20 September 2012

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Warm Greetings from the World Allergy Organization!

There has been a great deal of activity in WAO over the past month. While several councils and committees are working hard developing various initiatives, I would like to share updates on our recent, important and exciting initiatives.

**Emerging Societies Program**
The Emerging Societies Program, an initiative of the WAO and the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI), in collaboration with the Ministry of Medical Services of Kenya, the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation of Kenya, and the Allergy Society of Kenya, organized a World Allergy Training School (WATS) and ESP Delegates Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya from 10 to 12 September – the first WATS and ESP for Africa. With 9 participating countries (including Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) and 47 delegates, the meeting was a great success and a milestone in the development of the specialty of allergy and asthma in this region. Furthermore, WAO partnered with the Ministry of Medical Services, the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, the Allergy Society of Kenya, the Kenya Association for the Prevention of TB and Lung Diseases and the World Health Organization Country Office for the first non-communicable diseases (NCD) Symposium on Allergies and Asthma which was very well received.

I would especially like to extend my sincere thanks to the faculty for the WATS, Dr. Stephen Tilles, Prof. Ignacio Ansotegui, and Prof. Alessandro Fiocchi for their outstanding and practical lectures, as well as Dr. Dana Wallace, ESP Chair, for her inputs in the development of the engaging syllabus. I would also like to thank Dr. Isaac Macharia, President of the Allergy Society of Kenya and Dr. Elizabeth Ominde-Ogaja, Ministry of Health in Kenya, and their colleagues for graciously hosting this very important conference and for their tireless efforts at making this meeting a success.

**WAO-ERS Joint Symposium at the 2012 ERS Congress**
The WAO-ERS Joint Symposium, *Bacterial Microbiota: Implications for Health and Disease*, at the European Respiratory Society (ERS) Annual Congress in Vienna, Austria was a great success. I would like to thank all the following speakers for their outstanding lectures, and the ERS for this collaboration. We look forward to further collaborations with the ERS.

**The Bacterial Microbiota: Implications for Health and Disease**
Moderators: Prof Ruby Pawankar, WAO President (Japan); Prof Marc L A Decramer (Belgium)
- The Microbiome in Small Airways in Asthma | Prof Peter Howarth (United Kingdom)
- Significance of the Microbiome in Obstructive Lung Disease | Prof William Cookson (United Kingdom)
- Shaping of Pulmonary Inflammation by the Lung Microbiome | Prof Benjamin Marsland (Switzerland)
The Consequence of Microbiome and Pathogen Dynamics for Chronic Lung Disease | Dr. Gary Huffnagle (United States)

Please stop by and see what the WAO Small Airways Working Group has been working on!

Small Airways Working Group Activities

**WISC 2012 Abstract Review Meeting**
The Committee recently completed the last phase of the abstract review process for the scientific program of the WAO International Scientific Conference in Hyderabad, India (6-9 December 2012). This successful meeting would not have been possible without the advanced efforts of the review committee who did most of the work in the online abstract review system followed by the marathon meeting. We thank them again for their prompt and efficient completion of assignments.

Claus Bachert
G Walter Canonica
Motohiro Ebisawa
Roy Gerth van Wijk
Sandra González-Díaz
Stephen T Holgate
Juan Carlos Ivancevich
Peter Le Souef
Francesca Levi-Schaffer
Richard F. Lockey

Dean Metcalfe
Hae-Sim Park
Ruby Pawankar
Susan Prescott
Nelson Rosário
Lanny Rosenwasser
Hugh Sampson
Mario Sánchez-Borges
Tatiana Slavyanskaya

If you did not have the opportunity to previously submit an abstract, do not worry - the late-breaking abstract submission is still open until 30 September 2012. Please visit the [WISC 2012 website](http://www.wisc2012.org) for more information.

The Scientific Program Committee has developed a program that covers cutting edge science, novel mechanisms and treatments, as well as the most practical aspects that are useful in your daily clinical practice of allergies, asthma and related diseases.

**Do not miss the outstanding Plenary Sessions during WISC 2012!**
WISC 2012 will provide delegates the opportunity to hear exceptional lectures during the Plenary Session. A few of the Plenary Sessions attendees will not want to miss are:

**The Origins of Allergy**
- New Insights into the Developmental Origins of Allergy | Susan Prescott (Australia)
- Immune-Infection Interactions in the Early Development of Allergy | Cezmi Akdis (Switzerland)
- How Much Can Be Explained by Genetics and Epigenetics? | Stephen T. Holgate (United Kingdom)

**Food Allergy**
- Severe Food Allergy - Prediction and Approach to Treatment | Hugh Sampson (United States)
- WAO Diagnosis and Rationale for Action against Cow's Milk Allergy (DRACMA) and Worldwide Food Allergy Guidelines | Alessandro Fiocchi (Italy)
- Prevention of Food Allergy: Is it Feasible? | Motohiro Ebisawa (Japan)

**Severe Asthma**
- Severe Asthma Phenotypes in Adults | Rohit K. Katial (United States)
Severe Asthma Characteristics in Pediatrics | Gurjit Khurana Hershey (United States)
Therapeutic Interventions in Severe Asthma | J. Christian Virchow (Germany)

Anaphylaxis

- Mechanisms of Anaphylaxis | Richard F. Lockey (United States)
- 2012 Update: WAO Anaphylaxis Guidelines | F. Estelle R. Simons (Canada)
- Anaphylaxis, Asthma and Pregnancy | Sandra González-Díaz (Mexico)

For more information about the WISC 2012 Scientific Program, view and search it online at the WISC 2012 website.

Sincere regards,

Ruby Pawankar, MD, PhD
President, World Allergy Organization

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WAO International Scientific Conference 2012 Update

Earn CME at WISC 2012!
WISC 2012 is pleased to announce that it has been approved for 24 hours of CME through the Andhra Pradesh Medical Council in India!
This is in addition to the 24 hours of CME through the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME).
For more information, visit the CME section of the WISC 2012 website.

WISC 2012 Online Registration ...
Do not miss this opportunity to register soon! Click here to register online.

WISC 2012 also accepts registration payments in Indian Rupees (INR)
Indian delegates will be given the choice to pay in USD or INR when completing the payment step in the online registration.

Accommodation Reservations Now Open
View hotel information at the WISC 2012 website. Click here to reserve your hotel.
WISC 2012 is pleased to provide delegates with a variety of accommodation choices at reduced rates. All hotels listed are within 10-15 minutes by bus from the venue of the Conference – the Hyderabad International Convention Center (HI CC).

Keep track of all WAO activities at:

@worldallergy on Twitter
WorldAllergyOrg on Facebook
TheWAOChannel on YouTube
Join the WISC LinkedIn group.
Join the WAO LinkedIn group.