Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The World Allergy Organization (WAO) has long acted as a facilitator for the sharing of information, ideas and best practices within the field of allergy and clinical immunology. WAO recognizes the unique position we are in to connect medical professionals from all reaches of the globe with the common passion for expanding our specialty. Through various initiatives led by WAO such as the Emerging Societies Program, the World Allergy Forum and WAO Centers of Excellence, we are able to recognize leaders in our field and connect them with one another to encourage fellowship and collaboration.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting one of the two newest WAO Centers of Excellence, the Allergy & Clinical Immunology Regional Center of the University of Nuevo Leon Medical Faculty Hospital in Monterrey, Mexico. The Allergy and Clinical Immunology Regional Center was recently designated as a WAO Center of Excellence in recognition of its educational, research and clinical expertise as well as its future trajectory. Along with WAO President-Elect, Prof. Ignacio J. Ansotegui, I was invited to speak at the “XXIX Highlights in Allergy and Clinical Immunology” meeting and to attend the inauguration of their Molecular Allergy Laboratory.

Prof. Ansotegui and I met with leaders and officials of the University of Nuevo Leon Medical Faculty Hospital to thank them for the institutional support they provide to this center. On behalf of WAO, I would like to congratulate all the participants in Monterrey, beginning with Chairperson, Dr. Sandra Gonzalez Diaz, on a successful meeting and their incorporation as a WAO Center of Excellence.

The goal of the WAO Centers of Excellence program is to intensify and accelerate multidisciplinary scientific and clinical innovation, education and advocacy worldwide, providing excellence in education, research and training to various stakeholders in allergy, asthma and clinical immunology medicine. For more information on WAO Centers of Excellence, please visit: http://www.worldallergy.org/wao-centers-of-excellence.

We are now just over one month away from the start of the WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC) 2016 in Jerusalem! We have a wonderful conference planned that you will not want to miss. Our goal has been to bring together the many dedicated practitioners and
researchers in allergy and clinical immunology for substantive conversation about current challenges in the understanding and management of allergic diseases. The speakers at WISC 2016 represent many important facets of allergy and clinical immunology. It’s important that all these voices are heard, as WAO works toward the common goal of improving patient care worldwide.

The scientific program that has been created for WISC 2016 is highlighted by the following keynote addresses that I am looking forward to:

*The Mucosal Leukotriene E4 Receptor CysLT3R Regulates Secretion and Responds to the Mast Cell*
**K. Frank Austen, MD**, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, United States – Tuesday, 6 December

*Eosinophilic Esophagitis: A Rising Concern*
**Marc Rothenberg, MD, PhD**, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, United States – Wednesday, 7 December

*The Ubiquitin System in Health and Disease*
**Avram Hershko, MD, PhD**, Nobel Laureate, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Israel – Thursday, 8 December

*Perturbing Early Life Microbiota Development and Its Immunologic Consequences*
**Martin J. Blaser, MD**, New York University School of Medicine, United States – Friday, 9 December

There is still time to register for WISC 2016 and you can do so by visiting: [www.worldallergy.org/wisc2016/registration](http://www.worldallergy.org/wisc2016/registration). I recommend doing so sooner rather than later as hotel accommodations near the convention center are filling up rapidly.

See you in Jerusalem!

Sincerely yours,

Mario Sánchez Borges, MD
President, World Allergy Organization

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Save the date for WISC 2016: 6-9 December 2016

Keep track of all WAO activities at:
www.worldallergy.org and www.waojournal.org
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