

ARIA/GARD COLLABORATING PARTNERS MEETING

Vienna Marriott Hotel Ballroom
Tuesday Sept. 15, 2009
7:30 AM to 9 AM
ERS

Attending: ARIA: J. Bousquet, A. Bedbrook, L. Grouse, C. Baena-Cagnani, M. Soto Quiros, A. Cruz; WHO: N. Khaltaev; Sponsors: J. Book, G. Eriksson, G. Tornling (AstraZeneca), D. Tosi (Chiesi), S. Ogden, N. Falkingham, I. Struik, M. Joachimsthal (GSK), L. Leibersperger (Meda), Y. BenAmram, T. Lambert, J. Tellgren, J. Zimlichman (MSD), K. Allan, J. Robertson (Novartis), P. Gregory (PharmAxis)

Prof. Bousquet announced that according to the WHO Noncommunicable Disease Action Plan there would be alignment of chronic respiratory diseases with cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and cancer. He believes that this is an opportunity for CRDs and GARD since it is an effort to better engage health ministries in all these leading chronic diseases. He will be attending a WHO meeting to discuss this on October 15 and will report back.

He then discussed CARMA, an initiative concerning disease co-morbidity and respiratory disease focusing on the one airway concept relating rhinitis and asthma. This has also been a key focus for Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma (ARIA) and ARIA will join EAACI, IPCRG, ERS, and other major respiratory organizations that will develop content and materials relating to inflammatory co-morbidity. The content of the group will be from evidence-based material in the peer-reviewed medical literature and all companies wishing to participate are welcome. The focus of this group will be the education of primary care physicians and patients worldwide, and promoting awareness and diagnosis of asthma and rhinitis will be a major goal. Surveys show that ARIA is well known and followed among almost all specialist physicians; however, in France only 55% of GPs know ARIA whereas in other countries, fewer GPs are aware or follow ARIA.

Access to the ARIA rhinitis, asthma, and asthma control interconnecting questionnaires located at www.whiar.org/questionnaire2.html will be available for clinical and research use. The interactive program diagnoses asthma and rhinitis, assesses rhinitis severity and asthma control and prepares printable letters for the patient's physician with this information as well as the positive responses to the questionnaires. Access is available to these materials for ARIA sponsors as well as posters and other materials for rhinitis diagnosis tailored for pharmacists.

Dr. Grouse discussed the regional and country-level dissemination of ARIA materials with efforts this fall focusing on Latin America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific, with all material available for sponsors.

Dr. Khaltaev gave his perspective of many years of WHO activities in non-communicable diseases and concluded that this era represents a great opportunity for implementing positive action with health ministries worldwide. He felt that demonstration projects and pilot projects within GARD as well as GARD workshops at major meetings and providing GARD tools to GARD national implementation committees would optimize the chances of success at the country level.

The role of donors – the WHO technical term for sponsors – has never been better appreciated. ARIA's first Geneva Expert Panel Workshop in 2000 was the first occasion in which sponsors were invited to attend as observers the discussions of the experts concerning the 2001 ARIA guidelines. This openness has not been frequently repeated since then, but the participation of sponsors in GARD and the national activities has now been opened wide.

There was a consensus among the attendees that for GARD to best succeed and achieve its strongest support from industry, that it should focus its pilot implementation activities in China, Brazil, South Korea, and other emerging markets where the best chance of achieving national improvement in CRD management would exist. Prof. Bousquet emphasized that CRDs remain a top priority of WHO and feature in a 10 point plan for improvement in emerging markets in the WHO 5 year plan.

Dr. Khaltaev welcomed sponsor donations for GARD. Companies that wish to be acknowledged as donors and participate in the GARD global activities should contact Dr. Khaltaev or Dr. Grouse for the WHO-approved procedures.

Prof. Bousquet discussed the proposal of the FIRS pulmonology consortium to hold The Year of the Lung in 2010, and there was much interest on the part of the sponsors. However, the late emergence of this opportunity suggested that its implementation may be limited. Dr. Khaltaev indicated that WHO would not be able to support the activity since many key groups such as communicable diseases, TB, and AIDS had not been contacted in time to allow for their participation. Since WHO will not participate, GARD cannot participate. However, other initiatives such as ARIA, GINA, and GOLD can support The Year of the Lung along with ATS, ERS, and the other FIRS groups.

Prof. Bousquet announced that ARIA's next meeting of the Executive Committee and Sponsors will be held at the EAACI 2010 meeting in London. GARD's next meeting will be held in conjunction with the IPCRG meeting in June of 2010 in Toronto. The details and registration for these meetings will be sent out as soon as the planning for the meetings is finalized.

