Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The World Allergy Organization is off to a fast start in 2016! Earlier this month WAO convened to lead the World Allergy Forum and many WAO Committees met to set goals and projects for the next two years. Without the dedication of these committee members and volunteers, such as yourself, WAO and our many ambitious initiatives wouldn’t be possible. Thank you for your support!

The World Allergy Forum received a very positive response earlier this month in Los Angeles, California at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) Annual Meeting. The 2016 World Allergy Forum, entitled “Role of Intolerance in Food Allergy,” had three world-renowned speakers on the program: Michael E. Levin spoke on “Food Allergy: Worldwide Patterns;” Susan Prescott discussed the topic of “Potential Regimens for Tolerance Inductions;” and Hugh Sampson presented on “Treatment Prevention and Guidelines Worldwide.” Professor Robert Lemanske, President of AAAAI, and I, were honored to moderate this outstanding and very well attended scientific session.

The World Allergy Organization also had the opportunity to coordinate on numerous other levels during the AAAAI Annual Meeting. Specifically, twenty-one of WAO’s committees met and began planning their goals and objectives for their two-year terms. We’re very excited to see which projects these committees are able to plan and accomplish in the future.

Among the many initiatives WAO is involved with, the Collaborative on Severe Asthma (COSA) is one that has gained great interest. At the Interasma Congress in Madrid, Spain on March 14, there was a symposium covering some very important Severe Asthma topics. Professors G Walter Canonica and Sergio Bonini chaired this symposium, which included Professor Lanny Rosenwasser’s presentation on “Cytokine Families and Receptors as Treatment Targets in Severe Asthma;” Professor Fulvio Braido’s “Small Airways in Asthma” lecture; and my presentation on “Acute Asthma Induced by Mite-Contaminated Foods.” To learn more about Severe Asthma and COSA, visit the website at: www.worldallergy.org/severe-asthma/.

Another event that is of great importance to the World Allergy Organization, and one of our greatest outreach programs, is the sixth annual World Allergy Week (4-10 April 2016), which
has the theme of: *Pollen Allergies – Adapting to a Changing Climate*. World Allergy Week is an opportunity to spread global awareness to both physicians and patients on a specific topic, and this year’s topic has already gained great interest.

World Allergy Week has been successful in the past due to great support from WAO’s many member societies as well as participation in a variety of ways from individuals, patient organization, and healthcare facilities. WAO again invites you, your member society, and your healthcare facility or educational institution to get involved in this event. As in the past, WAO has resources that are available online at: [www.worldallergyweek.org](http://www.worldallergyweek.org). Be sure to share your plans for World Allergy Week!

Lastly, the WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC 2016), taking place 6-9 December 2016 in Jerusalem, Israel, is coming together quite nicely. WISC 2016 is going to combine an incredible scientific program with cultural heritage, as the theme indicates: “Outstanding Allergy, Clinical Immunology and Cultural Heritage.”

WAO has invited a number of internationally known experts to speak on the program for WISC 2016 and has already received a number of positive replies. I encourage you to view the program, and learn more about WISC 2016, online at: [www.worldallergy.org/wisc2016/](http://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 World Allergy Week: 4-10 April 2016

Keep track of all WAO activities at:
[www.worldallergy.org](http://www.worldallergy.org) and [www.waojournal.org](http://www.waojournal.org)
[@worldallergy](https://twitter.com/worldallergy) on Twitter
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[TheWAOChannel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZBdC5xHgVnTu3KpebFRT0w) on YouTube
Join the WISC [LinkedIn group](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/World-Allergy-Week-2016-WWW-WISC2016) (Click the Join Group button)