The GA²LEN Urticaria Center of Reference and Excellence (UCARE) programme and network is part of the GA²LEN center of reference and excellence (CORE) initiative.
Who is GA² LEN? 
A consortium of 31 partners

www.ga2len.net
What does GA²LEN do?

- Coprogrammes research in allergy
- Accelerates the application of research results
- Creates platforms & tools for research and dissemination
- Creates awareness and disseminates better care

www.ga2len.net
What is the GA²LEN CORE initiative?

• Disease-specific networks of centers of reference and excellence for selected disease
• Promote research, awareness and education
• UCARE (urticaria), ADCARE (atopic dermatitis), ANACARE (anaphylaxis)

www.ga2len.net
Definition, aims, and implementation of GA²LEN Urticaria Centers of Reference and Excellence

M. Maurer¹, M. Metz¹, C. Bindslev-Jensen², J. Bousquet³,⁴,⁵, G. W. Canonica⁶, M. K. Church¹, K. V. Godse⁷, C. E. Grattan⁸, M. Hide⁹, E. Kocaturk¹⁰, M. Magerl¹, M. Makris¹¹, R. Meshkova¹², S. S. Saini¹³, G. Sussman¹⁴, E. Toubi¹⁵, Z. Zhao¹⁶, T. Zuberbier¹ & A. Gimenez-Arnau¹⁷

¹Department of Dermatology and Allergy, Allergie-Centrum-Charité, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany; ²Department of Dermatology and Allergy Center, Odense Research Center for Anaphylaxis, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark; ³University Hospital Montpellier; ⁴VIMA: Ageing and Chronic Diseases, Epidemiological and Public Health Approaches, INSERM, Paris; ⁵UVSQ, UMR-S 1168, Université Versailles St-Quentin-en-Yvelines, St-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France; ⁶RCCS AOI San Martino-IST, University of Genoa, Genoa, Italy; ⁷Department of Dermatology, D.Y. Patil School of Medicine, Nerul, Navi Mumbai, India; ⁸Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Norwich, UK; ⁹Department of Dermatology, Institute of Biomedical and Health Sciences, Hiroshima University, Hiroshima, Japan; ¹⁰Department of Dermatology, Okmeydani Training and Research Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey; ¹¹2nd Department of Dermatology and Venerology, Attikon University Hospital, Athens, Greece; ¹²Department of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, Smolensk State Medical University, Smolensk, Russia; ¹³Department of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA; ¹⁴Division Allergy and Immunology, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada; ¹⁵Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Bnei-Zion Medical Center, The Technion, Haifa, Israel; ¹⁶Department of Dermatology and Venerology, Peking University, First Hospital, Beijing, China; ¹⁷Department of Dermatology, Hospital del Mar, IMIM, Universitat Autònoma, Barcelona, Spain


www.ga2len-ucare.com
GA²LEN Urticaria Centers of Reference and Excellence (GA²LEN UCAREs)

Aims

1. Provide excellence in urticaria management

2. Increase the knowledge of urticaria by research, studies and education

3. Promote the awareness of urticaria by advocacy activities

www.ga2len-ucare.com
What does it take to be a GA²LEN UCARE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure/setup</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of urticaria</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical &amp; Basic Research</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to become a GA²LEN UCARE

1. Apply
2. Audit
3. Certification

www.ga2len-ucare.com
How to become a GA²LEN UCARE

1. Apply
2. Audit
3. Certification

Download application form: www.ga2len-ucare.com

Complete, sign and send to: info@ga2len-ucare.com
# The GA²LEN UCARE audit process

**GA²LEN Urticaria Centers of Reference and Excellence (UCARE) Audit Report**

**Audit Date:**

**Audited Center:**

**Auditor:**

**Last audit:**

**Head of the Center:**

**Deputy:**

---

## Infrastructure / Set up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Deliverable(s)</th>
<th>Yes / No</th>
<th>Cat.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Hospital setting</td>
<td>Center needs to be in a hospital or affiliated with a hospital with inpatient facilities to allow for extended diagnostic work up and management of exacerbation</td>
<td>Evidence of hospital setting or affiliation with hospital</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Outpatient clinic with separate clinic hours for urticaria patients headed by expert</td>
<td>Center needs to have designated and expert leadership (experienced specialist physician) and to offer a minimum number of consultation hours per week exclusive for urticaria patients</td>
<td>Lead by experienced physician (board certified specialist) ≥ 4h / week of dedicated urticaria clinic (physician contact time)</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Open to children and adult patients</td>
<td>Centers need to be able to provide care for urticaria patients of any age, either by center staff or affiliated specialists</td>
<td>Evidence that urticaria patients of any age are provided with state of the art care</td>
<td>☐ ☐</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Team of dedicated staff, with specific urticaria training</td>
<td>Center staff needs to comprise more than one physician and at least one nurse. All center staff needs to be specifically and regularly trained in urticaria</td>
<td>≥ 2 physicians and ≥1 nurse Record of ≥ 1 urticaria training per staff member per year, e.g. GA²LEN school on urticaria, urticaria CME activity, etc.</td>
<td>☐ ☐</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Multidisciplinary approach</td>
<td>Center needs to be able to interact with other specialties for the management of comorbidities, the treatment of patients with differential diagnoses, and to perform extended diagnostics</td>
<td>Evidence of interaction with other specialists</td>
<td>☐ ☐</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*GA²LEN UCARE Audit Report, Version: 4/2016*
The GA²LEN UCARE audit process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the</td>
<td>in on from the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>is</td>
<td>and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in</td>
<td>of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The GA²LEN UCARE Audit – Background information

How to do a UCARE audit

Urticaria centers that apply to become GA²LEN Urticaria Centers of Reference and Excellence (UCARES) are audited. This audit is performed by one or more members of the GA²LEN UCARE audit group, which consists of the heads and deputies of the UCARE centers. The UCARE center management teams may be requested by the UCARE audit group to provide the necessary information on the background of the audit. This information may be helpful to prepare for the audit. If you are a center that is planning to be audited or if you are a center that is being audited, you will be given substantial background information on how to prepare for the audit and when the audit will take place.

In general, the audit visit and meeting makes sure that an urticaria center complies with the rules of the GA²LEN UCARE programme and fulfills the requirements of the GA²LEN UCARE. The audit visit is also meant to strengthen the interaction between UCARE centers and to promote the discussion of urticaria management, the organization of urticaria centers and joint urticaria projects between UCARE centers in the future. A UCARE audit is to be held in a place that allows for collegial discussions and a meaningful scientific exchange. The center that is audited should provide enough space and time to properly do the audit. Up to 2 hours should be scheduled for the audit meeting, and all the documentation required (e.g., patient files, database, standard operating procedures) should be accessible at the time of the audit. The center should be ready to show to the auditors the rooms and setup of the center, and the team of the center should be present during the audit. In addition, the audit visit involves a review of the head of the urticaria center. The auditing of some of the requirements involves a review of patient files and standard operating procedures. These should be made available during the audit.

Auditors and auditees should see the audit visit as an opportunity to learn from each other, to promote the harmonization of urticaria management and to discuss and plan interactions and UCARE network projects.

Note that the last column in the audit report designates all of the 32 UCARE requirements as either Category A or Category B. Category A requirements are specific for UCARE, whereas Category B requirements can be assumed to be fulfilled by centers that are part of a certified GA²LEN center. Category B requirements are audited as part of the GA²LEN quality management activities. Consequently, category B requirements do not need to be included in the audit of urticaria centers at GA²LEN centers. Urticaria centers that are not located at GA²LEN centers are audited for all, A and B category requirements.

As an auditor, you can have three possible outcomes of an audit:

1. The first outcome is that you find all the requirements to be fulfilled and in this case you can recommend the center in becoming a UCARE right after the audit.
The GA²LEN UCARE audit process

The GA²LEN office hereby certifies that the

Urticaria Center of the Department of xxx
Affiliation, City, Country

has been externally audited and fulfills the GA²LEN quality criteria as a

GA²LEN Urticaria Center of Reference and Excellence
(GA²LEN UCARE).

Date: xx.yy.zzzz
Valid until: xx.yy.zzzz

Professor Marcus Maurer
GA²LEN UCARE Coordinator

Professor Ana Giménez-Arnau
GA²LEN UCARE Coordinator

Professor Torsten Zuberbier
GA²LEN SECRETARY GENERAL

www.ga2len-ucare.com
The GA²LEN UCARE network
(September 2020)
The GA²LEN UCARE network (September 2020)

- Certified Centers: 110
- Applicant Centers: 22
- Interested Centers: 11

- Countries with UCAREs: 38
  - Africa: 1
  - Asia: 12
  - Australia & Oceania: 1
  - Europe: 16
  - North America: 3
  - South America: 5

www.ga2len-ucare.com
Invitation

Welcome to the official website of the 5th GA²LEN Global Urticaria Forum!

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the 5th GA²LEN Global Urticaria Forum. Join us in Berlin on 1-2 December 2020!

www.globalurticariaforum.org
GA²LEN UCARE Conference 2021
Hiroshima, Japan
GA²LEN UCARE current projects

CURE The global chronic urticaria registry
(lead investigator: Karsten Weller, karsten.weller@charite.de)
Status: RECRUITING

UVERSICU Urticarial vasculitis versus chronic spontaneous urticaria
Natural history, disease course and response to treatment
(lead investigator: Hanna Bonnekoh, hanna.bonnekoh@charite.de)
Status: CLOSED

COLD-CE Cold urticaria and cold reduced reactions – a comprehensive evaluation
(lead investigators: Mojca Bizjak and Dorothea Terhorst-Molawi, mojca.bizjak@klinika-golnik.si, dorothea.terhorst@charite.de)
Status: RECRUITING

www.ga2len-ucare.com
## GA²LEN UCARE upcoming projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Lead Investigator</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CholU</td>
<td>Cholinergic urticaria - Natural history, disease features and course and response to treatment</td>
<td>Sabine Altrichter, <a href="mailto:sabine.altrichter@charite.de">sabine.altrichter@charite.de</a></td>
<td>IN PREPARATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSU Plus</td>
<td>Chronic spontaneous urticaria plus additional extracutaneous symptoms</td>
<td>Frank Siebenhaar, <a href="mailto:frank.siebenhaar@charite.de">frank.siebenhaar@charite.de</a></td>
<td>IN PREPARATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DruSo-CU</td>
<td>Determinants of omalizumab drug survival in a long-term daily practice multicentre cohort of patients with Chronic Urticaria</td>
<td>Heike Röckmann, <a href="mailto:H.Rockmann@umcutrecht.nl">H.Rockmann@umcutrecht.nl</a></td>
<td>IN PREPARATION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[www.ga2len-ucare.com](http://www.ga2len-ucare.com)
### GA²LEN UCARE upcoming projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Lead Investigators</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sleep-CU</td>
<td>Sleep disorders in patients with chronic urticaria</td>
<td>Ivan Chérez Ojeda, <a href="mailto:ivancherrez@gmail.com">ivancherrez@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>IN PREPARATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCOMB</td>
<td>Combination of strategies in systemic treatment in chronic urticaria</td>
<td>Caroline Mann, Petra Staubach-Renz,</td>
<td>IN PREPARATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Caroline.Mann@unimedizin-mainz.de">Caroline.Mann@unimedizin-mainz.de</a>,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:petra.staubach@unimedizin-mainz.de">petra.staubach@unimedizin-mainz.de</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URCHILD</td>
<td>Systemic treatment of children with chronic urticaria</td>
<td>Caroline Mann, Petra Staubach-Renz,</td>
<td>IN PREPARATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Caroline.Mann@unimedizin-mainz.de">Caroline.Mann@unimedizin-mainz.de</a>,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:petra.staubach@unimedizin-mainz.de">petra.staubach@unimedizin-mainz.de</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSRF-CU</td>
<td>Life Style Factors and Risk Factors for Chronic Urticaria</td>
<td>Emek Kocatürk, <a href="mailto:dremekozgur@gmail.com">dremekozgur@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>IN PREPARATION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[www.ga2len-ucare.com](http://www.ga2len-ucare.com)
GA²LEN UCARE past projects

**UVERSICU**  Urticarial vasculitis versus chronic spontaneous urticaria
Natural history, disease course and response to treatment
(lead investigator: Hanna Bonnekoh, hanna.bonnekoh@charite.de)
Status: Closed

**PREGCU**  Pregnancy and chronic urticaria: characteristics and outcomes of pregnancy in chronic urticaria patients
(lead investigator: Emek Kocatürk, dremekozgur@gmail.com)
Status: Closed

**CURICT**  Chronic urticaria – patient use of information and communication technologies
(lead investigator: Ivan Cherrez, ivancherrez@gmail.com)
Status: Closed

[www.ga2len-ucare.com](http://www.ga2len-ucare.com)
Sponsors of the GA²LEN UCARE network and programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uriach</td>
<td>silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courage+Khazaka</td>
<td>bronze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moxie</td>
<td>bronze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aralez</td>
<td>bronze</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>