

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings from the World Allergy Organization!

The EAACI-WAO World Allergy and Asthma Congress (WAAC 2013) will be held in just a few days starting on Saturday, 22 June. Several months and years of hard work and dedicated preparations have gone into making this Congress the best ever allergy and asthma congress. We hope that you will be joining us for it. The scientific program and faculty are truly outstanding and will undoubtedly offer delegates an opportunity to learn about ground-breaking research and the most cutting-edge advances in both the science and practice of allergy. View all of the sessions and build your individual schedule here: <http://www.sessionplan.com/EAACI-WAO2013/>.

In addition to the general scientific sessions, the Congress has arranged special programs for Primary Care Physicians and Nurses. Please take a moment to review these sessions and to share them with your colleagues in these areas. [Primary Care Symposium](#) and [World Meeting of Allergy Nurses](#).

On the evening of Saturday, 22 June, I look forward to welcoming and meeting you all during the *Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception*. This is not an evening to be missed as we have a few surprises in store for you. Also, during the Opening Ceremony, I will have the honor of presenting the WAO Awards to the esteemed recipients. We promise you a truly enriching, memorable and enjoyable congress.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the WAO Awardees,

Scientific Achievement Award

Cezmi Akdis
Dean Metcalfe

Outstanding Clinician Award

Paul Greenberger
Sankei Nishima
Glenis Scadding

Special Recognition Award

Thomas Casale
Hae-Sim Park

Distinguished Service Awards

F. Estelle R. Simons

Gold Medal Awards

G. Walter Canonica

Lifetime Achievement Award

Alain de Weck (posthumously)

WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics

We are also delighted to invite you to participate in the first of its kind *WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics* in Chicago, Illinois, United States, 13-14 December 2013. This special two day meeting will focus on Immunotherapy and Biologics that comprise the current and emerging treatment of our specialty. It will highlight the most recent advances in our understanding of the mechanisms of allergic diseases and asthma, including: phenotypic heterogeneity, biomarkers, novel molecules, and molecular profiling towards personalized or stratified strategies for improving disease management. It will encompass translational research, practical clinical perspectives and current and emerging therapies as well as regulatory aspects. To view the scientific program, please visit the meeting website: <http://www.worldallergy.org/symposium2013/>. Abstract submission and registration are now open.

WAO Centers of Excellence

WAO has launched its Centers of Excellence program and is now accepting applications. The purpose of WAO Centers of Excellence (WCOE) 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.

The benefits of becoming a WAO Centers of Excellence include:

- Providing scientific support in the development and dissemination of global educational resources
- Providing mentorship for research and training for WAO Junior Members (societies can be involved in recommending Junior Members)
- Collaboration opportunities through lectureships and research fellowships with other WCOEs to further education and research
- Conducting educational programs in collaboration with WAO, including webinars
- Collaborating in Primary Care Physician programs of WAO

For more information, click on these links, [WCOE](#) and [Application](#).

Looking forward to seeing you in Milan and then in Chicago!

Sincere regards,

Ruby Pawankar, MD, PhD
President, World Allergy Organization

Keep track of all WAO activities at:

<http://www.worldallergy.org>
@worldallergy on Twitter
WorldAllergyOrg on Facebook
TheWAOChannel on YouTube