Dear Friends,

Last month I shared my four key areas of focus for the 2014 – 2015 WAO Term. While some of these areas will take many months to fully implement, we have already begun the process of putting others into action. I would now like to take a moment and share with you some advances that have begun at WAO as we develop efficient means of administering WAO Board activities.

The first steps we have taken in this key area are the creation of Board Councils. The WAO Board of Directors has been divided into three Councils which will assist in the oversight of the many WAO Committees. Some of the goals and outcomes we hope to see with the implementation of the Board Councils are to:

- Provide guidance and assistance to committees submitting proposals to WAO
- Motivating committees to stay on task and complete proposed projects
- Liaise with the Executive Committee/Board on the strategic vision for the committees
- Identify areas of mutual/shared interest between committees and encourage interactions and joint projects amongst committees

In addition to the Board Councils, we have added some new disease focused committees. The new committees that will be established in 2014 include:

- Barrier Disease Issues and the Microbiome
- Healthcare Delivery Models and Allergy

These two committees will join our increasing list of disease focused committees, which are charged with providing the WAO Membership with the latest information in these growing and expanding areas of interest. Many of the WAO committees will be meeting, for the first time in 2014, during the upcoming AAAAI Annual Meeting in San Diego to discuss their ongoing projects and to set their agendas for the upcoming term. We are excited to share with you the ambitious agendas that many of these committees will set forth during their meetings.

Our WISC 2014 Scientific Program Committee has also been hard at work over the past few months and I am happy to share with you the Preliminary Program for WISC 2014. As you can
see, the program highlights the most recent advances and strategies in treatment and prevention, as well as provides an integrated approach to the diagnosis and management of severe and more complex forms of allergies. We hope that you are all planning on joining us in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 6-9 December 2014. Please continue to check the Conference Website (www.worldallergy.org/wisc2014) for updates and deadlines.

This year WAO will host the fourth annual World Allergy Week (7 –13 April 2014), on the theme of “Anaphylaxis – When Allergies Can Be Severe and Fatal.” World Allergy Week is an opportunity for your member society to raise awareness of anaphylaxis risk, response and prevention. As in the past for World Allergy Week, WAO will provide resources to its member societies for activities; these materials will be available online. Visit the World Allergy Week website for the official logo to add to your website and link it to www.worldallergyweek.org.

Hope to see you all in Rio!

Sincerely yours,
Lanny Rosenwasser
President, World Allergy Organization

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