Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings from the World Allergy Organization!

As I reflect on the future of our field, I continue to find encouragement and energy in WAO's Junior Members Group. I've had the privilege of meeting with the Jr. Members in person and on conference calls and at the JMA educational session at WAAC 2013 in Milan. I have always found a renewed sense of purpose and energy after each meeting. This group is very driven and their passion for the field is inspiring. It is amazing to see, what a group of highly motivated young people can achieve, what they can move and how powerful those movements can be. As a larger community, I encourage us all to embrace the ideas and energy these emerging leaders have and share in my anticipation to see where they can bring the field in the future.

I remember when I was starting out in the field how my mentors and advisors assisted me along the way. With their encouragement and guidance, I have been blessed with many opportunities to grow in my career. Many of us are now in positions where we are those mentors and guides for the younger generation and can give to them the support and encouragement and platform. I encourage those that are able to reach out to the Fellows, graduate students and Jr. Members to take a few moments from your hectic schedule to listen to their innovative ideas, their questions and desire for direction and encourage and direct them in the best way they can contribute and thus grow in their careers. Investing in them is investing in the future of our specialty.

If you are still in the beginning stages of your career, we would be most delighted to welcome you to the WAO Jr. Members Group: http://www.worldallergy.org/juniormembers/. The Jr. Members Group meets at many of the major global allergy meetings throughout the year and discusses opportunities to become more involved in WAO and its programs. Currently the Jr. Members are active in the following ways within WAO:

- Members of the WAO Special Committees
- Writing Jr. Member Monthly Article Summaries
- Participating in WAO-TV – Scientific Interviews with Experts
- Presenting Posters and in Scientific Sessions at WAO Meetings
- Planning the upcoming Session at the WAO Symposium:
  - **Jr. Member Group Practical Course on Immunotherapy**
    - Current status and future perspectives of Immunotherapy in Latin America and Cuba | Dr. Alexander Diaz, Cuba
    - Use of new technology to improve utilization and adherence to immunotherapy | Dr. Ves Dimov, United States

I would like to take a moment to thank Ignacio Ansotegui as the WAO Board Advisor to the Jr. Members Group and the Chairs of the WAO Jr. Members Group, Sylvia Sanchez-Garcia and Matteo Bonini for their dedication commitment and drive towards the JMG activities. They have provided a great sense of guidance to the group through the past few years.

**WAO collaborations:**

**Asian Pacific Association of Allergy Respirology and Immunology (APAPARI)**

WAO recently participated in the Asian Pacific Association of Allergy Respirology and Immunology Congress in Bangkok, Thailand from 2-4 October. The APAPARI Congress was organized by the
Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Association of Thailand (AAIST) under the support and collaboration from APAPARI and WAO. The Congress was a great success with 680 attendees from 25 countries and 62 abstracts of high quality clinical and research work. Prof. Holgate, Prof. Ebisawa and I spoke at the WAO-APAPARI session chaired by Prof. Canonica and Prof. Pakit Vichyanond. Prof. Canonica spoke about the recently published WAO consensus on Molecular-based Diagnosis of Allergy. A special session dedicated to WAO-APAPARI collaborations was held and Dr. Somxay spoke about his successful efforts in Laos and how WAO and APAPARI had contributed to the initiation and success of his efforts for setting up allergy education and practice. Prof. Hugo Van Bever spoke about APAPARI’s role and the success of our joint efforts and I spoke about WAO’s role and the steps looking forwards. APAPARI will collaborate for WAC 2015 in Seoul, Korea. The congress was a great success scientifically, socially and organizationally, Congratulations to the organizers!

Indian Academy of Allergy (IAA)
The Indian Academy of Allergy Congress (IAACON) 2013 was held 27-29 in Goa, India. With over 300 delegates and an excellent national and international faculty delivering over 25 lectures, the Congress had a well designed scientific program covering all major topics of allergy and also with ample time for free discussion and interaction and free papers and posters. The Congress was endorsed by WAO and the WAO guidelines on Anaphylaxis, Pediatric Asthma ICON, WAO SLIT consensus and WAO consensus on Molecular based Allergy Diagnosis, WAO HAE guidelines, gene-environmental interactions, food allergies and allergen cross reactivities were among the lectured topics. The Congress was a great success scientifically, socially and organizationally. Congratulations to the organizers!

New WAO Special Committees
WAO has developed 2 new committees to serve the interest of the specialty:
1. Immunodeficiency
2. Modern, innovative approaches to Allergic Diseases: from systems biology to precision medicine

WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics
The WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics is quickly approaching and we hope that you all will be able to join us! The WAO Symposium is a first of its kind, 2-day meeting that summarizes what is scientifically known, explore cutting-edge research and recognize the unmet needs of Immunotherapy and Biologics. Simultaneous tracks on Biologics and Immunotherapy will be offered to attendees. Each track offers stimulating lectures, presentations and discussions presented by top international leaders and experts in the field.

To view the Online Scientific Program, click here Register for the WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics and attend cutting-edge sessions.
Regular Registration Rate Deadline: 31 October 2013

Looking forward to welcoming you to Chicago!

Sincere regards,

Ruby Pawankar, MD, PhD
President, World Allergy Organization

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Keep track of all WAO activities at:
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@worldallergy on Twitter
@WorldAllergyOrg on Facebook
TheWAOChannel on YouTube