21 August 2012

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Warm Greetings from the World Allergy Organization!

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that in line with our mission, the WAO continues to share science and build capacity in collaboration with our member societies and with related organizations that share a similar vision. We do this through our world-wide congresses and conferences, our peer-reviewed journal, position papers, the WAO White Book on Allergy, and a variety of educational programs that include; live lectures, webinars, workshops, online education and training schools. Underpinning these efforts are our many active committees and councils that are leading various innovative and excellent initiatives focused on research, education and training.

In the very spirit of such collaborations, I would like to highlight two collaborations in this month’s communication to all of you.

**WAO-ERS JOINT SYMPOSIUM AT THE 2012 ERS CONGRESS**

WAO will be co-hosting a symposium with the European Respiratory Society (ERS) during their upcoming Annual Congress in Vienna, Austria on Monday, the 3rd of September. The Symposium is titled “The bacterial microbiota: implications for health and disease.” (Search for 201 Hot Topic in the program, page 158.) We thank ERS for this collaboration and look forward to continued collaborations with ERS.

The symposium during ERS is also an initiative of our Small Airways Working Group led by our President-Elect Lanny Rosenwasser as Chair and Monica Kraft as Vice-Chair. The Small Airways Working Group continues to have symposia around the globe and has an active website, with a great repository of information on small airways. I encourage you to visit the website and read the monthly reviews, “What Is New in Small Airways Research,” done by the group’s Web Content Editor, Ves Dimov. He also maintains an extensive scientific reference library with links to the recent literature on small airways.

**EMERGING SOCIETIES PROGRAM, NAIROBI, KENYA, 10-12 SEPTEMBER**

The Emerging Societies Program (ESP) a joint initiative of the WAO and the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI), led by Dana Wallace as Chair and Sandra Gonzáles-Díaz, Hae-Sim Park, and Tatiana Slavyanskaya as Co-Chairs, aims to disseminate information on and share experiences about new treatments for allergic diseases and new indications for available therapies. It also aims to help emerging societies in various regions to promote education in allergy and assists societies in the promotion and development of the specialty of allergy. In September, the ESP will collaborate with the Allergy Society of Kenya, the Ministry of Medical Services, Kenya, the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, Kenya, the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office - Kenya, the University of Nairobi, and the Kenya Association for the Prevention of TB and Lung Diseases. This collaboration will host an ESP Delegates Meeting, World Allergy Training School and a Symposium for delegates of the East African region on the theme: **Towards Best Practices in Allergies and Asthma.** WAO thanks all our collaborating partners for their support in making this a success.

The ESP Delegates Meeting is being planned as a half-day meeting on 11 September, with 1 or 2 representatives from each country presenting to a group of peers and WAO/ACAAI Leaders. The purpose of the meeting is for WAO to learn more about the challenges faced in countries/ regions where the
specialty of allergy is either non-existent, or is developing, and yet the prevalence of allergic diseases are rising and to configure how WAO/ACAAI can best assist these efforts.

The main objective of the **World Allergy Training School (WATS)** on 10-11 September will be to develop learning communities, appropriate to a specific regional context, which will help build sustainable capacity in the field of allergy by strengthening already existing knowledge and skills and encouraging local experts to apply this knowledge to further develop the specialty of allergy and to widen the provision of patient care. The WATS is for allergists, physicians, general practitioners, and researchers with a background in allergy and immunology.

**UPCOMING WAO WEBSITE ADDITIONS**

In September, WAO will be launching a newly updated **Ask the Expert**. This online service will provide WAO Members with the opportunity to pose educational, scientific and medical questions about allergy, asthma, and clinical immunology to one of the many WAO volunteer experts located throughout the world. We invite all WAO Members to become a part of this online service. Please continue to visit [www.worldallergy.org](http://www.worldallergy.org) for more information.

**WAO INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE (WISC), INDIA**

Finally, as you know the **WI SC 2012 in Hyderabad, India** is quickly approaching. We are all working hard to make it a success and we will continue to put in our best efforts. In light of the excellent scientific program, the WISC 2012 has been approved for 24 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits through the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME). In addition, WISC 2012 has also been approved for 24 hours of CME through the Andhra Pradesh Medical Council in India! Please do not miss this wonderful opportunity to attend! We look forward to welcoming you to Hyderabad, India.

Sincere regards,

Ruby Pawankar, MD, PhD
President, World Allergy Organization

**WISC 2012 UPDATE**

[View the WISC 2012 Scientific Program](http://www.worldallergy.org)

[**WISC 2012 Online Registration**](http://www.worldallergy.org)

**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](http://www.worldallergy.org).

**Accommodation Reservations Now Open**

[Click here to reserve your hotel](http://www.worldallergy.org).

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 (HICC)**.

**Keep track of all WAO activities at:**

[http://www.worldallergy.org](http://www.worldallergy.org)

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