



A MESSAGE FROM THE WAO PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

Like many of you, I've been receiving the new ***Cancún Insider***, an upbeat and informative electronic newsletter delivered to your InBox by WAO. The newsletter shares the latest updates on the XXII World Allergy Congress (4-8 December 2011). It also includes topics of interest about what makes Cancún, México, such a special place to visit. If you have not yet signed up for the ***Cancún Insider***, you can do so and stay up-to-date by visiting the Congress Website (www.worldallergy.org/wac2011).

More than 5,000 international delegates from over 80 countries will gather in beautiful Cancún, México, for the WAO global meeting on allergy, asthma and clinical immunology. An impressive scientific program is planned along with memorable social events. The Scientific Program Committee Vice-Chair, Thomas Casale, and the members of the Scientific Program Committee, are hard at work designing a top-notch scientific program. It will include 8 New Horizons Sessions (5 on the first day and 3 on the last day), 10 Plenary Sessions, and more than 160 Symposia, Breakfast Seminars, Oral Abstract Sessions and Workshops. There will also be Allied Health and Junior Members Seminars. Over 90% of the invited speakers are already confirmed! The best of over 1,000 abstract submissions will be presented at poster sessions. I encourage you to submit abstracts online (www.worldallergy.org/abstracts) well before the June 30, 2011 deadline.

The ever popular Member Society Village will be located on the top level of the Cancún Center, making it a very visible and well-travelled meeting point. The outstanding hospitality for which México is known will be experienced in the social events including an entertaining Welcome Reception that follows the Opening Ceremony, and the All-Congress Event that will feature a touch of tradition as "Mexican Fiesta Night," along with other delightful activities developed by the Local Organizing Committee, headed by Noel Rodríguez Perez. Congress attendees will celebrate WAO's history and its 60th Anniversary. Watch the ***Cancún Insider*** for important deadlines including Early Registration, which is 30 June.

The newly established WAO Junior Members Group met in San Francisco during the annual meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI). WAO established the Junior Members Group this year to provide support for young scientists and clinicians and encourage them to contribute to WAO. It is hoped that they will become future WAO leaders. Participants at the first meeting identified some of the needs of Junior Members and the resources to assist them in their profession. I encourage all of you who are eligible to consider this unique opportunity to be part of this global network. Eligibility includes current membership in a WAO Member Society, age of 35 years or younger or else within 5 years of completing a training program, and a profession of allergy/clinical immunology. Information about the WAO Junior Members Group is available on the WAO website at: www.worldallergy.org/juniormembers/. The *WAO News and Notes* will have regular updates from Junior Members, beginning with the May issue to update everyone on its progress and projects.

I encourage you to take advantage of the discounted early registration fee for the Cancún, México meeting, 4-8 December, 2011. This should be the most widely attended and scientifically-based World Allergy Congress to date. I look forward to welcoming each and every one of you.

All the best,

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