221 Structural and Immunological Characterization of Recombinant Pan b 1, a Major Allergen of Northern Shrimp, Pandalus borealis
Myrset, H.R. (Oslo); Barletta, B.; Di Felice, G. (Rome); Egaas, E.; Dooper, M.M.B.W. (Oslo)

233 Quantitation of IgE Binding to the Chitinase and Chitinase-Like House Dust Mite Allergens Der p 15 and Der p 18 Compared to the Major and Mid-Range Allergens
Hales, B.J.; Elliot, C.E.; Chai, L.Y.; Pearce, L.J. (Subiaco, W.A.); Tipayanon, T. (Salaya); Hazell, L.; Stone, S. (Subiaco, W.A.); Piboonpocanun, S. (Salaya); Thomas, W.R.; Smith, W.-A. (Subiaco, W.A.)

241 Evaluation of the Effect of Pollution and Fungal Disease on Pinus radiata Pollen Allergenicity
García-Gallardo, M.V. (Vitoria-Gasteiz); Algorta, J. (Leioa); Longo, N.; Espinel, S.; Aragones, A. (Vitoria-Gasteiz); Lombardero, M. (Madrid); Bernaloa, G. (Galdácano); Jauregui, I. (Bilbao); Aranzabal, A. (Zumárraga); Albizu, M.V. (Vitoria-Gasteiz); Gastaminza, G. (Pamplona)

251 Ara h 2 and Ara h 6 Have Similar Allergenic Activity and Are Substantially Redundant

259 Evaluation of Allergenicity of Acid-Hydrolyzed Wheat Protein Using an in vitro Elicitation Test
Nakamura, R.; Nakamura, R.; Adachi, R. (Tokyo); Itagaki, Y. (Eniwa); Fukutomi, Y. (Sagamihara/Kanazawa); Teshima, R. (Tokyo)

Mechanisms of Allergy

265 Inhibition of Histamine H1 Receptor Activity Modulates Proinflammatory Cytokine Production of Dendritic Cells through c-Rel Activity

275 Characterization of IL-18 Expression and Release in the Pathogenesis of Chronic Rhinosinusitis

(Continued on inside front cover)
287 Association Study of Matrix Metalloproteinase-12 Gene Polymorphisms and Asthma in a Japanese Population
Yamaide, F.; Undarmaa, S.; Mashimo, Y.; Shimojo, N.; Arima, T.; Morita, Y. (Chiba); Hirota, T. (Yokohama); Fujita, K. (Shiga); Miyatake, A.; Doi, S. (Osaka); Sato, K.; Suzuki, S.; Nishimuta, T.; Watanabe, H. (Yotsukaido); Hoshioka, A.; Tomiita, M.; Yamaide, A. (Chiba); Watanabe, M. (Tokyo); Okamoto, Y.; Kohno, Y. (Chiba); Tamari, M. (Yokohama); Hata, A.; Suzuki, Y. (Chiba)

Clinical Allergology

297 Anisakis simplex Hypersensitivity Is Associated with Chronic Urticaria in Endemic Areas
Ventura, M.T.; Napolitano, S.; Menga, R.; Cecere, R. (Bari); Asero, R. (Paderno Dugnano)

301 A Real-Life Study on Acquired Skills from Using an Adrenaline Autoinjector
Topal, E.; Bakirtas, A.; Yilmaz, O.; Ertoy, I.H.; Arga, M.; Demirsoy, M.S.; Turktas, I. (Ankara)

307 Acoustic Rhinometry and Aspirin Nasal Challenge in the Diagnosis of Aspirin-Intolerant Asthma: Clinical Finding and Safety Aspects
Muñoz-Cano, R.; Bartra, J. (Barcelona/Medellín); Sanchez-Lopez, J. (Barcelona); Picado, C. (Barcelona/Medellín); Bissinger, I. (Medellín); Valero, A. (Barcelona/Medellín)

313 Clinical Features of Children with Venom Allergy and Risk Factors for Severe Systemic Reactions

322 Exhaled Nitric Oxide May Predict Bronchial Hyperreactivity in Patients with Allergic Rhinitis
Cirillo, I. (La Spezia); Ricciardolo, F.L.M. (Torino); Medusei, G. (La Spezia); Signori, A.; Ciprandi, G. (Genoa)
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Contents

See the journal website for contents
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<th>Dauerkarten</th>
<th>für die Gesamttagung</th>
<th>bis 31.07.2013</th>
<th>ab 01.08.2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mitglieder des der ÄAK / DGAKI / GPA*</td>
<td>170,00 €</td>
<td>220,00 €</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nichtmitglieder</td>
<td>220,00 €</td>
<td>270,00 €</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstracteleiter</td>
<td>170,00 €</td>
<td>170,00 €</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pflegeberufe, Ärzte/innen, Ökopharmakologen, Umweltwissenschaftler*</td>
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<td>25,00 €</td>
<td>25,00 €</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tageskarten</th>
<th>für den</th>
<th>05.09.2013</th>
<th>06.09.2013</th>
<th>07.09.2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mitglieder des der ÄAK / DGAKI / GPA*</td>
<td>90,00 €</td>
<td>110,00 €</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>110,00 €</td>
<td>140,00 €</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Vitamin A plays a key role among the vitamins essential for healthy growth and development. Vitamin A deficiency disorders (VADD) are therefore an important part of general malnutrition that in the majority of cases leads to failure to thrive and underweight. Moreover, apart from adverse effects on health and survival in general, VADD can also lead to blindness, called xerophthalmia, and are also frequently accompanied by various infections. Last but not least, it has become evident that even mild degrees of VAD (and all other forms of nutritional deficiencies) have important adverse implications for health and are thus much more widespread than previously assumed.

This publication systematically covers detailed and up-to-date information on every relevant aspect of VADD, with particular emphasis on providing an outline of their setting, nature, and significance. In addition to cutting-edge scientific information, the latest available data on the global occurrence of VAD from the World Health Organization is also included.

Contents
Acknowledgements
Preface
Foreword
• Foreground
• Vitamin A in Nature
• Methods of Analysis
• Food Sources
• Bioavailability of Carotenoids
• Vitamin A in Health
• Assessment of Vitamin A Status
• Xerophthalmia
• Mortality and Morbidity Especially in Relation to Infections
• Other Effects of VAD
• Interaction of Vitamin A and Other Micronutrients
• Global Occurrence
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Selected contributions

- Prevalence of Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 in Different Risk Groups: Thirty Years after the Onset of HIV: Reinheimer, C.; Doerr, H.W.
- Perventricular Demyelination and Axonal Pathology Is Associated with Subependymal Virus Spread in a Murine Model for Multiple Sclerosis: Kummerfeld, M.; Sehnsen, F.; Klein, S.; Ulrich, R.; Kreutzer, R.; Gerhäuser, I.; Herder, V.; Baumgartner, W.; Beineke, A.
- Reclassification of Giant Viruses Composing a Fourth Domain of Life in the New Order Megavirales: Colson, P.; de Lamballerie, X.; Fournous, G.; Raoult, D.
- Detection of Mimivirus in Bronchoalveolar Lavage of Ventilated and Nonventilated Patients: Costa, C.; Bergallo, M.; Astegiano, S.; Terlizzi, M.E.; Siodti, F.; Soldoro, P.; Cavallaro, R.
- A Short Harpin Loop-Structured Oligodeoxynucleotide Targeting the Virion-Associated R²ase H of HIV Inhibits HIV Production in Cell Culture and in huPBL-SCID Mice: Heinrich, J.; Schols, D.; Moelling, K.
- Targets for Inhibition of HIV Replication: Entry, Enzyme Action, Release and Maturation: Sierra, S.; Walter, H.

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