June 22, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

Many WAO leaders and members have just returned from attending the annual scientific meeting of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), held in Istanbul, Turkey from 11-15 June. Thanks to the great work of WAO leaders and members, WAO had a strong presence in the scientific program of the Congress, participated in the exhibition with two booths, and held several successful business meetings. You will find more details on these activities in the June issue of the WAO News & Notes newsletter.

I want to personally thank the speakers and chairs of the session of the Small Airways Working Group, “Why Are Small Airways Important to Asthma?” – Lanny Rosenwasser, Antoine Magnan, and Thomas Casale, and Co-Chair, Cezmi Akdis; and the World Allergy Forum session, “Urticaria: Different Phenotypes and Diverse Treatments” – Malcolm Greaves, Marcus Maurer and Allen Kaplan, and Co-Chair, Jan Lötvall, for their wonderful contributions. Finally, a special thanks to all who represented their national society at the WAO Member Society Forum – your participation and feedback are truly appreciated.

NEW ALLIED HEALTH INITIATIVE AT THE WORLD ALLERGY CONGRESS (WAC 2011), Cancún:
I am very enthusiastic about a new initiative from the WAO – the 1st World Allergy Organization Allied Health Program, which will be part of the Scientific Program of the World Allergy Congress, Cancún 2011. WAO and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) are collaborating to assemble an expert panel of speakers to present on two major themes, “Asthma: Diagnosis, Management and Education” and “Allergic Disorders: Snapshots of a Worldly View,” which are critical to the knowledge base of all health care professionals who provide care to people with allergy, asthma and immunologic diseases. Developed by Phil Korenblat, Maureen George (Chair) and Jeanette Arnold (Chair), the program is designed for nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, medical technologists and medical assistants. The program will span two days (3 December 8:00 to 11:40 and 4 December from 8:00 to 12:30) and cover these core subjects:

- Guideline-Driven Care
- Prevention
- New Paradigms
- Unrecognized Co-morbidity
- Exacerbations
- Severe Asthma
- Asthma Care: Education and Adherence
- Drug Reactions
- Rhinosinusitis
- Anaphylaxis
- Atopic Dermatitis
- Urticaria and Angioedema
- Eosinophilic Esophagitis
- Sublingual Immunotherapy
- Food Allergy

Allied Health Professionals are eligible to receive the discounted registration rate of $360, which includes full Congress registration and admission to the 1st WAO Allied Health Sessions on 3 and 4 December 2011 from 8am to noon. The Congress also offers
an Allied Health “Session-Only” registration. The registration fee for this session is $100, which will be identified by a special badge.

In addition, Junior Allied Health Professionals can apply for Travel Grant applications. Three Travel Grants (waiver of Congress Registration Fee) will be awarded to qualified Junior Allied Health applicants whose abstracts are accepted for presentation in the WAC Scientific Program.

Please share this information with your Allied Health colleagues and encourage them to attend. They may also be interested to know that abstracts specific to Allied Health are being accepted until 30 June 2011 for consideration in the Scientific Program, and the accepted abstracts will be presented as posters on 3 December from 12:00 to 13:00 pm. There is a convenient online submission site. Go to: (Online Abstract Submission Site)

More information about the new WAO Allied Health Program, Travel Grants, Abstract Submission and registration only for the Allied Health Session can be found at: http://www.worldallergy.org/wac2011/program/allied_health.php.

NEW HORIZON SESSIONS at WAC 2011: I am also delighted to update you on the New Horizon Sessions that have been developed for the Congress. The eight in-depth sessions will be dedicated to sharing the latest scientific and clinical information related to allergy, asthma and clinical immunology:

- Advances in Food Allergy
- Asthma and Co-morbid Conditions
- Asthma in Children
- Drug Allergy
- Immunodeficiency
- Novel Scientific Approaches in Allergic and Respiratory Diseases
- Skin Diseases
- Specific Immunotherapy

WAO has produced many successful, memorable Congresses, and I am delighted that these are now becoming documented as part of the “History of the World Allergy Organization” project currently underway and led by WAO Historian, Michael Kaliner. The first two parts of the history have been published in the World Allergy Organization Journal (WAO Journal) and are now available online. More of the WAO history will appear in upcoming issues under the “Notes of Allergy Watchers” editorial series. You can read the first two editorials, “History of the World Allergy Organization: ICACI XI, London 1982, Planning and Results,” by Robert J. Davies, and “History of the World Allergy Organization: The Miyamoto Years of 1991-1994, ICACI XIV in Kyoto, 1991,” by Terumasa Miyamoto.

WAO has a long and fascinating history. You can become part of this allergy and asthma legacy by coming to the Congress in Cancún, México, December 4 – 8 and help celebrate the 60th anniversary of WAO. To enjoy the early registration discount, register before June 30. Details can be found at: http://www.worldallergy.org/wac2011/registration/.

All the best,

Dick

Richard F. Lockey, MD
President, World Allergy Organization