July 20, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

One of the most rewarding aspects of my presidential term with WAO has been to collaborate with the extraordinary group of people who make up the WAO Board of Directors. I am proud of the accomplishments of the current WAO Board and appreciative of the ongoing dedication and drive these individuals have to achieve the best outcomes in the work we do together for the organization and to contribute to our profession.

WAO has always gathered the best and brightest minds in the field of allergy/immunology who are also dedicated to expanding the knowledge and resources available to those physicians worldwide who treat patients with asthma and allergic disease. This is reinforced by the practice of WAO to elect individuals from all of the WAO regions to the Board, which ensures full global representation in overseeing the organization’s activities and growth.

I know from my experience with WAO over the past 16 years that being a Board Director with WAO is an opportunity to make a lasting impact on the field of allergy/immunology through strengthening the organization’s outreach and education activities and programs, recruiting members and future leaders, and planning for the organization’s continued success and growth.

The new Board of Directors will take on the leadership of WAO under current President-Elect, Ruby Pawankar (2012-2013) as of January 1, 2012. In March of 2011 the current WAO Board held elections during its meeting in San Francisco at the AAAAI annual meeting. I am very pleased to share with you the election results.

The WAO Board elected to present the names of the following individuals to the WAO House of Delegates for ratification when the Delegates convene at the XXII World Allergy Congress in Cancún, México 4-8 December 2011.

The elected members and the regions they represent are:

Africa/Middle East:
Francesca Levi-Schaffer – The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
Elham Hosny (ex officio post) – Children’s Hospital, Ain Shams University, Egypt

Asia Pacific:
Susan Prescott – University of Western Australia, Australia

Europe:
Claus Bachert – University of Ghent, Belgium
Roy Gerth van Wijk – Erasmus Medical College, The Netherlands

North America:
Hugh Sampson – Mount Sinai School of Medicine, United States
Dana Wallace – Nova Southeastern University, United States

South America:
Nelson Rosário Filho – Federal University of Paraná, Brazil
The elected officials are:

**President-Elect:**
Lanny Rosenwasser – University of Missouri, Kansas City School of Medicine, United States

**Treasurer:**
Stephen T. Holgate – University of Southampton, United Kingdom

**Secretary General:**
Mario Sánchez-Borges – Clínica El Ávila, Venezuela

Please join me in congratulating all of the elected members and officers for the 2012-2013 WAO Board of Directors. We look forward to the ratification by the House of Delegates and to the official start of their leadership term.


Thanks a lot and all the best, Dick

Richard F. Lockey, MD
President, World Allergy Organization