

## HISTORY of the EAMG

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The EAMG has its origins in the late 1970s. Scientists from leading allergen companies started meeting to formulate common ideas and responses to the growing international effort for standardising allergen extracts.

By 1983 increasing contacts between companies and with regulatory authorities resulted inevitably in a more formal association of companies. Agreement was reached on functioning of the group across a whole range of interests although the general desire was to operate as a voluntary association rather than formalise as a legal entity. Co-operation continued in this vein through the 1980s and 90s. Some new members joined, some amalgamated and others withdrew from the industry.

To ensure a common approach in the behaviour of members to meet the diagnostic and immunotherapy needs of patients and clinicians, pressure grew to establish the EAMG as a registered legal entity agreement for which was finally achieved in February 2000. I had the great privilege and experience to be part of those early inter-company contacts, to be present at the 1983 formation meeting and subsequently Chairman of the EAMG from 1990 to its incorporation in 2000.

The industry has changed markedly over the years. Companies expect their products to be treated uniformly throughout and beyond the EU but harmonisation of regulatory measures appears an everlasting problem. Issues raised more than 10 years ago\* remain capricious and largely unsolved. The complexity and huge logistical and financial costs of conducting definitive clinical trials on each single allergen species present a further challenge. Solutions will only be found, if ever, by a concerted, co-operative approach.

The EAMG will continue striving to work constructively with regulatory authorities to ensure continued supply of high quality products under pan-European guidelines whether bulk-produced or individually patient-tailored.

**M. B. Rooke.**

\* M.B. Rooke Current State of Allergen Regulations: a Manufacturer's Opinion, Arbeiten aus dem Paul Ehrlich Institut (Bundesamt für Sera und Impfstoffe), Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart, 1994, Band 87, p.27.