January 21, 2014

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am honored to take the role of 2014-2015 WAO President and to work alongside of the very capable WAO Board of Directors. I am joined on the Board by my colleagues on the Executive Committee – Mario Sánchez-Borges (President-Elect), Ignacio Ansotegui (Secretary-General), Motohiro Ebisawa (Treasurer) and Ruby Pawankar (Past-President) — as well as the 2014-2015 Board of Directors, who represents the major regions of the world — Asia Pacific, Europe, Middle East/Africa, North America, and Latin America:

- Claus Bachert (Belgium)
- Suwat Benjaponpitak (Thailand)
- Sergio Bonini (Italy)
- Wesley Burks (United States)
- Luis Caraballo (Colombia)
- Stanley Fineman (United States)
- Roy Gerth van Wijk (Netherlands)
- Elham Hossny (Egypt)
- Francesca Levi-Schaffer (Israel)
- Richard Lockey (United States), Historian
- Susan Prescott (Australia)
- Nelson Rosário (Brazil)
- Hirohisa Saito (Japan)
- Hugh Sampson (United States)
- Dana Wallace (United States)
- Mario Zernotti (Argentina)
- Luo Zhang (China)

I look forward to working with this very talented Board over the coming years and expanding WAO to new heights. I also wish to thank my predecessor, Ruby Pawankar, for her outstanding contribution to WAO during her Presidency. I look forward to continuing to work with Ruby, as she assumes the role of Past-President.

As WAO continues to build on the successes of its past leaders, I would like the WAO Board and WAO Membership to join me in a renewed commitment to scientific and medical research and education. I believe there are four key areas we can focus on to succeed in this commitment:

- **Continued support of WAO’s mission and extending the effect of the mission**
- **Raise profile of training and research to enhance academic content of WAO and WAO’s meetings**
- **Develop efficient means of administering Board activities**
- **Enhance recognition and function of WAO**

It is through these four key areas that WAO will be enabled to continue its growth in the field of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology. WAO supports its mission through its strong portfolio of education on our website, in our position papers and through our in-person meetings. We will look to strengthen this portfolio through increased training and research endeavors, through our collaborations with our partners, and by expanding these opportunities to young scientists and in emerging regions.
As WAO continues to grow over the coming year, we hope that you plan to join us in our 2014 capstone, the third WAO International Scientific Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 6 – 9 December 2014. The theme of WISC 2014 is “Advancing the Boarders of Allergy: From Treatment to Prevention by Targeting the Environment, Infections and the Susceptible Patient.” WISC 2014 will be jointly held with the Brazilian Association of Allergy and Immunology (ASBAI) and their XLI Annual Meeting. A world-class faculty will lead this initiative under the supervision of Mario Sánchez Borges (Conference Organizing Chair), Nelson Rosário (Local Organizing Committee Chair) and the Scientific Program Co-Chairs: Karla Arruda, Luís Caraballo and Hugh Sampson. You will find additional information on the WAO website at http://www.worldallergy.org/wisc2014/.

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