Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I have been the fortunate recipient of compliments from many delegates who attended the WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC) 2016 in Jerusalem, Israel. However, the success of this program in large part is thanks to our speakers, partner organizations, and of course the participants, so I’d like to pass on the compliments I’ve received to the many individuals and organizations who made this meeting a success.

In collaboration with the Israel Association of Allergy & Clinical Immunology (IAACI) and their mutually collaborating partner, Allergists for Israel (AFI), this meeting brought together delegates from 26 countries to learn and interact with world renowned clinicians, researchers, and educators. Without the assistance of IAACI and AFI this meeting would not have been as successful as it was, so I send my sincere thanks to these organizations and their leadership, guidance, and assistance.

As we embark on 2017, WAO’s educational initiatives continue to expand with known world experts leading lectures, writing papers, and delivering online education. The Collaboration on Severe Asthma (COSA), now in its third year, is expanding and the interest in this collaboration continues to thrive. The World Allergy Forum (WAF) at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) Annual Meeting will be a COSA initiative and I encourage you to participate. The topic is “Stratified Medicine and Severe Asthma” and the faculty will be Prof Stephen Holgate, Dr Eugene Bleecker and Prof Jan Lötvall. The 2017 calendar year will also experience the largest number of World Allergy Training Schools (WATS) WAO has ever coordinated with the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (ACAAI)!

Additionally, the many committees of WAO have initiated a number of papers and projects that I believe will advance education and patient care in many critical areas of allergy, asthma and clinical immunology.

As with all of the programs and meetings of WAO, the successes they yield are the successes of our members and participants. Because of this, I’d like to invite each of you to get involved with WAO this year, beginning with three very important programs.
World Allergy Week is an event that brings the world together through awareness and collaboration of WAO’s Member Societies. From April 2 – 8, 2017, WAO will be joined by member societies and individuals and groups around the world to raise awareness of chronic urticaria. The theme is: The Agony of Hives – What to do when hives and swelling don’t go away. Let us know your plans for World Allergy Week by writing to info@worldallergy.org.

WAO is also hosting two theme-based symposia in 2017. Our Symposium in Rome, Italy, entitled “Hot Topics in Allergy: Pediatric and Regulatory Aspects,” will be a summit of pediatric allergy experts and leadership from the European Medicines Agency (EMA). I encourage you to attend this meeting and enjoy the city of Rome and Vatican City from 27-29 April 2017. Learn more, submit an abstract, or register online at: http://www.worldallergy.org/rome2017.

The second theme-based symposium of WAO in 2017 will take place in Cartagena, Colombia in collaboration with the Annual Congress of the Colombian Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Association (ACAAI). This symposium, with a theme of “Dust Mites: From Basics to Clinical Applications,” is sure to be popular, so save the dates: 6-9 September 2017.

See you in Rome and Cartagena!

Sincerely yours,

Mario Sánchez Borges, MD
President, World Allergy Organization

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Save the dates:
World Allergy Week: 2-8 April 2017: http://worldallergyweek.com
WAO Cartagena Symposium: 6-9 September 2017

Keep track of all WAO activities at:
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