Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings from the World Allergy Organization!

Many of us have just returned from the AAAAI Annual Meeting in San Antonio where several of the WAO Councils and Committees as well as the Board of Directors met. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who took the time to attend and contribute to these meetings to assist WAO in our many projects and initiatives.

I especially would like to thank the Executive Committee and the WAO Board of Directors for the collegial and fruitful meetings, and I look forward to developing the many initiatives we discussed. We will be working closely with all WAO member societies towards the larger global mission of our specialty to improve patient care and the patient’s quality of life, and we thank you in advance for your valuable contribution.

I also would like to update you that after San Antonio we had a very successful EAACI-WAO 2013 Marathon meeting in Milan and the scientific program looks very good with a large international representation. Late breaking abstracts are now being accepted, please make sure to submit your research by 2 April to join the over 1,800 abstracts that have already been received. We look forward to welcoming you to Milan and your participation in this special Congress.

**World Allergy Week - 8-14 April 2013**
WAO is looking forward to hosting the third annual World Allergy Week from 8-14 April 2013. This year WAO has selected the theme of Food Allergy - A Rising Global Health Problem. Food allergy is rising in prevalence, especially in children, in both developed and developing countries, and there is a need for greater awareness and understanding of food allergies in order to address a variety of issues related to the care of patients with food sensitivity.

World Allergy Week is an opportunity for your allergy society to raise awareness of food allergy concerns and the specific issues that affect your communities. We hope you will join us during World Allergy Week and conduct outreach activities targeted to patients, parents, school teachers, counselors and food preparers, health ministries, medical schools, policymakers and the general public for the benefit of the patient. WAO has provided resources to its member societies for use in local, national and regional activities, and these materials are available online at www.worldallergyweek.org.

**Upcoming WAO Publications**
WAO is excited to announce two of its upcoming publications! WAO strives to provide its community with the latest information for the field. To this end, WAO will soon be publishing the following documents

- **WAO-GA2LEN-ARIA Consensus Document on Molecular-based Allergy Diagnosis.** This paper will provide a practical guide for the indications, determination,
and interpretation of Molecular-based Allergy diagnostics for clinicians trained in allergology.

- **Sublingual Immunotherapy: WAO Position Paper - Update.** Continuing the emphasis on the global consensus of SLIT, WAO is now developing an update to the 2009 Position Paper. The core document will remain the same with short, condensed updates of some chapters along with the addition of a few new chapters on emerging issues. Each chapter 'update' will contain new evidences, corroborated by references and new data.

**Upcoming WAO Meetings**

**EAACI-WAO World Allergy and Asthma Congress**
22-26 June 2013
Milan, Italy

**WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics**
13-14 December 2013
Chicago, IL, United States

Sincere regards,

Ruby Pawankar, MD, PhD
President, World Allergy Organization

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