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Note to media: Find Scientific Program details online at:
<https://wao.confex.com/wao/2015wac/webprogram/start.html>



World Allergy Organization begins XXIV World Allergy Congress (WAC 2015) in Seoul, Korea
WAC 2015 will highlight unmet needs in allergy research and patient care

Seoul, Korea. October 14, 2015 – The World Allergy Organization (WAO) officially commences the XXIV World Allergy Congress (WAC 2015) in Seoul, Korea today through 17 October, in collaboration with the Korean Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Clinical Immunology (KAAACI) and their mutually collaborating partner the Asia Pacific Association of Pediatric Allergy, Respiriology and Immunology (APAPARI). The program offers a wide range of topics, from immunotherapy to precision medicine for allergy and asthma. It also highlights unmet needs and future challenges in order to encourage advancements that will lead to improved patient care, as the prevalence, severity, and complexity of allergic diseases are increasing worldwide.

“Prevalence of asthma in Asia alone has increased from 0.8% to 29.1%, and allergic rhinitis from 5% to 45%” said Lanny Rosenwasser, MD, President of the World Allergy Organization and the Chair of the WAC 2015 Scientific Program. “Around the world, physicians are seeing an increase in allergy symptoms and associated disorders. We need to investigate the underlying causes and continue the search for new diagnostic and treatment approaches for allergic disease and asthma as well as the means for prevention.”

WAC 2015 expects to gather over 2000 attendees from over 76 countries to explore the state-of-the-art of allergy medicine. The scientific program will offer a wide variety of courses and subjects: 4 plenary sessions, 4 keynote lectures, 14 new horizon sessions, 10 pediatric tracks, 17 workshops, 24 symposia, 4 poster sessions, and 9 oral abstracts, all delivered by a faculty of over 200 internationally known experts. Seven-hundred-sixty-one abstracts were accepted from clinicians around the world, 31 of those received an “Outstanding Abstract Award,” and 25 travel grants have been awarded to junior clinicians. A list of award winners is available at:

<http://www.worldallergy.org/UserFiles/file/WAC2015OutstandingAbstractAwardees.pdf>
<http://www.worldallergy.org/UserFiles/file/WAC2015TravelGrant-Awardees.pdf>

About the World Allergy Organization

The World Allergy Organization (WAO) is an international alliance of 95 regional and national allergy, asthma and immunology societies. Through collaboration with its Member Societies WAO provides a wide range of educational and outreach programs, symposia and lectureships to allergists/immunologists around the world and conducts initiatives related to clinical practice, service provision, and physical training in order to better understand and address the challenges facing allergists/immunologists worldwide. (www.worldallergy.org)

About the Korean Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Clinical Immunology

The **Korean Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Clinical Immunology (KAAACI)** has been devoted to improve the treatment of allergic diseases and promote the understanding of allergy, asthma and clinical immunology. For nearly 40 years, the KAAACI has also been active advocate of clinical and basic research. (www.allergy.or.kr/eng)

About the Asia Pacific Association of Pediatric Allergy, Respiriology and Immunology

The Asia Pacific Association of Pediatric Allergy, Respiriology & Immunology (APAPARI) is the professional medical specialty organization representing pediatrician, allied health professionals and other physicians in Asia-Pacific region who have special interest in Allergy, Clinical Immunology, and Respiriology. (www.apapari.org)

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