Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The World Allergy Organization is continuously striving to accomplish our mission, which includes “advancing excellence in clinical care through education, research, and training....” There are few better examples to how WAO is spreading education and awareness than through World Allergy Week, which concluded earlier this month.

The sixth annual World Allergy Week, with the theme of “Pollen Allergies – Adapting to a Changing Climate”, helped spread awareness to both physicians and patients on a global scale. Professor Paul Greenberger, the Chair of the Communications Committee, and Professor Mimi Tang, the Co-Chair, led this highly successful event with the help of the Communication Committee members and many volunteers globally.

World Allergy Week’s success is dependent on the many volunteers, Member Societies, and WAO Leadership who participate in this event. Only through the time, effort, and dedication of these volunteers has this week-long outreach to physicians and the general public been possible on this very important topic of pollen allergies and the changing climate. Many WAO Member Societies hosted free clinics, workshops, press conferences, and other events, and we will post the highlights of those at www.worldallergyweek.org over the next few weeks.

WAO also hosted a live webinar with a panel of scientific and clinical experts from around the world who presented current understanding and insights about pollen allergies as well as how changes in climate might affect pollen seasons and intensity of aeroallergen exposures. I would like to sincerely thank the individuals who volunteered their time and expertise for this event: Professors Paul Greenberger, Charles Barnes, Lorenzo Cecchi, Nelson Rosario, Menachem Rottem, Elopy Sibanda, Wisuwat Songnuan, and Richard Weber. The recording of this event will soon be available for all to view at no cost.

WAO’s Member Societies also contribute to spreading excellence in clinical care through scientific symposia, conferences, and congresses. The Dominican Society of Allergy, Asthma, and Clinical Immunology recently celebrated their 40th anniversary and hosted the IV International Congress of Allergy in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Being present at this congress, I witnessed the incredible passion of our member societies to expand knowledge and education both locally and on a global scale because this congress had both domestic and
international representatives. WAO would like to send our most hearty congratulations to the Dominican Society of Allergy, Asthma, and Clinical Immunology for this congress’s scientific success.

Perhaps the most visible way the World Allergy Organization advances our mission is through the large scientific meetings we host, including the WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC). WISC 2016 will convene world experts on various allergy, asthma, and immunology topics. Additionally, poster sessions will allow presenters the opportunity to share exciting research with attendees, which provides a very personal method of learning.

WISC 2016 will take place 6-9 December 2016 in Jerusalem, and I’d like to invite you to attend this year’s meeting. Many of our speakers have already confirmed their attendance and I’d encourage you to learn more about WISC 2016 online at: www.worldallergy.org/wisc2016/

Hope to see you in Jerusalem!

Sincerely yours,

Mario Sánchez Borges, MD
President, World Allergy Organization

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Save the date for WISC 2016: 6-9 December 2016

Keep track of all WAO activities at:
www.worldallergy.org and www.waojournal.org
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