



As 2022 comes to an end, so does my term as President of the World Allergy Organization. It has not always been easy, and it certainly was not how any of us could have anticipated, but it was a truly rewarding experience and I am honored to have been able to lead this impressive organization through this chapter in our history.

I began my tenure as WAO President on 01 January 2020, with big plans for a WAO International Scientific Conference (WISC) in Rome, Italy and the World Allergy Congress (WAC) in Kyoto, Japan. The COVID-19 global pandemic forced us to make the WISC virtual, and little by little, we had to gradually reduce our plans for the WAC in Kyoto, ultimately ending up with a partial hybrid meeting with only core Japanese delegates able to attend the opening ceremony in person. Despite these challenges, both meetings were well attended, and we were able to provide high quality scientific programs. While it was unfortunate that the global WAO membership could only attend the WAC 2020 in Kyoto virtually, I am still extremely proud of this successful meeting. By pivoting to a hybrid model, we were able to have nearly 5,500 delegates from 60 countries. The success of WAC 2020, in spite of the pandemic, positively impacted the financial status of WAO.

Another unusual result of the pandemic was that my presidential term was extended from two years to three. By providing consistent leadership through these very tumultuous few years, I am thankful to say that WAO has not only survived, but thrived.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Graham Roberts, Dr. George Gkimpas, and the British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI) for their hard work and support in co-hosting the WAO-BSACI 2022 UK Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland earlier this year in April. It was our first in-person meeting since 2019 and a great success! The meeting had 840 delegates, speakers, and exhibitors from all over the world attend in-person.



Part of the WAO-BSACI UK Conference Steering Committee

In October, many of you were able to join us for WAC 2022 in Istanbul, Turkiye, co-hosted by the Turkish National Society of Allergy & Clinical Immunology (TNSACI). Professors Dilsad Mungan and Bulent Sekerel were a pleasure to work with, and it was wonderful to be able to gather and hear the latest science with 950 delegates from 67 countries. I was honored to celebrate the end of my presidential term with everyone in attendance.



Prof. Sekerel and I making a toast during the WAC 2022

As we look forward to 2023, WAO has some exciting meetings planned. Please consider attending and participating in these invaluable opportunities to collaborate, share, and learn with the world's leading experts in allergy and immunology. Be sure to mark your calendars!

From 27-29 January 2023, WAO and PASAAI (Pan-Arab Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology) will host the WAO-PASAAI Pan-Arab Allergy Meeting in Dubai, U.A.E!

Registration is now OPEN!



From 18-20 May 2023, WAO will lead a symposium on Food and Respiratory Allergies in Kona, Hawai'i, United States!



From 01-03 December 2023, WAO and the Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Association of Thailand (AAIAT) will host the XXIX World Allergy Congress in Bangkok, Thailand!



I would like to thank many people who contributed to WAO's success. You volunteered your time and expertise through the WAO special committees, junior members group, World Allergy Week, scientific program committees for WAO meetings, WAO Journal Editorial Board, House of Delegates, and other organizational work. Some of you have contributed quietly in the background, doing things that needed to be done to help WAO fulfill its mission. I congratulate all of you.

Finally, I would like to thank the WAO Board of Directors! It has been a pleasure to work with each one of them over these past three years. Their commitment to WAO and its mission is what makes this organization so successful. I look forward to see what will come in 2023.



The WAO Board of Directors and staff at WAC 2022

Reflecting on my time as WAO's President, I could not be more proud of the resilience and integrity of this organization. I feel confident that the incoming President, Dr. Bryan Martin, will continue to uphold WAO's mission and vision as a world-wide alliance of international allergy and immunology societies.

Dr. Martin's tenure as WAO President will begin promptly on 01 January 2023. Please join me in welcoming him to his new role in the leadership of WAO.

The future of WAO is bright!

Warmly,

Motohiro Ebisawa, MD, PhD
President, World Allergy Organization

