July 1, 2010

Dear WAO Regional and Member Society Presidents:

It was nice to see so many of you at the Regional Society Meeting and the Member Society Forum at the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) Congress in London. These meetings with WAO Member Society leaders from throughout the world were a tremendous success in that the information and ideas obtained will allow WAO to better serve the member and regional societies as well allergists/clinical immunologists throughout the world and the patients for whom they care. I also want to thank the EAACI President, Jan Lötvall, and his Board, for a superb Congress and for the wonderful hospitality they extended to the WAO Board members.

The next meeting of the Member Societies Forum will take place at the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) meeting in San Francisco, CA, March 18 – 22, 2011.

All individuals with whom I spoke in London and who represent regional and member societies recognize that allergy, asthma and immunology societies have to work closely together in order to enhance the care for patients with allergic diseases. For example, we have to work closely on consensus statements and guidelines on various allergic diseases, asthma, and primary and secondary immunodeficiencies.

The WAO was quite active during the Congress in London. In addition to the above meetings, the Board of Directors had a half-day strategic retreat and one of the issues discussed was how WAO can better serve its societies. It will do so, first, by ongoing communication with the leaders of its Member Societies. Second, an ultimate goal of the WAO is to reach out to every society with an educational program every several years. There are three avenues to do so: a) first, by lectureships, sponsored by WAO. This is an ongoing program; b) second, via GLORIA programs, which are fixed, agreed upon lectures by experts in the field. This program is also already in place; c) third, by webinars transmitted electronically from one country to another targeting member society annual conferences. This latter method of communication in education may become the most economical way for WAO to sponsor lectures by experts on subjects of interest to its regional and member societies. For example, a series of 3 lectures from an institution on one continent will be transmitted live via the Internet to an ongoing conference, perhaps on a Saturday afternoon, in another part of the world. It can be followed by questions and answers. Cost-effectiveness of electronic transmission in education is becoming more and more reasonable. WAO started with such webinars in 2009 and has one scheduled for 2010 at the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Society in September. WAO continues to further develop this program and I request you to contact the WAO Secretariat (sdorsano@worldallergy.org) if you want to consider having such a webinar for your Society’s annual meeting.
In its role as a federation, WAO would also like to showcase its Member Societies and promote their activities. To that end, if you have a newsworthy item – for example, start of a new training program, a new certification, a breakthrough in the laboratory, or an award received – please immediately contact Kathy Murphy-Ott (kmurphy-ott@worldallergy.org) at the WAO Secretariat. We will be happy to send out a press release on this news item.

I hope to welcome you to the upcoming WAO International Scientific Conference on "Asthma and Co-morbidities" scheduled for 5-8 December 2010 in Dubai, UAE. Please share word on the WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC) with your colleagues and your membership. This hyperlink http://www.worldallergy.org/DubaiPromotions will take you to WISC promotional materials including a slide on the Conference, as well as the Preliminary Scientific Program. Please share these materials whenever possible, and if you are able to announce this meeting on your website that would be most appreciated.

Abstract and Early Registration Deadlines are Fast Approaching
Make sure your members register before 16 July 2010 to receive the reduced rates for the WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC) in Dubai! To submit an abstract and register for the meeting, please visit: www.worldallergy.org/2010Dubai

Again, it was great seeing so many of you in London, and I look forward to seeing you either in Dubai, at the WAO International Scientific Conference on “Asthma and Co-morbid Conditions,” December 5 – 8, 2010, at the AAAAI meeting, March, 18 – 22, 2011 in San Francisco, or at the WAC Cancun meeting, December 4 – 8, 2011.

With warm regards,

Richard F. Lockey, MD

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Upcoming WAO Scientific Meetings:
WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC)
World Allergy Congress (WAC) 2011