



ISCH COST Action TD1206



Development and Implementation of European Standards on Prevention of Occupational Skin Diseases (StanDerm)

## STSM report

**STSM title:** Training in the field of Dermatoallergology ( COST-STSM-ECOST-STSM-TD1206-100214-039858)

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**Host:** Department of Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology Univ. Erlangen / Nürnberg, Erlangen and Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Otto-von-Guericke-University, Magdeburg.

**Date:** 10 February to 12 April 2014

### **Purpose:**

The aim was to acquire the knowledge about data collection software and monitoring of sensitization prevalence's to allergens of the baseline series for the European Surveillance System on Contact Allergies network, to learn the patch and prick tests performing and analysing techniques, to acquire the knowledge in clinical dermatoallergology, immunology and professional skin diseases.

### **Background**

According to European Surveillance System on Contact Allergies Data Centre the contact sensitization is a frequent condition (with up to 20% of the general population affected), and its clinical manifestation - allergic contact dermatitis (incidence approximately 7 per 1000 per year) - has considerable socioeconomic impact. Recommendations concerning primary prevention must be found on sound scientific knowledge concerning occurrence of allergen exposures in the population. Therefore research goal of this training is the continuous analysis of acquired data of the sensitization prevalence's to allergens of the baseline series in Kaunas among dermatological patients and individuals with professional risk (hair dressers), compared to other European departments of the European Surveillance System on Contact Allergies (ESSCA) network. These analyses shall provide a valuable starting point for lowering the incidence of contact allergies and preventive recommendations for risk group of individuals. For industry, such analyses can serve the purpose of post marketing surveillance of product safety. Research of COST StanDerm TD 1206 project will continue during planned study of my PhD in Lithuanian University of

Health Sciences. Also, performing the traineeship in clinical dermato-allergology and professional skin diseases regarding lack of such specialty in Lithuania.

### **Work carried out during the visit (overview)**

STSM in Department of Skin and Venereal diseases and Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology was very beneficial for me. I learned how to perform and analyze the patch and prick test, I had an opportunity to work on improving my practice on these allergy tests. During the whole visit I have appreciated putting emphasis on practical and independent actions.

I learned more about data collection of patch test results and the main principles about the network of the European Surveillance System on Contact Allergies. I learned how to adjust data collection software and this is very important in the future for better control of allergic skin diseases in my country.

I had also opportunity to learn the main principles of dermatoallergology. This includes examination of patients, planning the details of the treatment and evaluation of the treatment outcomes.

The scope of employment was to study protocols for patch and prick tests performance, to observe their execution sequence, to learn to do these tests by myself. Important part of the visit were also data analyses and data interpretation.

### **Main results obtained**

We are planning to bring this technology for allergic skin diseases analysis in our department in the near future especially the prick test which will allow us to expand our diagnostic capabilities.

We would like to use patch and prick test data for further studies of dermatoallergology, to get more experience about prevalence of occupational skin diseases, to improve our diagnostic possibilities and treatment. That would help us to develop the monitoring of allergic skin conditions.

In Lithuania data on patch testing are lacking and the applicability of the European baseline series to my country requires further evaluation, especially for occupational skin diseases. We would like to extend our patch test performance capabilities using a series of other allergens, close to patients environment and work places.

### **Future collaboration with host institution**

Both institutes are interested in future collaboration concerning exchange of methods and experiences in monitoring of allergic skin diseases.

### **Other comments**

I would like to greatly thank COST for allowing me to undertake this STSM visit to the Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Otto-von-Guericke-University in Magdeburg and Department of Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology in Erlangen.

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