Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings from the World Allergy Organization!

We are only a month away from the World Allergy and Asthma Congress (WAAC 2013)! I hope you have already registered for this biggest ever allergy Congress. We already have a record number of attendees, and we want to make sure you are among them. The Scientific Program promises a wide variety of stimulating and interesting sessions, from cutting-edge science and clinical updates to practical issues in allergy as well as discussions for you to take part in. I encourage you to visit the following website to view the scientific sessions, arrange your accommodations and register for the Congress: www.eaaci-wao2013.com

In addition to the general scientific sessions, the Congress has arranged special programs for Primary Care Physicians and Nurses. Please take a moment to review these sessions and to share them with your colleagues in these areas. Primary Care Symposium and World Meeting of Allergy Nurses.

I look forward to greeting you all in Milan, Italy from 22-26 June.

World Allergy Training School
WAO, in collaboration with ACAAI, APAPARI and the Indonesian Society for Allergy and Immunology, will be hosting a World Allergy Training School in Jakarta, Indonesia on the 15 June 2013. The faculty is comprised of representatives from all 4 organizations: Hugo Van Bever (Singapore), Bee Wah Lee (Singapore), Paul Bigliardi (Singapore), James Sublett (United States), Heru Sunderu (Indonesia) and myself. The program will provide attendees with an overview of the fundamentals and practical aspects of allergic diseases and asthma and offer an opportunity to take part in practical workshops demonstrating skin testing, spirometry and epinephrine administration. WAO will also co-host a WAO Plenary session with the Indonesian Society for Allergy and Immunology at the JACIN 2013 (Jakarta Allergy Clinical Immunology Network) Meeting on the topic of Severe Allergies.

WAO-JSA Lecture Series
As part of our many collaborative initiatives with our member societies, WAO and the Japanese Society of Allergology (JSA) have been holding a lecture series. The third WAO-JSA Lecture was recently held on 12 May during the 25th Spring Meeting of the Japanese Society of Allergology in Yokohama, Japan, delivered by Dr. Thomas Casale and entitled, “Small Airways Disease: Physiology of Small Airways Disease”. Dr. Morimitsu Tomikawa lectured on the “Small Airways Disease: Japanese Perspectives.”
You can also view the first WAO-JSA lecture, delivered by Prof. Phil Lieberman on the topic “Anaphylaxis” in 2011 online at the WAO portal.

WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics
We are also delighted to invite you to participate in the first of its kind WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics in Chicago, Illinois, United States, 13-14 December 2013. This special two day meeting will focus on Immunotherapy and Biologics. It will highlight the most recent advances in our understanding of the mechanisms of allergic diseases and asthma, including: phenotypic heterogeneity, biomarkers, novel molecules, and molecular profiling towards personalized or stratified strategies for improving disease management. It will encompass translational research, practical clinical perspectives and current and emerging therapies as well as regulatory aspects. To view the scientific program, please visit: http://www.worldallergy.org/symposium2013/. Abstract submission and registration is now open. Do not hesitate to register early.

I would like to draw your attention to the important Plenary Sessions that are being programmed for this Symposium:

- **Plenary Session 1: Novel Insights in the Biology of Allergic Responses in Immunotherapy**
  - Personalized Medicine in Allergy and Asthma | Elliot Israel (United States)
  - Biologic Basis of the Allergic Response | Bruce S. Bochner (United States)
  - Overview of Allergen Immunotherapy and Tolerance | Cezmi Akdis (Switzerland)
  - New Treatments for Allergen Immunotherapy | M{"u}beccel Akdis (Switzerland)

- **Plenary Session 2: Regulatory Aspects and Future Role of Immunotherapy and Biologics in Patient Care**
  - Personalized Medicine: An Overview | Atul Butte (United States)
  - Regulatory Aspects of Immunotherapy in Europe | Guido Rasi (United Kingdom)
  - Regulatory Aspects of Immunotherapy in the US | TBC

Please be sure not to miss this Symposium!

**WAO Board Member receives Award**
It is with great pride that I would like to share with you the good news that a WAO Board of Director, Prof. Claus Bachert has been awarded the "GSK Vaccines Awards for Scientific Research" for his "Major contribution to fundamental and clinical research in the field of vaccinology and immunology", presented by the Belgian Royal Academies of Medicines.
Prof. Bachert will receive the Award on the 19 June from the Royal Belgian Academy of Medicine in the presence of HH Princess Mathilde of Belgium.

Let us all join in extending our Heartiest Congratulations to Claus on this well-deserved recognition!

Sincere regards,

Ruby Pawankar, MD, PhD
President, World Allergy Organization

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