine (2015-2016) confirm the quality of this study. However, not all allergies can be prevented, and these centres are involved with immunotherapy aimed at the treatment of food allergies. Indeed, the Peanut Allergy Oral Immunotherapy Study of AR101 for Desensitization in Children and Adults (PALISADE) contributed to the finding that peanut allergy can be treated through stepwise oral increments. These findings were also published in the New England Journal of Medicine (2018).

The NHS at St Thomas' has a large and productive pediatric service. It is now among the largest in its field and enjoys an international reputation for excellence. In fact, the Pediatric Allergy Service, comprising several quaternary clinics, has obtained the World Allergy Organisation status as a Centre of Excellence worldwide for clinical innovation, teaching, training, and research.

Being awarded a competitive Clinical Fellowship 2020 prize by the EAACI was a great contribution to an extraordinary international Clinical Fellowship. I successfully increased my skills in the clinical delivery of service and clinical research in the field of pediatric allergy. During such collaboration, I was able to advance in these areas whilst pursuing the research topic of Anaphylaxis Phenotypes in Children, which I would like to study further in the future. I dealt with a department with a plenty of open-minded excellent professional, fully available to discuss scientific topics and clinical management and to share suggestions and ideas, helping me grow. I particularly would like to thank Prof. George du Toit, who was a perfect supervisor and the best Mentor one could desire.

I used the resources to cover the expenses of a fruitful scientific visit to London (May 2021-July 2021), where I personally fostered the sharing of information with the centre in London. Regarding future outputs (e.g., publications) coming from this exchange project, we will mention the fact that I was a recipient of an EAACI Clinical Fellowship prize, and I will inform EAACI about the publication.

Nowadays, allergy epidemiology is a real burden, and it will grow further. Therefore, I think that research on allergy is critical, especially in pediatric age. My dream is to become a good pediatric allergy clinician and researcher. The visit to London gave me the opportunity to have cutting-edge insights on it, trying to develop new findings on the topic.

In Faith,



Mattia Giovannini

Allergy Unit, Meyer Children's University Hospital - Florence (IT)