April 9, 2014

Dear Friends,

I am proud to announce the publication of “Sublingual Immunotherapy: World Allergy Organization position paper 2013 update”. This is a significant achievement for WAO. Led by G. Walter Canonica, Linda Cox, and Ruby Pawankar, the 2013 paper is a condensed update of the ten chapters that appeared in the original position paper in 2009, with the addition of new chapters on emerging issues. The core document for consultation will continue to be the 2009 article, and the update contains new evidences corroborated by references and revised content based on new data.

The paper presents guidelines for sublingual immunotherapy based on the World Health Organisation (WHO) model of recommendations. In addition, the document defines unmet needs as identified by analysis of recent and ongoing clinical trials in sublingual immunotherapy, and it makes recommendations for the methodology of future clinical trials worldwide. The new chapters are: “Practical Aspects”; “Perspectives and Novel Approaches”; and “Raising Public Awareness of Sublingual Immunotherapy”.

Both articles are freely available for access in the World Allergy Organization Journal:

Position Paper 2013 Update: http://www.waojournal.org/content/7/1/6
2009 Position Paper: http://www.waojournal.org/content/2/11/233

With the continuing emergence of the science and utility of sublingual immunotherapy, this update is an important touchstone for our current understanding of sublingual immunotherapy as it moves forward. The international group who has worked on this project over the past years should be commended for the excellence of the document. Special recognition should also be given to the WAO member societies who reviewed both documents, ensuring a global scope to the project and Sofia Dorsano, for her tireless support as the WAO staff liaison to this project.

Furthering WAO’s committee it education and resources on immunotherapy, immunotherapy will also be highlighted at the upcoming WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC) 2014 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The second day of WISC 2014, Sunday, 7 December, will focus on Immunotherapy and there are many exciting sessions planned. Here’s a brief highlight of the Plenary Sessions and Keynote Lecture that will be offered that day:
Plenary Session: Immunotherapy and Immunological Aspects of Allergic Disease
- Biologic Basis of the Allergic Response | Bruce Bochner (United States)
- Overview of Allergen Immunotherapy and Tolerance | Mübeccel Akdis (Switzerland)
- Mechanisms of Sublingual Immunotherapy | Giovanni Passalacqua (Italy)

Keynote Lecture: Pathogenesis of Allergic Disease: Role of Cytokine Families

Plenary Session: Clinical Aspects of Sublingual Immunotherapy and Subcutaneous Immunotherapy
- Subcutaneous Immunotherapy | TBC
- Novel Approaches to Immunotherapy | Mark Larché (Canada)
- Sublingual Immunotherapy | G. Walter Canonica (Italy)

Please continue to visit www.worldallergy.org/WISC2014 to view the full Scientific Program, submit an abstract, and register for the Conference. We look forward to seeing you in Rio!

I’m also eager to share that World Allergy Week 2014 was a great success! There was participation from over 25 countries and the importance of correct diagnosis and management of anaphylaxis was promoted on a world-wide stage. Thank you to all of our Member Societies for their participation. To view the various activities and initiatives that took place around the world, please visit: www.worldallergyweek.org. If you participated in or held an event not currently included on the website, please make sure to send us pictures or a summary of the event and we’ll make sure to include it to show the true extent and reach of World Allergy Week 2014.

Hope to see you all in Rio!

Sincerely yours,
Lanny Rosenwasser
President, World Allergy Organization

*******************************************************************************

Keep track of all WAO activities at:

http://www.worldallergy.org
@worldallergy on Twitter
@WorldAllergyOrg on Facebook
TheWAOChannel on YouTube