Dear Friends and Colleagues,

For decades, meetings have been the epicenter of scientific exchange and that has been increasingly evident in the field of allergy/clinical immunology. I have been amazed by the way knowledge in our profession is expanding so rapidly yet is also becoming more accessible. Travel and technology are allowing the latest advances in science to reach every part of the world in increasingly faster methods. Education today is quickly and easily spread through national society meetings, outreach programs, focused symposia, and digital means such as the WAO Journal.

So far this year I have had the opportunity to participate in very impressive scientific programs from two WAO national societies including American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and the Italian Society of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (SIAAIC) in Florence, Italy. This was an enriching experience for me individually and also as a part of the WAO leadership.

It was rewarding to see the very well received World Allergy Forum (WAF) that was part of the AAAAI annual meeting. As an initiative of the Collaboration on Severe Asthma (COSA), the topic of WAF was “Stratified Medicine and Severe Asthma”, with faculty members Stephen Holgate, Eugene Bleecker and Jan Lötvall, sharing the newest science and clinical discoveries behind personalized treatment approaches for this difficult-to-control disease.

A comprehensive and stimulating scientific program was presented at the SIAAIC congress program. WAO had the honor of participating through a WAO Symposium entitled, “New Horizons in Allergy”, with faculty members Ignacio Ansotegui, Ruby Pawankar, G. Walter Canonica and myself.

I would like to congratulate the members and officers of both SIAAIC and AAAAI for the success of their respective meetings this year and also to thank the WAO volunteers who offer their time and expertise to our educational initiatives.

Another educational program of WAO, in collaboration with the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (ACAAI), is the World Allergy Training Schools (WATS). A very successful WATS recently took place in Cairo, Egypt on 12-13 April, during the 13th International Congress of the Egyptian Society of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology (ESPAI).

This WATS was conducted by faculty members Dana Wallace, Elham Hossny, Zeinab Awad El-Sayed, while 31 physicians from different Egyptian cities received theoretic and practical lectures on allergy skin testing, immunotherapy, asthma, pulmonary function testing, contact dermatitis and patch
testing, food allergy and anaphylaxis, and epinephrine auto-injectors. The enthusiasm of the participants confirms the interest of young medical professionals on learning the basics of allergology. Congratulations to ESPAI members and especially to its President, Professor Yehia El-Gamal, for such a successful outcome.

The *World Allergy Organization Journal* (WAO Journal), the official publication of WAO, is also helping to disseminate important information for allergists around the world by providing open access articles including consensus papers and guidelines, original research, reviews, case reports, and editorials. *WAO Journal* aims to publish works with specific clinical relevance and practical measures that are critical for the practice of allergy anywhere in the world.

Be sure to visit the [WAO Journal](https://www.waojournal.org) and read the latest WAO papers, “*In-flight allergic emergencies*” and “*Climate change, allergy and asthma, and the role of tropical forests*,” and the newest consensus document, “*International Consensus (ICON) on: Clinical consequences of dust mite hypersensitivity, a global problem.*”

Lastly, I’d like to invite you to attend WAO’s second theme-based symposium of 2017, which will take place in **Cartagena, Colombia** in collaboration with the Annual Congress of the Colombian Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Association (ACAAI). This symposium, with the theme of “**Dust Mites: From Basics to Clinical Applications,**” is sure to be popular, so save the dates: **6-9 September 2017.**

See you in Cartagena!

Sincerely yours,

Mario Sánchez Borges, MD  
President, World Allergy Organization

Save the dates:

**WAO Cartagena Symposium (Cartagena, Colombia): 6-9 September 2017**

**AAAAL/ WAO Joint Congress (Orlando, FL United States): 2-5 March 2018**

**WISC 2018 (Florence, Italy): 6-9 December 2018**

Keep track of all WAO activities at:  
[www.worldallergy.org](http://www.worldallergy.org) and [www.waojournal.org](http://www.waojournal.org)