Nvvi travel grant report
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European Academy of Asthma and Clinical Immunology (EAACI)- Allergy school
An insight into allergy and allergen immunotherapy, 11-13 September 2014

Upon receiving a travel grant from the Dutch society for Immunology, it was possible to attend the European Academy of Asthma and Clinical Immunology (EAACI)- Allergy school in Athens, Greece. This school focused on providing ‘an insight into allergy and allergen immunotherapy’, hosted a great interdisciplinary number of visitors.

The program was quite intensive and I attended all sessions including: ‘Optimization of immunotherapy application and use of adjuvances’ and Allergen Immunotherapy in children’. An example is provided by a remarkable lecture by Carmen Vidal (Spain) on the co-morbidities of allergic disease and their relation to immune mechanisms. Also, Oliver Pfaar (Germany) gave a beautiful lecture on how to start up an immunotherapy practice and elaborated on alternative vaccination routes, like used in the intralymphatic immunotherapy. Additionally, several break-out sessions were included wherein a lot of time was reserved for some good discussions regarding immunotherapy optimization. The gained knowledge significantly contributes to my overall position in this research field and will help me perform next experiments.

Furthermore, the course has allowed me to present our latest data in two posters presentations on the supplementation of Vitamin D in a grass pollen subcutaneous immunotherapy in a mouse model of allergic asthma. Importantly, I was able to discuss these results and future research opportunities with many colleagues in the field, and established several new contacts that are quite important for our future research.

Overall, this interesting course provided me with the opportunity to extend my knowledge on allergen immunotherapy and the immunological mechanisms behind the desensitization process. Therefore, I would like to thank the Dutch Society of Immunology for their financial support and for giving me the possibility to participate in this course.