Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As 2014 has come to a close, the WAO Board of Directors continues to work to advance the mission of WAO through education, research and training. Here are some of the highlights from 2014 of the work of the WAO Board and our many volunteers and what they are planning on for 2015:

- The newly implemented Board Councils have had the opportunity to meet in person twice this year. From their discussions WAO has been able to better refine membership on our committees and define the manuscript process within WAO. Further ideas were identified at the last Board Meeting and we look forward to implementing many of these ideas to advance WAO even further.

- The Jr Member Group continues to be a strong driving force for WAO. They have begun many projects and have had especially great success developing WAO TV. In addition, the Jr Members Group developed many informative, hands on workshops during WISC 2014. We look forward to seeing what the Jr Members develop for the WAC 2015 Scientific Program.

- World Allergy Week 2014, with the theme of Anaphylaxis – When Allergies Can Be Severe and Fatal, was highly successful. WAO expanded its outreach to press around the globe and the response exceeded expectations. WAO collaborated with 26 patient organizations to raise education about food allergies. In addition, 27 WAO Member Societies engaged in promotions and educational activities to help raise awareness of anaphylaxis and other global public health concerns.

- World Allergy Week 2015 will be held on 13-19 April with the focus of Airway allergies – a human and economic burden. It will focus on the prevalence of allergic rhinitis and asthma worldwide, expanding awareness among the lay public, medical professionals and policy makers. Continue to check www.worldallergyweek.org for resources and updates.

- WAO held three World Allergy Training Schools in 2014. WAO and ACAAI leaders held programs in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (20-22 June 2014), Maputo, Mozambique (14 August 2014) and Sochi, Russia (9-10 October 2014). These programs reached over 140 participants from over 15 countries. In 2015, the Emerging Societies Program Committee looks forward to hosting programs in Cuba, Myanmar and Seoul. To learn more information about the Emerging Societies Programs, visit: http://www.worldallergy.org/esp/

- The www.worldallergy.org is continually expanding and updating, some highlights include:
  - Evidence-based Allergy: Literature Searches in EndNote format for all major allergy/immunology topics
  - Information for Patients website redesign
  - Launch of the Eosinophil, Mast Cells, and Basophils Website Resource
  - Launch of the World Atlas on Aeroallergens
  - WAO’s Social Media Presence. You can now follow WAO on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.
- The WAO Website is undergoing a redesign to provide a more visually appealing and user-friendly interface. The new design will also be a responsive design for better access on tablets and mobile devices. The new design will launch in Spring 2015.

- The WAO Journal continues to provide a global forum for the exchange of research and information on allergy, asthma and clinical immunology. The WAO Journal is open access, allowing for all articles to be downloaded free of charge. Make sure to visit the WAO Journal to read WAO’s published and upcoming articles:
  
  - WAO Immunotherapy and Biologics Online Monograph, edited by Prof. Ruby Pawankar and Dr. Lanny Rosenwasser, comprises thematic state-of-the-art reviews inspired by the deliberations at the WAO Immunotherapy and Biologics Symposium 2013. These reviews highlight the cutting edge advances, future directions, and unmet needs in immunotherapy and biologics and personalized medicine for the diagnosis and treatment of allergic diseases and asthma.

- The 3rd WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC 2014) and the XLI Annual Congress of the Brazilian Association of Allergy and Immunology (ASBAI) was held from 6-9 December 2014, in Rio de Janeiro with 2312 participants from 61 countries. In addition, 163 speakers took the time and effort to attend the conference and stimulate meaningful dialog and discussion throughout the program, making the conference a huge success.

- The planning for the 23rd World Allergy Congress (WAC 2015) is well underway. We are excited to partner with KAAACI and APAPARI to host WAC 2015 in Seoul, Korea on 14-17 October 2015. The
Scientific Program is in its final stages of development and we encourage you to visit http://www.worldallergy.org/wac2015/ to view the updates and plan your trip to Korea. We promise that WAC 2015 will be scientifically stimulating and will provide the opportunity for you to network with your colleagues. Mark your calendars - registration and abstract submission opens on 15 February!

- WAO is also excited to announce that we will once again be holding another two-day WAO Symposium in December 2015 in Miami, FL. The Symposium this year will focus on Food Allergy and the Microbiome. We will be releasing more details over the coming month! Stay tuned!

Members Recognized at ACAAI Annual Meeting
Finally, on behalf of myself and the WAO Board, I would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to our colleagues who received the International Distinguished Fellow Award during the 2014 ACAAI Annual Meeting:

- Mario Sanchez-Borges (President Elect, WAO Board of Directors)
- Tatiana Slavyanskaya (Past Member-at-Large, WAO Board of Directors)

We look forward to the opportunity to bring you further education and resources in 2015!

Sincerely yours,
Lanny J. Rosenwasser
President, World Allergy Organization

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