

IDEA Workshop on Characterization of Fragrance Allergens

August 27-29, 2013

Obligations on the need to continue the discussion in a follow-up workshop December 4th, 2013

Characterizing fragrance allergens and dealing with allergens of concerns are topics which have been addressed in the third workshop of the IDEA project that took place August 28 - 29, 2013. Unlike the initial two workshops, highly technical in nature, this third workshop touched upon a topic with foundations from both scientifically derived data and equally important clinical observations build over decades of patient / dermatologist relationship.

Based on this and on the breadth of the subject, the workshop participants have continued the discussions beyond the 2 ½ day workshop, demonstrating that reaching a common understanding is not achieved yet.

This issue was reported to the IDEA Supervisory Group which agreed that the conclusions drawn at the workshop merit further reflection and discussion and should not be regarded the final word on the topic.

Because there is a strong will from all participants to reach such an alignment for the benefit of the long term deliveries, a second workshop will take place and resume the discussion where it left off last August.

Having established working definitions of contact allergy (CA) and allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) at the first event, this subsequent workshop will consider the relationship between CA and the diagnosis of ACD and will focus on:

1. Understanding the link between CA and ACD, including the definition of clinical relevance,
2. How the uncertainties associated with patch testing, including false positives and negatives, can be minimized,
3. The clarification of dermatological and immunological principles that would be required for the establishment of a complementary diagnostic tool and,
4. The development of a framework to enhance the communication between the dermatologists and the industry.

Thereafter, a comprehensive set of conclusions shall be derived after careful review by all the participants at the 2nd workshop. Nevertheless, it should be mentioned that, albeit the strenuous nature of the topic, the workshop participants have already provided a major and decisive breakthrough on the definition of 'contact allergen'. This definition and other important advances are reported in the Rapporteur's progress report.

This second event dedicated to the characterization of fragrance allergens is scheduled in May 2014 and the exact dates will be confirmed beginning of the next year.

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