Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am humbled and honored to begin my term as the President of the World Allergy Organization (WAO) for the 2016-2017 term and to work alongside the very capable WAO Board of Directors. I’m joined on the Board by my colleagues on the Executive Committee: Ignacio Ansotegui, President-Elect (Spain); Motohiro Ebisawa, Secretary-General (Japan); Francesca Levi-Schaffer, Treasurer (Israel); and Lanny Rosenwasser, Past-President (United States). The Executive Committee and 2016-2017 Board of Directors represent the major regions of the world – Asia Pacific, Europe, North America, Latin America, and our Joint Region (Middle East, Africa, & Commonwealth of Independent States) – and includes:

Ruby Pawankar (Japan), Historian
Mübeccel Akdis (Switzerland)
Suwat Benjaponpitak (Thailand)
Sergio Bonini (Italy)
Wesley Burks (United States)
Luis Caraballo (Colombia)
Zeinab Awad El-Sayed (Egypt)
Stanley Fineman (United States)

Paul Greenberger (United States)
Elham Hossny (Egypt)
José Antonio Ortega-Martell (Mexico)
Hirohisa Saito (Japan)
Mimi Tang (Australia)
Mario Zernotti (Argentina)
Luo Zhang (China)

I’m excited to work with this incredibly talented Board of Directors over the next couple of years, but first I want to thank those whose term on the 2014-2015 Board of Directors has ended: Claus Bachert (Belgium), Roy Gerth van Wijk (Netherlands), Richard Lockey (United States), Susan Prescott (Australia), Nelson Rosário (Brazil), Hugh Sampson (United States), and Dana Wallace (United States). I also want to give special thanks to Lanny Rosenwasser who served WAO admirably as the 2014-2015 President. I look forward to our continued relationship as he remains on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee as the Past-President.

Turning toward the future, I want to continue to build on the past successes of WAO as we move forward in our commitment to impacting the progress of the Allergy and Clinical Immunology discipline for the benefit of patients all over the world. To achieve this vision, I believe the focus must be in the following areas:

- Continued support of WAO’s mission and extending the effect of the mission
- Raising the profile of training and research to enhance academic content of WAO
• Developing efficient means of administering Board activities
• Improving allergy care in developing countries and deprived areas of the world
• Enhancing recognition and function of WAO

With our focus in these areas, I believe WAO, our member societies, and the many clinicians and researchers throughout the world will continue to support WAO’s mission, which is: to be a global resource and advocate in the field of allergy, advancing excellence in clinical care through education, research, and training as a world-wide alliance of allergy and clinical immunology societies.

As WAO continues to expand research and education, I hope you are able to join us at our WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC) 2016 taking place 6-9 December 2016 in Jerusalem, Israel. The theme of WISC 2016 is “Outstanding Allergy, Clinical Immunology and Cultural Heritage.” WISC 2016 will be jointly held with the Israel Association for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (IAACI) and their mutually collaborating partner, Allergists for Israel (AFI). You can find additional information on the WAO website at www.worldallergy.org/wisc2016/.

Sincerely yours,

Mario Sánchez Borges
President, World Allergy Organization

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Save the date for World Allergy Week: 4-10 April 2016

Keep track of all WAO activities at:
www.worldallergy.org and www.waojournal.org
@worldallergy on Twitter
WorldAllergyOrg on Facebook
TheWAOChannel on YouTube
Join the WISC LinkedIn group (Click the Join Group button)