Jerusalem, Israel. December 6, 2016 –The **WAO International Scientific Conference** (WISC) **2016** opens today in **Jerusalem**. Running from 6-9 December, the conference of the World Allergy Organization (WAO) will present new research in allergy/clinical immunology medicine to practicing physicians and clinical researchers. Attendees will have the opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas for continually improving allergy patient care. WISC 2016 is in collaboration with the Israel Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (IAACI) and their mutually collaborating partner, Allergists for Israel (AFI).

More than 400 physicians, researchers and other healthcare professionals will gather for WISC 2016, participating in over 65 educational sessions presented by 132 of the internationally known experts in the field of allergy/clinical immunology. Keynote speakers include:

- K. Frank Austen, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, United States, will present on cysteinyl leukotrienes, a third receptor residing in the epithelium of the nose and lung.
- Marc Rothenberg, MD, PhD Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, will present on eosinophilic esophagitis and will uncover the basic understanding of the disease's emergence, the pathogenesis, and current treatment.

- Avram Hershko, MD, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, and Rappaport Institute, will deliver his session on, "The Ubiquitin System in Health and Disease". Dr. Hershko was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, in 2004, jointly with his former PhD student Aaron Ciechanover and his colleague Irwin Rose for the discovery of ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation.
- Martin J. Blaser, MD, PhD, New York University School of Medicine, United States, will present on his hypothesis that the perturbations to the early life microbiome are fueling the current epidemics in allergic disorders.

"The World Allergy Organization is honored to have so many influential speakers at our conference to address our attendees," said Mario Sánchez-Borges, MD, WAO President. "Experts in the field of allergy and clinical immunology with vast experience will share insights into current and future research, and how as physicians and researchers we can fulfill unmet needs in allergy diagnosis and treatment."

Over 140 abstracts will be presented at WISC 2016. Several abstracts judged as outstanding will cover a variety of disease focuses in allergy/clinical immunology including:

- Studies on the role of B cells in rhinovirus infection (Abstract 1156)
- Purinergic signaling involved in the beneficial effects of aerobic exercise in a model of HDM-induced asthma (Abstract 1137)
- Epidemiological transition of viruses associated with wheezing (Abstract 1012)
- START: susceptibility to food allergies in a registry of twins (Abstract 1146)
- Single practice eight-year experience treating food allergy with oral immunotherapy (Abstract 1053)
- The role of miR-328 in allergic airway disease (Abstract 1149)
- Childhood Presenting Hereditary Angioedema is Diagnosed in Adulthood by Non-Pediatric Physicians Icatibant Outcome Survey Findings (Abstract 1075), and
- Hyper-allergenic isoform Bet v 1a of the major birch pollen allergen displays reduced allergenic potential after binding of retinoic acid (Abstract 1150).

The WISC 2016 scientific program will include 33 symposia, 7 sister society symposia, 8 workshops, 4 junior member practical courses, and 3 poster sessions. Attendees will receive the latest information on relevant aspects of allergy, asthma and clinical immunology including the microbiome, precision medicine, food allergy and prevention of atopic disease, mast cell disorders, specific immunotherapy, severe asthma and aerobiology and climate change as they impact allergic diseases and asthma. The full scientific program is available at: www.worldallergy.org/wisc2016.

About the World Allergy Organization

The World Allergy Organization (WAO) is an international alliance of 97 regional and national allergy, asthma and immunology societies. Through collaboration with its Member Societies WAO provides a wide range of educational and outreach programs, symposia and lectureships to allergists/immunologists around the world and conducts initiatives related to clinical practice, service provision, and physical training in order to better understand and address the challenges facing allergists/immunologists worldwide. (www.worldallergy.org)

Israel Association for Allergy and Clinical Immunology

The Israel Association for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (IAACI), founded in 1949, is a non-profit association, with a mission to promote education, good clinical practice and research in a wide spectrum of allergic and immune-mediated diseases in Israel, under the umbrella of the Israel Medical Association (IMA). The IAACI is dedicated to promoting collaborations between Allergists/Clinical Immunologists and physicians from other disciplines in Israel, aiming to expand knowledge and improve patient care. This is achieved by promoting joint

meetings and producing Israeli collaborative recommendations on various topics.

Allergists for Israel

Allergists for Israel (AFI) was founded in 1984 and the evolving vision of the group is to develop camaraderie for Allergists/Immunologists and other supporters of allergy by gathering in the USA, Israel and around the world. AFI strives to establish collegial relations between America and Israel.