15 February 2011

Dear Friends,

This month WAO continues to prepare for the next WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC 2012) to be held in India. As I write this message, Ruby Pawankar, President-Elect, and Charu Malik, Executive Director, are traveling in India to visit eight properties in various cities in order to prepare venue recommendations. We look forward to planning another successful WISC, building upon the achievements of WISC 2010 in Dubai, UAE.

The nominating process is on schedule for the WAO Nominating Committee to nominate and the Board to elect new Board members and officers in March in San Francisco during the annual meeting of the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI). The slate of elected Board members and officers will then be presented for ratification by the WAO House of Delegates at the XXII World Allergy Congress (WAC 2011) in Cancún, México 4-8 December 2011.

Thomas Casale and I, along with the WAC 2011 Scientific Program Committee members, have been working diligently to complete the Scientific Program for Cancún. The Committee’s goal is to have the best science presented by the best speakers while containing costs. A large number of speakers will come from North America and Latin America, but the Committee is dedicated to achieving strong geographical representation of all the WAO regions.

Next month the WAO Board of Directors will meet at the AAAAI annual meeting and also participate in the WAO Member Society Forum. The Directors are looking forward to reviewing new initiatives with you including plans for the first annual World Allergy Week proposed to be held 4 – 10 April 2011. I am grateful for the valuable feedback that Member Societies have given the WAO Board of Directors in developing this initiative. The WAO Communications Council, and the World Allergy Week Steering Committee, both chaired by Marek Kowalski, took up the charge of compiling your suggestions and preparing a plan.

As in the past several years for World Allergy Day, WAO will again create for Member Societies a number of online materials for World Allergy Week on the theme of Allergic Diseases as a Global Public Health Concern. World Allergy Week is not intended to replace national allergy days or local activities that are planned in your country at other times during the year. However, WAO Member Societies are encouraged to collaborate in this global effort to highlight the needs of patients with allergic and immunologic diseases and asthma, provide information about the prevalence of these disorders, and explain the need for enhanced education and patient care services. For more information, visit the WAO website or contact the WAO Secretariat.
Continuing the practice started in 2010, the WAO Board of Directors will also meet with the leadership of WAO’s Regional Societies, Asian Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology; European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology; Latin American Society of Allergy and Immunology; American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology; and American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, to continue to work at enhanced communication and collaboration among all societies representing the field of allergy, asthma and clinical immunology.

I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco at the AAAAI Annual Meeting!

Sincerely,

Richard F. Lockey
President, World Allergy Organization