

Education

Education is CK-CARE's second pillar alongside research. Our goal is to translate the latest allergy research findings and deliver knowledge updates to physicians of different specialties as well as other relevant health care providers, who treat or have an interest in patients suffering from allergic diseases.

Despite great efforts of universities, scientific societies, and specialty associations, there exists a tremendous need to make new information simple and accessible to care givers treating allergy patients. We try to close this knowledge gap by offering tailored and focused learning activities.

Medical education and its dissemination has evolved and developed over the past years. CK-CARE embraces these didactical improvements in our education programmes – it is our goal to provide relevant and practical learning activities for graduate, postgraduate, and continuing medical education for all medical practitioners in the field of allergic diseases. Our educational programs enable the participants to fully utilize their acquired knowledge and skills in their daily practice. This will lead to improved patient care, patient education, and disease prevention.

CK-CARE is a platform for networking, knowledge transfer and exchange of experience. Our educational programs include:

- Interactive seminars for family physicians, general practitioners, and pediatric primary care providers.
- Promotion of young physicians by facilitating exchange programs in allergy research.
- Learning activities as part of meetings and congresses.
- Learning sessions for trainers, who act as multipliers in patient education, especially in the fields of atopic dermatitis and anaphylaxis.
- Training for allied health professionals.

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CK-CARE

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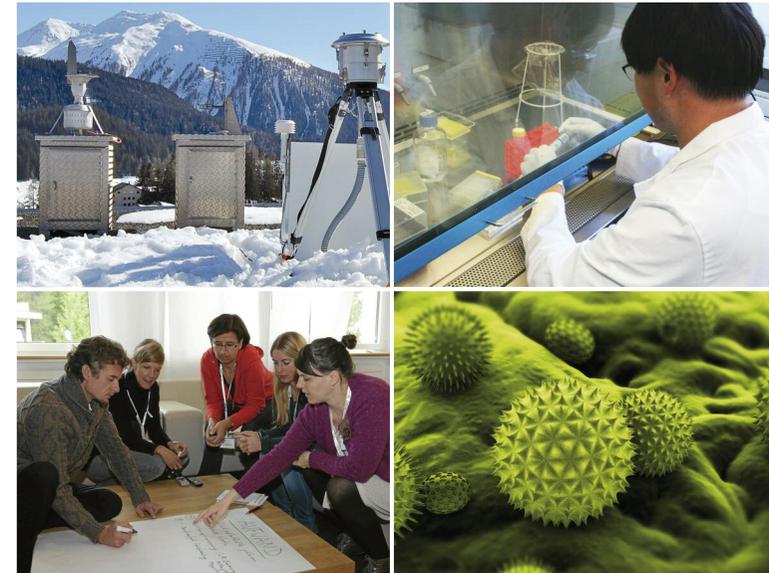
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Through research and education
towards prevention and disease management

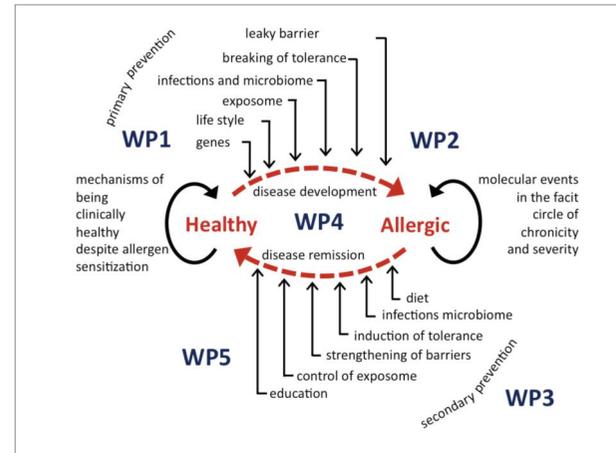
About CK-CARE

In July 2009, the Kühne Foundation has launched the Christine Kühne Center for Allergy Research and Education (CK-CARE), with locations in Davos, Munich and Zurich. The main pillars of this initiative are highly qualified and well-connected research work in the field of allergies and education of medical professionals based on recent findings. With the establishment of CK-CARE, one of Europe's largest private initiatives in the field of allergology was launched. After a successful external evaluation by international experts of the services provided and an internationally validated development of the project, the initiative was expanded to the locations of Bonn, Augsburg and St. Gallen and extended in 2014 for another five years.

Around a billion people worldwide are affected by allergic diseases and asthma. Research efforts have been made for nearly a century to unlock the secrets of these scourges of humanity. Yet there continue to be sizeable gaps in our knowledge about these diseases and, due to the lack of scientific knowledge, the preventive and therapeutic options are still limited. The declared aim of CK-CARE is to promote research, education, and prevention in the field of allergies and improve the implementation of research results in clinical care for the benefit of affected patients.

With the launch of the "Davos Campus" for patient care, research, and education in Davos Wolfgang, in 2014 a new era has also been introduced. In close cooperation with the leading research institute SIAF Davos and the Hochgebirgsklinik Davos Wolfgang, CK-CARE is building a globally unique centre in this field, in which research, patient care, and education in the allergy field can ideally interact and be connected in the same area, as well as develop synergies.

Research



The Davos Declaration by the CK-CARE Global Allergy Forum of 2013 quotes the following key areas in which research is needed:

- Translational research in respect of diagnostics and prophylactic measures
- Understanding of the natural mechanisms
- Understanding the role of infections and the microbiome
- Knowledge about disease subgroups
- Biomarkers to predict the disease course, treatment outcome and disease activity
- Development of improved preclinical models
- Education

In the next five years CK-CARE will be focusing research on the subject "immune tolerance in atopic diseases: lessons learnt from the natural course of diseases". The underlying hypothesis is that a long-term strategy for influencing the disease can be developed if the natural course of atopic diseases is better understood.

Both atopic dermatitis/eczema and asthma follow a natural course, which is characterised in a substantial proportion of patients by spontaneous recovery from the illness or at least progression to a milder form; in a few patients, however, the severe disease persists into adulthood. If this natural course is better understood, a long-term strategy for influencing the disease might be developed.

It is hoped this expanded knowledge will help to identify biomarkers that will enable the development of the disease course to be predicted even before the onset of the illness. Which atopic diseases develop at what age, what forms of exposure have an influence on this and whether it is possible to "grow out" of the condition are very important questions from the scientific point of view. From the standpoint of service providers, possible preventive measures are being sought, which can easily be implemented on a broad basis in order to combat the growing allergy epidemic.

CK-CARE has undergone fundamental restructuring in order to take up this scientific challenge. In future we will no longer be thinking in terms of "research fields" that collaborate with each other, but we will be focusing on "work packages" to which the different teams make their contributions.

The research activities of CK-CARE are expected to answer essential unanswered questions in the field of allergies and directly improve the quality of life of patients. We are particularly keen to embed our research work in a strong collaborative network on an international level. In line with the objectives of CK-CARE, our highest priority is the clinical relevance of our research results. Consequently, we are concentrating on the translation of biomedical knowledge gained by research into practical, medical benefits with the aim of developing new methods of prevention and treatment. In addition, this research programme will make a major contribution towards building up the central facility of CK-CARE, the biobank and associated patient database.

