Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings from the World Allergy Organization!

As you may be aware WAO is hosting a new Symposium this December, the WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics in Chicago, Illinois, USA. This Symposium will truly be a state of the art and the very first meeting of its kind on these topics. I would therefore like to highlight some aspects of this meeting.

The Symposium will offer excellent sessions on both **Immunotherapy and Biologics**. Few of the sessions I would like to highlight are:

**Immunotherapy Track 2: Sublingual Immunotherapy**
- Recommendations for Appropriate Sublingual Immunotherapy Clinical Trials | Giovanni Passalacqua (Italy)
- Current Status of Sublingual Immunotherapy in the United States | Michael Blaiss (United States)
- WAO Position Paper Update on Sublingual Immunotherapy | G. Walter Canonica (Italy)

**Immunotherapy Track 3: Immunotherapy Targets for Food**
- Use of Allergen Components: A New Era in Allergology | Motohiro Ebisawa (Japan)
- Oral and Sublingual Immunotherapy for Food Allergy | Wesley Burks (United States)
- Epicutaneous Immunotherapy for Food Allergy | Hugh Sampson (United States)

**Biologics Track 2: Novel Anti-Cytokines**
- IL-1 and IL-17 Cytokine Families: New Targets for Allergy Related Disorders | Lanny J. Rosenwasser (United States)
- Anti-IL-5 in Asthma and Beyond | Parameswaran Nair (Canada)
- Anti-IL-13 Prospects in Asthma | Sally Wenzel (United States)

**Biologics Track 5: Biomarkers, Biosimilars and Selection of Patients**
- The Use of Biomarkers in Asthma Clinical Research Trials | Robert Lemanske (United States)
- Inner City Asthma and Anti-IgE | William Busse (United States)
- State of the Art on Biosimilars | Sergio Bonini (Italy)

To view the rest of the Scientific Program, please visit: [https://wao.confex.com/wao/sib2013/webprogram/start.html](https://wao.confex.com/wao/sib2013/webprogram/start.html)

**Become a part of the Scientific Program by submitting an abstract by 23 August 2013**

In addition to the Scientific Lectures in the Symposium, there will also be Poster Sessions. These Poster Sessions will allow you and your colleagues to have the opportunity to network and share your latest research with key experts in the field. Our aim is to summarize what is scientifically known, learn about the cutting-edge research, and to reach consensus about the unmet needs of Immunotherapy and Biologics.

For more information regarding abstract submission, visit the website: [http://www.worldallergy.org/symposium2013/scientific_program/abstracts.php](http://www.worldallergy.org/symposium2013/scientific_program/abstracts.php)

**Earn CME Credits at the WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics**
The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology designates this live activity for a maximum number of **12.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**.

Register today to participate in the Symposium and earn CME Credits, here: [http://www.worldallergy.org/symposium2013/registration/](http://www.worldallergy.org/symposium2013/registration/)

**WAO’s Emerging Societies Program at the Central American Society Meeting in Guatemala**

After a very successful WAO Allergy Training School in Jakarta in June, The Emerging Societies Program, in collaboration with the Guatemalan Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology, hosted WAO Lectures at the Central American and Caribbean XII Congress held in Guatemala City, 7-10 August. This meeting was a great success and was very special because of the continued efforts of the Guatemalan Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology to foster the development of the specialty in the region. WAO was represented by Dr. Lanny Rosenwasser who lectured on “**Interrelation between Innate Immunity and the Activation of T cells in Allergic Disease**” and “**Small Airways Disease: Pathogenesis to Particle Deposition for Treatment**” and Dr. Dana Wallace who spoke on “**Anaphylaxis: Causes, Diagnosis and Treatment**” and “**Asthma vs COPD for the Clinician**”. I once again send my heartiest congratulations to Dr. Victor H. Chur, Dr. Ann Michelle Rigalt, and all colleagues at the Guatemalan Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology and regret my inability to participate this time in this wonderful congress.

**WAO’s Committee and Council Updates**

In Milan, at the EAACI-WAO 2013 Congress our various committees and councils met, updating ongoing projects and generating numerous new projects. I would like to share with you a few highlights of their activities:

The Special Committee on Drug Allergy completed a paper entitled “**Hypersensitivity Reactions to Non Beta Lactam Antibiotics**”. It has been reviewed by the regional member societies and revised, and it will be submitted to the *WAO Journal* for publication.

A first full draft of a paper on **Asthma in the Elderly** is close to completion by the Special Committee on Asthma.

The **WAO SLIT Position Paper Update**, under the auspices of the Special Committee on Immunotherapy & Immunomodulators, is in final editing.

The **WAO Anaphylaxis Guidelines Patient Information Card** has been completed by the WAO Special Committee on Anaphylaxis.

The **ICON: Anaphylaxis** is towards completion now.

The Special Committee on Sports & Allergy has prepared a **Questionnaire on Physical Exercise as a Treatment Option for Asthma**, which will be distributed in August.

**A WAO WUN: Global Survey of Changing Patterns of Food Allergy Burden in Children** was submitted for publication.

The Special Committee on Aeroallergens is in the process of finalizing the **World Atlas of Aeroallergens** online.

Besides the above mentioned initiatives, many others are in progress.
I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts of the Chairs and members of the councils and committees as well as the WAO Board of Directors and staff who have all played an integral and dedicated role in all of these important projects of WAO.

Please be updated on our new initiatives by visiting our website at www.worldallergy.org.

Looking forward to seeing you in Chicago!

Sincere regards,

Ruby Pawankar, MD, PhD
President, World Allergy Organization

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