Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope you all had safe travels home from the XXIV World Allergy Congress (WAC)!

On behalf of the World Allergy Organization (WAO) Board of Directors, I want to thank you for attending the XXIV World Allergy Congress on October 14-17, 2015 in Seoul, Korea, our joint meeting with the Korean Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Clinical Immunology (KAACI), and their mutual collaborating partner, the Asia Pacific Association of Pediatric Allergy, Respirology and Immunology (APAPARI).

I hope that you found the Congress informative and worthwhile. The primary goal of WAC 2015 was to provide a forum for the most useful combination of new research, current theory and practice, and hands-on learning experience for allergy/immunology physicians and researchers around the world. I believe this was accomplished by the diverse and dynamic group of speakers who provided in-depth insight into the most effective advances in the treatment and prevention of allergy and immunologic diseases. Their scientific presentations, your participation, and wonderful networking events resulted in another successful Congress.

Starting with the opening ceremony, there were many memorable highlights to the Congress and several important WAO awards. Professor Mario Sanchez-Borges and I presented the 2015 WAO Awards to 13 recipients, including:

**Scientific Achievement Award**
*Recognition of Outstanding Scientific Contributions in the Field of Allergy and Immunology Aiding Clinicians Worldwide to Provide Improved Patient Care*
G. Walter Canonica (Italy), Gurjit Khurana Hershey (United States), Ethan Shevach (United States)

**Outstanding Clinician Award**
*Recognition of Outstanding Performance in Medical Care and Teaching toward Enhanced Allergy Care Worldwide*
Dennis Ledford (United States), Hae-Ran Lee (Korea), Eli O. Meltzer (United States), Myron Zitt (United States)

**Special Recognition Award**
*Recognition of Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Allergy and Immunology toward Wider Recognition of Allergy and Related Diseases as Global Health Issues*
Juan Carlos Ivancevich (Argentina), Tatiana Slavyanskaya (Russia)

**Distinguished Service Award**
*Recognition of Dedication and Service to the World Allergy Organization*
Sandra Gonzalez Diaz (Mexico), Noel Rodriguez Perez (Mexico)
Gold Medal Award
Recognition of Outstanding Dedication and Exceptional Service to the World Allergy Organization
Richard Lockey (United States)

Lifetime Achievement Award
Carlos E. Baena-Cagnani (Argentina)

Congratulations, once again, to the winners, from all of us in the WAO community.

The scientific program was one of the finest in Congress history. Ethan Shevach, Gurjit Khurana Hershey, Dean Metcalfe, and Hirohisa Saito delivered the four compelling Keynote Lectures. Four Plenary Sessions covered topics of current importance in our field, including recent advances and the future of immunotherapy; viral exacerbation of asthma; atopic dermatitis from barrier to inflammation, and anaphylaxis through the life cycle. Additionally, there were 25 travel grant awards to WAO Junior Members. Finally, the Congress included 761 abstracts displayed in poster sessions, 25 of which received an Outstanding Abstract Award.

Most importantly, your presence helped to make this event a great success, and your enthusiasm for the profession helped make our time together both productive and enjoyable.

I hope that you continue to be engaged with WAO and our meetings. Please visit http://www.worldallergy.org/symposium2015/ for information on our next meeting, WAO 2015 Symposium on Food Allergy and the Microbiome in Miami, FL, USA.

I hope to see you there!

Sincerely yours,

Lanny J. Rosenwasser
President, World Allergy Organization

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