Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings from WAO!

**World Allergy and Asthma Congress 2013**
We are less than two months away from the EAACI-WAO Congress in Milan. We have received a total of 2,145 abstracts, which is a record number of abstracts submitted in the history of both WAO and EAACI Congresses! With this record high number of abstracts, the Congress will be a true platform for global scientific exchange and learning. In addition to the large number of abstracts, the scientific program will offer a wide array of sessions from a Nurses Course to JMA Sessions to Hot Topics to state-of-the-art Plenaries. This Congress is not to be missed, and we look forward to welcoming you all to Milan on 22 June! For more information about the Congress and to register, please visit: [http://www.eaaci-wao2013.com](http://www.eaaci-wao2013.com)

**WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics**
We are also delighted to invite you to participate in the WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics in Chicago, IL, United States, 13-14 December 2013. This two day meeting will focus on Immunotherapy and Biologics, the very first of its kind ever with topics ranging from mechanisms to translational research, practical clinical perspectives and therapeutics.

The scientific program will include state-of-the-art lectures to be delivered by the world’s top experts on the various topics in the field as well as free communications that will be presented during the Poster Sessions. To view the scientific program, please visit: [http://www.worldallergy.org/symposium2013/](http://www.worldallergy.org/symposium2013/). Abstract submission and registration will be opening in the coming weeks, please continue to check the website for further information.

**World Allergy Week**
World Allergy Week 2013 was celebrated from 8 – 14 April with a focus on increasing awareness of *Food Allergy - A Rising Global Health Problem*. Many societies from around the world participated in this year’s World Allergy Week, hosting many events and promoting increased awareness for their patients. You can see a summary of the events and listen to the press events on the World Allergy Week website: [www.worldallergyweek.org](http://www.worldallergyweek.org). The website will be updated with new reports as they come in to WAO over the next few weeks.

**Award Presented to WAO Secretary General**
It is with great pride that I share with you the good news that Mario Sánchez Borges, WAO’s Secretary General, was conferred the "Venezuelan Medical Excellence Award" (Premio de la Excelencia Medica Venezolana) on 6 April by The Network of Venezuelan Scientific Medical Societies.

This is the most prestigious medical award in their country, presented yearly on occasion of celebrating the Medical Profession. It is granted by colleagues from the
Venezuelan Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, who are in charge of selecting the candidate for the prize and making the corresponding recommendation to the Network's Board of Directors.

Let us all join in extending our Heartiest Congratulations to Mario on this well-deserved recognition which is a matter of great pride for WAO, too.

**Tribute to Prof. Alain de Weck**

The passing of Prof. Alain de Weck is a great loss to me, to the World Allergy Organization (WAO) and to whole world of allergy and immunology. His immense contribution to the field of allergy and immunology cannot be fully conveyed in a few pages, since he was not only an outstanding scientist and clinician but also a founder of several important organizations including the International Association of Allergy (IAA) / International Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (IAACI) – now the World Allergy Organization (WAO) – as well as the International Union of Immunology Societies (IUIS) and the Collegium Internationale Allergologicum (CIA). He has left behind a legacy for generations to come.

I invite you to visit the WAO website to read further tributes to Prof. de Weck at [http://www.worldallergy.org/UserFiles/Tribute_AlaindeWeck.pdf](http://www.worldallergy.org/UserFiles/Tribute_AlaindeWeck.pdf) and to watch Prof. de Weck’s message to WAO Member Society Presidents at WAC 2011 at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KddzQag1LiC](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KddzQag1LiC). I also invite you to read Prof. de Weck’s “History of the World Allergy Organization: The First 50 Years of IAA/IAACI/WAO” from the WAO Journal: [http://www.waojournal.org/content/4/11/193](http://www.waojournal.org/content/4/11/193).

Sincere regards,

Ruby Pawankar, MD, PhD
President, World Allergy Organization

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

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