



PRESS RELEASE

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EADV Congress: Dermatology is the cradle of manifold medical innovations!

Copenhagen – 12/10/15. A number of innovative research results were presented at the 24th Congress of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology that took place in Copenhagen from 7 to 11 October 2015. Some of these results are expected to impact medicine far beyond dermatology, demonstrating the innovative character of the specialty.

The importance of the specialty becomes also obvious against the background of this year's Nobel Prizes: William C. Campbell and Satoshi Ōmura were honoured for having addressed the importance of skin in infectious diseases, Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich and Aziz Sançar were awarded for their research into the mechanisms that cells use to repair DNA, which is vital for the understanding of skin cancer pathogenesis and skin ageing.

Research in psoriasis has led to new treatment options for inflammatory bowel diseases, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis

The identification of disease pathways in psoriasis and the development of new targeted drugs (e.g. inhibitors of IL-17 and IL-23) has helped to understand the origin of inflammatory bowel diseases, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis. Furthermore, treatments originally developed for psoriasis are now investigated in these diseases, and may be implemented in their standard therapy. A small molecule (fumarates), for example, has now been approved for the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

Insights into how skin cancer suppresses immunity will also lead to novel treatment options for other cancers

The first broadly efficient cancer immunotherapy has been developed in dermatology as a treatment for metastatic melanoma. The anti-PD-1 therapy can hold the progression of metastatic disease for more than 18 months as a new study has shown [1]. As Prof. Martin Röcken, MD, Tübingen, Germany, EADV Scientific Programming Committee Chairman, explained, the therapy will also be tested as treatment for other malignancies – and chances are good that patients with lung cancer, bladder or kidney cancer might benefit from it. But Röcken also pointed to the downside of this innovation. As with many new cancer drugs, treatment costs can add up to 250,000 EUR per patient, a sum, most health systems have difficulty to afford. This is especially worrisome, because the basic research for these therapies was performed in publicly-funded research institutes. "We have to make sure that

innovations reach the patients and we have to care that promising treatments do not become too expensive. This is a challenge medical doctors face nowadays", explains Röcken.

[1] Robert C et al. N Engl J Med. 2015 Jan 22;372(4):320-30

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About the EADV Congress

The EADV Congress is organised every autumn and attracts Dermatologists and Venereologists from Europe and around the world. The EADV Congress is Europe's biggest meeting of dermatology and venereology, where the latest cutting edge research and newest developments of the two fields are presented. The Congress attracts participants from Europe, as well as from all around the world, bringing together their expertise and innovation.

About EADV

Founded in 1987, EADV is a non-profit association whose vision is to be the premier European Dermato-Venereology Society, with the key aims of improving the quality of patient care, providing continuing medical education (CME) for all Dermato-Venereologists in Europe, and advocacy on behalf of the specialty and patients.

The membership concept has been broadened to include all areas of Europe and elsewhere, and the development of alliances and affiliations with other organisations.

For further information about the Academy, please contact us under +32 2 650 00 90 or visit www.eadv.org

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