October 19, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

There currently are 7 allergy/immunology societies from the region of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region that have joined WAO as Member Societies: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Ukraine. This strong representation reflects the increasing interest in the specialty from the CIS region on the part of physicians of all disciplines, and it is an honor for WAO to provide opportunities for clinical and scientific exchange. This month I am pleased to share news about several accomplishments in the CIS region, including the successful WAO Emerging Societies Program (ESP) Delegates Meeting and World Allergy Training School (WATS) recently held in Moscow as well as the launch of the new Russian edition of the *World Allergy Organization Journal*.

**ESP Delegates Meeting and WATS held in Moscow, 17 & 18 September**: Many of us recently attended the annual meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology and WAO events there, the Emerging Societies Program (ESP) Delegates Meeting and World Allergy Training School (WATS), and I especially want to thank Revaz Sepiashvili and Tatiana Slavyanskaya for their excellent hospitality.

As a joint initiative of WAO and the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI), the ESP Delegates Meetings are structured to enable new and emerging allergy societies to interface with the WAO, and to help them develop their societies in a way that will make it compatible with WAO's Membership Criteria. There were 25 national societies from the CIS region in attendance in Moscow. Myron Zitt, who is Chair of the ESP Program Council, Sami Bahna (Past-President, ACAAI), participated as moderators along with Revaz Sepiashvili (President, CIS Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology) and Tatiana Slavyanskaya (Member of the WAO Board of Directors). Presentations made by the CIS national societies yielded excellent information about the regional state of affairs in the field of allergy and immunology, current unmet needs, demographics, the national health system, epidemiology of allergic diseases, recognition of specialty and pre-and post-graduate training in allergy, number of allergists in the country, and guidelines for the treatment of allergic diseases.

The World Allergy Training School trains representatives from countries around the world in the diagnosis and management of allergic diseases. There were 38 primary care physicians as well as specialists from various medical disciplines all from different countries of the CIS region who attended the WATS lectures and workshops in Moscow. Lectures included topics such as mechanisms of allergic diseases, pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of allergic rhinitis, anaphylaxis and asthma, and the prevention of asthma with allergen specific immunotherapy, and the workshops focused on spirometry and skin testing. Myron Zitt, Michael Kaliner (member of the WAO Board of Directors), Erkka Valovirta, and I participated as faculty along with support from Revaz Sepiashvili and Tatiana Slavyanskaya.

I want to thank everyone who was involved in putting on these meetings and all of the attendees for traveling to be there and contribute their thoughts and questions. More
coverage of these events is included in this newsletter, and photos are accessible in the WAO Photo Gallery.

**New Russian Edition of the World Allergy Organization Journal**: Congratulations to Revaz Sepiashvili, Chief Editor of the Russian edition, and Tatiana Slavyanskaya, member of the WAO Board of Directors, for inaugurating the translation of the *World Allergy Organization Journal* (WAO Journal) together with the CIS Society of Allergology and Immunology and its national Member Societies. *WAO Journal* Editorial Board strives to deliver the most recent and relevant scientific and clinical content and to continually develop the *Journal* as a forum for the exchange of research and information on allergy, asthma and clinical immunology. The *WAO Journal* provides a global perspective and publishes original research, clinical reviews, position papers, and epidemiological studies that contribute to current knowledge in patient care. Articles include topics on diagnosis, therapeutic options, crisis management, and treatment efficacy. It is critical to the mission of the WAO as a global federation that is flagship academic publication is accessible in different languages. The dissemination of the *Journal* to Russian speaking allergists/immunologists is part of the fulfillment of the mission of WAO as a global federation of 89 member societies. Lanny Rosenwasser, Editor-in-Chief of the *WAO Journal*, and the Journal's Board of Directors welcome and encourage physicians and scientists in the CIS region to participate in this global scientific interaction through the submission of articles for publication.

**The XXII World Allergy Congress in Cancún is two months away**: Every time I visit Cancún, I find its seaside beauty breathtaking and the hospitality of the people heartwarming. I hope you are able to experience this, too, at the World Allergy Congress to be held just two months from now, December 4 to 8, where you also will find an outstanding scientific program that has been planned for you.

There are 724 accepted abstracts from 65 countries, and all of the oral presentation and poster sessions have been scheduled during the lunch hour on 5, 6 and 7 December, because we want to emphasize the importance of research by WAC 2011 delegates. *No other sessions will take place during that time*. Also planned for attendees is a wide selection of program sessions that will cover the most important clinical and research topics in allergy and immunology today. There will be 8 New Horizon Sessions, 31 Symposia, 10 Plenary Sessions, 6 Collaborating Partner Symposia, 11 Debates, 33 Breakfast Symposia, 16 Sister Society Symposia, and 31 Workshops along with 3 University Training Program sessions, a special program for Allied Health professionals, 4 Year in Review, and many other opportunities to learn and exchange ideas.

All of the information you need about the Scientific Program, social events, and Cancún surroundings can be found online at [www.worldallergy.org/wac2011](http://www.worldallergy.org/wac2011).

I look forward to seeing you in Cancún.

Richard F. Lockey, MD
President, World Allergy Organization