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**Cover legend:** From the allergen-recognition by antibodies to novel therapeutic concepts. Allergic patients form IgE antibodies, which reside on histamine-loaded cells. Cross linking of IgE antibodies through allergens leads to the immediate release of histamine, responsible for allergic symptoms like rhino-conjunctivitis or asthma. Critical for IgE-binding to allergens are their IgE-epitopes, which comprise certain regions of their protein structure. By means of mimotope-technology, we have isolated peptides from phage libraries, which are able to structurally mimic IgE-epitopes of plant pollen (birch, timothy grass). Hence, these are candidates for an epitope-specific immunotherapy, which aims to induce so-called blocking IgG antibodies, directed exclusively against IgE-epitopes of allergens. Their formation may prevent allergen binding to and further release of inflammatory mediators from effector cells. By courtesy of Dr.rer.nat. Brigitte Hantusch und Univ.-Prof. Dr. Erika Jenson-Jarolim.