Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Do you know that if YOU are a member of your National and/or Regional Allergy, Asthma or Clinical Immunology Society and your society is a WAO member society, then you are also a member of WAO?

WAO is a federation of 92 national and regional societies, whose aim is to be a global resource and advocate for you and your society. WAO does this through providing education, research and training to advance clinical care in the field of allergy. To see a list of the current 92 societies we represent, please visit our website:  [http://www.worldallergy.org/wao_societies/members.php](http://www.worldallergy.org/wao_societies/members.php). If you don't see your society listed here, please don't hesitate to contact us for more information on how your society can become a member society.

WAO joins its member societies in a collaborative effort to get allergic diseases recognized as a global public health problem and to garner greater support and resources towards improving education, training, research, patient care and influencing policy decisions towards the prevention and optimal treatment of allergic diseases. To achieve this, WAO, along with its member societies, develops and promotes a number of resources and initiatives, including the WAO White Book on Allergy, WAO Position Papers and Statements, WAO Online learning modules and lectures, and WAO Allergy Training School.

In addition to our resources mentioned above, the *WAO Journal*, under the leadership of our Editor-in Chief, Lanny J. Rosenwasser and the great support of our Managing Editor, Sofia Dorsano, has become Open Access and is now available to all viewers free of charge. We have a worldwide representation of editorial board members and manuscripts from various regions. As such, we are building an even stronger journal as a global platform for the benefit and advancement of our specialty across Member Societies.

Here are some of the other member benefits you receive as a member of WAO:

**Grow through professional networks**
Your WAO membership comes with the privilege of belonging to the largest international allergy, asthma and clinical immunology organization in the world! Members can enjoy enhanced recognition, connect to renowned leaders and gain a global perspective of the scientific and clinical aspects of allergy.

**Take part in global outreach**
Get involved in WAO’s international congresses, global educational programs, joint sessions at your meetings, and our website to help bring the state-of-the-art in the research and clinical practice of allergy to physicians and specialists throughout the world.

**Participate in the World Allergy Week**
Join WAO and its other member societies in raising awareness of allergic diseases. Utilize WAO-provided resources to host local, regional, and national activities. Share and be recognized for your advocacy and involvement by sending us your stories, audio and video recordings, photographs and press releases to WAO.
Become recognized as a WAO Center of Excellence

Becoming a WAO Center of Excellence (WCOE) allows you to provide mentorship for research and training for WAO Junior Members, conduct educational programs in collaboration with WAO, and offers opportunities through lectureships and research fellowships with other WCOEs to further education and research in allergy, asthma and clinical immunology.

Participate in educational programs.
As a member of WAO, you have the opportunity to participate in programs the WAO Allergy Training School and the World Allergy Forum to promote education in allergy at a basic level and also at a cutting edge level and thereby contribute to the advancement and development of the specialty of allergy.

Become a WAO Junior member
Become actively involved as a WAO junior member and share the platform with your colleagues around the world, interact with the leaders in your field and prepare yourself to be a future leader in the field. The future is in your hands and you have the responsibility to lead it well.

WAO offers several such opportunities and platforms for its members and we look forward to receiving your valuable contribution and input as we all work towards a common goal and mission to bring advances in treatments and provide a better quality of life for our allergy patients.

WAO Collaborations

Members Recognized at ACAAI Annual Meeting
On behalf of myself and the WAO Board of Directors, I would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to our colleagues who received recognition during the 2013 ACAAI Annual Meeting:
- Gold Headed Cane Award: Michael Blaiss, MD (Member-at-Large, WAO Board of Directors)
- International Distinguished Fellow Award: Sandra Gonzalez-Diaz, MD (Member-at-Large, WAO Board of Directors)

WAO at ACAAI in Baltimore
WAO had a symposium on Chronic Rhinosinusitis at the ACAAI in Baltimore with Claus Bachert, Eli Meltzer and myself and chaired by Lanny J Rosenwasser and Richard Weber. The symposium was well attended and generated a lot of interesting discussion.

WAO at APAAACI 2013 in Taipei
Claus Bachert and I spoke in a WAO session at the APAAACI Congress in Taipei. The congress had over 1000 delegates and we congratulate Prof. Jiu-Yao Wang and his colleagues from Taiwan and those in APAAACI who contributed to this successful congress.

WAO at DOHAD 2013 in Singapore
WAO organized an allergy session at the DOHAD 2013. Susan Prescott and Lynette Shek spoke at the WAO session. The session was well attended with good interaction and was truly a success. In a Plenary session on NCDs, I was joined by speakers from the NCD Alliance and Maternal and child health.

WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics in Chicago
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.

Hurry! Don’t miss registering for the WAO Symposium on Immunotherapy and Biologics and attend cutting-edge sessions.

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