20 March 2012

Dear Friends, Dear Colleagues:

Warm greetings from the World Allergy Organization!

Many of us have just returned from the AAAAI annual meeting in Orlando where several of the WAO Councils and Committees as well as the Board of Directors met. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who took the time to attend and contribute to these meetings to assist WAO in our many projects and initiatives.

I especially would like to thank the Executive Committee and the WAO Board of Directors for the collegial and fruitful meetings, and I look forward to developing the many initiatives we discussed. To those who could not attend we look forward to updating you and working with you in the months ahead. We will be working closely with all WAO member societies towards the larger global mission of our specialty to improve patient care and the patient’s quality of life, and we thank you in advance for your valuable contribution. Very importantly, we appreciate and thank our staff who tirelessly worked to organize all these meetings and continue to support all our initiatives with dedication and commitment.

In addition to our many meetings, WAO together with the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI), the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and the American College of Allergy Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) launched the International Collaboration in Asthma, Allergy and Immunology (iCAALL). The iCAALL is designed to collect and disseminate consensus-driven information about allergies, asthma and immunological diseases and offer general recommendations based on global challenges in caring for patients with allergic and immunologic diseases. The first in a series of International Consensus (ICON) reports has been published on food allergy in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. You can watch the press conference announcing the launch of iCAALL here on MedPage, and read an editorial written by the collaborators about the iCAALL initiative co-published in March 2012.

The WAO Board of Directors is also looking forward to hosting the second annual World Allergy Week, 16–22 April 2012, on the theme of “The rising global burden of allergic diseases and asthma.” An international press event will be held by teleconference to address this topic in more detail for journalists. Resources will be made available online for WAO Member Societies over the next few weeks. WAO Member Societies are encouraged to collaborate in this global effort to highlight the complexity and severity of allergic and immunologic diseases and asthma, provide information about the increasing global prevalence and burden of these diseases, and explain the need for enhanced education and patient care services. If you would like to share news about the activities your society plans for World Allergy Week, please send a note to the WAO Secretariat.

I also encourage all WAO Member Societies to add the World Allergy Week logo to their own websites and link to the information and resources on the World Allergy Organization website. If your society does not have a website, WAO invites you to include the information in newsletters. Among other activities, Member Societies will host workshops and meet with local media to discuss the importance of allergy awareness in their communities. The official logo of World Allergy Week 2012 is now available for download from the WAO website.
Continuing our commitment to education, WAO launched two new *Online Learning Modules* – *Allergic Rhinitis in Adults* and *Allergic Rhinitis in Children*. These self-paced modules guide participants through case histories from initial to follow-up visits with self-assessment in each section and explanations and links to relevant resources for further exploration. The modules were developed by the [WAO Allergic Rhinitis Working Group](#), which is a worldwide initiative focused on raising awareness and sharing information on allergic rhinitis toward improved patient care. [Go to the modules](#)

The WAO Board continues to work tirelessly towards our 2nd *World Allergy Organization International Scientific Conference* (WISC 2012) in Hyderabad, India, 6-9 December 2012. The theme of the Conference is *Severe Allergies, Severe Asthma: New Strategies for Treatment and Prevention*. With 24 Postgraduate Courses on a wide range of topics, Plenary Sessions, Parallel Symposia, Keynote Lectures, Poster Sessions and Highlights in Immunotherapy, WISC 2012 will be a multidisciplinary forum for allergists, pulmonologists, ENTs, dermatologists, internists, pediatricians, gastroenterologists, clinical immunologists and primary care physicians. The program will cover various aspects of allergic diseases and asthma, with a considerable focus on pediatric allergy and asthma as well as how it relates to other non-communicable diseases.

Please continue to check the [WISC 2012 website](#) to get meeting updates, register for the meeting, sign up for the conference newsletter (*Hyderabad Insider*) and submit your abstracts.

On behalf of the WAO Board of Directors, Congress Chairs, Scientific Committee, Local and Regional Organizing and Advisory Committees, I welcome you to WISC 2012 in Hyderabad, India this December.

Sincere regards,

Ruby Pawankar, MD, PhD
WAO President