

# Press release



## European Day of Immunology 2006

The first Day of Immunology 2005 was a tremendous success. It was initiated by the European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS) comprising 28 societies of immunology in 31 European countries and was held in more than 30 European states. An impressive variety of activities with broad media coverage reached large numbers of people all over Europe, strengthening public awareness of immunology as a basis for health and well-being. This positive response encouraged us to repeat this campaign in 2006. Stefan H.E. Kaufmann, Vice President of EFIS and coordinator of the Day of Immunology 2006, says: "Avian flu, vaccination, and personal well-being, to name a few issues, are questions of great concern for young and adolescent people all over Europe. This provides an excellent opportunity to increase awareness of immunology among students". Greater public mobility and the spread of infectious diseases make understanding the immune system a topic of global concern. EFIS therefore focuses this year on primary and secondary school-aged children by fostering "**Partnerships in Immunology and Education**" (PIE). Introducing immunological science into a school setting will increase awareness of health issues in the family as well as make known opportunities for further study in higher education.

Once again, the internet (<http://www.dayofimmunology.org/>) is the primary mode of communication for immunologists to access resources as well as report upon their participation in this event. In association, EFIS is preparing a website tailored especially for school use. This year, a prize will be awarded to the most original project, which has the ability to fascinate students, created by a partnership between immunological research (scientists or institutes) and education (individual students or schools). The prize will be awarded during the EFIS congress (European Congress of Immunology) in Paris, September 6–9, 2006.

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