About the World Allergy Organization

The World Allergy Organization (WAO) is a global alliance of 84 regional and national allergy, asthma and clinical immunology societies. The mission of World Allergy Organization is to be a global resource and advocate in the field of allergy, advancing excellence in clinical care through education, research and training as a worldwide alliance of allergy and clinical immunology societies.

The Role of the World Allergy Organization

Facts and Figures within a Global Allergy Community

WAO’s member society network maintains an overview of the state of service provision for allergy patients throughout the world. A 2004 WAO survey, completed by 33 national Member Societies, suggested that within these 33 countries only 16,000 trained allergists were available to provide services to approximately 1.39 billion allergy patients.

There clearly are not enough trained allergists to diagnose and treat the current number of patients with allergy, and the prevalence of allergic diseases is rising. The shortage of trained allergists is compounded because in many highly industrialized countries, the rising costs of health care have dictated a reduction in the specialty care provided by allergists. In many underserved countries infectious diseases utilize the majority of health care resources. WAO’s charge as a global advocate is to address these challenges and provide our member societies with the tools to encourage advancement in healthcare for the benefit of the global allergy patient population.

WAO Online

A Wealth of Professional Knowledge

www.worldallergy.org

The WAO website supplies expert, timely information about allergic disease and provides online educational resources for professionals who practice or are otherwise interested in allergy, asthma and clinical immunology. All of these resources are available at no cost to members including:

- interactive training and educational programs including continuing medical education opportunities
- monthly scientific literature reviews and commentary
- a library of peer-reviewed educational synopses
- monthly newsletters
- interviews with specialists
- access to downloadable educational program materials

In addition, the website continually updates important information about member services, collaborations, news and worldwide meetings. Visit www.worldallergy.org for more information.
WAO Scientific Meetings  
*Education and Research on a Global Stage*

**World Allergy Congress™ (WAC)**  

**WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC)**  
In 2010 WAO launched its biennial theme-based scientific conferences alternating with and complementing WAO’s biennial World Allergy Congresses. The 1st WAO international Scientific Conference on Asthma and Co-morbid Conditions: Expanding the Practice of Allergy for Optimal Patient Care took place in Dubai, UAE – 5-8 December 2010. The 2010 Conference provided a forum for discussion on latest research, reviews of current theory and practice, and hands-on, problem-based learning about Asthma and Co-morbid Conditions. For additional post-conference information, visit: [www.worldallergy.org/2010Dubai](http://www.worldallergy.org/2010Dubai).

**WAO Position Papers**  
*Setting Standards for Clinical Practice and Training in Allergy*  
WAO supports best clinical allergy practices by producing internationally endorsed Position Papers. These position papers are intended for use by allergists and other health professionals worldwide, and form the basis for educational outreach programs, symposia, and lectures to members in 92 countries. The WAO Publications list is available at: [http://www.worldallergy.org/publications/](http://www.worldallergy.org/publications/). Examples of the latest and most popular WAO Position Papers and Statements include (available at www.waojournal.org):

- **Sublingual Immunotherapy: World Allergy Organization Position Paper 2009** brings together the current knowledge of this new mode of administration of immunotherapy.

- **World Allergy Organization (WAO) Diagnosis and Rationale for Action against Cow’s Milk Allergy (DRACMA) Guidelines** is a major evidence-based review of a globally important problem, and provides guidance on all aspects of cow’s milk allergy management.

- **World Allergy Organization Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Anaphylaxis** is a 2011 WAO recommendation on managing the potentially fatal allergic condition: anaphylaxis.

**World Allergy Organization Journal**  
The *World Allergy Organization Journal* (WAO Journal) provides a global forum for the exchange of research and information on allergy, asthma and clinical immunology. The Journal supports this scientific interaction among members of the World Allergy Organization, an alliance of 84 societies worldwide, through publication of original research, clinical reviews, position papers, and epidemiological studies that contribute to current knowledge in patient care. Articles cover diagnosis, therapeutic options, crisis management and treatment efficacy. Authors and reviewers represent all geographic regions, providing a truly global perspective. Published monthly online, with access on computers and mobile devices, the Journal ensures the widest availability of practice-relevant science at the point of care.
WAO Education and Outreach Programs
Growing within the Allergy Community through Education, Research and Advocacy

Global Resources in Allergy ™ (GLORIA)
GLORIA promotes best practice in the management of allergic disease through programs developed by international experts. Educational modules are created with reference to established guidelines and recommendations to address different clinical allergy topics. GLORIA is presented at national and regional allergy society meetings throughout the world and also at regional, state and local society meetings within the United States. All current GLORIA modules are available for free download at www.worldallergy.org/gloria.

World Allergy Forum ® (WAF)
The World Allergy Forum ® (WAF) program brings cutting edge symposia to major allergy meetings throughout the world. Developed by an international expert advisory panel, the symposia at regional allergy congresses provide up-to-the minute presentations on scientific and clinical developments in the field of allergic disease. WAF is WAO’s longest running educational program, with 38 symposia presented since 1997. WAF is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Novartis. View presentations for free at www.worldallergy.org/waf.

Emerging Societies Program (ESP)
The WAO Emerging Societies Program encourages the development of new national allergy societies throughout the world, particularly in low-income countries and helps to create local support networks for allergists. This Program, provided in collaboration with the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, helps foster a relationship with WAO; at the same time, the WAO leadership is able to learn about the challenges and opportunities faced by colleagues in developing countries.

World Allergy Training Schools (WATS)
In association with the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology, WAO conducts Allergy Training Schools to provide hands-on training in allergy diagnostic techniques and methods of treatment in areas where allergy services are in their infancy. Visit www.worldallergy.org/esp/ for more information.

World Allergy Organization
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