

29 August 2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This is a unique year for the World Allergy Organization as we undertake two symposia with specific topics based on local geographic context. The first symposium in Rome earlier this year on the topic of “Pediatric Allergy & Regulatory Aspects” was a great success. In just one week our second symposium, “Mite Allergy: From Basics to Clinical Applications” will begin in Cartagena, Colombia.

Mite Allergy is a topic of great importance in Colombia and the wider region, but the need for education on this topic expands to all parts of the world. This symposium is one-of-a-kind because it unites the WAO Symposium with the Colombian Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Association’s annual congress. I am excited about this joint meeting and hope to see you in the historic city of Cartagena next week!

As we prepare for 2018, our meetings will better reflect our traditional structure starting 2-5 March 2018 with our World Allergy Congress (WAC), which will be a joint meeting with the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI). This meeting will take place in Orlando, Florida USA – one of the world’s more attractive cities; I have no doubt we will be able to attract a large number of international delegates and I invite you to join us for this special occasion.

I would also like to encourage you to participate in the joint meeting by submitting an abstract. **The deadline to submit an abstract, case report, or to apply for a travel grant is this Thursday, 31 August!** Please visit the meeting website for details: <http://www.worldallergy.org/meetings/world-allergy-congress-wac-2018>

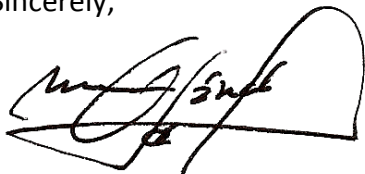
Although WAO is constantly evolving and changing, as we have for our symposia this year, WAO still stays the same. A program that has helped define WAO for some time, and which I am particularly proud of, is the World Allergy Training Schools (WATS). WAO develops these programs in partnership with the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (ACAAI).

As the president of WAO, I have the good fortune to participate in a number of the WATS this year, including our most recent training school in Tbilisi, Georgia. Prof Revaz Sepiashvili organized this well-attended meeting and was kind enough to invite Prof Dana Wallace, Prof Bryan Martin, Prof Ignacio Ansotegui and me to speak as faculty members.

I would like to thank and congratulate Prof Sepiashvili and the WATS organizers in Tbilisi for a wonderful WATS program and an excellent congress. The attendees were very active and willing participants and the meeting was a great success! Learn more about our WATS programs on the [Emerging Societies Program \(ESP\) Website](#).

I look forward to seeing you in Cartagena!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mario Sánchez Borges', written over a horizontal line.

Mario Sánchez Borges, MD
President, World Allergy Organization

Save the dates:

WAO Cartagena Symposium (Cartagena, Colombia): 6-9 September 2017

WAC 2018 (AAAAI/ WAO Joint Congress in Orlando, FL United States): 2-5 March 2018

WISC 2018 (Florence, Italy): 6-9 December 2018

Keep track of all WAO activities at:

www.worldallergy.org and www.waojournal.org