

November 16, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

We are just a few weeks away from the XXII World Allergy Congress (WAC 2011), and I am very much looking forward to seeing you in person in beautiful Cancún, México. There is still time to register if you haven't had the chance yet, and all of the information you need is available at www.worldallergy.org/wac2011.

This month I would like to provide you with a few updates about the Congress as well as introduce you to a newly launched section of the WAO website: Defining the Specialty.

UPDATE ON XXII WORLD ALLERGY CONGRESS (WAC 2011)

Let me express my special thanks to Thomas Casale for his work putting together this exceptional scientific meeting on allergy, asthma and clinical immunology. WAC 2011 will offer 205 sessions, including symposia, plenaries, debates, workshops, programs for allied health professionals, a University Training Program, and many other programs delivered by a faculty of 247 experts. More than 716 abstracts were accepted and 84 travel grants were awarded. Posters will be presented during the lunch hours when no other sessions are taking place, in order to emphasize the importance of this new research.

The WAC 2011 social program also promises to be enjoyable for all attendees. During the Opening Ceremony of the XXII World Allergy Congress on 4 December, the WAO Board of Directors, Congress Organizers, Partner Societies and Mexican government representatives will welcome delegates to the Congress and Cancún. This delightful event will also recognize the important contributions of institutions and individuals whose efforts have created a successful Congress and help to advance the WAO mission.

It is my pleasure to share with you the recipients of the 2011 WAO Awards whose achievements will be recognized during the Opening Ceremony:

Scientific Achievement Award

Recognition of Outstanding Scientific Contributions in the Field Of Allergy and Immunology Aiding Clinicians Worldwide to Provide Improved Patient Care

Rebecca H. Buckley, United States

Stephen J. Galli, United States

Outstanding Clinician Award

Recognition of Outstanding Performance in Medical Care and Teaching toward Enhanced Allergy Care Worldwide

Bee Wah Lee, Singapore

James M. Oleske, United States

Pakit Vichyanond, Thailand

Special Recognition Award

Recognition of Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Allergy and Immunology toward Wider Recognition of Allergy and Related Diseases as Global Health Issues

James P. Kiley, United States

Erkka Valovirta, Finland

Distinguished Service Award

Recognition of Dedication and Service to the World Allergy Organization

Yehia El-Gamal, Egypt

Cassim Motala, South Africa

Gold Medal Award

Recognition of Outstanding Dedication and Exceptional Service to the World Allergy Organization

Michael A. Kaliner, United States

At the conclusion of the Awards Program, attendees will enjoy a musical performance by the World Heritage Orchestra. After the Opening Ceremony concludes, delegates will enjoy a reception with food and drinks featuring the regional cuisine of Quintana Roo. Various artists will serenade guests with the music of Mexican culture during this special time of networking, greeting old friends and meeting new ones. The All Congress Event on 7 December will also be an opportunity for networking in the beautiful outdoor environment of Cancún. The event will highlight the regions of México, featuring food, music and culture from its four major regions: North (El Norte), South (El Sur), Central (El Centro) and Gulf (El Golfo).

DEFINING THE SPECIALTY

It is a critical part of WAO's mission to advocate for the field of allergy and immunology and ensure that resources for quality care to patients with asthma and allergic disease are available everywhere they are needed. Through collaboration with Member Societies, and the work of committees and councils, WAO reaches a global community with education, research and training, outreach programs, and key publications. This work has helped to explain the important role of the allergist/immunologist in patient care.

WAO programs and publications will continue to reinforce the knowledge of existing allergists/immunologists and help train the doctors of the future. Access to these resources is now available in one convenient location at the newly launched section of the WAO website: *Defining the Specialty*. This repository contains WAO Position Papers and Statements, Web Resources, and the *WAO White Book on Allergy*, along with WAO's definitions of the allergy/immunology specialty and specialist. I encourage you to visit the website and read the definitions and explore the depth of resources available at:

www.worldallergy.org/definingthespecialty.

All of you in some way have become a part of the work of WAO to advance excellence in clinical care, and your time and efforts are appreciated.

See you in Cancún!

All the best, Dick

Richard F. Lockey, MD

President, World Allergy Organization